This year on International Women’s Day, we convert our outrage into action. We declare that we will prosecute crimes against women – and never allow women to be subjected to punishments for the abuses they have suffered. We renew our pledge to combat this global health menace wherever it may lurk – in homes and businesses, in war zones and placid countries, and in the minds of people who allow violence to continue.

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

All around the world, our voices are rising, and silence and indifference are declining. Change is possible. And change is happening. My message today is simple and straightforward. This year on International Women’s Day, we say enough is enough. Discrimination and violence against women and girls has no place in the 21st century. It is time for Governments to keep their promises and protect human rights in line with the international conventions and agreements that they signed onto. A promise is a promise.

Michelle Bachelet, UN Women Executive Director

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, I want to take this opportunity to renew the commitment of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, to strengthening and expanding our efforts to do everything we can to bring an end to gender-based violence. Gender-based violence remains a major health and human rights concern and no human development can be achieved as long as women and girls continue to suffer from violence or live in fear of it.

Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director

Women around the world are striving to shape the future of their countries, societies and families and to fight for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, free from fear and violence (…)

The EU will work tirelessly to achieve widespread agreement on the Conclusions against all forms of violence against women at the Commission on the Status of Women. (…)

Now is the time to accelerate progress towards the achievement of gender equality, by joining forces to build the future for all men and women in peace and prosperity.”

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2013

Sweet Dreams. Ingoma Nshya is Rwanda’s first and only all women’s drumming troupe. Made up of women from both sides of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the troupe offers a place of support, healing and reconciliation. When the group decides to partner with two young American entrepreneurs to open Rwanda’s first ever ice cream shop, these remarkable women embark on a journey of independence, peace and possibility. Sweet Dreams interweaves intimate, sometimes heart-wrenching stories, with joyous and powerful music to present a moving portrait of a country in transition.

Every year, International Women’s Day is an occasion to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. This year’s International Women’s Day coincides with the focus on ending violence against women at the UN Commission on the Status of Women—the annual gathering where countries agree on frameworks to address critical issues related to gender equality and women’s rights.

SWEET DREAMS
Documentary / 2012
(United States—Rwanda)
Directed and Produced: Lisa and Rob Fruchtman
Language: English
Runtime: 90 minutes

PROGRAMME
11 March 2013—Salle M, Centre for Fine Arts, Bozar

18 h30 Registration
19h00 Introduction: Afsané Bassir-Pour—Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe in Brussels
19h05 Music Performance: Steve Shehan – Composer, percussionist and polynstrumentiste
19h20 Welcoming Remarks:
- Paul Dujardin — CEO, Artistic director at the Center for Fine Arts, Bozar
- Stavros Lambrinidis — European Union’s Special Representative for Human Rights
- Rob Fruchtman — Sweet Dreams Film Director and Producer
19h30 Screening of Sweet Dreams (90mins)
21h00 Panel Discussion:
- Rob Fruchtman — Sweet Dreams Film Director and Producer
- Kristian Schmidt — Director, Human Development Department, Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission
- Michèle Dominique Raymond— Assistant Secretary-General for Political and Humanitarian Affairs, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.
- Moderated by Dagmar Schumacher—Director, UN Women Brussels Office.