* ***This is a template to help save you time. Please feel free to adapt, translate and add statistics relevant to your national context that will help get you national media attention.***
* ***Please note! Don’t forget to ensure all the square bracket place holders for you to fill in are addressed before sending.***

[Insert date]

**Women around the world demand tax justice to end inequality**

*#TaxJustice for Women’s Rights Global Days of Action, March 8–24, 2017*

[INSERT ORGANISATION’S NAME] joins the Global Alliance for Tax Justice and member and partner organisations in countries around the world taking part in the #TaxJustice for Women’s Rights Global Days of Action, March 8 – 24, 2017. This campaign launches on International Women’s Day (March 8th) and continues through to the end of the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women intergovernmental meeting.

The leaked Panama Papers, LuxLeaks and Swiss Leaks have revealed the scale of the global scandal of tax dodging, but governments have done little to rectify the situation. From New York to Accra to Kathmandu, women, girls and their allies will be holding rallies, speaking tours, symposiums, feminist festivals and marches, calling on governments to fulfill their commitment to securing women’s rights and economic equality by taking action for tax justice.

**Tax, public services and women’s rights**

“We’ve reached crisis point. We’ve joined this campaign because the rights of women and girls [in INSERT COUNTRY - OR - around the world] are being threatened by discriminatory global, regional and national tax policies,” says [INSERT NAME AND TITLE OF SPOKESPERSON]. “[In our country OR globally], current laws and practices enable multinational corporations and the very rich to, in many cases, get away with not paying their fair share of tax. This denies [our national budget / government budget] of a key source of funding for public services, such as healthcare, education and clean water, that is critical to realising women’s rights and gender equality.”

Globally, tax avoidance and tax breaks to big businesses cost developing countries hundreds of billions of US dollars every year - that could go a long way to transforming the lives of women and girls around the world.

[Optional - INSERT country specific information/statistic/example on failure to achieve women’s rights and/or losses of tax. Include as quote or as statement, citing source of information]

Tax justice is vital to providing public services that can help reduce or respond to violence against women and girls, provide universal access to public healthcare, ensure more girls get a quality public education, and support women’s economic equality and reduce their unpaid care work.

**Tax injustice is sexist**

Women account for the majority of the world’s poor. In addition to being disproportionately harmful to women and girls, current tax policies are also generally more beneficial to men. The majority of the ‘savings’ that are made when countries cut personal income tax, don’t tax income from investments, provide tax breaks to multinational corporations, or turn a blind eye to tax avoidance and evasion, are made by men.

[Our country has OR Many countries have] implemented or raised the rates of tax on consumer goods to compensate for revenues lost through cuts to tax rates for corporations and the wealthy elite. This places an unfair tax burden on women as they spend a larger portion of their income to buy basic goods.

**Holding governments to account**

[INSERT COUNTRY – CONFIRM IT IS SIGNATORY TO THESE CONVENTIONS AND SDGs!] has committed to protect women’s rights and advance gender equality under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and international conventions.

Organisations participating in the #TaxJustice for Women’s Rights Global Days of Action are putting forth a [number of recommendations](http://www.globaltaxjustice.org/sites/default/files/FInal-UNCSW_TaxJustice_ADVOCACY%20MESSAGES.pdf) at the regional and global level, including the establishment of an inclusive intergovernmental UN Global Tax Body where all countries have a seat at the table and equal say in determining international tax rules - as opposed to the situation today where the global rules are written by an exclusive club of rich countries.

In [INSERT COUNTRY], [INSERT specific calls to improve progressivity of national tax system, if any, e.g. shifting the tax system away from indirect taxes such as VAT and sales tax and towards direct, progressive taxation of income, wealth, and high net worth individuals OR ensuring that our national tax policies do not undermine tax bases of other countries].

[INSERT CLOSING QUOTE, if desired]

**For more information on the global campaign, please see** http://globaltaxjustice.org/en/action/global-days-action-taxjustice-women%E2%80%99s-rights

**ENDS**

**National media contact:** [name/tel/email]