



## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence: A Global Moment

Gender-based violence affects all societies around the world, and no country or culture is immune from it. Globally one in three women will be directly affected by some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime.

**This 16 Days, we invite you to take part in a global show of solidarity to shine a light on gender-based violence, and to call for an end to this.**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, the first of 16 Days of Activism 2016, Mothers' Union members and others will gather around the world at midday local time, to pray for an end to gender-based violence, and for those affected by this. As a global act, we are asking those gathered to light a candle, in memory of those affected, and to symbolise hope for a world where violence against women and girls no longer exists.

### Getting involved in the global moment:

- At 12 noon. **Gather together** with others if you are able.  
(This could be in churches, homes or another venue)
- **Light** a candle, to remember those affected by gender-based violence, and to symbolise hope for a future free from gender based violence.
- **Pray** for those affected by gender-based violence.  
(You may want to use the prayer resource available on the Mothers' Union website)

Mary Sumner House will be joining with members around the world, in holding a global moment at 12:00 GMT.

**You** may also want to:

- **Hold a service**, surrounding the prayer and lighting of candles. (See the resource on the website for further service ideas).
- **Photograph** the candle lighting, and post on social media (such as Twitter, Instagram or Facebook) with the hashtags #shinealightongbv; #MU16Days; #EndGBV; #itsnotok
- **Hold a march, procession or vigil, or any other activity** on the day to raise awareness and educate people about gender-based violence. Feel free to get creative, and to respond in ways which are relevant and appropriate to your local community.

Remember to:

- **Advertise** your event/invite people to attend in advance. You may want to make a poster, or use the one provided on the Mothers' Union website.
- Check the local **health and safety** regulations, particularly with regards to the use of candles in your chosen location.
- **Let us know** what you are planning at: [policy@mothersunion.org](mailto:policy@mothersunion.org), or online at: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MU16days/> so that we can share the wonderful work of Mothers' Union and to help in the overall awareness raising.

## Helpful tips for holding a march or procession:

- **Ensure that people know** about the march, and when and where to meet/join in.
- **Hold banners with a simple message**, such as the title of the campaign, or brief facts about gender-based violence. Make sure that the messages are easy to read, and that you have checked that the spelling and wording on them is correct. You can make banners using simple materials, such as recycled cardboard or wood. Messages can be tailored to your local context, and could include specific things you would like your government to do.
- **You may want to dress in similar colours**, such as yellow and purple, which are the official colours of 16 Days of Activism, or all wear a similar fabric, or sash. This makes the procession eye catching, and look unified.
- **Think about a message or slogan you may want to say together**, or whether you would like to have music, as this could help draw attention.
- **Think about where you would like your march or procession to go**. For example, near to a local or national parliament. Is there a particular route which may be meaningful in your community?
- **Are there props which you would like to take**, which may help to drive the message home. For example, you could process with a coffin, to show the deadly nature of gender-based violence. Use your creativity to think about what would be symbolic.
- **Photograph** the event if it is appropriate to do so. In some areas, you will need to ask permission from parents if you are planning on photographing children under the age of 16.
- **Do send** pictures and stories about your event to Mary Sumner House if you would like to, as it is encouraging and helpful to know what members have been doing.
- **You may want to have details of any agencies that support and help those affected by gender-based violence** to hand, in case you come across anyone who is seeking help or support during your event.
- **Remember to keep safe**. Follow any health and safety guidelines, and keep in mind any local laws that you may need to follow (for example in some countries, advance notice of any procession or march needs to be given. It may be worth checking with your local police or other authority if appropriate).

