



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

- Examine your own behaviour and ensure that you do not use violence or discriminate against women
- Speak up, protest, don't stay silent. Silence means acceptance and tolerance towards the act of violence.
- Denounce men who are violent
- Support women who are abused
- Motivate your friends, relatives and neighbours to speak out against violence
- Change attitudes. Challenge those norms and values in social institutions such as family, marriage, education, law, religion, the media and health, that perpetuate inequality between men and women

SOME MEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE ON WOMEN

In 2003, Sachin Tendulkar spoke out against violence on women. In 2006, Rahul Bose, added his voice to the cause. This year, too, Sabyasachi Chakraborty (actor), Abul Bashr (writer), Anindya Chakrobarty (singer, *Chandrabindoo*) and Abeer Chakraborty (advertising) among others are joining us and protesting against violence on women.

WILL YOU JOIN THEM TOO?

Be the man who says No to Violence Against Women
 Be the man who Stands for Equality
 Be the man who Breaks the Silence
 Be the man who Cares
 Be the Change

PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF MEN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

6 December, 2-6 P.M. at SWAYAM,
 9/2B Deodar Street, Kolkata 700 019



BE THE CHANGE SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
 CALL 98302 04322
 OR CONTACT SWAYAM,
 9/2B DEODAR STREET, KOLKATA 700 019



International Campaign to
Stop Violence
 against Women and Girls
 NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



www.swayam.info

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

25 NOVEMBER — 10 DECEMBER



This particular campaign is part of an international movement, originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The dates (25 November, International Day against Violence against Women, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day) were chosen to symbolically link violence against women and human rights, and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights. Women and organisations all over the world use this time as an opportunity to mobilise public opinion against all forms of violence against women and girls, and to draw more people into the struggle for women's rights.

This period includes various days that commemorate or celebrate certain events:

25 NOVEMBER

International Day against Violence against Women

30 NOVEMBER

South Asian Women's Day for Peace, Justice, Human Rights and Democracy

1 DECEMBER

World Aids Day

3 DECEMBER

World Disability Day; The Gas Leak at the Union Carbide Factory, Bhopal, India (1984)

6 DECEMBER

The Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre (1989); Demolition of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya, India (1992)

10 DECEMBER

International Human Rights Day



WHY THIS CAMPAIGN?

Violence against women in India is rampant and on the increase. The statistics are horrifying and speak for themselves. Every day, in the year 2006:

- 6 women committed suicide due to dowry
- 23 women were killed due to dowry
- 53 women were raped
- 128 women were sexually harassed
- 173 women were tortured by their husband and his relatives in their own homes

[SOURCE: NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU, CRIMES IN INDIA 2006]

These are reported cases only. It is important to remember that many more cases go unreported. Further, crimes against women are increasing at a ten times higher rate than all other crimes (NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU).

IT'S TIME ALL MEN ACT TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHY ARE SOME MEN VIOLENT TOWARDS WOMEN?

Men are not born violent, aggressive or uncaring. Violence is a result of the way many of them have learnt to express their masculinity in relationships with women, children, and other men. Society teaches men to think of power as the ability to dominate, to control people and the world around them. This way of thinking makes the use of violence seem acceptable to many men.

WHY SHOULD MEN ACT TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

Violence against women is a crime and must be dealt with accordingly. And it not only harms women but men too.



When a woman is abused her father, her brother and all other male relatives also suffer the consequences. Boys and men also suffer from the stereotyping that exists in a patriarchal culture. Men who are sensitive and caring, men who shun violence and aggression, are often berated and called effeminate and girlish. Men are thus forced to deny their sensitivity, compassion, empathy and creativity in the face of ridicule.

It is usually believed that the breaking of stereotypes will help women at the cost of men. Nothing can be further from the truth. While women suffer because of the social pressures of being ever-dependent and ever-servile, men suffer from the pressures of having to be ever-aggressive and the sole breadwinners. Breaking stereotypes will result in fewer economic responsibilities and pressures for men, and allow them to express themselves freely. Violence helps neither the abuser nor the abused.

A society and a world free from violence against women and girls is possible only when men and boys are actively involved. Hence our campaign over the last few years has appealed to men and young boys to take an active role to stop violence against women and girls, and to question the notions of masculinity and femininity that result in gender discrimination, injustice and crime.

Men play a key role in setting social norms for other men. We need positive male role models to advocate for gender equality and to motivate others like them to participate in the struggle for gender equality and a violence-free world.

