

16

INTERNATIONAL

DAYS OF ACTION

OPPOSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

25TH November to 10TH December 2008



HOME TRUTHS:

Think Women's Human Rights – Think Home
CAMPAIGN PACK

Women's



Aid

*Connecting local, national and international
action to end violence against women.*



THINK WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS – THINK HOME



EVERY DAY IN IRELAND women are beaten, raped and trapped in their own homes by those closest to them - their husbands and partners. One in five Irish women experience domestic violence. It can affect every woman regardless of age, marital status, class or cultural background. It could be your friend, your sister, your mother. It could be you. Without exception, a woman's greatest risk of violence is from someone she knows. Domestic violence is a violation of a woman's right to safety, to freedom, and all too often, to her right to life itself.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This extraordinary document set out the fundamental Human Rights to which we are all entitled. It provides Human Rights activists with a very powerful tool to highlight abuse and injustice and also to hold perpetrators accountable.

Today, in Ireland, we have still a way to go to recognise all of the values and goals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Women continue to face injustice, violence and discrimination because of their gender. When we think about human rights abuses we tend to think of the prisoner of conscience in a far off land, the actions of an oppressive regime or genocide. But human rights abuse also describes the violence women experience in their own homes at the hands of their intimate partners or ex-partners.

During the 16 Days of Action 2008, Women's Aid will highlight the home as a place where women's human rights are violated through our **'Home Truths: Think Women's Human Rights – Think Home'** campaign. For many of us, home is a place of sanctuary, love and safety. However, we hear from women using our National Freephone Helpline that home can also mean violence, rape, fear and terror. Article 5 of the UDHR states that everyone has the right to live free from torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment. This right is denied to an estimated 213,000 women living in Ireland who are experiencing domestic violence.

The 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence against Women Campaign provides us all with the opportunity to collectively say 'End the Abuse of Women's Human Rights!' Around the world individuals and groups will organise in solidarity to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. With your help we can show our support and solidarity with women experiencing abuse and bring an end to one of the most pervasive human rights abuses of our time – violence against women.

**Support the 16 Days Campaign –
End Violence Against Women**

Margaret Martin, Director, Women's Aid

*Human rights abuse
also describes the violence
women experience in their
own homes at the hands of
their intimate partners
and ex-partners.*



Women's Aid 16 Days 2007 Public Action remembering women murdered in Ireland.
Pic: Paul Sharpe



*Violence against women and girls continues unabated, taking a
devastating toll on women's lives, on their families and communities.
Violence — yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up.*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, 8 March 2007



HOME TRUTHS:

Think Women's Human Rights – Think Home

To mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Women's Aid is running the **'HOME TRUTHS: Think Women's Human Rights – Think Home'** campaign. For most of us, home is a place of love, respect and safety - a sanctuary from the stresses and trials of every day life. However, for an estimated 213,000 women in Ireland, home is a place where they experience injury, severe abuse, fear and terror.

Article 5 of the UDHR affirms that **'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'** However, this basic human right is not realised for the many women in Irish society who experience physical, emotional and sexual abuse at the hands of those closest to them – their partners or ex-partners. Our series of actions during the 16 Days Campaign will bring to light the truth about **'Home'** for one in five Irish women.

CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

The Campaign Pack

This **Campaign Pack** is designed as a campaign resource to promote the 16 Days Campaign. It aims to enable and encourage community groups and individuals to participate in the global campaign to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women at local, national and international levels. It will be distributed to 1,000 community development projects, family resource centres, violence against women groups and other groups and individuals nationwide.

The Postcard Campaign

Women's Aid will challenge general public misconceptions about domestic violence through a national awareness raising postcard action. The card will profile the campaign and will refer to the 16 Days blog to promote local actions. Shortly before the 16 Days Campaign begins packs of 20 postcards will be provided by Women's Aid to community groups and individuals to distribute widely within local communities. The postcards will also be placed in pubs and restaurants in Dublin.

The Email Campaign

Join the thousands of people who sign up to the *'16 Facts for 16 Days'* email campaign and get the latest national and international statistics on violence against women delivered to your inbox each day of the campaign.

Sign up today - email comms@womensaid.ie or phone 01-8684721.

The Public Action

Staff, volunteers and supporters of Women's Aid will gather outside Dáil Éireann at 11am on Monday 24th November to launch the 16 Days Campaign in Ireland. We will highlight the theme of **Home Truths: Think Women's Human Rights – Think Home** and will creatively represent the reality of domestic violence. This action will target politicians in the Dáil and the Seanad, the media and the general public.



Women's Aid protesters outside Dáil Éireann, November 2005. Pic: Ciara Murray

The 16 Days Blog – www.ireland16days.blogspot.com

This year, the blog will feature more pictures of Ireland's 16 Days Campaign, a special 'Take Action' section, a Human Rights resource section and downloadable campaign tools as well as an online archive of the 2006 and 2007 campaigns. The blog for 2008 will go live on **1st October 2008** and we will be blogging daily during the campaign.

If you are planning an event, no matter how big or small, please send the details to us and we will post it on the blog. Email any information and photographs/ images to christina.sherlock@womensaid.ie or call us on 01-8684721.

*ated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a
s, and on society as a whole. Most societies prohibit such
covered up or tacitly condoned.*



'HOME TRUTHS' ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



In Ireland

- **1 in 5** Irish women have experienced domestic violence by a partner or ex-partner
- Since 1996, **146** women have been murdered in the Republic of Ireland. In **50%** of resolved cases the woman was killed by a partner or ex-partner
- In 2007, the Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline responded to almost **12,000 calls**. There were **8,012** incidents of emotional abuse, **2,457** incidents of physical abuse and **1408** incidents of economic abuse disclosed. In the same year, **593** incidents of sexual abuse were disclosed to Helpline support workers including **248** rapes
- **1 in 4** perpetrators of sexual violence against adult women are partners or ex-partners yet there has been only 1 conviction under marital rape legislation since its introduction 18 years ago
- **1,952** women were accommodated in refuges in Ireland in 2006. During the same year, **2,985** children also stayed in refuge

Internationally

- At least **1 out of every 3** women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime
- In the EU, **25%** of all violent crimes reported involve a man assaulting his wife or partner
- **90%** of the more systematic, persistent and injurious violence that is instrumental in the maintenance of power, is perpetrated by men
- On average a woman will be assaulted by her partner or ex-partner **35 times** before reporting it to the police
- **76%** of women who have separated from abusive partners suffer post-separation violence
- Women who have experienced domestic violence are at an increased risk of depression and suicide attempts; physical injuries; psychosomatic disorders; unwanted pregnancies; HIV and other STDs; and being killed by a partner

References for all statistics used in this pack available upon request.

Briefing Notes

This year we have included briefing notes with this pack. They can be used during the 16 Days Campaign to highlight some of the key issues and statistics relating to domestic violence. The four areas covered are:

1. [What is Domestic Violence?](#)
2. [Domestic Violence and Homicide](#)
3. [Domestic Violence and Children](#)
4. [Domestic Violence and Human Rights](#)

We hope that you find these cards useful during the campaign to communicate facts and figures about domestic violence. Keep them close at hand should you be called to do a media interview on the campaign, an information session in your local community or for planning your event.

As these briefing notes are a new feature we'd love to hear any feedback and suggestions for the 2009 campaign.



WHAT IS THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN?

THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN is an international campaign started in 1991 by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in New York. Since then, over 2,000 organisations in 154 countries have taken part. In Ireland, the 16 Days Campaign continues to gather momentum since the first Women's Aid public action outside Dáil Éireann in November 1996.

Dates

The dates, **25th NOVEMBER** (International Day Opposing Violence against Women) and **10th DECEMBER** (International Human Rights Day), symbolically link violence against women and human rights to show that such violence is a violation of a woman's human rights.

The 16 day period also includes other significant dates such as **29th November** (International Human Rights Defenders Day), **1st December** (World Aids Day) and **6th December** (Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre).

Aims

The 16 Days Campaign has been an opportunity for individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- **Highlighting** the nature and prevalence of violence against women
- **Raising** awareness of violence against women as a human rights issue
- **Showing** solidarity among women around the world
- **Promoting** women's leadership
- **Lobbying** Government
- **Strengthening** local work aimed at tackling violence against women



Women's Aid supporters outside Dáil Éireann, November 1996. Pic: Women's Aid

Community Action

FOR MANY YEARS, community development projects, family resource centres, women's frontline domestic violence and sexual violence groups and human rights organisations have actively supported the 16 Days campaign.

In 2007, over 80 events were organised around Ireland. The hard work and determination by groups around the country during the 16 Days period ensures that the reality of domestic and sexual violence in Ireland is raised in local communities, features in local and national press and radio and is put on the agendas of elected representatives.

As the **Specialist Support Agency on Violence Against Women** to Community Development Projects and Family Resource Centres, Women's Aid recognises collective action as pivotal to the success of the 16 Days Campaign. This year, the Campaign promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Collective action is very powerful. The 16 Days is a time when we can all come together to break the silence around violence against women. We can stand in solidarity with women whose rights have been violated and with one voice shout STOP!

16 Days Activist

For more information on the **IRISH** campaign go to: www.ireland16days.blogspot.com

Never doubt that a small group of change the world. Indeed, it is the

SUPPORT THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN



16 WAYS TO HELP END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The 16 Days campaign will only work with the support of people in local communities and other organisations nationwide. Each one of us can make a difference and demand an end to violence against women. **GET INVOLVED:**

TODAY



Sign up for the '16 Facts for 16 Days' email campaign



Check the 16 Days blog daily for updates



Copy this pack and distribute to others



Forward the '16 Facts for 16 Days' email to all of your contacts



Organise an event



Support local events in your area



Publicise your event information on the 16 Days blog



Give out posters and leaflets to advertise local services

DURING THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN



Take part in the Women's Aid 'Home Truths' Postcard Action



Commemorate international dates



Raise the issue of violence against women with local TDs



Have an information stand in your local shopping centre or library



Contact your local media and encourage them to carry a story



Organise a poetry and arts exhibition



Hold a minute's silence to remember all of the women murdered in Ireland



Celebrate achievements and milestones

Details of the **INTERNATIONAL** campaign can be found at:

www.cwgl.rutgers.edu

thoughtful, committed people can only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead

