

16 Days of Activism



Established in 1991, the 16 Days of Activism against gender violence campaign is a United Nations initiative. The event takes place annually between 25 November (*International Day of No Violence Against Women*) and 10 December (*International Human Rights Day*).

What is the International 16 Days of Activism campaign?

The 16 Days of Activism campaign is one which is supported by the international community each year. In South Africa, this campaign is particularly focused on issues relating to violence against women as well as against children.

The main point of this initiative is therefore to raise awareness about the negative impact that violence towards women and children has on our society. It also encourages individuals and organisations to work together to come up with strategies to help curb this violence.

Additional aims of the campaign include:

- To challenge those responsible for violence against women and children to stop this behaviour.
- To raise money for South African-based organisations (specifically NGOs) who provide support to those who are or have been affected by violence.
- To actively engage with people about combating violence in, not only our homes and communities, but in the workplace too.
- To applaud the strength of survivors of gender-based violence and child abuse and highlight how the 16 Days of Activism campaign has helped in their recovery.

Why is this an important campaign?

Everyone has the right to a life free from violence and abuse. The rights of women, and children in particular, are fundamental rights that our society needs to take responsibility for and protect. Devaluing someone's self-worth through acts of violence must be stopped.

How can you get involved?

You too can get involved and help support the 16 Days of Activism campaign by wearing a white ribbon to show your solidarity with this cause.

By wearing these ribbons for the duration of the 16-day period, you can also encourage others to support the initiative, and in doing so, create even greater awareness.

There are also various 16 Days of Activism events and activities on offer so keep an eye on your local press for more details.

The campaign slogan for the 16 Days of Activism initiative is: "Don't look away, act against abuse". If you have been a victim of violence, or know someone else who has been, encourage them to talk about it and ensure that they get professional help. Call the *Stop Gender-Based Violence* helpline on 0800 150 150.

For more information, visit:
www.info.gov.za/events/national/16days