

16 Days of Activism



2015 marks the 24th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign which was initiated in 1991 by the Center for Global Women's Leadership.

The event takes place annually between 25 November (International Day of No Violence Against Women) and 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

The South African Government upholds the campaign and includes issues relating to violence against children.

This year the global theme is "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!" Education is a fundamental human right recognised by the United Nations. However, for millions of people their universal human right to education is impacted daily or cut short due to violence, lack of resources, and discrimination.

At the heart of every 16 Days of Activism campaign in Africa is raising increased awareness of the negative impact of violence on women and children with the aim to encourage individuals, organisations, and businesses to take practical steps to help stop violence against women and children.

What does the campaign hope to achieve?

- To increase awareness about violence against women and children, how it manifests itself within society, and the negative impact on

these vulnerable groups.

- To challenge perpetrators of these offences to change their behaviour.
- To enhance and increase partnerships between government, the private sector, civil society, organised labour, sectoral groups, faith-based organisations, the media (electronic and print), and the diplomatic community in an effort to spread the message.
- To raise funds for NGOs that work within the sector, providing invaluable support to the victims and survivors of violence.
- To communicate through the most effective and appropriate channels, aiming to reach the maximum number of people across the country, particularly women and children residing in rural areas.
- To engage actively with men and boys in the discourse about combating violence in our homes, our communities, and in the workplace.
- To highlight the stories of survivors of gender-based violence and child abuse, and the impact that the campaign has had on their lives.

Support the campaign by doing your part where you can and by wearing a white ribbon to show solidarity for the duration of the 16-day period. Encourage your colleagues and family members to do the same, to create greater awareness.