

Talking points for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

What is the 16 Days of Activism Campaign?

- The 16 Days of Activism is a campaign that is a global call to action that recognises that gender-based violence (GBV) is a fundamental violation of human rights.
- The campaign:
 - begins on November 25 ([International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#))
 - finishes on December 10 ([World Human Rights Day](#))
 - these dates were chosen to highlight the links between violence against women with human rights.
 - was launched by the [Centre for Women's Global Leadership \(CWGL\)](#) at its first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. Since then, more than 6,000 organisations from around 187 countries have participated in the campaign.

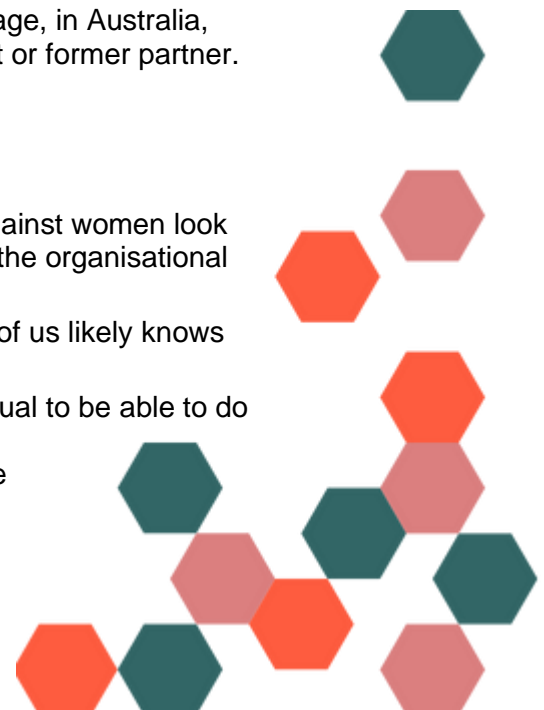
Why is the 16 Days of Activism Important?

- Globally, violence against women is occurring at alarming rates.
- Violence against women is any [act of gender-based violence](#) that causes or could cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of harm or coercion in public or private life.
- In Australia, the most unsafe place for a woman is her own home.
- [Women are at greater risk of family, domestic and sexual violence than men](#) – and they are more likely to know the perpetrator (often their current or a former partner), with the violence usually taking place in their home.
- Men experience violence too but are more likely to experience violence from strangers in a public place.
- [One in six women](#) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a current or former cohabiting partner. This is compared to one in 16 men. It amounts to [one police call out every two minutes](#) and on average, in Australia, [one woman is murdered every nine days](#) by a current or former partner.

Why do we need 16 Days of Activism?

Note: These examples focus on what the drivers of violence against women look like at the individual/relationship level, but they also play out at the organisational /community level, institutional/systemic level and societal level.

- The statistics in Australia indicate that every single one of us likely knows someone who has been affected by domestic violence.
- It might seem like a problem that is too big for an individual to be able to do anything about; however, violence against women is preventable and we know that gender inequality sets the necessary social context for it to occur.





The Gendered Drivers of Violence

- There are four gendered drivers of violence against women (set out in the [Change the Story National Framework](#)).

They are:

- **Condoning of violence against women.**
 - This can look like the media highlighting the victim's behaviour more than the perpetrator's violence.
- **Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public life and relationships.**
 - This includes beliefs that many people hold like "in the workplace, men make more capable bosses than women".
- **Rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity.**
 - This assumes that women will do the cleaning, cooking or administrative tasks at work, home or community events.
- **Male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women.**
 - This can sound like sexist 'locker room talk' that disrespects women – and in this environment is considered harmless and normal.
 - For more information, see [Unpacking the Gendered Drivers of Violence Against Women](#).

What is Happening Across Victoria?

The [Victorian campaign](#) is coordinated by [Safe and Equal](#), in partnership with [Respect Victoria](#), to deliver and support local community engagement with the 16 days of Activism's yearly theme. This year in Victoria the theme is [Respect Women: Call It Out \(Respect Is\)](#) to encourage people to choose to lead with respect in their relationships, workplaces, schools, universities, and homes, which can ultimately prevent family violence and gender-based violence.

What is Happening Locally?

This year Women's Health Goulburn North East are happy to support our community and gender equity partners through the launch of the [WHGNE Learning Management System](#). Throughout the 16 Days of Activism, stakeholders and the community can access resources via this digital hub to build knowledge and encourage meaningful action to progress gender equality and create the conditions necessary to prevent gender-based violence in our homes, our workplaces, institutions and communities.

How can you get Involved?

- Attend a local 16 Day's event, online or socially distanced.
- Join the walk against family violence. Register online at [SAFE STEPS](#)
- Follow [WHGNE](#) on [FACEBOOK](#), [INSTAGRAM](#) or [LINKEDIN](#) and re-share our posts
- Start the conversation around weaving women's rights and gender equality into the everyday life of your team, staff and work culture. Try the same at home!

What Services are Available?

Reach out to your colleagues, supervisor or a manager if you need support. You can also access your organisations Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

- **000** - Urgent Assistance
- **THE ORANGE DOOR** - 1800 271 157 - Family violence in Ovens Murray and all of Victoria - available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- **SAFE STEPS** - 1800 015 188 - Family violence support for Victorians - available 24/7
- **1800RESPECT** - 1800 737 732 - National sexual assault, family and domestic violence counselling line - available 24/7
- **NO TO VIOLENCE** - 1300 766 491 - Anonymous men's referral service for men who use violence
- **WITH RESPECT** - 1800 542 847 - Specialist LGBTIQ+ family violence service - available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
- **LIFELINE** - 13 11 14 - Mental health support - available 24/7
- **VACCA** - (03) 5756 9000 - Family Violence Client Service Delivery (Case Management) - Ovens Murray
- **13 YARN** (13 92 76) – If you need a yarn, call 13 YARN to talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter – available 24/7

