WHAT IS THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN?

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute, coordinated by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women- and December 10 - International Human Rights Day in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1, World AIDS Day, December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organising strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels
- strengthening local work around violence against women
- establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against violence against women
- creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

Over 4,100 organizations in approximately 172 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign since 1991.¹

¹ Retrieved from http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/about/campaign-profile
In Antigua & Barbuda, the 16 Days campaign 2012 is coordinated by a team of gender equality advocates representing the following organisations (in alphabetical order):

- Anglican Youth Association
- Department of Youth Affairs
- Directorate of Gender Affairs
- Meeting Emotional and Social Needs Holistically (MESH)
- Together We Must
- Walking Into Walls
- Women Against Rape (WAR)

Our collective aim is to join with other local, community-based, private sector, government and other organisations to raise awareness on the related issues of gender-based violence, and their impact on Antigua and Barbuda. In particular, we recognise the link between GBV and HIV on World AIDS Day, underscoring how these issues can both be a cause and consequence of one another. In highlighting these concerns, we hope to share information on the prevalence of various forms of violence in our communities, their effects, and the ways in which we can work together to put an end to violence in all forms.

Our work is linked to an international effort that recognises women’s rights as human rights. We uphold and wholly agree with the statement made by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999 that;

“Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace.”

Each year, we call on all Antiguans and Barbudans to recognise the critical implications of violating the rights of women. We call on each individual member, local organisation, and government agency to actively participate in this global campaign through recognising their integral roles in promoting social change through transformative action.
WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA?

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as:

*Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.*

It includes:

- physical, sexual and psychological violence such as domestic violence;
- sexual abuse, including rape and sexual abuse of children by family members;
- forced pregnancy;
- sexual slavery;
- traditional practices harmful to women, such as honor killings, burning or acid throwing, female genital mutilation, dowry-related violence;
- violence in armed conflict, such as murder and rape; and
- emotional abuse, such as coercion and abusive language.

Trafficking of women and girls for prostitution, forced marriage, sexual harassment and intimidation at work are additional examples of violence against women.

Gender violence occurs in both the ‘public’ sphere (such as sexual harassment) and ‘private’ sphere (such as domestic violence). Such violence not only occurs in the family and in the general community (such as incidents of sexual assault), but is sometimes also perpetuated by the state through policies or the actions of agents of the state such as the police, military or immigration authorities. Gender-based violence happens in all societies, across all social classes, with women particularly at risk from men they know.
One in three women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. \(^2\)

Various agencies respond to acts of gender-based violence in Antigua and Barbuda. These agencies are both state and non-state bodies. Official statistics on crimes related to gender-based violence commonly found in Antigua and Barbuda are kept by the Sexual Offences Unit of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, and also through the Directorate of Gender Affairs.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs Crisis Centre saw 329 clients in 2010 and 364 in 2011.

In 2010 these cases included:

- 260 Cases of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- 35 Cases of RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- 3 Cases of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In 2011 these cases included:

- 283 Cases of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, 38 of which included SEXUAL ABUSE
- 10 Cases of CHILD RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- 22 Cases of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The numbers are not on the decline. New forms of gender-based violence are emerging in Antigua and Barbuda, such as Human Trafficking, and call on us to develop new and effective collaborative approaches to see their full eradication.

\(^2\) 2003 UNIFEM (now known as UN Women) Report, “Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women”
WHAT YOU CAN DO

PARTICIPATING IN THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN

What can you do to get involved in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign? It’s pretty simple. Here are two ways:

1. Spread the message! We have 16 Messages for 16 Days to post on Facebook, Twitter, BBM, Whatsapp and all social networking sites, in newspapers and online for each day of the campaign. Make them your personal statements and spread them widely;

   DAY ONE Sunday 25th November
   (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)
   Love and Respect ALL; men, women, girls and boys EQUALLY. #16Days2012

   DAY TWO Monday 26th November
   If you See Something, Say Something. Speak Up for Violence Against Women Awareness! #16Days2012

   DAY THREE Tuesday 27th November
   Violence is a choice. I would rather choose peace. #16Days2012

   DAY FOUR Wednesday 28th November
   Sticks and stones may break your bones but words can cripple your spirit and break your confidence. End Emotional Abuse. #16Days2012

   DAY FIVE Thursday 29th November
   I am taking a stand against ALL forms of gender-based violence. #16Days2012

   DAY SIX Friday 30th November
   The face of Antigua and Barbuda is a face scared with Domestic Violence. Let’s change the face of Antigua and Barbuda. Stop the Violence. #16Days2012

   DAY SEVEN Saturday 1st December
   (World AIDS Day)
   I aim to be the healthiest possible me. That is why I get tested regularly and use protection always. I am living POSITIVELY! #16Days2012
DAY EIGHT Sunday 2nd December
I am putting Me and my Family first. I am walking away from all forms of abuse. #16Days2012

DAY NINE Monday 3rd December
(International Day for Persons with Disabilities)
We are all differently able. I know that my abilities make me no more or no less deserving than others to live my fullest life. #16Days2012

DAY TEN Tuesday 4th December
As a community leader, policy maker, teacher, police officer, parent, I can play an important role in ending gender-based violence. What am I doing? #16Days2012

DAY ELEVEN Wednesday 5th December
A blow to my body, self-esteem, and spirit is a blow to the country and should be and remain a governmental concern. #16Days2012

DAY TWELVE Thursday 6th December
(23rd Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre)
She is a target for violence simply because she is a woman/girl. I determine what kind of man I want to be: one who respects all women and girls. #16Days2012

DAY THIRTEEN Friday 7th December
I am one in three women worldwide who has been victimised by child, sexual, psychological or physical abuse. My daughter doesn't have to be. #16Days2012

DAY FOURTEEN Saturday 8th December
Sisters, Friends, Mothers, Teachers, Dancers, Lovers - ALL Women deserve a Life Free of Violence #16Days2012

DAY FIFTEEN Sunday 9th December
My music is for dancing. My music is for singing. My music is life. My music does not promote violence against women. #16Days2012

DAY SIXTEEN Monday 10th December
(International Human Rights Day)
Abuse is not a personal issue. It is a Human Rights issue. #16Days2012
2. Participate! A series of events and activities are planned for 16 Days 2012. Some activities are designed exclusively for organisations; but most are open to the public. Get out, get involved! Show your support to the women in your lives, and to this important campaign to end gender-based violence.

16 DAYS 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PRE 16 DAYS ACTIVITIES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 19– INTERNATIONAL MEN’S DAY
8:30pm - 16 Days Panel Discussion on ABS TV: Launching the 16 Days Campaign with a talk on social issues.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23
11am – Panel Discussion on Voice of the People, Observer Radio: How do we involve the “other half” of the human race in activism?

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25

ORANGE DAY – United Nations’ monthly campaign day to end gender-based violence… so wear your orange all day!
9:30am – “Getting to Zero” Church Service: AIDS Secretariat and partners launch commemoration of World AIDS Day with special service@ St. Johnson’s Village Church of the Nazarene
3:00pm - VAW Awareness Football Day @ ARG: Come out in your orange and support our local football teams!
5:00pm – AWU Benefit Concert @ Union Hall, Newgate St.: Antigua Workers Union and partners share an evening of gospel music in recognition of November 25th. All Proceeds going to baby of the late Melissa Rose. $10.00

Messages for churches: Special Messages to be read in churches on ending violence against women

MONDAY NOVEMBER 26

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28

7:00pm - Movie Night @ Deluxe Cinema: Special $5.00 Screening with open Panel Discussion following

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30

10am-3pm - Information booth @ The Source on Redcliffe Street: Talk to our team of advocates about GBV
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATURDAY DECEMBER 1</th>
<th>Messages for churches</th>
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<td>SUNDAY DECEMBER 2</td>
<td>Messages for churches</td>
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<td>MONDAY DECEMBER 3</td>
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<td>8:00pm - Expressions Poetry Night @ Java to Go on Redcliffe Quay: Local Poets share original pieces on GBV under the theme “Human WRITES”</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5</td>
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<td>9am-12pm - Gender Boot Camp @ Defence Force: Special Session for Defence Force staff on gender issues</td>
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<td>SATURDAY DECEMBER 8</td>
<td>Messages for churches</td>
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<td>SUNDAY DECEMBER 9</td>
<td>Messages for churches</td>
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<td>MONDAY DECEMBER 10</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Have Your Say on Observer Radio: Wrapping up 16 Days while engaging in a discussion on how to continue the efforts the campaign has begun.</td>
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<td>ABS At Home Movie (TBC)</td>
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CONTACT US

CONTACTS FOR THE CAMPAIGN

Any member or participating organisation of the 16 Days Committee may be contacted for further comment and information on the campaign and its related activities. You may however direct questions for coordinating media interviews to:

Tamara Huggins or Asha Challenger (Programme Officers)

Directorate of Gender Affairs
Redcliffe St.
St. John’s
Antigua
268.462.3990 or 462.9664
tamarahuggins@yahoo.ca
a.challenger@gmail.com
268.721.2072 (Huggins, direct)

Michelle Garavaglia (Peace Corps Volunteer)
Women Against Rape
Redcliffe St.
St. John’s
Antigua
268.721.5553
garavami14@gmail.com
EXTRAS

- RELATED LOGOS AND GRAPHICS
- LETTER TO CHURCHES

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon with an ORANGE “No” Sign for the UNite Orange Day Campaign (25th November)
Source: http://endviolence.un.org

Official logo for the United Nations Secretary General’s Campaign
Source: http://endviolence.un.org

Official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence logo
Source: http://www.unifemcar.org
(UN Women Caribbean Office)
8th November, 2012

Dear Leaders and Friends,

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
MESSAGE TO CHURCHES

From November 25th 2012 to December 10th 2012, Antigua and Barbuda joins the world in participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign. The 16 Days campaign recognizes that violence against women (VAW) remains to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations and calls upon government and society, community-based organizations and the private sector to help eradicate violence against women in all forms.

We write to request your support and collaboration in promoting this very important campaign.

On the weekends of December 1st - 2nd and December 8th - 9th, we are serving all churches to make an announcement about 16 Days to their congregations, and pray for victims and survivors of gender-based violence in all forms.

The following can be used as a template for the announcement:

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place annually between 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and 10 December (International Human Rights Day) including other significant dates which recognize the rights of all of society’s members. This campaign focuses primarily on generating an increased awareness of the negative impacts of violence and works towards developing solutions which collectively promote a peaceful and just world for all.

The purpose of the campaign is to:

- Generate awareness amongst Antiguans and Barbudans on the perpetration of violence against women and children, how it manifests itself within our society, and the negative impact it has on the particular groups of people;
- Challenge perpetrators of abuse to change their behavior;
- Enhance and increase public support in an effort to spread the message;
- Increase the support for victims and survivors of violence;
- Engage citizen groups and organizations in combating violence in our homes, our communities and in the workplace;
- Highlight the stories of survivors of gender-based violence and the impact that the campaign has had on their lives.

Violence against women is an epidemic. Throughout the world violence against women and girls is perpetrated within marriage and family, in intimate partner relationships, in domestic communities by strangers and in traditional societies. In the workplace, across international borders as women are trafficked for sex and labor and as a tool of war by military forces, and in wartime and in post-conflict settings. Let’s join together now and ask for the compelling piece of food to increase – at this moment – in the thousands of individual relationships, prevented by gender-based violence in all its forms.

- For one and for all, make a stand, question, and voice the violations.
- Those married couples trapped in a fearful cycle of guilt, threats or violence will seek and be able to find help.
- For families who are controlled, intimidated by self-righteous intimidation, that they will seek help and find it.
- Those without will unapologetically not tolerate any violence in their homes.
- Those that have acknowledged that their behavior is violent, or have acknowledged is violence in their behavior.
- For women to respond with patience and wisdom to an violent child.
- Those seeking a balance between individuals, girls, and community needs in marriage relationships.
- Those that have divided by violence or fear of violence may find a haven of help.
- Those who acknowledge violence and their abusers may break their silence, and find help from family and friends.
- Those who have having a family member and will not only apologize for help for ourselves that we not cause hurt again.

As a people of faith we can give access to our pour and to violence against women by implementing the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign.

On behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Sector Steering Committee and participating organizations, we greatly appreciate your support and that of your congregation in spreading this important message. Please feel free to make contact for any further information you may require.

Warmest regards,

Tamara A. Hughes
Programme Officer
The Director of Gender Affairs
Ph: 268-422-3770
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E: tamara.hughes@yahoocaribbean.com

Antigua and Barbuda Steering Committee
2012

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