16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE MEDIA KIT

Directorate of Gender Affairs
BACKGROUND

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place each year, and runs from 25 November, (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), to 10 December (Human Rights Day), also encompassing other important key dates. The ‘16 Days Campaign’ is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of violence against women and girls.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1, World AIDS Day, December 3 and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing 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.

In Antigua & Barbuda, the 16 Days campaign 2015 is coordinated by a team of gender equality advocates representing the following organizations:

- Walking into Walls
- Women Against Rape
- Women of Antigua
- Together We Must
- Intersect
- AIDS Secretariat
- Professional Organization for Women
Our collective aim is to join with other local, community-based, private sector, government and other organizations to raise awareness on the related issues of gender-based violence, and their impact on Antigua and Barbuda. In particular, we recognize 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 recognizes 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.

“One in three women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.”
FACTS AND FIGURES

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN ANTIGUA AND 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.

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 219 clients in 2014 and 195 from January to October 2015. In 2014 these cases included:

• Cases of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
• Cases of RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
• Cases of HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In 2015 these cases included:

• Cases of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE of which included
• Cases of SEXUAL ABUSE
• Cases of CHILD RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
• 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.
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: Spread the message! We have 16 Messages for 16 Days to post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, 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**
**Wednesday 25th November**
(International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)
Orange your world today! Unite to End Gender-based violence

**DAY TWO**
**Thursday 26th November**
If you See Something, Say Something. Speak Up for Gender-based violence Awareness!

**DAY THREE**
**Friday 27th November**
Violence is a choice. I would rather choose peace.

**DAY FOUR**
**Saturday 28th November**
Words can cripple your spirit and break your confidence. End Emotional Abuse.

**DAY FIVE**
**Sunday 29th November**
I am taking a stand against ALL forms of gender-based violence. Save Lives! Break the cycle of violence.

**DAY SIX**
**Monday 30th November**
Let’s build an Antigua and Barbudan society free of violence. It Stops Here!
DAY SEVEN
Tuesday 1st December
(World AIDS Day)
I aim to be the healthiest possible me. I get tested regularly and always use protection!

DAY EIGHT
Wednesday 2nd December
I am putting my family and community first. I am walking away from all forms of abuse.

DAY NINE
Thursday 3rd December
(International Day for Persons with Disabilities)
We are all differently able and must have access to every aspect of life.

DAY TEN
Friday 4th December
I live in this community. I can play an important role in ending gender-based violence.

DAY ELEVEN
Saturday 5th December
A blow to my body, self-esteem, and spirit is a blow to the country and should be a priority for government.

DAY TWELVE
Sunday 6th December
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. #16Days2015

DAY THIRTEEN
Monday 7th December
I am one in three women worldwide who has been victimized by child, sexual, psychological or physical abuse. My daughter doesn’t have to be.

DAY FOURTEEN
Tuesday 8th December
We all deserve a Life Free of Violence. Make it Happen!

DAY FIFTEEN
Wednesday 9th December
My music is for dancing. My music is for singing. My music is life. My music does not promote violence against women.

DAY SIXTEEN
Thursday 10th December
(International Human Rights Day)
Abuse is not a personal issue. It is a Human Rights issue.
ACTIVITIES

Participate! A series of events and activities are planned for 16 Days 2015. 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 of Activism Campaign Against Gender Violence

**Monday 16th November**
- **Interschool Mural Workshop**
  - Directorate of Gender Affairs
  - 10:00 AM

**17th - 20th November**
- **Interschool Painting of the Mural**
  - In collaboration with Women of Antigua
  - Antigua Recreational Grounds
  - All Day

**Sunday 22nd November**
- **16 Days Message to be Read in All Churches**
  - All Day

**Tuesday 24th November**
- **Media Day**
  - All Media Houses

**Wednesday 25th November**
- **Campaign Launch**
  - Good Morning Antigua and Barbuda
- **Orange Flash Rally**
  - In collaboration with Intersect
  - Lower Redcliffe Street
  - 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Thursday 26th November**
- **Open House and Website Launch**
  - Directorate of Gender Affairs
  - 10:00 AM

**Friday 27th November**
- **Youth Connect**
  - "Soap Box" Discussion on Gender
  - Observer Radio 91.1 FM
  - 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Saturday 28th November**
- **School Brochure Distribution**
- **Faith Based Round Table Discussion**
  - Public Library Conference Room
  - 2:00PM - 5:00 PM

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**Orange Flash Rally with Intersect**

**Wednesday 25th November**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th November</td>
<td>Cycle - Cade to End Violence in collaboration with the Cycling Association</td>
<td>Directorate of Gender Affairs 2:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30th November</td>
<td>The Role of Law Enforcement in Ending Violence Discussion</td>
<td>Directorate of Gender Affairs 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1st December</td>
<td>World AIDS Day March with Aids Secretariat</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2nd December</td>
<td>Business Leaders Roundtable Discussion on the Role of the Private Sector in Ending GBV</td>
<td>Public Library Conference Room 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd December</td>
<td>Women Against Rape Annual Symposium: Paving the Way to Gender Equality</td>
<td>UWI Open Campus 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>Friday 4th December</td>
<td>Movie Night ‘The Perfect Guy’ Followed by a Discussion</td>
<td>Deluxe Cinemas 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>Thursday 10th December</td>
<td>AGHS Girls Day Sensitization</td>
<td>AGHS 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Tuesday 1st December</td>
<td>Human Rights Open Mic Night in collaboration with August Rush Productions</td>
<td>Heavenly Java 2 Go 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM</td>
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<td>10th - 11th December</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Heritage Hotel</td>
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<td>6th - 9th December</td>
<td>Barbuda Outreach</td>
<td>Barbuda</td>
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CONTACT US

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:

**Alverna Inniss**
Programme Officer
Directorate of Gender Affairs
Redcliffe St.
St. John’s
Antigua

Or

**Cherilyn Alexander**
16 Days Coordinator
Directorate of Gender Affairs

268.462.3990 or 462.9664
gender@ab.gov.ag
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

EXTRAS
OFFICIAL LOGOS

Official Logo for the 16 Days of Activism Antigua Campaign

Official logo for the United Nations Secretary General’s Campaign

Official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence logo
PARTNER LOGOS AND INFORMATION

Art.Culture.Antigua
Official Media Sponsor

Art.Culture.Antigua keeps readers updated on all the happenings in the cultural, creative and performing arts industry in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider diaspora. Additionally, Art.Culture.Antigua is committed to sharing opportunities for creatives to develop their craft and extend their audience, in and outside of the region.

Linisa George
www.artcultureantigua.com
artcultureantigua@gmail.com

Together We Must
Jeanette Charles
twmantigua@outlook.com
268-729-7232

POWA
Joy-Ann Harrigan
joy_ann_harrigan@hotmail.com

Intersect
Sarah-Anne Gresham
Nneka Nicholas
268-776-4581
268-724-9957
intersect.anu@gmail.com

Women of Antigua
Zahra Airall
byziaproductions@gmail.com
268-779-6634

Women Against Rape
Alexandrina Wong
268-721-5553
womenagainstrapeab@gmail.com

AIDS Secretariat