

National Theme:
ACT AGAINST ABUSE: DON'T LOOK AWAY

International Theme:
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN:
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL

BACKGROUND OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

16 days of activism against abuse is a international campaign that was started by the Centre for Women's Global leadership(CWGL) in 1991. The 16 days run from November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women to December 10, International Human Rights Day to symbolically link violence against women and human rights.

This 16 day period also highlight other significant days including December 1, World Aids Day, and December 6, which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE AS AN ORGANIZING STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY:

- Raising awareness around gender based violence as a human rights issue
- Strengthening local work around gender-based violence
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end gender-based violence
- providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- demonstrating the solidarity of women and all vulnerable groups against gender-based violence
- creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to end gender-based violence



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

VISION

A society free from gender oppression and all forms of inequality.

MISSION

The Commission for Gender Equality shall advance, promote and protect gender equality in South Africa through undertaking research, public education, policy development, legislative initiatives, effectively monitoring and litigation.

DEFINITION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

According to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the term gender-based violence (GBV) is used to distinguish violence that targets individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender from other forms of violence. It includes any act which results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological/emotional and economic abuse of gender relations

THE NATURE OF GBV

PHYSICAL:

- slapping, punching, grabbing, kicking, shaking, pulling hair, restraint, biting, use of force/threat/coercion to obtain sex, use of weapons against a person, battery, murder, destroying someone's possessions
- sexual acts which include sodomy, rape (and marital rape), genital mutilation, sexual harassment, incest, defilement and sexual violence committed during war crimes
- human trafficking, forced prostitution
- violence related to exploitation

EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

- shouting, ridicule and humiliation, denial of safe sex
- denying women freedom of movement or association, verbal insults and forced marriages

ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION:

- denying women access to employment
- failure to provide for family
- denying women access to education and training
- discriminating against women in employment situations
- refusal to pay maintenance by partner

CAUSES OF GBV:

- inequalities and imbalanced power relations between men and women in society
- structures with a complex set of values, norms, practices, customs and traditions, and gender inequality
- the lack of prevention programmes targeting the perpetrators and the communities
- women's poverty, coupled with a lack of their human rights

CONSEQUENCES OF GBV:

- Death of a victim
- The risk of contracting HIV
- Maiming, bruises, fractures
- Death of the perpetrator if the victim retaliates
- Injuries and harm extended to children, family, community members when present in violent situations
- Anxiety, depression, fear degradation, humiliation, insecurity and suicidal tendencies
- Feelings of incompetence, low self-esteem and lack of self worth
- Increased number of street children reported to come from broken homes
- Dependency by women on social systems such as welfare packages, police, hospitals
- Low levels of productivity from abused persons

