

## 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

### Daily Posts

**DAY 1:** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Wear Orange



Another future without violence against women is possible with education, essential services across policing, justice, health, and social sectors, and sufficient financing dedicated to women's rights.  
| PHOTO: UN Women

**Today is the United Nations (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women:**

[www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day)

It is also the **Start of the 16 Days of Activism** to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV) of women and girls. This is a global solidarity movement that is everyone's business. So, we invite you to start the conversation today to break the cycle of gendered violence and abuse: [www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism](http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism)

**DAY 2:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.



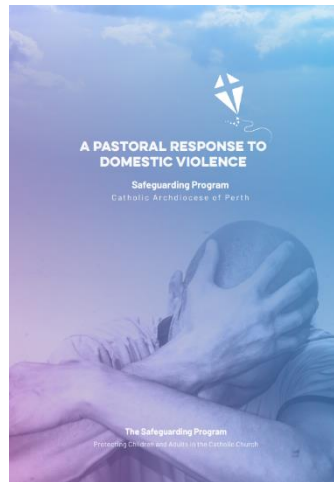
***RESPECT – Confronting Violence & Abuse – Learn how Church Communities can Confront Violence & Abuse*** from the 2022/23 Social Justice (SJ) Statement from the national bishops (through the ACBC: Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference). Learn what some of the

drivers and enablers for disrespectful behaviour toward women and girls are and understand about the more vulnerable groups for such gendered crimes:

[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/)

**DAY** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**3:**



Read and promote the Safeguarding Program Office resource, ***The Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence*** to understand the forms of domestic, family and sexual violence; and the **learned behaviour** of the **cycle of violence**, including perpetrator tactics of **power and control**: [www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au)

**DAY** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**4:**



***Stand With Survivors***: Listen, support & believe them & inform them of culturally safe services. That is, ask “Are you ok?” and “How can I help or support you best?”. Let them know: “You’re not alone”.

Refer to the back page of the SJ Statement – for **Getting Help**:

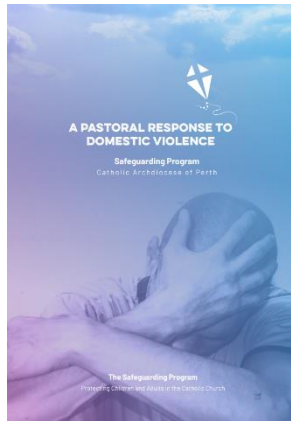
[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/)

<https://1800respect.org.au/promoting-1800respect/16-days-of-activism>

**DAY**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

**5:**



**Learn the Signs and Understand the Gendered-Crimes of Violence & Abuse. Recognise the verbal ‘put-downs’, sexist comments and unwelcome behaviours that can increase the vulnerability of women and girls. That is, confront or challenge inappropriate comments and actions such as unwanted touching, wolf whistling and belittling.**

**Refer to *The Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence:***

**[www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au) (Resources).**

**DAY**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

**6:**



**Start a Conversation about Respectful Relationships; & build capacity to challenge & confront sexist/misogynistic & threatening language & behaviour. Don't make excuses for disrespectful and poor behaviour such as “*he hit you because he likes you*” and “*boys will be boys*”:**

**[www.starick.org.au/wa-respectful-relationships-teaching-support-program](http://www.starick.org.au/wa-respectful-relationships-teaching-support-program).**

**DAY**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**7:**

**Don't be a Bystander – Be Upstanding and Speak Up:** Don't allow silence to be interpreted as compliance to a culture of violence. Speak up and name the abuse, such as harassment, bullying (including on-line/cyber-bullying) and varying acts of violence. **Challenge myths** that diffuse responsibility such as “*it's their business*” or “*it's not my problem*”.

**Change the discourse** from diffused or individual responsibility to **collective responsibility** or action. You could ask instead, “*how did we let this happen?*” and “*how can we change this situation and support you?*”. Don't turn a blind eye, be passive or indifferent to acts of violence and abuse. **Step up or step in** by recognising and naming power imbalances, privilege, and entitlement. Always be aware of safety concerns but help **break the silence**.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/16-days-of-activism-against-gender-based-violence/2023>

**DAY**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**8:**



Today is the **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**. The 2023 theme is ‘*Fighting slavery’s legacy of racism through transformative education*’. Modern Slavery includes (but is not restricted to) sexual servitude, Forced Marriage (including ‘child brides’), forced labour, including debt bondage and child labour. Refer to ACRATH - Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans for other information: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/16-days/>

**DAY**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

**9:**



Today is the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*. The 2023 theme is '*United in action to rescue & achieve the SDG's for, with & by persons with disabilities*': <https://www.idpwd.com.au/>

Recognise the increased vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities/varying abilities:  
[www.aihw.gov.au/reports/disability/people-with-disability-in-australia/contents/justice-and-safety/violence-against-people-with-disability](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/disability/people-with-disability-in-australia/contents/justice-and-safety/violence-against-people-with-disability)

**DAY**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**10:**



*Understand Consent*: Consent needs to be freely given, reversible and informed. It includes freely approving of or giving permission to another person(s) in relation to touching, kissing and/or sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance is *not* consent. Being drunk or unconscious is *not* consent. Consent in intimate relationships and marriage should also be free from pressure, coercion, and other forms of manipulation:

<https://www.1800respect.org.au/violence-and-abuse/sexual-assault-and-violence/consent>

**DAY** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**11:**



**End Victim/Survivor Blaming.** Use words wisely and without judgement to support rather than condemn survivors of GBV. Some examples of Victim-blaming include: *“What were you wearing?”*; *“You must have sent mixed messages”*; *“You shouldn’t have been drinking”*; *“Why didn’t you lock your door?”*; *“Why were you walking alone at night?”*; *“How hard did you try to stop it?”* and sadly, so many more.

<https://www.facebook.com/unwomen/videos/shatter-victim-blaming/701115144171143/>

**DAY** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**12:**



RUTGERS  
Center for Women's  
Global Leadership

Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability  
Observatoire canadien de féminicide pour la justice et la responsabilisation



Today we acknowledge the **National Day of Mourning & Action in Canada** following the 1989 violent misogynistic murder of 14 young women in Montreal. Learn about **Femicide**, such as ‘the Montreal Massacre’ which is the intentional killing of women and girls by a man/men. Respectful men & boys have opportunities & influence to actively participate in awareness-raising activities for the prevention of femicide: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142702>

**DAY**  
**13:**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.



**AIHW**

**Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story**

2019



**Learn the Facts of Gender-Based Violence, including domestic, family, and sexual violence. Understand that during times of crisis and displacement, (such as humanitarian/war, climate-related and the COVID-19 pandemic), women and girls are disproportionately impacted by Gender-Based Violence within the public and private spheres. This can be physical, financial, spiritual, emotional, or mental abuse, which includes threats of violence and abuse to women and girls as well as to their loved ones or pets.**

**Understand other forms of GBV such as non-consensual on-line sexting of pornography, stalking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and so called 'honour killings': <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/gender-based-violence.html>  
[www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-australia-2019/contents/summary](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-australia-2019/contents/summary)**

**DAY**  
**14:**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.



**Promote & Support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Goals for Equality, Dignity & Respect. The SDGs are a global partnership by the United Nations (UN) with various countries for**

gender equality to empower all women and girls, including through education for autonomy/independence:  
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/08/in-focus-sustainable-development-goal-5>

**DAY**  
**15:**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

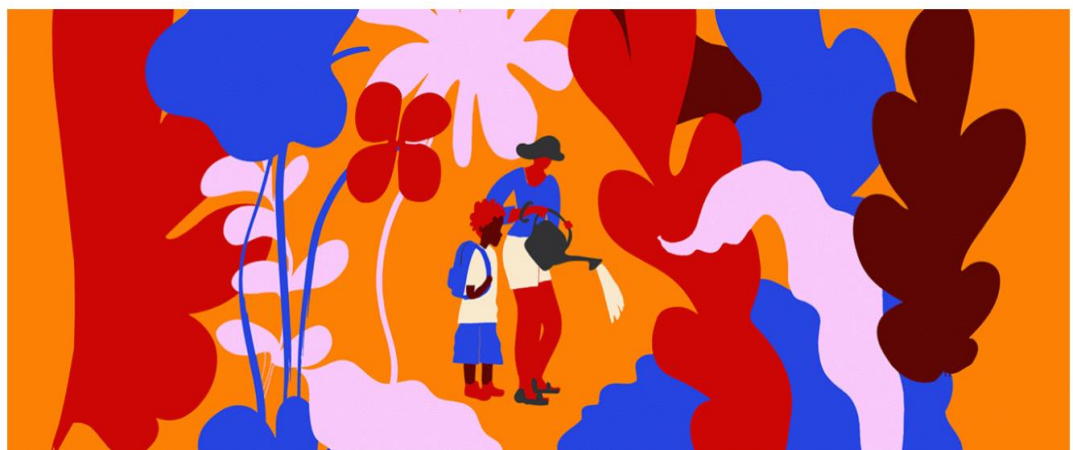


***Our faith affirms the God-given (inherent) right to dignity in us ALL:***  
**With this in mind, we are called by God to ‘relationships marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control’ (SJ Statement, p 13).**  
**While perpetrators need to account and take responsibility for their own abusive and violent behaviour; as a community, we all need to be aware of cultural and structural violence that can reinforce or minimise gender-based violence.**

**We invite you to prayerfully reflect on what is right and just, our moral compass, acknowledging that ‘Jesus rejects the use of religious traditions to justify violence’. Refer to SJ Statement (p 8) - Respect, Dignity, Justice, Transformation & Hope:**  
[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/)

**DAY**  
**16:**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.**



Another future without violence against women is possible with education, essential services across policing, justice, health, and social sectors, and sufficient financing dedicated to women's rights.  
| PHOTO: UN Women

**Human Rights Day:** The **16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence** includes Human Rights Day which acknowledges that



***'Women's Rights are Human Rights':*** [www.ohchr.org/en/women](http://www.ohchr.org/en/women).

That means justice and hope for survivors; & accountability/  
responsibility for perpetrator behaviour change.

Women and girls have the right to live with freedom from fear of  
violence and abuse. In 2008, the UN Secretary General launched  
UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence Against Women Campaign. For  
ongoing actions, refer to the UN Women UNiTE Campaign:

[www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite](http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite)

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me".***

**Philippians 4: 13**