

November 2018



Throughout the 16 DAYS campaign, Mothers' Union joins with many others, globally, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in *all* forms and in *all* societies.

*The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign* is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

Mothers' Union has produced a set of resources specifically for its members and friends, which we are welcome to use and to encourage others to use. They are a great asset in supporting our members and friends as we engage with this important campaign

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

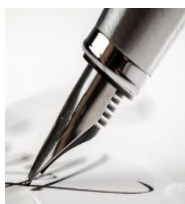
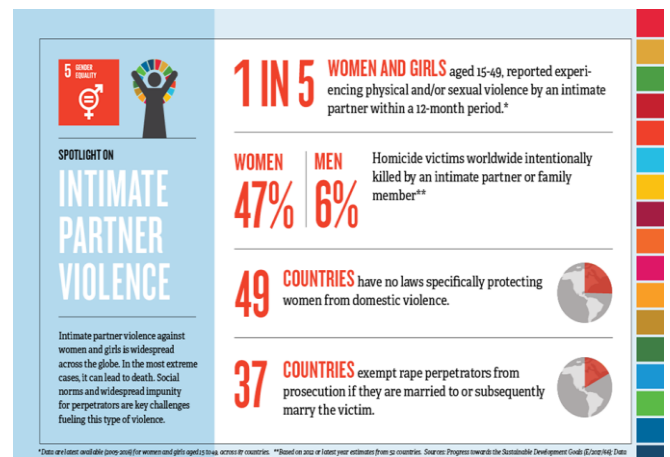
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

<https://16dayscwg1.rutgers.edu/>



### PROGRESS OF GOAL 5 IN 2018

While some forms of discrimination against women and girls are diminishing, gender inequality continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and opportunities. Empowering women requires addressing structural issues such as unfair social norms and attitudes as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality between women and men.



**A letter to politicians** is available for the North and South of Ireland. It is very important that the issues raised surrounding families affected by domestic abuse are highlighted and acted upon in every branch throughout Ireland.

To download a letter, click on the Home Page at [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)  
Please forward to TDs, MLAs, MPs, MEPs and Councillors in your electoral district.

*Get involved, Have your say, Make a difference!*



Forgive us Lord when we hear neither your plea, nor the cries of your people. Free us Lord from the fears that bind us, or from any sense of powerlessness. Fill us Lord with your dream of a just world and the tenacity to keep going in playing our part, in your name, Amen *Maggie Lunan*



**Spotlight Initiative**  
To eliminate violence against women and girls

**The Spotlight Initiative: Eliminating violence and harmful practices against women and girls is an unprecedented, partnership between the EU and the UN.**

It is comprehensive in scope, targeted in focus, & is changing how business is conducted across the UN system and across countries and regions.

Solutions rely on working at multiple levels and bringing many different players to the table, on holding the uncomfortable conversations that address the root causes of such violence and in extending rights and opportunities to those who have previously been excluded.

*The name of the Initiative – Spotlight – symbolizes the importance of driving this issue into the light so it can be seen, tackled and eliminated. The UN and participating countries are willing to spread that light. Now is the time for everyone to join this EU/UN initiative eg.*

**In Malawi**, *Spotlight* are supporting dialogue on discriminatory social norms to teach communities how to build non-violent, respectful and equitable relationships from early childhood onwards.

**In Mexico**, they are training health care workers to identify early signs of abuse and prevent violence against women through school-based campaigns

**In Niger**, they are engaging men and boys and strengthening the ability of women's rights defenders to advocate policy reform and hold decision-makers accountable.

**In Zimbabwe**, they are using radio and other media to spread awareness. To ensure that services are accessible to all women and girls, they are introducing measures such as access ramps at service centres, sign language, braille and audio versions of information materials.



**Empowering Women**

- ✓ Setting standards that don't discriminate
- ✓ Training women to lead
- ✓ Seed funding locally driven women's initiatives
- ✓ Challenging historic gender-based patterns
- ✓ Breaking down stereotypes of 'women's work'
- ✓ Developing interventions to dismantle inequality



The ***It Stops Now Campaign*** aims to build a culture of zero tolerance of sexual harassment and violence in third level institutions by raising awareness, and by developing training and policy resources for students and staff.

<http://www.itstopsnow.org/> #itstopsnow [www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)



A new campaign to educate young people about sexual consent by the Police Service of NI (PSNI) and other agencies "**No Grey Zone**" awareness campaign sets out the type of behaviour that will be treated as sexual assault unless consent has been granted. [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk) #nogreyzone



### Looking for help?

[www.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk) (NI) and [www.cosc.ie](http://www.cosc.ie) and [www.whatwouldyoudo.ie](http://www.whatwouldyoudo.ie) (An Garda Síochána Ról) have extensive lists and information on their websites.



### Republic of Ireland

In an emergency dial **112** or **999**.

### Northern Ireland

In an emergency dial **999**

[www.psnipolice.uk/crime/domestic-abuse/](http://www.psnipolice.uk/crime/domestic-abuse/)



## WOMEN'S AID

Making Women and Children Safe



National Women's Council of Ireland  
Comhairle Náisiúnta na mBan in Éirinn  
Celebrating 40 Years of Improving Women's Lives

### Proposed Retirement Savings Scheme

NWCI believe it is crucial that women's continuing experience of lower earnings, fewer years' employment and greater contribution to unpaid care work should not be compounded by exclusion from an adequate, independent pension in old age.

Read the Republic of Ireland *Quick Guide to Government proposals on a Retirement Savings Scheme*. This is a once in a generation opportunity to influence pension policy.

Government consultation closes on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

<https://www.nwci.ie>

<https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Consultations.aspx>



## Domestic violence affects men too Talk it over

Not sure what to do?  
Call the Men's Advice Line and talk it over.

**0808 801 0327**  
(Free from landlines and mobile phones)

We are open  
Monday-Friday  
9am to 5pm.

Or email  
[info@mensadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@mensadviceline.org.uk)  
[www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

Calls are confidential. We do not use technology to identify callers, listening-in or call recording equipment. Calls may be monitored for quality and training purposes. Visit [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk) for more info.

Figures are not for the system, all-in and not for the system.

Text Relay



Men's Advice Line

### Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Jacqui Armstrong Tel: 028 71516436 :  
Mobile: 07928747354 email:jacquelin.armstrong.donegal@outlook.com  
Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Jacqui Armstrong  
Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel:02877765141  
Mobile: 07731635627 email:jeanius65@aol.com



### 16 Days 2018 – Diocesan Events

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November,  
unless otherwise stated

**Armagh** - Armagh City Hotel; 16 Days  
Breakfast; 9.30-12 noon

**Cashel, Ferns & Ossory** – Ferns Cathedral  
Cashel Cathedral Time TBC  
Leighlin Cathedral Time TBC

**Clogher** – Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November,  
Derryvullan North Parish Church, Irvinestown  
8pm

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, St Patrick's Church,  
Monaghan 8pm

**Connor** – Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, Civic  
reception in Belfast City Hall 5 pm – 6 30 pm

**Cork, Cloyne & Ross** – Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>  
November, St Anne's Church, Shandon, Cork  
City, 3pm and Kilgariffe Church, Clonakilty,  
Co Cork, 3 pm

**Derry & Raphoe** –16 Days Breakfast, White  
Horse Hotel, Londonderry 9.30 am – 11.30 am  
Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition – 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
November – St Columb's Cathedral,  
Londonderry, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November – St  
Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe

**Down & Dromore** , Millbrook Lodge Hotel 10  
am – 12 noon, 16 Days Breakfast

**Dublin & Glendalough** – 16 Days Vigil,  
Taney Parish Church, 11.30am – 12.30 pm

**Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh** – St John's  
Church **Longford**, 3 pm – 5 pm

**Meath & Kildare** – St. Catherine's Church,  
Tullamore, 11am

**Limerick & Killaloe** – Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup>  
November, Richmond Terrace, Henry Street,  
Limerick, 3 pm

**Tuam, Kilalla & Anchony** – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>  
November, Holy Trinity Church, Ballisodare 8  
pm: Church open all day for prayer



**Buy Fairtrade  
Buy Ethical**

[https://mueshop.org/product-category/mu-products/ethical\\_gifts/](https://mueshop.org/product-category/mu-products/ethical_gifts/)

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

### Useful Dates for your Diary



13<sup>th</sup> November – World Kindness Day  
13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Alcohol Awareness Week  
19<sup>th</sup> November – International Men's Day  
21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-Bullying Week  
25<sup>th</sup> November – International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence Against Women  
25<sup>th</sup> Nov – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – 16 Days of Activism  
Against Gender Based Violence  
2<sup>nd</sup> December – International Day for the  
Abolition of Slavery  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec – International Human Rights Day