

16 Days November 2020



16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

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

The ongoing restrictions around Covid-19 will change how we engage with the campaign in 2020.

On 5th December we will hold our first ever Global Day of Action where members around the world will be stepping out of their comfort zones to support survivors.

Mothers' Union has produced a set of resources specifically for its members and friends, which you are welcome to use and to encourage others to use.

For more information:

www.mothers'union.org.uk

www.mothers'union.ie



UNITED NATIONS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

During this period of activism against gender based violence, progress on SDG 5 – 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls' is in the spotlight.

The commitment to advancing gender equality has brought about improvements in some areas, but the promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoy full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed remains unfulfilled. The current pandemic is also hitting women and girls hard.

The following infographic highlights some of the progress made, but also how the global Covid-19 pandemic is impacting on women.



More info at:

www.safeireland.ie

www.unwomen.org

<https://thursdaysinblack.org>

CRITiCall – 00353 86 606 10 80

<https://learn.tearfund.org>

www.onustraining.co.uk



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS,
FULL GENDER EQUALITY
REMAINS UNREACHED

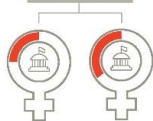


FEWER GIRLS ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE
...
MORE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

WOMEN

MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY
IN PANDEMIC-RELATED LEADERSHIP ROLES

WOMEN REPRESENT



25%
IN NATIONAL
PARLIAMENTS
(2020)

36%
IN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
(2019)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HAVE INCREASED BY 30%
IN SOME COUNTRIES

WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES
OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS



WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 70%
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS

WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS
DURING THE PANDEMIC



WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY HOURS
IN UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AS MEN



Ireland now joins England and Scotland in making coercive control a criminal offence. If it happened after January 2019, Section 39 of the new Domestic Violence Act 2018 makes coercive control a criminal offence.

(1) A person commits an offence where he or she knowingly and persistently engages in behaviour that

(a) is controlling or coercive

(b) has a serious effect on a relevant person,

and

(c) a reasonable person would consider likely to have a serious effect on a relevant person.

The first conviction under this new legislation has already been secured.

‘Women’s Aid sees this as an important test case for the legislation and we hope that this is the first of many such convictions. One of the challenges for this as a new crime through the courts is that it is not just one single incident which is what our criminal justice system is very much geared towards prosecution of – one criminal act of assault or of criminal damage.’

‘Coercive control is far more insidious and it’s a pattern of behaviour which all together form the crime of coercive control. Coercive control is usually done over a prolonged period of time and it is very personal.’

‘It can have a serious impact including the fear of violence, cause serious alarm and distress and can result in a woman giving up work, changing her routines, losing contact with family and friends.’

‘It’s impact can be devastating.’



WOMEN'S AID
Making Women and Child



24 HOUR

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

FREEPHONE

0808 802 1414

Open to *all women and men* affected by domestic & sexual violence

text support to 07797 805 839 | 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org



**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)

Or email
info@mensadviceline.org.uk
www.mensadviceline.org.uk

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



Domestic Violence and Homelessness

- Domestic violence accounts for around a quarter of all recorded crime and is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women - rightsofwomen.org.uk
- In 2018, there were 1,138 admissions of women and 1,667 admissions of children to refuge in Ireland. (Safe Ireland Domestic Violence Services National Statistics 2018)
- On 3,256 occasions in 2018, services were unable to accommodate women and their children because the refuge was full or there was no refuge in their area.
- In 2018-19 654 women and 421 children stayed in a refuge – Women's Aid Federation NI

In March 2020 the Children's Rights Alliance published its annual Report Card (which evaluates the Irish Government's performance and progress in relation to children's rights.) It gave the Irish Government an 'F' grade in relation to fulfilling its 2016 commitment to reduce family homelessness.

Women's refuges in Northern Ireland report difficulties in rehousing families forced to leave their homes because of domestic violence.

Both governments have made commitments to increase the availability of social housing but there is very little sign of any progress.

We all have a voice – use it to highlight this issue with your local councillors, MPs, TDs and ministers.

Useful Contact Details:

Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator: Beth Wortley Tel:02838841126

email:mufaihandpolicy@gmail.com

Southern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Vacant - Contact Beth Wortley

Northern Dioceses Social Policy contact: Jean Thompson Tel:02877765141

Mobile: 07731635627 email:jeanius65@aol.com



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



Financial independence and economic worth are key factors in bringing about gender equality for women and girls. You can help this Christmas.

Buy Fairtrade

Buy Ethical

https://mueshop.org/product-category/mu-products/ethical_gifts/

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



Make yourself Heard!

Need police help but can't speak?

Ring 999 on your mobile

You will be prompted by the operator to enter 55 if unable to speak but need help

You will be put through to the police

#MakeYourselfHeard

#SilentSolution

Useful Dates for your Diary



25th November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25th Nov – 10th Dec – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

1st December – World AIDS Day

2nd December – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

10th Dec – International Human Rights Day