

16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women

25th November marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It launches **16 Days of Activism** – an international campaign calling for action to end violence against women and girls.

This guide highlights some of the actions you can take within the Church and beyond to stand alongside survivors of abuse, address the causes of violence, and tackle government policies that make women vulnerable to abuse or inflict further harm.

25 November

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

One woman is killed every 5 days by a partner or former partner in the UK. **The Red Chair Project** encourages churches to mark an empty chair in remembrance of women who are killed due to men's violence, and call for change. [Download a free resource pack.](#)

26 November

SIGNPOST TO SUPPORT

By directing women experiencing abuse to the right support, churches can play an important role in standing alongside women who are trying to leave or recover from abusive relationships. Share **Safe in Faith's** [signposting toolkit](#) to help upskill your church leaders.

27 November

SOUTHALL BLACK SISTERS

Southall Black Sisters have supported Black and minoritised women to live free from violence and abuse for over 45 years. They provide direct support to women and campaign against policies that make minoritised women more vulnerable to violence and abuse, including migrant women. [Donate online to support their work.](#)

28 November

FAITH ON THE 4TH

On the 4th day of the 16 Days of Activism we look at the unique role that faith communities and institutions can play in addressing violence against women. Take a look at the [excellent publications](#) of the **Faith and VAWG Coalition** who amplify the crucial work of faith communities.

29 November

SAFE IN FAITH IS 4!

Safe In Faith has now been working for 4 years to foster better support for survivors of domestic abuse in faith communities. Mark the occasion by [printing posters](#) to put up in your church, signposting women to key support. Safe in Faith also offer training for church leaders, including brand new training on domestic abuse across cultures.

30 November

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Women leaving abusive relationships often find themselves facing huge financial challenges, leaving them more reliant on emergency services such as food banks for support. Instead of a traditional advent calendar, try a reverse calendar where you donate a different item each day of advent to your local food bank. [Locate yours here!](#)

01 December

TAKE ACTION AGAINST 'NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS'

'No Recourse to Public Funds' is a Government policy that bars 2 million people from accessing essential social services when they face a crisis. Without this safety net, migrant women facing violence can find it more difficult to leave abusive relationships. [Join the campaign to end this rule and email your MP.](#)

02 December

**STAND AGAINST
ISLAMOPHOBIA**

There has been a significant rise in racist and gender-based violence directed towards muslim women due to far right hate campaigns. Reach out to your local muslim women's organisation to ask how your church can stand in solidarity with them, and read [this blog series on Islamophobia](#) by the **Faith and VAWG coalition**.

03 December

SUPPORT SAFE REPORTING

Insecure immigration status is regularly used as a tool of control by abusive partners or employers, with migrant women fearing they will be deported if they report abuse. Read about **Latin American Women's Rights Service** [campaign for safe reporting mechanisms](#). You can also support their work for women with No Recourse to Public Funds

04 December

**TOOLKIT FOR BLACK
MAJORITY CHURCHES**

The **Black Churches Domestic Abuse Forum** has designed a toolkit for churches keen to strengthen how they respond to violence against women. Find out more about their work, and if you attend a Black Majority Church you can [download and share their toolkit](#) with your church leaders.

05 December

**UNDERSTAND WHAT
DOMESTIC ABUSE LOOKS LIKE**

Strengthen your understanding of what abusive behaviour in relationships looks like and how to respond.

Read **CSAN/Safe in Faith's** [Do Justice guide on Domestic Abuse](#) and **The National Board of Catholic Women's** [resource pack](#). Sharpen your knowledge with **Bright Sky's** [questionnaire](#).

06 December

ASK FOR MARY

Parish Offices can be an ideal place for women facing violence and abuse to safely reach out for support, when they are not safe to do so at home.

Ask your church to join **Safe in Faith's 'Ask for Mary' programme** and receive training so they can better support women access the services they need. [Find out more](#).

07 December

DAY OF PRAYER

We encourage you to take time today to pray for women facing gender-based violence, and for the Church's response.

See Michelle's prayer below, from Nikki Dillon Keane's book *Domestic Abuse in Church Communities: A Safe Pastoral Response*.

08 December

FORWARD UK

FORWARD UK are an African women-led organisation supporting African women and girls in the UK and globally who are facing abuse.

[Support their work](#) with women and girls who are subjected to Female Genital Mutilation and other forms of abuse and violence against women.

09 December

END IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Immigration detention inflicts harm on everyone it touches, yet the UK government continues to practice it. Survivors of rape gender-based violence make up the majority of asylum-seeking women in detention. Join **Women for Refugee Women's** [campaign to stop putting women in immigration detention](#).

10 December

**CREATE A SAFER FUTURE FOR
GIRLS**

16-19 year olds face the highest levels of domestic abuse of any age group, but relationship education in schools could tackle gender-based violence and support young people to live free from abuse. Check out **End Violence Against Women's** [campaign to tackle domestic abuse through education](#).

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Michelle's prayer

Lord protect me ,
guide me,
keep me safe.

Grant me the strength, wisdom and good judgement to know
what to do in any situation.

Help me know when and whom to ask for help.

Help me value myself as you value me and expect the love
and respect you intend for me.

Help me to break old patterns that have harmed me and put
me at risk.

Help me to remember that I can say no to anything that is not
in my best interests.

Help me to remember that you made me to be in your image
as a precious child of God,

with my unique gifts and contributions to this wonderful world.

Help me to remove or avoid anything that stands between me
and my path,

my journey and all that makes me the best I can be.

Let me feel worthy of love,
and let your love in
to mend this broken heart, mind and life,
so I can be whole and wonderful.

In you I place my love and trust.

Protect me, Lord.

Amen.