

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN UK

ENDING MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Volume 1

October 2008

White Ribbon Day – November 25th.

Deadline for last orders of campaign materials 18th November

The Newsletter

Welcome to the very first issue of what we hope will be a monthly newsletter. We'll use it to keep you in touch with the campaign and to provide you with a forum for sharing all your news and views. This first issue is sent to you as an email attachment. However, we are working on a fully automated email newsletter, so watch this space. In the meantime please let us know how you would like to see the newsletter develop and we'll do our very best to take all your suggestions onboard. Send all your comments, news, views and event details to PeterLindley@whiteribboncampaign.co.uk All copy for the next issue should reach us by 27th October.

In this Issue.

- *News*
- *Ending violence against the women – what the WRC stands for.*
- *Blow the Whistle on Violence; our sports campaign*
- *Events*
- *Getting in touch with us*

News.

November 25th 2008 will be the fourth year we have been campaigning. This year has really seen a gear shift in our operations. In April we became a charity, and in May moved into our new offices at the Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge.

Our staffing situation has improved dramatically, and several times in October we have been in danger of running out of workspaces. We have now readjusted the office to make four workspaces available, and have three staff working on a

regular basis which moves up to four twice a week when volunteers working one day a week come in.



Chris Green- Director, Djurre Kuiper-volunteer, Jonathan Nash-Sports Marketing Director,
Peter Lindley- volunteer

Jon Nash will be joined on November 1st by Francesca Giglio on a 6 month internship to improve our communication strategy

Because of extra staff, the breadth of our activities is much wider, and the Blow the Whistle on Violence against Women has received support from 50 football clubs within its first month of operation. It is most effective when the football clubs co-operate with local anti-domestic abuse organisations.

Our range of educational materials has also increased with new products like the Hands are not for Hurting Kits, the White Ribbon Whistles for the Blow the Whistle campaign, and 2,000 white ribbon rainbow badges for the LGBT communities, as well as an expanded range of posters and postcards, all available on our website.

We are working closely with the production team of a major British and

international advertising agency to produce a viral around issues of consent to sexual activity which should be available in by the end of November.

Ending Male Violence - The White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of men working to end male violence against women. We rely on volunteer support and financial contributions from individuals and organizations. We are an educational organization encouraging reflection and discussion that leads to personal and collective action among men.

We are concerned about all forms of violence although our central focus is on male violence against women. Comparing violence committed by women and by men the British Crime Survey notes that the results of men's' violence is five times as likely to require medical attention. Women are four times as likely as men to fear for their lives, and three and half times more likely to be murdered by a male spouse than vice versa. We are however, also concerned by the comparatively rare acts of violence by women against men.

We don't think that men are naturally violent and we don't think that men are bad. The majority of men are not violent. At the same time we do think that too many men have learnt to express their anger or insecurity through violence. All varieties of violence and controlling behaviour against women, children and other men are unacceptable ways of behaving.

The Facts:

- Almost half of all women in the UK experience domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking
- Violence against women causes more deaths and disability among women aged 14-44 than cancer malaria, traffic accidents and war.
- Only 5% of young women feel safe in Britain today, 73% worry about being raped.
- Men can work to change behaviour that is both emotionally and physically violent to create a world that is based on gender equality

What does it mean to wear a White Ribbon?

- Wearing a White Ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.
- Each year we urge men and boys to wear a ribbon for one week, starting on 25th November the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women

What are the goals of the White Ribbon Campaign?

Throughout the year we encourage men to:

- Do educational work in schools. Workplaces and communities
- Support local women's groups
- Raise money for the international effort of the White Ribbon Campaign

Why violence against women is also a men's issue

- Men are the main perpetrators of violence
- The lives of partners, friends, sisters and daughters of men are damaged by violence and abuse.
- Men can speak out and intervene when male friends and relatives insult or attack women.
- Men can help create a culture where the behaviour of a minority, who treat women and girls with contempt or violence, becomes unacceptable.
- Men can examine their own behaviour and consider changes which will create a world based upon gender inequality.

10 things men can do to help prevent male violence against women:

1. Realise that gender violence is a men's issue that affects the women we care about.
2. Never remain silent – confront the abusive behaviour of other men.
3. Understand how our own attitudes and actions may perpetrate sexism and violence – work towards changing them.
4. Offer help and support if we accept a woman is being threatened
5. Respect women and treat them as equals
6. Ally with women who are working to end all forms of gender violence
7. Speak out against homophobia
8. Educate ourselves against masculinity, gender, and inequality and the root causes of gender violence
9. Mentor young men about ways to be men that do not involve degrading or abusing women
10. Refuse to purchase magazines, videos or music that portrays women in a degrading or violent manner.

Blow the whistle on violence against women!

This year, the white ribbon campaign is running a sports campaign, "Blow the whistle on violence against women!" The main focus of this campaign is working with football clubs and to a lesser extent rugby, ice hockey and basketball clubs.

At the very least we are asking clubs to publish a statement in their match day programme, make an announcement at half-time, and to encourage their manager and frontline staff to wear a White Ribbon badge for the games on or around the 25th November.

In previous years we have run a similar campaign but due to lack of staff our work has not been as comprehensive as we would have liked. However, this year we are delighted that our new full time Sports Campaign Director Jonathan Nash is coordinating a much more ambitious programme.

To date, he has contacted over 160 football clubs, 40 rugby clubs, the Football Association, the Premier League, the Coca Cola football league, the FAMOA and the football conference. It's early days yet but responses are already trickling in, and Jonathan is following up his letters with phone calls and emails. He has so far managed to get every team from the Coca-Cola Leagues 1 and 2 to participate along with various other clubs from the other leagues. He is hoping to get at least 100 clubs involved, which will be a huge improvement on the 20 or so that supported us last year.

Once he's made contact with all the 160 football clubs, he will move onto the rugby, ice hockey and basketball teams. He will also be contacting the BBC, ITV and Sky Sports to get the pundits to wear the ribbon as well. Some of you will know that there are UEFA Champions League fixtures on 25th November so he's hoping to persuade some of the teams concerned to get involved.

The sports campaign is going to be one of the biggest areas that we work in this year. We've now added whistles to our list of merchandise and our graphic design volunteer has created a logo for the campaign. Don't forget to make sure you order materials for your events well in advance of the November 25th.

Forthcoming events

1. Bury Sportsman's Dinner - 17 October
2. Halifax Soroptimists - 20 October
3. Oxford Union - 31 October <http://www.oxford-union.org/>
4. DV Conference Hull University - 4 November
5. Sefton Equalities Partnership - 4 November
6. LadyFest Manchester – 6 November
<http://www.myspace.com/ladyfestmanchester>
7. Warwick University Amnesty – 13 November
<http://www.warwicksu.com/societies/amnesty/>
8. 17 November Trustees meeting, Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge
9. Reclaim the Night ,London 22nd November
<http://www.ldnfeministnetwork.ik.com/calendar/6161164624.ikml>
10. Bristol Rovers Speaking Event 22nd November
11. Bristol WRC event 27th November
12. Stirling WRC March 4th December
13. Gender Matters Conference Emirates Stadium 8th December

TO CONTACT US

White Ribbon Campaign
Regd Charity 1123874
info@whiteribboncampaign.co.uk
www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk
Birchcliffe Centre
Birchcliffe Road
Hebden Bridge
HX7 8DG
01422 844675
07941 597584