

Scottish Borders Violence against
Women Partnership

16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women

Programme of Events
25 November - 10 December 2010



**A Community
Speaks . . .**

S safer
B communities
partnership



16 Days of Action

What are the 16 Days of Action?

This is a global, annual event when international attention turns to the elimination of all forms of violence against women. It began in 1991 and continues to attract over 150 countries to participate and over 2000 organisations to take direct action in addressing violence against women.

The 25th November is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 10th December is International Human Rights Day, thus making the link between women's human rights and their experience of violence.

What do we mean by Violence Against Women?

Violence against women is defined by the Scottish Government as follows:

“Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether

occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girl’s subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence.

Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community or in institutions, including: domestic abuse, rape, incest and child sexual abuse;
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking;
- Dowry related violence;
- Female genital mutilation;
- Forced and child marriages;
- “Honour crimes.”

This definition does not deny that women use violence, including violence against a male or female partner. It does not deny that men use violence against other men, including male partners.

Safer Lives: Changed Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women in Scotland,
The Scottish Government and COSLA, 2009

Why is it an issue locally?

- Here in the Scottish Borders there has been a year on year increase in the number of domestic incidents reported to the police – there were over 800 in 2009/10. The vast majority of victims were women.
- Domestic abuse is the most often repeated and the least reported of all crimes. The impact on children and the wider family cannot be underestimated.
- Many women find it difficult to seek help; abuse thrives on secrecy and silence. The need for specialist services such as Border Women's Aid, Victim Support and Rape Crisis continues - the Scottish Borders first Rape Crisis Centre opened in 2010 in recognition of this. However, there are many women/children who never seek, or receive the help they need.
- Violence against women is a real issue in the Scottish Borders - there is a need to raise awareness and give a clear message to our communities that violence in any form is unacceptable.

Why do we want you to become involved in the 16 Days of Action?

The successful White Ribbon Campaign of 2007 showed us that people in the Scottish Borders believe that violence against women is wrong and demonstrated this by signing a pledge to “never condone, commit or remain silent about violence against women” – over 2400 pledges were signed. We believe that as a partnership, and by engaging with Scottish Borders people, we can make a difference. We hope to gain a sense of how people feel and what suggestions they may have for taking action.

What do we want to achieve?

- Raised awareness of violence against women in the Scottish Borders.
- Feedback from communities in the Scottish Borders.
- People to identify ways in which they can influence/affect change in the Scottish Borders.
- Improved opportunities for women and children in the Scottish Borders to seek safety and support.

Ultimately,

- we want the Scottish Borders to take action to eliminate violence against women.

Programme of events

Date	Event/Venue	Details
Thurs, 25 Nov	Violence Against Women Conference	By invite only.
	Launch of the White Ribbon Campaign	Pledge by senior public figures.
	Themed book exhibition, Hawick Library	Free event running from 25 November until 10 December.
Sat, 27 Nov	Film - VOMO film festival and workshop Auditorium, Heart of Hawick	Free event for U18s. For further details and times of the events please call 07500 99 1908.
Sun, 28 Nov	Eildon Tree reading group - open mike 2.30pm – 5.00pm, Room 205, Heart of Hawick	Free event.
Mon, 29 Nov	Lecture - Separate spheres: men and women in eighteenth century portraiture. Nel Whiting, Scottish Women's Aid 6pm – 8pm Auditorium, Heart of Hawick	Free event. A one hour lecture with discussion. Many eighteenth-century writers and thinkers believed that men and women were 'naturally' different, and that these differences shaped their characters and appropriate roles and activities they could play in society. This lecture looks at what eighteenth - century portraits tell us about the lives of the upper classes - and what they left out! Please call 01450 360688 to reserve your place.
Tues, 30 Nov	Lunch & Learn lecture - Internet safety for parents, 1.00pm – 2.15pm Council Chambers, SBC Headquarters	Bring your lunch to this free information session for parents employed by SBC or NHS Borders on keeping your child safe when using the internet. Please contact Jenny Williamson (jwilliamson@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk) to reserve your place.
Wed, 1 Dec	Film – A Single Man (12A) <i>Supported by LGBT Equality Forum to mark World Aids Day</i> 6pm Auditorium, Heart of Hawick	Free event. Los Angeles 1962, and 52-year-old British college professor George Falconer (Colin Firth) is struggling to find meaning in his life after the death of his long time partner Jim. His lovelorn best friend Charley is devoted to him, but wrestling with her own dilemmas, while one of his students, Kenny, pursues him, seeing a possible kindred spirit. Please call 01450 360688 to reserve your place.

Date	Event/Venue	Details
Wed, 1 Dec	Reading group - Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie 11.00am – 12.30pm Duns Library	Free event. Come along, have a cup of tea and be part of a general discussion, including the featured novel of the month. The novel is centered around fifteen year old Kambili, her brother Jaja, her mother, Veatrice, and her father Eugene. Eugene is considered a “big man” within Nigerian society, but is a religious fanatic, and severely punishes both his wife and his children for what he sees as sins.
Thurs, 2 Dec	Lunch & Learn lecture- Internet safety for parents, 12.30 – 2.00pm Council Chambers, SBC Headquarters	Bring your lunch to this free information session for parents employed by SBC or NHS Borders on keeping your child safe when using the internet. Please contact Jenny Williamson (jwilliamson@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk) to reserve your place.
Fri, 3 Dec –	YWCA Exhibition - ‘104 pairs of shoes’ 10am – 4pm The Lounge, Corn Exchange, Melrose	Free event. The title refers to the fact that two women a week in Britain are killed by their current or former partners. Women across Scotland were asked to donate a pair of shoes, a photograph and statement to produce this powerful and emotive exhibition. This part-exhibition will host 44 pairs of shoes to represent the average number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in the Scottish Borders.

Date	Event/Venue	Details
Mon, 6 Dec	Film – Trade (15) <i>Supported by Berwickshire Housing Association</i> 6pm, Heart of Hawick	Free event. Over a million people are trafficked illegally each year. This is the story of one victim – 13-year-old Adriana, who is taken from the streets of Mexico City to be sold into sex slavery in the US – and her brother Jorge, who steals across the border to retrieve her. Please call 01450 360688 to reserve your ticket.
Tues, 7 Dec	Judging - Design a poster competition, Scottish Borders Council Headquarters	The winner will be selected from entries by local students to design the poster for the 2011 16 Days of Action event.
Wed, 8 Dec	Lecture - 'What are you looking at?' women and violence in the media Jenny Kemp, Zero Tolerance 6.00pm – 8.00pm Auditorium, Heart of Hawick	Free event. An inspiring lecture about the way that women are represented in the media. People will be encouraged to look more critically at the ways in which the media glamorises or condones inequality and violence against women. Through reflection and discussion participants will be encouraged to find ways of challenging our harmful media culture. You will never look at a women's magazine in the same way again! Please call 01450 360688 to reserve your ticket.
Fri, 10 Dec	Reclaim the night march <i>Supported by Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre</i> 8.00pm – 10.00pm Galawater Retail Park, Galashiels	Free event. Join our march against sexual violence and for gender equality through the centre of Galashiels. Refreshments will be available after the march. Please call 01896 661070 for further details.

* Look out for events in your local area that are part of the national White Ribbon Campaign www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk

The programme of events can be viewed and downloaded from www.ourscottishborders.com and www.scotborders.gov.uk

Partner Agencies

The 16 Days of Action is supported by the Scottish Borders Violence Against Women Partnership and its associated partner agencies.

Thanks must go to those who helped, namely:

- Border Women's Aid
- Heart of Hawick
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Scotland (LGBT)
- Lothian and Borders Police
- NHS Borders
- Scottish Borders Campus
- Scottish Borders Council
- Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre
- Scottish Borders Safer Communities Team
- Scottish Women's Aid
- Young Women's Christian Assoc (YWCA)
- Zero Tolerance

Our media partner is Tweeddale Press.

Some events were kindly supported by:

- Berwickshire Housing Association
- Eildon Housing
- Heart of Hawick
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Scotland (LGBT)
- NHS Borders
- Scottish Borders Safer Communities
- Scottish Borders Children and Young People's Planning Partnership

Who to contact locally if you need help, advice or information

To report any incident of domestic abuse or sexual violence call your local police station on **01450 375051**.
In an emergency dial 999.

To speak to the Domestic abuse liaison officer during office hours call **01896 662713**.

Border Women's Aid	01835 863514
Children 1st	01750 22892
Child Protection line	0800 022 3222
LetSBsafe	01835 863878
Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre	0800 054 2445
Talk About It	0800 121 4910
(for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse)	
Victim Support	01896 751212

National helplines

National helplines provide free, confidential advice and are open to female and male callers:

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
Rape Crisis Helpline	08088 01 0302
MALE Helpline	0845 122 8609
(for men experiencing domestic violence by a current or ex-partner)	
Respect Helpline	0808 801 0327
(information and advice to people who are abusive towards their partners and want help to stop)	

The 16 Days of Action event programme can be read online or downloaded from www.ourscottishborders.com and www.scotborders.gov.uk

You can get this document on tape, in large print, various computer formats and information on language translations by contacting us at the following address:

Safer Communities Team | Scottish Borders Council | Newtown St Boswells | TD6 0SA.

For further information on the 16 Days of Action event programme, please contact either

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