

16 days of activism (25 Nov – 10 Dec) MWA Home & Overseas: October 2026



At Synod this year it was agreed that the British Province will challenge all forms of gender-based violence (GBV). Hence it is appropriate to support the 16 days of activism. This year the theme of the 16 days of activism is to ensure justice and protect survivors. 16 days of activism is an annual event from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to 10 December, International Human Rights Day. During these 16 days, individuals, organizations, and communities come together to advocate for a world free from domestic violence.

Below are a few statistics and then some ideas of what we can do during these 16 days.

Domestic abuse: in West Yorkshire last year the police recorded 55 thousand domestic abuse cases of which 5% resulted in a charge. Plus, a much higher number will have gone unreported. How many women and children are living with abuse in your community?

Digital on-line abuse: 1 in 3 women have experienced online abuse and 1 in 2 girls are aware of sexist abuse on social media and feel this has restricted their actions and/ or aspirations. This could be women and girls we know and in our families.

What we can do: as our church has now committed to challenging GBV and to supporting Thursdays in Black, this is a further opportunity to raise awareness. Here are a few suggestions:

- We can each learn more and raise awareness of others through sharing articles, websites and conversations. We can ask young people we know about their experiences on social media. Learning and awareness are always a good starting point;
- Display materials about the 16 days of activism and Thursdays in Black in your church or community hall. The MWA still has plenty of Thursdays in Black badges so please contact me if you want some. You can also ensure that helpline telephone numbers are displayed (eg: in toilets) for those experiencing abuse;
- Arrange a coffee morning and discussion on this topic or invite a speaker from a local charity;
- For those into social media, share information and use the hashtag #16days and #Thursdays in Black. I will be putting plenty on the MWA Facebook page so please support that.

Men matter too: the level of abuse towards men is increasing. Plus, many men are great advocates for ending violence against women and girls. So let us remember that November is Men's Health Awareness Month and 19 November is International Men's Day. Equality means valuing everyone in our church and community.

Get planning: I encourage you individually and in your Circles to start planning for how you can support the 16 Days of Activism.

Sr Mary Holmes

ⁱ Source of statistics - [16 Days of Activism from UN Women UK](#)