WHITE RIBBON .ORG.UK

WHITE RIBBON DAY 2023

#ChangeTheStory

CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

PREPARED FOR:

COUNCILLORS

White Ribbon Day 2023

#ChangeTheStory

whiteribbon.org.uk/white-ribbon-day-2023

#ChangeTheStory

Ending men's violence against women starts when we #ChangeTheStory.

White Ribbon Day, 25th November, we are encouraging individuals and organisations to make consistent choices and actions so that we #ChangeTheStory for women and girls to live their lives free from the fear of violence.

On White Ribbon Day and throughout the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, White Ribbon UK will run expert online events to provide you with strategies to #ChangeTheStory in your workplace and community.

All resources are available here for you to use within your council, community groups and colleagues, to help us all to #ChangeTheStory.

The Statistics

White Ribbon UK works to prevent men's violence against women and girls, we aim to stop violence before it starts. We do this in many ways with our focus of enabling men and boys to be changemakers.

The need for our work is seen in the lived experiences of women and girls across the UK.

The reality is that most violence against women is committed by men. Here are a few of the statistics for reference.

- **Nearly 1 in 4 girls in mixed sex schools have had experiences of unwanted sexual touching in school. (EVAW)**
- **6 in 10 women have felt harassed in the gym by a man. (The Gym-timidation Report)**
- **30% of women have experienced workplace harassment, with 81% reporting that they had been harassed by a man/men. (Government Equalities Office)**
- **1.7 million women experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022. (ONS)**

Get Involved

We need to #ChangeTheStory with effective public policy and decision makers, locally and nationally, to prevent violence against women and girls, in line with Articles 12.1 and 12.4 of the Istanbul Convention.
As the leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls, we have key asks and recommendations for Councillors to implement:

Our Local Authority asks:

- **Councils to prioritise and invest in services, resources, education, and policy that focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls within their area. Work that engages men and boys is crucial in this being successful.**
- **Develop local policy that pays attention to the nighttime economy and the built environment to ensure safety for women.**
- **To work with communities, business and suppliers to raise awareness of violence against women and strategies for prevention.**

Our national policy asks:

- **Implement recommendations in the Istanbul Convention, specifically Articles 12.1 and 12.4 relating to cultural and social change whereby all members of society, especially men and boys, are actively preventing violence against women and girls.**
- **Create or appoint an independent body of specialists to advise, support and review the implementation of Articles relating to prevention in the Istanbul Convention. Appoint expert organisations such as White Ribbon UK, to specifically support the implementation of articles 12.1 and 12.4.**
- **Place a duty on workplaces to upskill all staff to prevent harmful attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women, focusing on promoting positive cultural change.**
- **Introduce non-statutory guidance for a whole school approach to be taken in preventing violence against women and girls in education settings.**

Will you help keep women and girl's safety at the forefront of government policy? Show your support to #ChangeTheStory on White Ribbon Day, 25th November, by:

- **Wearing a White Ribbon, especially to public events, photo opportunities, presentations, and media interviews.**
- **Posting a photo of yourself wearing a White Ribbon to show your ward that you are committed to ending violence against women.**
- **Ask questions in Council about White Ribbon Day 2023 and organise debates on ending violence against women and girls.**
- **Engage with local campaigns that are seeking to end violence against women.**

Communication Suggestions

Every year, individuals and organisations host events across England and Wales to mark White Ribbon Day and support White Ribbon UK's work. It's an important and inspiring time of year for our community of changemakers.

Please support, encourage and promote activities in your ward. If you're hosting or attending a White Ribbon Day event, or want to show your support and allyship, please be sure to tag us on social media or email our Communications Officer (savannah.jenkins@whiteribbon.org.uk) so that we can share the great things you are doing to #ChangeTheStory.

White Ribbon UK

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A message from White Ribbon UK

Ending violence against women starts when we #ChangeTheStory and we can't do that without political leadership. Thank you for your support.

Councils can make a significant difference to ending violence against women and girls. If your Local Authority is not already White Ribbon Accredited, please consider this. Many thousands of people and organisations support White Ribbon UK. By working together, we can make change happen. Your role can encourage and amplify this support.

Together we can #ChangeTheStory to end gender-based violence for all women and girls.

Anthea Sully
Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK

For more information, please email policy@whiteribbon.org.uk and a member of the White Ribbon UK team will get back to you.

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