



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## **16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE**

25 November – 10 December 2008

Defending Women – Defending Rights

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) and Amnesty International Western Australia (WA) invite you to address the human rights challenges women experience around the globe in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights cannot be universal without human rights for women. You can do this by participating in the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence.

The 16 Days begins on 25 November on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day. These two dates were chosen to highlight that violence against women is a human rights abuse. We invite you to organise or participate in an event to unite in the struggle to end violence against women.

Over the past 4 years Amnesty International WA and the Women's Council have worked collaboratively to co-ordinate a state-wide Calendar of Events for the 16 days. We encourage groups to focus their planning for the 16 Days of Activism on events and activities that assist to end male violence against women and children and to support Women Human Rights Defenders.

Some suggestions you may wish to consider:

- Have an information stall in your workplace or in the community
- Organise a guest speaker
- Safe school/safe relationships themed events for students
- Violence against women in the workplace morning tea
- Organise a morning tea to honour defenders of women's rights and to remember the victims
- Performance art event
- Have one minute of silence in remembrance of all affected by domestic violence
- Demand justice for "comfort women" (<http://www.amnesty.org.au/centre/action/15298>)
- Supply your staff with white ribbons – United Nations International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women or White Ribbon Day on 25 November. The symbol of the day is the wearing of a white ribbon which denotes that the wearer will not "commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and children." (Ribbons available from [www.whiteribbonday.org.au](http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au))
- Fundraising movie night to support your local Women's Refuge
- Picnic or BBQ in the park

The 16 Days Calendar will be hosted on the website of the Women's Council. This provides people with the opportunity to attend community events and to demonstrate the solidarity of organisations for the campaign to end gender violence. To register your event complete the attached registration form and return to:

Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services  
PO Box 8437  
Perth Business Centre  
WA 6849

Fax: 9486 8744

Email: [training@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:training@womenscouncil.com.au)

Closing date to register for the Calender of Events is Monday 13 October 2008.

For further information please contact Sarah at the Women's Council (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) on 9420 7264.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Faulk  
Project Officer  
Women's Council for Domestic  
& Family Violence Services (WA)

Astrid Chapman  
Convenor  
Women's Group  
Amnesty International (WA)

# 16 days of *activism* against Gender Violence

25 Nov – 10 Dec 2008

**Is your event included in this year's CALENDAR? If not, register now!**

**Defending Women- Defending Rights**

The **Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)** and **Amnesty International** invite you to advertise events held by your organisation in this year's **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Calendar**. The Calendar promotes state-wide events held during the 16 Days of Activism from the **25<sup>th</sup> November** (White Ribbon Day) to the **10<sup>th</sup> December** (International Human Rights Day),

The Campaign emerged as a global campaign for women's human rights in June 1991, starting with 20 women from 20 different countries. The purpose of the campaign is to highlight that violence is a violation against human rights and to educate people about women and violence as a human rights issue. The 16 Days invites community members of all ages, ethnicities, classes and sexual orientation joining together to speak out against gender violence. This year's theme centres on: **Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders** **Ending male Violence Against Women** **Strengthening Gender Equality Structures in the UN** **Expanding Financing for Gender Equality**. **Calendar criteria:** Your event must be hosted by your organisation  reflect the themes and spirit of the global campaign,  and you must submit the registration form by the **Deadline Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**.

**For further inquiries please contact the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services on Ph: (08) 9420 7264 Fax: (08) 9486 8744**  
**Email [training@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:training@womenscouncil.com.au). PO Box 8437 Perth Business Centre WA 6849.**

