



## CALL FOR ACTION!

**Celebrate 16 Years of 16 Days:  
Advance Human Rights ↔ End Violence Against Women**

**The 16 Days Campaign, begins November 25th and ends December 10th.** In 1999, the United Nations officially recognized November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This date recalls the state-executed violence that took place in the Dominican Republic, in 1960, when agents of Trujillo's dictatorship violently assassinated three sisters, Patricia, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal. The Mirabal sisters were political activists; visible symbols of the resistance to Trujillo's regime. Their assassination was one of the events that galvanized the movement to end this dictatorship. The last day of the campaign is December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Human Rights Day.

### **Days of Activism:**

November 25<sup>th</sup>: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

December 1<sup>st</sup>: World AIDS Day

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre<sup>1</sup>

December 10<sup>th</sup>: International Human Rights Day

### **2006 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign!**

Since 1991, the 16 Days campaign has worked to increase the visibility of violence against women as a human rights violation. This multi-faceted campaign involves governments, women activists, journalists, UN agencies and numerous NGOs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to demand support services for survivors, enhance prevention efforts, press for legal and judicial reform, and use international human rights instruments to address violence against women as a human rights violation, a public health crisis and a threat to human security, development and peace worldwide.

This year, the 16 Days Campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean celebrates progress to date and addresses the challenges that remain. Agencies collaborating on this multi-media campaign include - UN agencies: United Nations Fund for Women (**UNIFEM**), United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**), United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**), United Nations International Research and Training Institute for Women (**INSTRAW**), the Pan American Health Organization (**PAHO**), and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (**IACW/OAS**) - and several NGOs: **Calandria**/Perú, Centro de Estudios de la Mujer/Argentina (**CEM**), Center for Women's Global Leadership (**CWGL**), Comunicación e Información de la Mujer (**CIMAC**), the Family Violence Prevention Fund (**FVPF**), **INTERCAMBIOS**, **Isis International**, Population Communications International (**PCI**), and Washington Office on Latin America (**WOLA**).

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1. On December 6th, 1989, Marc Lepine shot 14 women at the University of Montreal's Faculty of Engineering. Lepine believed that he had not been accepted in the Faculty due to the number of female students.



The Campaign consists of information packets, radio and TV announcements with a focus on four themes:

- 16 Years of 16 Days: what we have achieved and what remains to be done
- Advancing Human Rights: eliminating violence using international mandates and national laws
- Advancing Human Rights: eliminating VAW among all people, including the most vulnerable (HIV positive and indigenous women), is a responsibility of all, men and women
- VAW: learning about Femicides.

**The 2006 theme reinforces an understanding that advancing human rights and ending violence against women are mutually reinforcing.**

While there has been progress toward ending violence against women, many challenges persist. This year's Campaign seeks to strengthen the human rights focus of violence against women. As the United Nations undergoes reform, we seek to ensure that women's human rights, including their right to a life free from violence, are fully integrated into all of the UN's agendas. In October of 2006, the UN Secretary General will release an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. The 16 Days campaign builds on the report and provides an opportunity to pressure governments and the UN to make greater concrete commitments to eradicating violence against women.

#### **JOIN THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN!**

Use the Campaign's information packets to disseminate press kits, conduct interviews, write articles in your national or local newspaper. Send the public service television and radio announcements to your television and radio stations and make sure they air them. Create a community, campus, national or international activity for the 16 Days. Celebrate the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence all over your country.

#### **JOIN THE 16 DAYS ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION!**

Join the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence email listserv discussion, to share your work on eliminating violence against women, learn what others are doing, build partnerships and develop strategies to strengthen your work. Join the campaign by visiting: [https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days\\_discussion](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days_discussion)

#### **REQUEST A 2006 CAMPAIGN KIT!**

Fact sheets on the themes addressed and information about participating agencies will be available in November. You can download the kit at: <http://www.isis.cl>.

#### **BROADCAST THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Copies of the Public Service Announcements are available from [isis@isis.cl](mailto:isis@isis.cl)