



Not on our watch

Description

South Africa's 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an annual campaign that runs from 25 November (the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The campaign aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) and mobilise society to act against it.

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Gender-based violence is rooted in gender inequality and the abuse of power, as well as harmful societal norms. It takes shape in physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse. Women, girls, members of the LGBTQ+ community, boys and men can all be victims of gender-based violence, although it is more prevalent against women and girls.

Under the banner, “UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls”, this year’s campaign calls on citizens to show how much they care by sharing the actions they are taking to create a world free from violence towards women. It also calls on governments worldwide to share how they are investing in the prevention of gender-based violence.



The 16 Days of Activism campaign was initiated by the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and was officially adopted in South Africa in 1998. The campaign not only highlights the plight of victims of GBV, but calls for stronger protection for victims and encourages society to speak out against such abuses.

A story in statistics

Despite ongoing efforts, GBV remains a severe issue in South Africa, with South African Police Service (SAPS) crime statistics for 2022-'23 indicating there were over 53 000 reported cases of sexual offenses, including rape, sexual assault and attempted sexual offenses.

Government’s National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide highlights that intimate partner violence is the most common form of GBV in South Africa, with many cases going unreported due to stigma, fear of retribution, and lack of trust in the justice system.



16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is a crucial campaign. It is a call to action for all South Africans to work together to create a society where everyone can live free from violence and abuse.

At AfroCentric we strongly condemn violence of any kind and believe in gender equality.

Category

1. Our Wellness