

**UNIT 2: Toolkit****Some Common Questions****NEUTRAL QUESTIONS****What is the White Ribbon campaign?**

The WRC is a worldwide campaign to end violence against women. It started in Canada in 1991, after the brutal mass shooting of 14 female students at the University of Montreal, a way for men to register their determination never to use, condone or keep silent about violence against women. Since it began in 1991 it has spread to many countries across the world. Not all of these countries have maintained the primary focus on men. Anyone who wears a ribbon is pledging to speak out about and put a stop to violence against women in all its many forms.

**Why 25th November?**

25th November is the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It was established to commemorate the assassination on 25th November 1960 of three sisters who were political activists in the Dominican Republic. Women and men all over the world use this day and the 16 days that follow leading up to International Human Rights Day on 10th December to campaign for an end to violence against women.

**What does it mean to if I wear a white ribbon?**

Wearing a white ribbon means challenging the use of violence. It means committing yourself to not using violence against women. It means confronting a society that often accepts this violence. It means taking responsibility for building relationships based on respect, not on control.

**UNIT 2: Toolkit****Some Common Questions****HOSTILE QUESTIONS****What about violence against men?**

Violence against men is a huge problem in this country and like violence against women, most of it is carried out by men. If we can learn that violence is not the way to solve differences in personal relationships, maybe there is a chance that we will use it less in our public lives. We have to start somewhere, and statistics show that most of the violence suffered by women comes from men they have a close relationship with.

**You're just anti-men**

I'm not anti men, because I don't think being violent is a necessary part of being a man. In fact, I think the use of violence limits what man can do and can be.

**Making a joke about women doesn't make someone a rapist**

That's true, but sexist jokes, put-downs, pin-ups, harassment in the corridors and on the streets all help to make an atmosphere where women are degraded, men expect to take control and violence against women is socially acceptable.