



Winter 2021 Supplement

16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women

Friendship Link News and Greetings

Save The Date

#ORANGETHEWORLD

16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women

SPECIAL REPORT

The **Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** against women is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute.

The dates for the campaign were chosen to link violence against women and human rights and emphasise that gender-based violence against women is a violation of human rights: since 1991, the campaign has been active between

November 25, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day.

This year, our Club's **16 Days of Activism** activities fell into 2 main categories:
Special **16 Days of Activism** event on December 10th at the River Manchester

&

16 Days of Activism social media campaign

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

This event took place on the evening of December 10th at the Charity's premises in Openshaw. Set up to mark the end of the 16 Days of Activism, the event celebrated the 120 moves to safety that the Charity had achieved during the past year; it also marked the opening of the new café – Living Waters – which will provide a safe space to meet and chat.



SI Manchester agreed to support this event by providing small gifts to be given out to attendees. The suitcase-shaped boxes contained a Soroptimist Orange the World badge, chocolates (Fair trade of course) and leaflets about the Charity. Many thanks to Elaine and our very newest member Alison Powell who put these together. The lovely tablecloths for the café were made by Susan, and Elaine and Fiona helped out serving the tea and coffee on the evening.

The focus of the evening was 16 pairs of shoes, each representing the story of people who had been helped by Charity – “A walk in their shoes”. Three of these stories were read out. Programme Action Officer Barbara was very proud to read one of the stories, which is reproduced

below. Finally, candles were lit, and the names of 118 women who lost their lives to domestic violence in the last year, were read out. Altogether a very moving event.

Hope for the future

“Domestic violence is part of our lives, part of our story - it shouldn't be - but for children who have been born into situations of domestic violence the trauma experienced in those early years doesn't go away. The lives of the children are shaped by it and it affects them and those who care for them each and every day. When people look at us they see a beautiful family, happy smiling faces, they don't see the shadow of domestic violence beneath the smiles, the monster that stalks our home and makes our children act in ways we never thought possible. We love our children so much, yet it isn't enough, they struggle at school, they can't cope in many situations, find it hard to make friends, they say they hate

us, steal, lie, hurt us, each other and themselves with their words and actions. We know it's not them, it's the trauma speaking. Domestic Violence damages lives, and The River makes a huge difference in helping families to pick up the pieces and begin a new life with hope for the future.”



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

This took place on Facebook, Twitter and, for the first time, on our new Instagram account. Many thanks to Carina for her imaginative pictures and informative posts, extracts of which are reproduced below

#Day1



♥ #Soroptimists call for a collective global effort on International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women. A Shadow Pandemic of domestic violence is growing and we need to stem the tide. End violence against women NOW! Everyone has a role to play in this - what's yours?

👉 From the Office for National Statistics' most recent survey on this - almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime

✨ Today's beautiful picture comes from Club member Maureen whose son saw this shot of #plattfields. Thank you both!

#Day2



♥ Nearly 1 in 5 women have experienced rape or attempted rape during her lifetime. We need to raise our collective voices for women NOW!

👉 From a recent @Guardian article: there was a total of 61,158 sexual offences recorded in the UK in year ending June 2021. That's just the number recorded - we know the real figure is so much higher. The Office for National Statistics said recorded sexual offences had increased by 8% and rape accounted for 37% of all sexual offences recorded by the police. Amid a national debate over women's safety, we want to see meaningful action by lawmakers.

#Day3



📍 The painted red hand has become a powerful symbol for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Movement,

♥ During [#16DaysofActivism](#) [#Soroptimists](#) turn our attention to the countless indigenous women and forgotten tribes whose voices have been taken away. To the women in those communities we give a voice. [#Soroptimists](#) call for an end to violence against women NOW!

👉 The Missing and murdered Indigenous women epidemic is an issue currently affecting Indigenous people particularly in Canada and the United States. Indigenous women are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence - 84% of Indigenous women experiencing violence in their lifetime and are significantly over-represented among female homicide victims. They are also far more likely than other women to go missing.

#Day4



♥ Join us as we rally against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We #Soroptimists we call for a total end to such a heinous assault on girls. #FGM violates all child rights and is rooted in gender inequality. #Soroptimists call for an end to violence against women NOW!

♥ Today we would like to highlight the work of [@nestacharity](#) - one of the ethnic minority community-led charities in the North West, emphasising on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights. They run the Guardian Project which is an FGM project standardised across Greater Manchester, providing tailored psychosocial therapeutic interventions to girls and young women aged under 21 who are survivors or at risk of FGM. The project provides a confidential space to talk through feelings and emotions.

🙏 Today's image is by Olivier Asselin for [@unicef](#). Thank you for making this image usable through creative commons licence (through Wikipedia). Please attribute the copyright owner if you re-use this image.

#Day5



♥ #Soroptimists are aware of increasing records of killings, attacks, and harassment against human rights defenders, including the particular challenges faced by women human rights defenders (WHRD). We salute the countless women who have given their lives in pursuit of defending justice. Their work is so vital to promote and uphold equality. #Soroptimists call for an end to violence against women NOW!

🙏 This year, we particularly reflect on those who are working for the rights of women and girls in #Afghanistan. Just a few weeks ago, Forzan Safi was killed in northern Afghanistan. A 29-year-old activist and economics lecturer, she is the first known death of a women's rights defender in Afghanistan since the Taliban swept to power earlier this year.

#Day6



♥ Human Trafficking is a transnational activity that involves the exploitation of humans through repeated sale. #Soroptimists worldwide raise awareness of exploitation of which more than half are women and girls #16DaysofActivism looks at this gross violation of human rights. Trafficking is prevalent in almost all countries and accounts for the fastest growing business in the world. Raise awareness about the signs. We call for an end to violence against women NOW!

♥ Female victims continue to be the primary targets for trafficking. Women make up 46% and girls 19% of all victims of trafficking - globally, one in every three victims detected is a child. 50 per cent of detected and reported victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation. (Figures from UNDO)

#Day7



♥ The HIV crisis has widened the social and economic inequalities that increase the vulnerability of marginalized groups to HIV. We #OrangetheWorld on #WorldAIDSDay because women and girls must be empowered to get the resources they need to live healthy, flourishing lives. We also demand a fairer distribution of resources for those living with HIV.

♥ Women account for more than 50% of people living with HIV worldwide. Young women (10-24 years old) are twice as likely to acquire HIV as young men the same age. HIV disproportionately affects women and adolescent girls because of vulnerabilities created by unequal cultural, social and economic status. (From @avertaids)

🙏 Image by @sergey__miheev via Unsplash. Thank you.

#Day8



💔 Today there is more slavery in the world than in any other time of history. #Soroptimists focus of all forms of modern-day slavery, through their projects worldwide. Raising awareness of widespread and multiple forms of slavery is the first step

💔 Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors. The British Government estimates that there are up to 13,000 people in modern day slavery in the UK today.

🙏 Image by @hanneskrupinski via Unsplash. Thank you.

#Day9



💔 Disabled women are more likely to be subjected to violence than non-disabled women. Accessing justice and support and protection services is often impossible for women with disabilities because of accessibility, legal and other barriers. Women and girls with disabilities rightly demand enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. #Soroptimists call for an end to violence against women NOW!

💔 Disabled women are disproportionately at risk from all forms of violence and abuse from carers, partners and people in the community.

🙏 Image from The People's History Museum. Thank you.

#Day10

#Day10 16 Days of Activism



@SoroptimistManchester

♥ #Soroptimists believe that child marriage is often the result of deeply entrenched gender inequalities. We support systems that prioritise educating girls and crafting them to lead. #nomorechildbrides. #Soroptimists fight against this violation of child rights and for the education of girls so that they develop their full potential.

♥ Child marriage – marriage before the age of 18 – is a human rights violation

👉 Globally, 21% of women were married before their 18th birthday.

👉 Every year, more than 12 million girls are married before they are 18 years (via @unicef)

🙏 Image by @dev_Asangbam via Unsplash. Thank you.

#Day11

#Day11 16 Days of Activism



"as isolated individuals we will always be powerless...but as communities we can achieve anything."
Prof. Angela Davis



@SoroptimistManchester

♥ Soroptimist International is a volunteering organisation transforming lives of women and girls. We celebrate the work of volunteers around the world working for economic and social development in our communities. Such organisations work on peace, justice and embrace the Sustainable Development Goals.

👉 Professor Angela Davis is an US political activist, scholar, and author. She has been deeply involved in movements for economic, racial, and gender justice over many decades.

#Day12

#Day12 16 Days of Activism



@SoroptimistManchester

♥ Today is the anniversary of the 1989 Montreal Massacre, observed as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. On 6 December 1989, a man entered a mechanical engineering classroom at Montreal's École Polytechnique armed with a semi-automatic weapon. He separated the women from the men and started shooting the women. He then turned the gun on himself. In a note he left, he blamed feminists for ruining his life.

Fourteen women lost their lives that day:

👉 #16daysofactivism reminds us femicide is not rare. On average, one woman is killed by a man every four days in the UK (@womens_aid)

#Day13

#Day13 16 Days of Activism



@SoroptimistManchester

♥ Rural women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. Yet they face persistent structural constraints that prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights.

👉 Climate change affects women and girls most acutely because it exacerbates the existing outcomes of entrenched gender inequality:

#Day14



♥ #Soroptimists call for no tolerance of violations of human dignity including sexual exploitation.

♥ Today we are again highlighting the wonderful work of [@MASHManchester](https://mash.org.uk/) who - amongst the significant range of services they offer, support women who are victims of sexual exploitation. MASH is a Manchester charity that offers advice and support to women in sex work. Learn more about Mash - and how you can support them - here: <https://mash.org.uk/>

🙏 Today's image is by Marina Khrapova via Unsplash - thank you.

#Day15



♥ Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated, or is meant to make them feel that way. It could be in the workplace or anywhere. #Soroptimists call for an end to violence against women NOW!

👉 More than 80% of women in the UK have been subjected to sexual harassment. Despite YEARS of campaigning, we are still waiting for public sexual harassment to be made a crime in the UK. Recent news from the Law Commission is deeply concerning and frustrating. We need our government to step up and take women's safety seriously. Sexual harassment is everywhere. Globally, women and girls face poor legal protections and little by way of enforcement even where laws exist.

🙏 Today's image is by @Fairytail.photography via Unsplash - thank you.

#Day16



💖 #Soroptimists call for no tolerance of violations of human dignity including sexual exploitation.

👉 Roughly, 4.8 million people are victims of forced sexual exploitation

👉 Female victims continue to be the primary targets for trafficking. Women make up 46% and girls 19% of all victims of trafficking - most are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

👉 It is estimated that up to 10 million children are victims of child sexual exploitation

🙏 Today's image is by Marina Khrapova via Unsplash - thank you.

News & Christmas Greetings From Another Of Our International Friendship Links:

SI Fort-de-France Alizés Sud, Martinique

Firstly, we are very sorry not to have been able to reply in time for inclusion in your Newsletter.

When you wrote we were in the middle of 2 weeks of general strike in Martinique, with road barrages in almost every town and village, and on every major road on the island, preventing all traffic, sometimes even doctors and ambulances, overnight looting of shops and armed attacks on police and firemen doing their duty. It was quite unsettling, but since last weekend negotiations are in place, and life is getting back to "what counts as normal".

Although we've missed your deadline we're sending you a few photos of significant moments in our Soroptimist year, with our best wishes to all of your club for a

JOYEUX NOËL et EXCELLENTE NOUVELLE ANNEE!



Anniversaire... our celebration in April this year of the anniversary of our club's founding. On the right our current President, Catherine Marceline, with other members (you will be able to spot Michelle).



a photograph taken at La Fontane, a lovely colonial style house owned and let for weddings and other reception by one of our members, where we hold our monthly meetings when we can meet in person. In October we voted for our next President, and formalised membership of a new recruit.

From left to right : Catherine Marceline, President Gina Ravaud our latest recruit, Béatrice Duchet, President Elect.

Oranger le Monde ... A local Casino, lit in orange, like numerous other buildings to mark UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

In Soroptimist friendship, From Members of Fort-de-France Alizés Sud



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR
CHARTER DINNER**

on Saturday 12th March 2022

at the Best Western Plus Pinewood Hotel
180 Wilmslow Road, Handforth, SK9 3LF



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

on Thursday 7th April 2022

at the Best Western Plus Pinewood Hotel
180 Wilmslow Road, Handforth, SK9 3LF

