



The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

The 16 days began on November 26—the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concludes on December 10—Human Rights Day. Good Shepherd worldwide participates in this campaign, along with thousands of other organisations. Importantly, Good Shepherd works to support women. This work was begun by the foundress of the Good Shepherd Sisters, St Mary Euphrasia and continues today as Sisters and mission partners work side by side in Good Shepherd organisations and agencies and in partnership with other organisations.



On Friday 23rd some Good Shepherd people, including (pictured from left) Sr Tania De Jong, Roberto Morales, (me—in blue), Josephine Best, and Jo Thitchener (taking the picture), took part in the walk through the Melbourne streets organised by White Ribbon Day. The goal was to make a public plea for an end to violence against women.

Personally, I have more than one reason for walking. The effects of physical and other kinds of abuse of women - all of which constitute violence - are very familiar to me through

working with women at the Good Samaritan Inn in Melbourne, who have experienced violence. So first, I hope that the walk helps the groundswell of feeling against the violence will help stop it.

Second, in this ,as in any stand against injustice, I feel the need of a community with whom to take the stance. I had that in spades on Friday.

*Fran Sheahan, Mission Office,
Good Shepherd Australia New
Zealand*



Good Shepherd
Australia New Zealand

Good Shepherd's 16 Days of Action Around the Network - a snapshot

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service in 2011/12 ensured that 281 women and 432 children were made safe through financial assistance to escape violence, change locks, install security systems and other safety measures.

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand's CEO Dr Rhonda Cumberland will participate in the fifth meeting of the National Roundtable on People Trafficking at Parliament House in Canberra today (November 28). The Attorney-General, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, invited Good Shepherd to be part of this important gathering.

In April, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand published the research, *Hidden Exploitation*. Forced marriage is set to become one of the major social justice and advocacy actions for the Good Shepherd Network - in particular Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services and Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service in Victoria. Good Shepherd, together with Anti-Slavery Australia, is finalising details of a major Australia Research Council (ARC) funding proposal which intends to focus on a number of elements about forced marriage.

The Trading Circle stores in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are holding special in store events to *Celebrate the Difference* you are making and to raise awareness of the 16 days of action to promote and support the empowerment of women around the world. The Trading Circle will showcase some of the women from developing



countries who produce the goods sold at the stores. A PowerPoint will be shown and guest speakers will tell how The Trading Circle supports women trading out of poverty with dignity and respect by providing alternative income streams through income generating projects for women.

The events are:

The Melbourne store at 110 Maling Rd will hold an event today, Wednesday November 28, at 6pm.

Brisbane's event is on Tuesday December 4 at the store at 100 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington.

Sydney's event is on Wednesday December 5 at the store at 27 Lackey St, Summer Hill.

Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services

NSW formally acknowledged White Ribbon Day yesterday (November 27) as part of the organisation's 30th Anniversary Marrickville community celebration. White Ribbon is an organisation that works to prevent male violence against women.

Good Shepherd Microfinance Chair Christine Nixon will be part of a panel discussion on Thursday November 29 in Fed Square in Melbourne. For more info: <http://www.iwda.org.au/events/>

The Enduring Story. Go. Together. Audaciously



'Every Woman In The Prison Has a Story ...'



Sr Marie O'Malley began working at the Bandyup Women's Prison outside Perth back in 1981. She took over from Sr Barbara Davis, who had established the ministry despite strong opposition.

Sr Marie O'Malley began working at the Bandyup Women's Prison outside Perth back in 1981. Not long after, Barb, who was the area leader in Western Australia at the time, was elected Province Leader of the Good Shepherd Sisters, and had to vacate the job. She asked Marie to take it on.

Marie was daunted by the task. She not only had Barb Davis' shoes to fill, but she had never been inside a women's prison. She agreed to 'give' the chaplaincy job a go for a short time. Thirty one years later Marie is still working at the prison and supporting the women's families.

The work has given her a fairly intimate insight into the lives many of the women have endured. Many, many have been subjected to violence, firstly as children and then as adults.

"Every woman in the prison has a story, a series of events, or problems in her life, that have led to the point of committing a crime and ending up in prison. A large percentage of the women have been subjected to violence of some kind," Marie said. "Lots of the women I have supported have been subjected to violence for a long time; often they have grown up in an atmosphere of violence."

"One observation over the years is the increase in domestic violence."

Marie's work means she has seen and heard things that most people are spared in their life. But in the Good Shepherd way, she has continued to walk beside some of the most marginalised women in the community.



"I just try to support and encourage the women to gently take control of their lives and develop their own power to manage what is happening to them."



Good Shepherd has a long history of working with women in prisons and youth centres. Sr Mary Carroll from Abbotsford continues to work at the women's prison in Melbourne. Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service staff and volunteers, led by Gendrie Klein-Breteler, also support women in prison. As well, there are many projects that support women who are suffering violence. Marie's story is one of many across the Network.

A World Without Violence Against Women Would Be ...

This was the question IWDA (International Women's Development Agency) asked people as part of the 16 Day Campaign.

Some of the answers are on the following YouTube clip.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxXiLCapWw>

Look out for several Good Shepherd people who had visionary, hopeful and positive ideas of what such a world would be!

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Take Action!

If you want to find out more about the 16 days of Action to End Violence Against Women, here are some further resources and sign up campaigns:

Say No to Violence website: <http://saynotoviolence.org/> - sign up and add your action. Your VOICE MATTERS.

5,467,916 people have committed to ACTIONS so far! Add your name to this powerful call to tell governments that you want them to make violence against women a TOP PRIORITY and to keep informed of progress.

The UN website has more information about the 16 days of Action: <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/> - BE AWARE.

The UNHCHR website link shows the **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women**: [http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.RES.48.104.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.RES.48.104.En?Opendocument)

Sign up and show your support for ending street harassment, by adding your voice to: <http://www.ihollaback.org/>

Connect with other White Ribbon day events in Melbourne on: <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/events>



The theme of the UN's 2013 Commission on the Status of Women CSW 57 is the 'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.' The Good Shepherd Sisters, with consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council in New York, have made a submission to the Commission.

The Good Shepherd submission makes 3 recommendations to the Commission:

(i) Implement the ILO Recommendation 202 concerning 'national floors of social protection' (ii) Enforce the law - zero tolerance of violence against women and girls (iii) Educate men and boys.

The following is an extract from the report...

Good Shepherd Sisters are present in over 70 countries. The organisation is committed to working zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate or oppressed by abject poverty. This commitment has at its very heart the priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women 57 namely the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Trafficking in women and girls, migration and poverty are some of the most exploitative situations there are which perpetrate, condone and conceal violence against women and girls. The content of this statement is based on the results of a simple questionnaire sent to 51 field offices. There were 27 responses from 24 countries in the following regions, Africa, Western Asia, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the United States of America.

[Read this statement](#) in full and gain a greater understanding of what Good Shepherd is saying at an international level.

16 Days of Prayer

Thanks to the Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Justice & Peace Network for the following prayer and reflection. We encourage you to use these prayers in your home, workplace and community.

To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

Violence Against Women November 25 - 10 December

Opening Prayer

O God of Life,

You call us to respond with greater commitment to the needs of women for their development, rights, protection, empowerment and freedom.

We seek to construct new roads in our apostolic strategies to respond to new situations and craft new answers to new questions of the poor and of women.

But sometimes, just sometimes we lack the drive to take the risk.

Sometimes, just sometimes we need to be reminded again of our lukewarm response. We forget sometimes to take upon ourselves the cause of women in our everyday encounters with life.

And yet we believe in the united efforts of women and men, that the power to create and re-create is in our hands.

We remember and pray for each and every survivor of gender violence.



Please Light a Candle for Every Petition

Nov. 25: Women victims of domestic violence, battered wives, marital rape.

Nov. 26: Victims/survivors of rape, incest, sexually abused/harassed.

Nov. 27: Female infanticide and selective abortions, female genital mutilation.

Nov. 28: Maltreated and sexually abused children.

Nov. 29: Victims/survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution.

Nov. 30: Women victims of unfair labor practice (e.g. contractualisation, etc.).

Dec. 1: Victims/survivors of AIDS.

Dec. 2: Victims of war/militarism.

Dec. 3: Victims of media violence.

Dec. 4: Women migrant workers.

Dec. 5: Women victims of sexual abuses in the church.

Dec. 6: Women victims of violence/injustices from the rural areas

Dec. 7: Women from the cultural minorities who suffer violence and injustice.

Dec. 8: Women/children who suffer from acute poverty and displacement

Dec. 9: For all victims of gender violence particularly violence against homosexuals.

Dec. 10: Women in death row and all those detained and victims of Human Rights Violations (HRV).

Final Prayer:

O God, enlighten us with an outpouring of your Spirit and wisdom;

Let your wisdom lead us onward to a creative path and age of peace,

when violence is banished, that both women and men live as equals and with dignity, and that work and wealth of our world is justly distributed and shared.

We look forward to the future with constant faith and renewed hope. May it come soon. Amen.