



THE ANNUAL 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. The year 2018 marks the 27th year of a campaign that has grown steadily in strength and scope.

This year, IANSA members around the world participated in the campaign under the theme: “Real Men Don’t Need Guns – End Gender-Based Violence,” and organized a wide range of activities.

The group Bolivian Women’s Efforts engaged public institutions, international organizations, and civil society through advocacy on local radio and social media, reaching over 55,000 people on the role of firearms in gender-based violence. In Burundi, Women United for Peace in the Great Lakes Region (FUP/GL) educated over 70% of the population of Bubanza about gender-based violence, spurring seven radio clubs to form to address the domestic violence prevalent in the region. Argentina’s Institute of Comparative Studies in the Criminal and Social Sciences (INECIP) conducted extensive research on the negative impacts of armed violence from a gender perspective. Their research determined that a significant number of deaths in Argentina are attributed to the proliferation of guns, and that increasing women’s engagement in the small arms process can reduce this number. A peace rally organized by Women for Peace and Democracy (WMD) in Nepal raised awareness of how violence against women and girls inhibits economic progress and strains development. In Israel, Gun Free Kitchen Tables (GFKT) launched an extensive social media campaign to show the negative impacts that the widespread use of guns in civil spaces has on women in households, and generated spirited discussions on Israel’s gun legislation. In the Philippines, the Center for Peace Education (CPE) created an innovative and engaging exhibit for Filipino youth to learn about gender-based violence.

Newspapers, radio programs, television stations and social media sites covered the activities of our IANSA members, helping to amplify the call for an end to violence against women and girls. We invite you to learn more about about these IANSA members and their actions, and to join the global movement against gun violence.

Jasmin Nario-Galace
IANSA Women’s Network Coordinator



Argentina

Instituto de Estudio Comparados en Ciencias Penales y Sociales/Institute of Comparative Studies in Criminal and Social Sciences (INECIP)



The Instituto de Estudio Comparados en Ciencias Penales y Sociales (INECIP) marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by launching a research report titled “Firearms and gender violence: towards preparation of a first national report on weapons policy and gender perspectives.” The exploratory study established basic guidelines for a research agenda on firearms while mainstreaming gender perspectives. Members of the Argentinian Network for Disarmament, feminist organizations, academics and government agencies collaborated to address the problem of the possession and use of firearms and its consequences in Argentina from a gender perspective. INECIP’s research was designed to make the issue more visible, promote debate and explore research topics and approaches on the matter that will be useful for a later report. Among the findings: 16.6% of murders from 1990-2008 were perpetrated with guns and 73% of guns in Argentina are in civilian possession. The launch event highlighted the need for greater women’s participation in the formation of security policy. INECIP promoted the slogan, “Ni Una Menos, Basta de Armas para Matar Mujeres” (“Not One Less: No More Weapons to Kill Women”) and used the hashtag #NiUnaMenos (#NotOneLess) to spread awareness of the campaign. These efforts do much to raise awareness of gender-based violence in Argentina.

Bolivia

Esfuerzos de Mujeres Bolivianas/Bolivian Women’s Efforts



Esfuerzos de Mujeres Bolivianas held two events in observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The first, a meeting titled “Mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence in Gun Control Policies in Bolivia” to discuss gun violence against women, with participation from public institutions, international organizations, and civil society. The main objective of the event was to collect evidence to analyse and investigate the relationship between armed violence and violence against women. It also aimed to review legal frameworks to promote participation by the Ministry of Women and civil society in national committees on firearms and illegal trafficking.

The second event aimed to raise public awareness of gender-based gun violence through public fairs at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) and the Red Cableway station of El Alto City. The second fair, “Vivir Bien sin Violencia” (“Living Well without Violence”), was hosted by the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency through the Vice Ministry of Equal Opportunities and the General Directorate on the Prevention and Elimination of all Forms of Gender-Based Violence. More than 600 people, including university students and the general public, attended the events. The campaign was strengthened by two radio shows: the ATIPIRI community station’s women’s program; “Yo siempre te he oído, ahora te toca escucharme” (“I’ve always heard you, now it’s your turn to listen to me”) and “El Show es Noticia” (“The Show is News”) on Radio Fides. Through both, the Bolivian Women’s Efforts educated the public about the issues of firearms and their relation to gender-based violence. They reached over 55,000 people through social media, radio and television.

Burundi

Femmes unies pour la Paix dans la région des grands Lacs/ Women United for Peace in the Great Lakes Region (FUP/GL)

Femmes unies pour la Paix dans la région des grands Lacs (FUP/GL) organized activities to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism with a focus on armed violence against women. With their own sub-theme, "Prevention of Domestic Armed Violence in Burundi", FUP/GL raised awareness of violence committed against women in households in the capital city of Bujumbura and the province of Bubanza.

The first activity in Bubanza aimed to break the silence relating to sexual and gender-based violence. Partnering with local women's organizations, FUP/GL collected 543 testimonials from women and girls. Those testifying pledged to continue to speak out on sexual and/or gender-based violence.

FUP/GL's second activity used radio interviews to inform the people of Bujumbura about how the proliferation of small arms affects domestic violence in their city. As a result of these interviews, seven radio clubs formed to counter prevalent domestic armed violence.

FUP/GL collaborated with local administrative organizations for the final event in Bubanza. This included a march to promote peace and disarmament in Burundi. They sought to mobilize public opinion on the necessity of disarming men who perpetrate violence against women at home. At the end of the 16 Days, more than 70% of the general public was informed about the campaign and more importantly, about efforts to end domestic armed violence in Burundi.



El Salvador

Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho/Foundation for Research on the Application of Law (FESPAD)



Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho (FESPAD) brought the El Salvadorian community together to discuss the impacts of gender-based violence and armed violence against women. On November 24, just before the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, women from the Ilopango municipality opened dialogue on the issue. FESPAD held a colorful and lively festival in Ilopango, with food, music, and festive costumes to promote the culture of peace and generate greater momentum for the 16 Days campaign. The celebratory activities brought people of all ages together around this critical issue in El Salvador. FESPAD continues its activism to spur higher levels of awareness, particularly among youth, of the harmful impact of firearms and gender-based violence. While the toll of gun violence in El Salvador remains high and threats to women's rights persist, FESPAD is taking practical steps towards peace in the country. Such efforts within communities help to strengthen democracy and human rights, while encouraging citizen participation in critical issues.

Ghana

Zonta Club of Accra and New Vision Foundation-International (NVFI)

NGOs in Ghana organized a range of activities to raise public awareness of the 16 Days of Activism. The Zonta Club of Accra marched to end violence against women, with Zonta International Clubs providing additional support. The campaign highlighted criticisms of current law enforcement measures failing to punish perpetrators of sexual violence. Zonta International works in 42 countries to eradicate violence against women and girls by using service and advocacy to severely and consistently condemn perpetrators.

The New Vision Foundation-International (NVFI) called on governments to do more to counter violence against women by enforcing laws, ensuring support in national budgets for programs countering gender violence, and unifying individual and collective efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls in Ghana. Their efforts emphasized that gender-based violence, in any form, is a human rights violation. NVFI's efforts raised awareness on gender-based violence in the health sector, workplace and educational spheres. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDA), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Ghana), Oxfam International and Care International collaborated to call on governments and stakeholders, including traditional and religious leaders, to join the fight against sexual and gender-based violence by publicly denouncing such acts.



India

Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), in collaboration with the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, organized an art gallery on Human Rights Day (December 10) in Manipur, Imphal to raise awareness of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms, and links with gender and gun violence. Concerned by the suffering and high rates of armed violence and weaponization in India, CAFI organized the event to promote a culture of peace in India. In Manipur alone, over 20,000 women have been widowed due to gun violence. At the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, members of the community were better educated on the dangers of small arms. CAFI has focused on countering gender-based violence, ensuring diversity, and committing to peace and disarmament since it was founded in 2004 in New Delhi.





Israel

Gun Free Kitchen Tables (GFKT)

GFKT hosted two events to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The first was a meeting that challenged Israel's procedures for small arms control. At the event, eighteen Jewish and Palestinian women representing ten social and political organizations discussed the proposed new small arms legislation and the dangers it posed for women.

The group created three work channels to challenge the legislation, including legal analysis of the draft law from a feminist perspective, advocacy aimed at the Israeli Parliament, and a public media campaign. Potential ideas for the media campaign include organizing a meeting on gun laws for journalists and presenting gender-based violence issues to the Parliament's



Committee for the Status of Women with the Ministry of Public Security.

The second event, coinciding with Human Rights Day, called on the Israeli government to implement practical and verified measures to prevent violence against women by enacting a law aimed at reducing the number of small arms in civil spaces. The GFKT Facebook post on the subject was backed by international empirical research linking a decrease in female deaths in households with reduced gun proliferation. The media campaign produced vibrant discussions, reaching 5,000 people in less than 24 hours. GFKT continues to raise awareness and debate on these issues.



Malawi

Peoples Federation for National Peace and Development (PEFENAP)

The Peoples Federation for National Peace and Development (PEFENAP) held two events for the 16 Days using the slogan, "Real Men Don't Need Guns". PEFENAP coordinated a peace parade at the Limbe market, a location that sees a lot of gun violence, with local vendors, women and market officials. In a space typically accustomed to violence, the peace parade served as symbol of the rising culture of peace within Malawi. PEFENAP also held motivational peace talks to empower a large group of secondary school students. The talks encouraged students to consider the impacts of gender-based violence in new ways, promoted advocacy for human rights, peace and education, and discussed challenges faced by Malawians. Gun violence against women and girls was the central topic of discussion. Together, the events reached over 1,000 people through social media, successfully raised public awareness of gender-based violence, unified the public and fostered support for a culture of peace to replace a culture of gun violence.

As IANSA's leading member in Malawi, PEFENAP works to raise public awareness on critical issues and promote a culture of peace in which masculinity is not defined by violence.

Mali

Association des Femmes pour les initiatives de Paix/Association of Women for Peace Initiatives (AFIP)

The Association des Femmes pour les initiatives de Paix (AFIP) launched its 16 Days Campaign under the theme "The fight against gender-based violence: to protect women against armed violence." AFIP mobilized key religious, political and youth leaders around the issue of gender-based violence to create social change. AFIP organized an open debate, providing a platform for women to share their experiences with gender-based violence. Local radio and television channels broadcast the debates and gave the floor to Muslim religious leaders to discuss gender-based violence. Posters and flyers with the 16 Days slogan were used to raise public awareness of the campaign events, which reached over 200 people. Their campaign was successful in educating the local population on gender-based violence and the dangers of arms, specifically in regards to women and youth.

AFIP is a secular organisation based in Mali that mobilises women of all faiths, professions, and from various communities to take strong unified action to contribute to peace and development. AFIP promotes peace for economic development and social progress in Mali, and works to improve conflict prevention and unify populations around a culture of peace and non-violence.



Nepal

Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD)

WPD-Nepal organized a Peace Rally in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Over 100 participants from several universities and civil society organizations marched from Singha Darbar, the Parliament House, to Shanti Batika, the Peace garden in Ratna Park, while holding banners declaring, "Real Men Don't Need Guns" and "Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls". All participants wore orange hats, the universally-recognized color worn to honor victims of gun violence and to raise awareness against violence against women and girls, to support a future free from gender and gun violence.

Shobha Shrestha, Executive Director of WPD-Nepal, ended the rally with a strong message in observance of the 16 Days Campaign: "Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and a global epidemic. Violence against women and girls threatens countries, inhibits economic progress, and prevents women from contributing to their community and creating better lives for themselves and families." The Peace Rally concluded on a positive note, raising awareness of the fight against the trade of illegal arms and violence by standing in solidarity with women.



Philippines

Center for Peace Education (CPE)

The Center for Peace Education (CPE) organized two events raising awareness for gender violence during the 16 Days of Activism.

CPE created an interactive art exhibit for ASEAN students on the implications of gender-based violence and exposed the intersection between arms and gender in the region. “The Crime Scene and Coordinates,” visually presented the issue of arms and gender violence from a new perspective. One side of the exhibit shared individual cases and incidents of violence, while the other side displayed efforts to counter gender-based violence by civil society and women’s groups. Colorful strings carefully linked each image together so that attendees would visually experience empowerment and associate progress with their communities. In addition, attendees were encouraged to post their reflections relating to arms and gender violence on a freedom wall, and post their pictures with the 16 Days sign on a photo wall. The exhibit created a place for attendees to join together and act in solidarity against gender-based violence in the Philippines.



CPE also organized an open forum for students to share their reflections and ideas about gender and armed violence. Participants were asked to post their reflections and pictures with their 16 Days photo frame online to promote advocacy through social media. CPE’s activism efforts mobilised ASEAN youth around a common cause and created great momentum through education on the topic.

South Africa

Catholic Justice and Peace Johannesburg

IANSA members are working hard to change the fact that gun violence is one of South Africa’s leading causes of death. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Justice & Peace Program of the Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg organized a series of workshops to raise awareness on gender-based and gun violence. They also raised awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

The Social Justice Program also teamed with government and religious organizations to demonstrate their commitment to transforming lives through public education and outreach. One workshop brought together women from Burundi, DRC, Somalia and Zimbabwe living in South Africa, and focused on helping them understand their rights—including that violence committed against them is punishable by law. The women who participated agreed to organize home visits to talk to families about violence in homes, in collaboration with the Catholic Church and the NGO African Diaspora.

The second workshop, a discussion between men and the South African Police Services, encouraged men to discuss their perceptions of gender-based violence and to find alternative ways to cope with anger and stress. The Catholic Church organized training workshops for men on ways to relate to women without aggression.



The third workshop linked gender-based violence with HIV/AIDS transmission and had a mobile clinic enabling women to be immediately tested for HIV. At this event, women learned that they are at a higher risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS if they are subjected to abuse. Social workers participated in efforts to educate men on gender-based violence within the HIV/AIDS context. Additional discussions were conducted, including by a woman who experienced severe domestic abuse. Another discussion addressed public transport drivers whose work crosses borders, raising awareness about trafficking of women and children, and how to identify and report it.

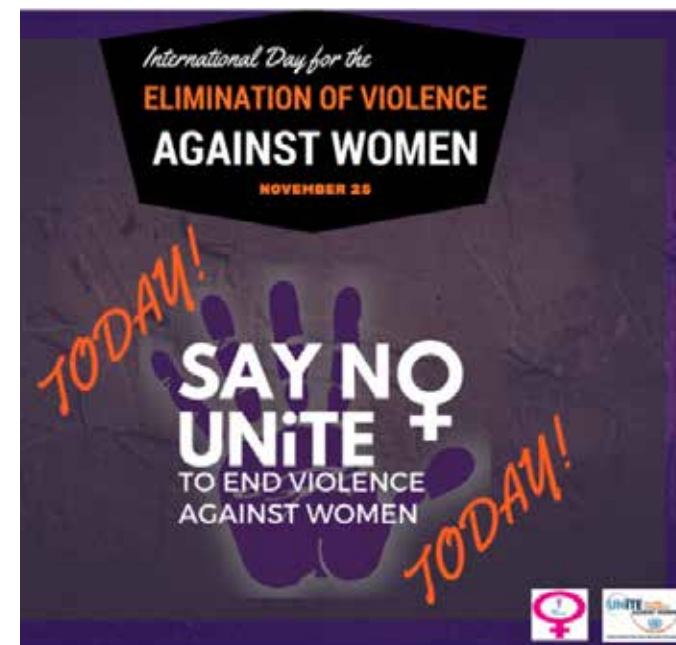
The Social Justice Program of the Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg worked with the African Diaspora, the South African Police Services, the Ministry of Women, Ekurhuleni Municipality and the Gauteng Department of Social Development to organize these events, and is committed to transforming lives through public education and outreach. The events reached far beyond the borders of the country, and were linked to wider advocacy efforts within the African Union, calling on governments to Silence the Guns.

Trinidad & Tobago

Women’s Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD)

Gun violence rates in the Caribbean region rank among the world’s highest, even though countries in the region prohibit the domestic manufacture, export and import of ammunition and firearms. The Women’s Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) advocates for stronger gun laws and focuses on the gendered dimensions of gun violence. As the Caribbean leader of discussions on small arms in the Caribbean, WINAD urges States and NGOs to use gender analysis for research and policy responses.

For the 16 Days of Activism, WINAD launched a Facebook campaign to salute and empower women and the organizations dedicated to ending gender-based violence, using the hashtag #OurstoHonour. The campaign reached over 1,800 people and raised public awareness of the organizations and individuals working to bring women together for social transformation and justice. WINAD highlighted organizations such as WOMANTRA, the National Muslim Women’s Organisation and Rape Crisis Society, among others who work to end gender-based violence and empower women. The campaign honored women’s rights advocates Hazel Brown, Jacquie Burgess and Roberta Clarke for their work to promote the role of women in the political process. The first female Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, was honored for her dedication to prioritizing the needs of women and girls in the arms control process at the UN General Assembly. WINAD remains committed to strengthening the capacity and social consciousness of women and girls to lead social transformation in Trinidad & Tobago. Trinidad & Tobago has signed and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and supports international and regional efforts to curb small arms proliferation.



MEDIA COVERAGE CONVENTIONAL MEDIA

In addition to social media, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign captured the attention of radio, television, and newspaper outlets around the world. From Bolivia to Burundi to Mali to South Africa, international news outlets lauded the message set forth by the campaign. In Bolivia, for instance, radio stations educated the public on the dangers surrounding firearms and their relation to gender-based violence. FUP/GL of Burundi mobilized public opinion on the issues of gender-based violence by conducting radio interviews, thereby leading to the creation of seven new radio programs as part of the campaign. In Mali, local television and radio stations played a key role in stimulating discussions on gender-based violence by religious leaders. The 16 Days Campaign also sparked the attention of the Catholic Justice and Peace Johannesburg organization of South Africa, in which newspaper coverage of the campaign events raised public awareness on the issues of gender-based violence.



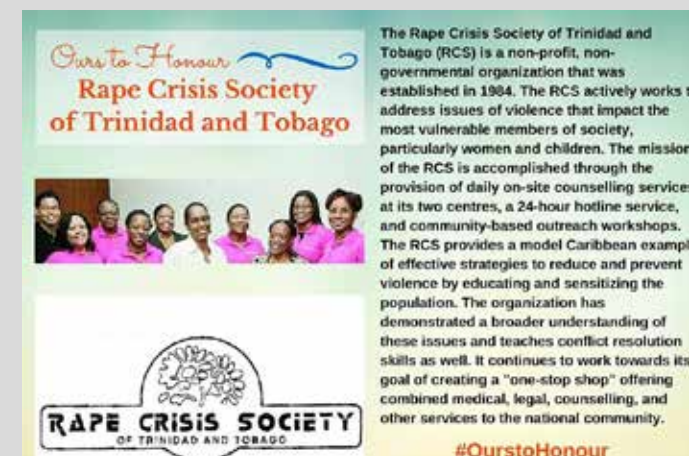
MEDIA COVERAGE

SOCIAL MEDIA

Individuals and organizations around the world used social media as a platform during the 16 Days Campaign to question, call out, and speak up against acts of gender-based violence. IANSA encouraged the use of the hashtags #16Days, #EndGenderBasedViolence, #Envision2030, and #IANSA, available in three languages. Social media campaigns were created to promote discussion and create greater awareness of the issues, seen with #NiUnaMenos (#NotOneLess) in Argentina, #OurstoHonour in Trinidad & Tobago, #GunFreeWeddings in Lebanon, and #MyActionsMatter in Canada. The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons challenged gender-based violence with its own social media campaign, #WordsOverBullets.

IANSA members in Brazil, Argentina and Israel ran public education campaigns on armed domestic violence and its toll on women. The slogan “Real Men Don’t Need Guns” was used to challenge the culture of violent masculinity in Nepal, Malawi and the Philippines. National governments also participated in the 16 Days Campaign, with French President Macron speaking out publicly against gender-based violence in his country.

Social media can play an important role in mobilizing public support for Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. IANSA looks forward to building upon the great momentum made during these 16 Days.





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