

Safer Leeds Partnership Toolkit

# 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence

25th November – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#16DaysofActivism



## About the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that commences on 25th November that calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls ('VAWG'). It begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10th December, Human Rights Day.

During the 16 Days, UN Women encourages people across the globe to **orange the world**. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls.

Together we can create a world that is free from violence against women and girls. Take action and show you care through the 16 Days of Activism.



## About White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day is also marked on 25<sup>th</sup> November – the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls and start of the 16 Days of Activism. On White Ribbon Day everyone - but especially men – is invited to make the White Ribbon Promise. That is: to **never use, excuse or remain silent about violence against women**.



WORKING TOGETHER TO  
END MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Leeds City Council is a White Ribbon accredited organisation. This means LCC has demonstrated a real commitment to ending VAWG through a three-year action plan. If you work for LCC and are planning activity to tackle VAWG on White Ribbon Day, during the 16 Days or at any other time of the year, please let us know by emailing: [saferleedssafeguardingandDVteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:saferleedssafeguardingandDVteam@leeds.gov.uk).

# How to get involved in the 16 Days of Activism

Here are some suggested ways to get involved throughout the 16 Days campaign period and beyond:

## 1. Raise awareness

### Use the Leeds #16DaysofActivism Microsoft Teams background

You can use the MS Teams background for online meetings throughout the 16 Days to promote the campaign and start the conversation about violence towards women and girls.

*To use the background:* Save the '16 Days MS Teams Background' to your computer > Click 'Join' on a Teams video call > When the preview appears, select 'Background filters' > 'Background settings' will appear on the right of your screen, click 'Add new' > Select the image from your files, click 'Open' and your new background should appear. Note: the image may appear reversed on your screen but will appear the right way for others on the call.

### Add the Leeds #16DaysofActivism banner to your email signature

You can use the email signature on your email throughout the 16 Days to highlight the issue of violence towards women and girls.

*To add the banner to your Outlook signature:* Right click and Copy the '16 Days Email Signature' image. On Outlook click 'New email' > Click the 'Insert' tab at the top of the box > Click 'Signature' then 'Signatures' on the drop down menu > In the text box, right click at the bottom of your signature and paste the image, resizing as needed > Click OK. Note: your email signature banner should appear next time you click 'New email'.

### Share the daily #16DaysofActivism messages on social media

You can join the social media movement by sharing and reposting the 16 daily messages via your personal, professional, and service social media accounts. You'll find a new message every day on the Leeds City Council social media accounts.

Facebook: [Leeds City Council](#)

Instagram: [@LeedsCouncil](#)

## 2. Be a male role model

### Make the White Ribbon promise

We are asking men to make the White Ribbon Promise as a stand against male violence towards women and girls but everyone is welcome to make it. To make the White ribbon promise please visit the [White Ribbon UK website](#).

I PROMISE TO...  
**NEVER**  
**USE, EXCUSE OR**  
**REMAIN SILENT ABOUT**  
**MEN'S VIOLENCE**  
**AGAINST WOMEN**

### Become a White Ribbon Ambassador or Champion

White Ribbon is encouraging men to become allies in preventing men's violence against women. White Ribbon Ambassadors are men and people who identify as a man who take on this responsibility. They will reflect on their own behaviour and look to positively influence other men to prevent violence against women. To sign up to become a White Ribbon Ambassador or Champion please visit the [White Ribbon UK website](#).

### Join the Just Don't campaign

The Just Don't campaign is asking men to step up, call out and help stop sexual harassment towards women and girls. For more information about the campaign and how to support it please visit [the campaign page on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website](#).

### Switch onto Women's Safety

'Switch on to Women's Safety' is a workshop that supports men to understand women's experiences and find practical tools, ideas and solutions to do something about it while keeping themselves safe. It harnesses the empathy that men feel towards victims and builds their confidence by showing them that they can and in most cases have already made interventions that can make girls and women feel safe and respected. To find out more about the workshop and get in touch if you'd like to attend a Train the Trainer Session, visit the [Humans Being website](#).

### 3. Learn more about violence against women and girls and influence change

#### Learn more about how to recognise and support victims-survivors of domestic violence and abuse

You can learn more about how to recognise the signs of domestic violence and abuse and support women and girls who experience this type of abuse by attending the free online briefings. Leeds City Council and key partners provide training for people who work with victims of domestic violence and abuse. The following sessions are currently available:

- Introduction to Domestic Violence and Abuse and Impact on children
- Domestic Violence and Abuse - Assessing risk, safety planning and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Introduction to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage
- Lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)

For more information about our training sessions please contact us at; [saferteams@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:saferteams@leeds.gov.uk)

#### Become a Women Friendly Leeds Ambassador

Women Friendly Leeds Ambassadors are enthusiastic, passionate women who are key drivers in the Women Friendly Leeds (WFL) movement. They support other women and girls to be involved, make change, and represent WFL within the community. You find out more and to sign up to become an ambassador on the [Women Friendly Leeds website](#).



#### Gain an insight into women's experiences of safety in Leeds

The Leeds Women's Safety Survey was carried out in May 2021 and 1,371 women of all ages, and from all parts of the city, took part. The findings provide a powerful insight into their experience of feeling and being safe in the city. You can find the results of the survey on the [Women Friendly Leeds website](#).

## **Find out more about the work to improve the safety of women and girls across West Yorkshire**

The Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girls strategy seeks to deliver long-term societal change through education and prevention, behaviour change, ensuring safe spaces and supporting the women and girls' sector. You can find out more about the strategy and see a timeline of the work today by visiting the [West Yorkshire Combined Authority website](#).

Tackling violence against women and girls is also a strategic priority for West Yorkshire Police and their work has three key pillars: increasing trust and confidence in policing; pursuit of perpetrators; and creating safe spaces in private, public, online and in education. To find out more about this work, visit the dedicated VAWG page on the [West Yorkshire Police website](#).

## **Explore practical measures to make public spaces safer for women and girls**

The Safer Parks guidance was developed following research by the University of Leeds on what women and girls think would make parks safer and more attractive places where everyone feels they belong. The guidance calls for policy makers to consider the safety of women and girls in planning and design. You can read the guidance and more about the research on the [West Yorkshire Combined Authority website](#).

## **Listen to the DV&A Voices Project podcasts**

The DV&A Voices Project support female, male, LGBT+ and children victim/survivors of domestic abuse in Leeds to work alongside the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to frame strategy and feedback on their experiences of services and workers. Victim/survivors have recorded podcasts as part of a training programme to share helpful tips with professionals who work with people who have experienced domestic abuse. If you would like access to the podcasts, please contact [NicolaM@ldvs.uk](mailto:NicolaM@ldvs.uk).

## 4. Share information about safety initiatives and where to get support

Have conversations and share information with women and girls about safety initiatives and where to get support. Some key initiatives and services are shared below. As always, if somebody is in immediate danger, please call 999.

### Ask for Angela

Leeds City Council are working with partners and venues across the city to help keep all people safe when on a night out. Anyone can Ask for Angela to staff at participating venues to signal that they're in an uncomfortable situation and would like assistance. More information about the Ask for Angela scheme including which venues are signed up can be found on the [Women Friendly Leeds website](#).



### The Women's Night Safe Space

The Women's Night Safe Space is a non-judgemental safe bus for women and girls to come to or be referred to in the city centre at night if they feel concerned, unsafe, unwell or vulnerable. It provides women with a safe space to seek refuge, support and advice. This includes basic healthcare, water and refreshments, help charging a phone or getting a taxi, signposting and support to make a report. More information about the Women's Night Safe Space can be found on the [Women Friendly Leeds website](#).

### WalkSafe Leeds

WalkSafe Leeds is a free to download personal safety app offering a range of features to help people plan a safer journey. It includes options to share your route with selected friends and loved ones, providing an estimated time of arrival and automatic alerts to your trusted contacts if you fail to arrive at your destination on time. It also includes information on local help and support, including Ask for Angela venue locations. Search 'WalkSafe' in your app store to download. For more information on WalkSafe, visit the [Leeds City Council website](#).



## Ask for ANI

When a victim uses the codeword 'Ask for ANI' in a participating pharmacy, a member of staff will take the victim to a private room ('Safe Space') where they can help them call the police, domestic abuse helpline or a family member, friend or perhaps even a solicitor. For details of safe space venues in Leeds please visit the [UK SAYS NO MORE website](#).

## The Women & Girls Alliance Leeds

The [Women & Girls Alliance Leeds](#) is an alliance of 12 organisations that provide support and services for women and girls in Leeds. These 12 organisations span a wide range of specialisms including health, domestic violence support, youth work, education, training and more. If you are looking for services, groups, organisations and activities for women and girls in Leeds, [this directory](#) is a great place to start.

## Leeds Domestic Violence Service

Leeds Domestic Violence Service (LDVS) supports all people in Leeds affected by domestic violence and abuse. LDVS can support access to safe and secure emergency accommodation for those feeling domestic violence and abuse, emotional support, guidance and advocacy in relation to reducing risk, legal matters, housing, welfare rights, budgeting, safety planning, health and social care and more. LDVS operates a 24-hour helpline on **0113 246 0401** or can be contacted via email at [hello@ldvs.co.uk](mailto:hello@ldvs.co.uk). They also run drop-in sessions. More information is available on the [Leeds Domestic Violence Service website](#) which has a quick exit button as well as information on how to stay safe whilst looking for support online.

## The DV&A Voices Project

The DV&A voices project is for victim/survivors who are no longer in a domestic abuse environment. We have dedicated teams who work alongside men, women, children and the LGBT+ communities to share their experiences with decision makers at the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board in Leeds, to improve outcomes for people who experience domestic abuse. This project offers a unique opportunity where you are listened to, you can influence change and be part of something which victim/survivors say is empowering, supportive and has real meaning. If you would like to find out more, please email [NicolaM@ldvs.uk](mailto:NicolaM@ldvs.uk).



## **SARSVL – Support after Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds**

SARSVL is the Rape Crisis Centre for Leeds, offering support to women and girls in Leeds aged 13+ who have been affected by sexual violence of any kind at any time in their lives. They provide free, confidential support services over the phone, via email or text, or face to face including advocacy and counselling. For free, non-judgemental listening and emotional support, call their free helpline on **0808 802 3344**, email [support@sarsvl.org.uk](mailto:support@sarsvl.org.uk) or text **07860 022 880**. For more about SARSVL or what to expect when making contact including opening hours, you can visit the [SARSVL website](#).

## **The Hazelhurst Centre – West Yorkshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The Hazelhurst Centre is West Yorkshire's SARC, offering free, confidential healthcare and compassionate support to anyone in West Yorkshire that has experienced sexual assault or rape in their lifetime. The Centre offers a range of services including in-person and over the phone support, forensic medical and holistic examinations, and access to specialist counselling and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates. Call their 24-hour line on **0330 223 3617** to speak with a nurse for support and to discuss options for making an in-person appointment and/or referrals.

## **Basis Yorkshire**

The Basis Sex Work Project supports female and transgender sex workers who work on-street, indoors and online and who are living or working in Leeds. A range of support is available, including support around personal safety, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Visit the [Basis Yorkshire website](#) for more information on how to access support or make a referral.

The Basis Young People's Project work on a voluntary basis with young people of all genders who are sexually or criminally exploited or are at medium or high risk thereof. For more information about the tailored support the project can offer, and how to make a referral, visit the [Basis Yorkshire website](#).

## **The Safe Project**

The Safe Project is a specialist service that offers consultation, support and advice to professionals alongside direct needs-led interventions with children at risk of exploitation and their parents. The support offered is education based, emotional and practical advice and looks at the child first and the behaviour second. The team work with children and families who consent to flexible, supportive and relationship-based work to reduce the risks and impact of exploitation. For more information, see the [Leeds City Council website](#) or contact the team at [SafeProjectTeamVM@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:SafeProjectTeamVM@leeds.gov.uk).

## **Karma Nirvana**

Karma Nirvana provide specialist support for victim-survivors of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage and for professionals supporting someone who may be at risk of, or experiencing, this type of abuse. Karma Nirvana operate the national Honour Based Abuse helpline and can help women and girls across the UK to access safe, free and confidential services to make them more safe and secure. The helpline number for victims-survivors, or professionals who are concerned, is **0800 5999 247**. More information including opening hours is available on the [Karma Nirvana website](#).

## **The Blossom Clinic**

The Blossom Clinic is a safe and trauma-informed one stop clinic providing emotional support, treatment and advice for non-pregnant women who have undergone and/or are experiencing problems as a result of female genital mutilation (FGM). To speak to an advocate and/or book an appointment, telephone **07824 580 988** or email [leedsth-tr.blossomclinic.fgm@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.blossomclinic.fgm@nhs.net).

## **Revenge Porn Helpline**

The Helpline supports adults who are experiencing intimate image abuse, also known as 'revenge porn'. The Helpline provides non-judgemental and confidential advice to individuals when intimate images have been shared without their consent (or when threats are being made to do so), when images have been recorded without consent, and in cases of webcam blackmail and upskirting. The Helpline can be contacted by telephone on **0345 6000 459** or via email at [help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk](mailto:help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk). For more information visit the [Revenge Porn Helpline website](#).

## National Stalking Helpline

Operated by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the National Stalking Helpline gives practical information, support, and advice on risk, safety planning and legislation to victims of stalking, their friends, family, and professionals working with victims. The Helpline can be reached on **0808 802 0300**. For more information about stalking and the Helpline opening hours, visit the [Suzy Lamplugh Trust website](#).

## Galop

Galop is the UK's LGBT+ anti-abuse charity, supporting LGBT+ victims and survivors of abuse and violence around domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, so-called conversion therapies, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and other forms of interpersonal abuse. Galop provide a wide range of services including advice on rights and options, emotional support, urgent help and assistance and advocacy navigating the criminal justice system. The Galop national helpline number is **0800 999 5428**. Galop can be contacted via email at [help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk) or via their webchat or chatbot on the [Galop website](#), where you can find more information including opening hours.

## Victim Support West Yorkshire

Victim Support West Yorkshire multi-crime service provides support to any victim of crime. It doesn't matter when the crime happened, or whether you've reported it to the police. Specialist support is available for adults and children from Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), Domestic Abuse Caseworkers and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs – for people aged 16 or over). If you've been affected by crime, call your local Victim Assessment Referral Centre in West Yorkshire on **0300 303 1971**. Lines are open Monday to Saturday, 8am-8pm. For other ways to get in touch, visit the [Victim Support website](#).

## Stop Hate UK

Stop Hate UK support people directly affected by Hate Crime, help them cope with the incident, and navigate their options. Stop Hate UK's helpline service provides confidential and independent support, and people can report anonymously. They provide callers a safe space to talk about their experiences and what they need and want to happen. They can then explore options and next steps with the caller. Although gender-based Hate Crime is not currently covered under UK Hate Crime laws, it is recognised by Stop Hate UK who can provide support to anyone affected. People over 18 who experience hate crime in Leeds can call the 24 hour helpline on **0800 138 1625** or visit the [Stop Hate UK website for more information](#).

## **A note about this resource**

This Safer Leeds partnership toolkit was designed on behalf of the Leeds Violence Against Women and Girls Board for use by Safer Leeds partner organisations during the 16 Days of Activism campaign 2023.

Information about external support services, initiatives and campaigns was sourced from the relevant organisations' websites in November 2023.

If you have any questions about this resource or the #16DaysLeeds campaign, please email

[saferleedssafeguardingandDVteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:saferleedssafeguardingandDVteam@leeds.gov.uk)

