



# 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children 2022

In 1991, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign was initiated as the scourge of violence against women and children proliferated. Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of November marked 31 years since the Campaign came into existence, yet the status quo persists in that women and children still bear the brunt of violence perpetuated against them by those who ought to protect them.

We remain hopeful that the day will come where women and children live in a safe environment, free from violence – an environment that encourages them to realise their full potential and to prosper.

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) continues to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign and extends the campaign beyond the 16 Days. This year's theme for the 16 Days of Activism led by the national government is "Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women's Resilience against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!" We call upon the higher education sector and the whole of South Africa to join in the plight to eradicate any form of violence against women and children.

The South African Government will be leading a series of community and sector dialogues across the country to foster collaboration in addressing GBV and here are some of the ways that you can actively participate:

<https://www.gov.za/16DaysOfActivism2022>

## **For individuals and communities to play their part:**

- Do not become a perpetrator – Stop abuse. Sign the Pledge Against Gender-Based Violence.
- Seek personal help to change harmful behaviours such as alcohol and substance abuse.
- Reject and report abusers – Act and don't look away!
- Challenge and denounce cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequalities.

- Be sensitive and supportive to GBV victims – share helpful information and support causes in any way you can.
- Teach children the values of gender equality.
- Protect children from exposure to violence and harmful content on the internet and social media, including pornography and sexual solicitation.
- Develop policies that prevent and deal with gender-based violence in your sector, workplace and communities.
- Organise targeted community outreach and dialogues on solutions towards a gender equal society.

Let us not only support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign, but also strive to build a society where violence is eradicated. It starts with you.

Council on Higher Education