

25th November

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25th November is The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, it is also 'White Ribbon Day'. At **nia**, our focus is on The International Day to End Violence Against Women for the following reasons:

- Women's activists have marked November 25 as a day to fight violence against women since 1981. In July 1981, women from across Latin America came together in Columbia. They decided to hold an annual day of protest on 25th November for this International Day Against Violence Against Women in memory of the Mirabel sisters. Patria, Maria Teresa and Minerva Mirabel were assassinated in a 'car accident' in the Dominican Republic in 1960. They were political activists, killed for their involvement in efforts to overthrow the fascist government of Rafael Trujillo.
- In 1991, the first White Ribbon Campaign was launched by a group of men in Canada after Marc Lépine shot 14 female students at the University of Montreal, claiming he was 'fighting feminism'. The date of the murders was 6 December 1989.
- On December 17, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The UN invited governments, international organisations and NGOs to organise activities designated to raise public awareness of violence against women on this day.
- Reports of violence against women and girls disproportionately cover violence against white and middle-class women in comparison to those of black and working class women (unless they are sensationalising race and/or other oppressions, such as murders of prostituted women) and we do not want to contribute to the erasure of Patria, Maria Teresa and Minerva Mirabel from the history of fatal male violence against women, or indeed men's violence against any groups of women.

The White Ribbon Campaign has become a global campaign to ensure men take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women. We support men's acknowledgement of their role in ending men's violence against women and this campaign, we recognise that men must be part of the solution, but we will not allow this to overshadow women.

Between 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day, we will be using the 16 Days of Activism to highlight women's experiences of men's violence and our contribution to the global movement of women working to end men's violence.

