



2021 16 DAYS 365 Days of Activism All-Ireland Roundup

16 Days 365 2021

The 16 Days Campaign continues to evolve and is embedded itself in the cycle of our outreach and advocacy. All dioceses continue to support their link refuges and domestic abuse support services. Nine counties in the Republic of Ireland still have no domestic refuge spaces, and, as yet there is no dedicated refuge for men in Ireland.

Due to Covid restrictions most activities in the Republic of Ireland were either totally online or, if in person, had restricted numbers present. In both jurisdictions, members and friends had the opportunity to join online, as most of the Global Day of Action events were relayed on youtube or facebook live.

Recommendations for 2022:

- #Nomore1in3 badge should be made more widely available.
- Explore possibility of having a few area or joint Branch events during the 16 Days next year.
- Consider if we can place greater emphasis on donating vouchers to refuges in 2022.
- Are there any parishes that would wish to take part in a pilot DA initiative (“engaged churches”) being led by MSH
- Request - Could *Thursdays In Black* facebook posts in 2022 feature perhaps a fact about DA or a series of TIBs busting the myths about abuse
- More information from All-Ireland regarding statistics, facts and figures.
- Regarding 16 Days Prayer Posts:
 - Use YouTube exclusively. It can be accessed more easily by the public. Feedback was received that states that signing up to Facebook is not popular.
 - Use main Stream Media, such as TV and radio and newsletters.
 - Continue to encourage local participation of members.
 - Elaborate on the reflections and detail the Actions.
- Domestic Abuse poster – follow up with parishes to assess effectiveness
- Continue to advocate, particularly in regard to
 - HOMELESSNESS and issues surrounding *migrant women* in relation to Domestic Abuse in both jurisdictions
 - The implementation of the *NI Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill 2020*
 - Ratification of the *Istanbul Treaty* by NI
 - The resourcing for full implementation of the *RoI Domestic Violence Act 2018*
- Build on connecting at parish and diocesan level, particularly in relation to the proposed Gender Justice Course: *Equipping The Church To take Action To End Domestic Abuse*.

16 Days All-Ireland Prayer Diary and 16 Days MSH Prayer Diary

- Overall the Irish 16 Days Prayer Diary was well liked and received. It does not include any dates which is very good because then it is re-useable, while the MSH one has the dates
- The MSH Prayer Diary included Elder Abuse and the Disabled Community along with Healthy relationships. It was a good way to make it more inclusive. Some thought the quality was poor in comparison to AI diary, both in content and the quality of production.

- The Prayer Diary was distributed to all members and clergy and the feedback was that it was an excellent publication setting out the issue of GBV very clearly.

16 Days Badge and Scarf

- Overall members liked the purple scarf and badge idea but found the scarf a little small and its quality disappointing.
- Scarf and badge not widely used, in most diocese, due to lack of in person events.
- All diocese who mentioned the Badge thought it was excellent – can be worn anytime during the year – would like to be able to purchase this on its own

AI and MSH Support materials:

- All the material is informative, the detail is excellent and easy to follow.
- Very useful information came from MSH and was placed on the AI website.
- The guidelines on hosting a vigil may be useful for another year.

Quotes:

Canon Helen Steed,

“We have a joint calling, a shared responsibility as Christians to support the abused and speak with a prophetic voice, challenging the structures and individuals that distort God’s creation – women and men created in God’s image.”

Naomi Long, NI Justice Minister commended MU for their work in this area and said:

“During the 16 days of activism it is fitting that we reflect on work that has been undertaken to address gendered based violence as well as looking forward as to how we can all collectively address these issues.

I have made it clear that progressing domestic abuse legislation is a key priority for me.

A new domestic abuse offence will close a gap in the current law and ensure that protection is not limited to physically violent behaviour, as at present. It also sends a clear message that domestic abuse in all its forms, both physical and non-physical abusive behaviour, is wrong and will not be tolerated.”

MU member “In order to leave I would have had to tell people what was going on, and that would have been even more humiliating than living with the abuse.”

“The 16 Days of Activism may have a convoluted title, but the focus it brings onto this ongoing social issue cannot be understated. I am very glad that members of the Mothers’ Union continue to come together to highlight it every November and December, and that they look for other ways to help the victims/survivors throughout the year.”



Bishop Andrew Forster, Derry & Raphoe

“As a man we must carry this message beyond these walls, that we must be the people who call out domestic violence, who challenge domestic violence, who raise awareness of domestic violence.”



All-Ireland Diocesan Roundup:

Armagh:

- 100 members joined in a 16 Days Breakfast; Speaker: The Christian Police Association NI;
- In attendance: The Archbishop of Armagh, the Rt Rev John McDowell;

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory:



- **Global Day of Action**, St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. Nine members led a visual symbolic 3 mins silence. Canon Ian Cruickshank (MU Chaplain); In attendance: Bishop Michael Burrows
- Day 1 and Day 16: Zoom services
- All-ireland Prayer Diary entry shared on Facebook each day
- DP invited to speak on Kilkenny Local Radio
- Kilkenny People ran an article and invited donations for the local refuge
- A follow up article appeared in the Diocesan magazine. Questions posed in this article were replied to anonymously by a member – now available on CFO MU website

Clogher:



- Global Day of Action: St. Patrick's Church, Monaghan
Speaker: Siobhán McKenna, Tearmann; Reflection: Revd Elaine Dunn
- Global Day of Action: St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen;
Reflection: Rt Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher
- Speaker: Kerrie from Women's Aid. In attendance: Deborah Erskine, MLA, who visited Fermanagh WA afterwards
- 16 Days prayers uploaded on facebook each day
- Domestic Abuse posters and 16 Days prayer books were forwarded to all parishes, Councillors. MLAs and TDs based in Clogher diocese.



Connor:

- Global Day of Action: All Saints Parish Church, Eglantine; Reflection: In attendance: Bishop George and Mrs Davison
- Branches were encouraged to use worship materials and MU members led prayers at church services throughout the 16 Days.

Cork, Cloyne & Ross



- All events were online and shared via zoom or Facebook
- DP conducted an interview with Sean Ahern, Family Resource Centre, Middleton
- Zoom gathering on 9th December in place of a council meeting. As part of the evening. Presentation: Jacqui Armstrong
- One rector was on Zoom every day at 4pm and used the prayers from the 16 Days Prayer Diary which all clergy had received.
- Some items were donated to the refuges directly through CRITICALL as well as locally.
- 16 Days Prayer Diary entries were shared each day on FB, along with many other posts relating to GBV.

Derry & Raphoe:



- Global Day of Action: St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry-Londonderry;
In attendance: Mayor of Derry & Strabane Council; Alderman Graham Warke; Lord Lieutenant of Londonderry, Dr. Angela Garvey; Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster; Dean of Derry, Revd Raymond Stewart; Speakers: Edel Fox, Omagh Women's Aid; Marie Brown, Foyle Women's Aid; Mary McKenna and Jackie Irvine, Donegal Domestic Violence Services. Service led by Canon Katie McAteer, Diocesan Chaplain; Rev Lindsey Farrell, Inver; Rev Liz Fitzgerald, Drumragh MU.
- **NVision Diocesan Magazine** contained an interview with Mary McKenna, Donegal Domestic Violence Centre. NVision is published 4 times a year - the editor of nVision is to feature an article on Domestic Abuse in each issue for the remainder of 2021 and 2022.
- **16 Days Prayer Diary:** All Saints', Clooney requested 50 copies and invited MU to speak at their Sunday Praise service on the 5th December. CCCSMP requested 200 copies so that each household in the parish could read, meditate and be aware of the issues involved. Another parish requested extra copies, and another took 50 16 Days bookmarks
- **Domestic Abuse Poster:** forwarded to every clergyperson in the diocese through Diocesan Office
- **Schools Outreach:** It wasn't possible to host assemblies and workshops in schools. Schools were offered the MSH 16 Days Prayer Diary (550copies distributed in 5 secondary schools).

Down & Dromore:



- Global Day of Action: St Mark's Dundela;
Speaker: NI Justice Minister, Naomi Long; Reflection: Canon Helen Steed, rector of Dundela. In attendance: All-Ireland President, June Butler; Rt. Revd. David and Hilary McClay;
- **Refuge Support:** During Covid many bags of hand knitted adult and children's clothing, trauma teddies, bales of towels, bed linen and toiletries have been donated together with food vouchers. One refuge alone has received almost £700 worth of food vouchers. One secondary school collected money for WA and presented it to MU to pass on.

Dublin & Glendalough:

- The 16 Days of Activism Prayer Diary was the framework for the 2021 Campaign.
- The prayers and readings from it and the MSH Prayer Diary were used.
- A 16 Days of Daily Prayers & Reflections Programme was delivered by Mothers' Union Members from Dublin & Glendalough Diocese via Video on Facebook and Zoom.
- Domestic Abuse poster circulated to MU Branches for placing in Churches, Parish Centres.
- Zoom Meeting held on Day 3, The Global Day of Action. The invited speaker is Mary Kennedy, PhD candidate on the 'Impact of Domestic Violence on Children'.



- Independently, Kiltiernan Parish hosted a *Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition* for a week during the 16 Days
- **All-Ireland Trustees** hosted a 16 Days HC service from Christ Church Cathedral on Thursday 4th December. Speaker Kelley Bermingham, CRITICALL



Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

- Global Day of Action: St John's Cathedral Sligo; Speaker: Marie Casserly, Sligo County Councillor. The Service was well attended by public representatives and church leaders.

- 16 Days Service, including a 3 min global moment, Virginia Parish Church on 4th December. Speaker: Michael Loughman, Sleep Out,

Cavan. Charlotte Browne presented Michael Loughman with caps which she had knitted as part of the 21 in 21 Mums in May project.



Limerick & Killaloe

- Global Day of Action: St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick; small affair but very moving and visual. Reflection: Rev Canon Jane Galbraith. The Vigil was well advertised and live streamed to the diocese where it was viewed by the whole diocese.

Meath & Kildare

A Diocesan Mothers' Union online Service, to mark the Global Day – part of 16 Days of activism against Gender-Based Violence was led by Rev Ruth O'Kelly, diocesan chaplain. Members of the Mothers' Union from across Meath and Kildare took part.



Tuam, Killala & Achonry

- Global Day of Action: A Vigil took place outside St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway