

November 2021



The **16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence** is an international campaign, from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with others globally *to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.*

On 27<sup>th</sup> November on the Global Day of Action members around the world will step out of their comfort zones to support survivors.

We are each invited to wear a purple scarf and to host 3 minutes silence at 1:03 fitting in with our theme of #NOMORE1IN3.

MU has produced a set of resources specifically for its members and friends, which you are welcome to use and to encourage others to use.

Keep up to date at:

[Global Day 2021 \(Mothers' Union Responds to 16 Days of Activism\) | Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.org\)](#)  
[16 Days ... - All-Ireland Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.ie\)](#)

### How can I play my part?

1. Attend your diocesan Global Day Event - **#NOMORE1IN3** – on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November. See events list at [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)
2. Wear a **purple scarf** during the 16 Days of Activism. Use it to alert others to the extent of domestic abuse in Ireland.
3. Support your **local refuge** with items and vouchers
4. Use the **All-Ireland 16 Days Prayer Diary** to inform and reflect together as a group or as an individual.
5. Include **a prayer or a talk** in church services during the 16 Days of Activism
6. Support **Thursdays in Black** – your purple scarf will look stunning with it!
7. Watch out for an **Advocacy Campaign** in 2022 highlighting:
  - **Migrant Women** who have no recourse to public funds
  - The **implementation and resourcing of the Istanbul Treaty and Domestic Abuse Laws in full in each jurisdiction** – particularly in relation to REFUGE PROVISION and HOMELESSNESS.

In January 2019, inspired by the one hundred year anniversary of the Democratic Programme of the First Dáil on 21 January 1919 the Children's Rights Alliance along with the Irish Times launched the No Child 2020 campaign. ***As a member of the Children's Rights Alliance, Mothers' Union fully support the campaign to improve the lives of children throughout Ireland.*** The campaign had 5 main goals based on the promises made in 1919.

### **1. No child should be hungry**

*The long-term goal*

Every child will have a hot, nutritious meal every day. .

### **2. No child should be homeless**

*The long-term goal*

Home should be a warm, secure, and safe place for all children.

### **3. No child shall be without timely, affordable healthcare**

*The long-term goal*

Every child will have access to basic healthcare when they need it.

### **4. No child should be blocked from having an education**

*The long-term goal*

The Constitution requires the State to provide for free primary education.

### **5. No child should be excluded from culture and sport**

*The long-term goal*

Every child will have the opportunity to take part in community-based arts and cultural activities.

In its 2022 [pre-budget submission, the Children's Rights Alliance](#) has called on the Government to:

- Equip the Government to roll out national and local programmes to address child poverty stemming from the pandemic.
- Help families keep their heads above water by targeting social welfare increases towards children in families experiencing the most disadvantage.
- Provide increased funding for Tusla, youth work services and mental health supports in order to address the increased demand for interventions due to the impact of the pandemic.
- Stop a generation of children falling between the cracks by providing increased funding for schools given the exacerbation of educational disadvantage due to the pandemic; and,
- Deal with the explosion of images of child abuse online by committing additional resources to the Garda National Protection Services Bureau to investigate and prosecute profiteers that want to harm children.



Bishop Pat Storey, Chair of **MindMattersCol**, a Church of Ireland project, promoting matters around good mental health, recorded a message calling for mental health champions on World Mental Health Day (10<sup>th</sup> October).

In the video Bishop Pat shares what we have told Mind Matters through research carried out in 2021, and how we can take action to make mental health better going forward.

*The main findings include:*

- Faith, connections, community and friendship are important to us
- Prayer and faith identified as excellent supports to good mental health
- Stigma around the issues involved still remains a major challenge,

The Church is now preparing to take practical steps to improve and support mental health literacy. Training will be coming our way and local initiatives will be able to apply for seed funding.

***Let's get our thinking caps on and support his excellent initiative!***

Check out the video below to find out more and to read the story in full, just click here:

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/.../mental-health...>

<https://youtu.be/xtH4p9j-Bu0>



**Parenting Week** is a celebration of the important role parents play in their children's lives. The week takes place every October; in 2021 Parenting Week will be from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

As well as celebrating the amazing and often difficult job parents do, the week gives us as an organisation an opportunity to focus on issues affecting parents and to highlight the support available.

Parenting NI has a vision of a future where parenting is highly valued and so we believe it's important to take Parenting Week to recognise the important role parents have to play in children's lives and highlight the amazing job they do every day.

[www.parentingni.org/parents/parenting-week/](http://www.parentingni.org/parents/parenting-week/)

[#ParentingWeek](https://twitter.com/ParentingWeek)



The Fairtrade Foundation support holding businesses and public bodies accountable for tackling modern slavery.

**Modern slavery is an overarching term used to describe its various forms:**

**Human trafficking** is a process of bringing a person into a situation of exploitation through a series of actions, including deceptive recruitment and coercion.

**Forced labour** is any work or services which people are not doing voluntarily and which is exacted under a threat of some form of punishment.

**Bonded labour** is demanded as a means of repayment of a debt or a loan.

**Slavery** is a situation where a person exercises (perceived) power of ownership over another person.

**Modern slavery** is found at many workplaces – on farms, in factories, private homes and in ancillary services.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>  
[Modern slavery | Ethical Trading Initiative](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/modern-slavery)  
[\(ethicaltrade.org\)](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/)



**Buy Fairtrade  
Buy Ethical**

[https://mueshop.org/product-category/mu-products/ethical\\_gifts/](https://mueshop.org/product-category/mu-products/ethical_gifts/)

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>



## **Bust the MYTHS surrounding RAPE and SEXUAL ABUSE**

A Northern Ireland survey has been launched to seek views on which rape and sexual offences myths are most prevalent in our society and therefore which ones should be prioritised for challenge.

The [survey \(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#) is running for 10 weeks, from 6 September to 15 November 2021.

*Have your say! Act today!*

## **Useful Dates for your Diary**



### **October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – World Mental Health Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> – World Food Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Child Poverty Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – National Parenting Week
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Anti Slavery Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Summer Time ends!

### **November – Men’s Health Awareness Month; 16 Days of Activism begins**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – International Stress Awareness Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Sunday
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Armistice Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Alcohol Awareness Week
- 13<sup>th</sup> – World Kindness Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Road Safety Week
- 25<sup>th</sup> – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 29<sup>th</sup> – International Women Human Rights Defenders Day