

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2026

Campaign Overview

1. Campaign Background

Since 1991, the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** campaign has united movements, activists, organizations, communities and allies to challenge violence against women and girls and advance equality and safety. Since 2004, the GBV Prevention Network has supported members to join the campaign and amplified collective VAW prevention action across the region.

In **2026**, violence against women (VAW) prevention work continues amid shrinking civic space, toxic online spaces, misinformation, anti-rights narratives, restrictive funding, and growing pressure on movements. Even in this difficult environment, women-rights organizations, activists, survivors, and communities continue to organize, adapt and create change.

Against this backdrop, the campaign calls on us to **renew our collective power** by strengthening solidarity, care, innovation and action to prevent VAW and **shape the future: free from violence, fear and discrimination.**

2. Campaign Theme 2026

Renewing Our Power: Collective Action to Prevent Violence Against Women"

Slogan: Empower. Act. Shape the Future.

16 DAYS

GBV PREVENTION NETWORK

UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The 2026 theme recognizes that **VAW is rooted in unequal power relations**. Prevention therefore requires more than responding after violence occurs; it demands sustained action to transform the norms, relationships, institutions and systems that enable violence and inequality.

As backlash challenges gender equality, restricts civic participation, weakens movements, and strains resources for prevention, renewing the collective power that drives change has become increasingly urgent.

Renewing our power means reconnecting with our purpose, knowledge, relationships, leadership, creativity, and collective strength. Prevention is sustained not by individuals working alone, but by communities, movements, organizations, and allies taking collective action.

The campaign therefore invites us to:

a. **Empower** ourselves and others by strengthening agency, leadership, knowledge and collective voice.

b. **Act** together to challenge harmful norms, unequal power relations, and rise against backlash.

c. **Shape the future** by unleashing creativity and bold imaginations, investing in feminist movements, prevention, care, solidarity and the conditions needed for lasting change.

3. Campaign Objectives

The 2026 campaign has three core objectives:

a. To inspire actions towards renewing our energies and power at individual, organizational, and collective levels.

b. To foster meaningful collaboration that centers VAW prevention efforts.

c. Ignite new ways of thinking, hope and courage to shape the future of VAW prevention efforts.

4. Core Campaign Message

Our power is collective, and our future is ours to shape. We renew our power through caring, organizing, resisting harmful norms, embracing innovation, and investing in strong, resilient movements. Together, we can anticipate emerging challenges, create new possibilities and shape a future in which women and girls live free from violence.

Empower. Act. Shape the Future.

5. How Partners Can Engage

The GBV Prevention Network members, media partners and allies can support the campaign by taking the following actions:

a. **Amplify collective voices:** Use the theme and slogan to elevate feminist, survivor and community voices, experiences, solutions and leadership.

b. **Mobilize collective action:** Creating spaces for dialogue, organizing and taking actions that challenge unequal power, harmful norms, and the systems that sustain VAW.

c. **Shape the future:** Use storytelling, media, innovation and emerging platforms to imagine and build a future were women and girls live free from violence.

d. **Strengthen movements and solidarity:** Build partnerships across organizations, generations, communities and countries while promoting collective care, safety and resilience.

e. **Invest in sustained prevention:** Advocate for the resources, leadership and long-term commitment needed to turn campaign momentum into lasting change.

6. Call to Action

For Individuals: Renew your power. Act Together.

i. Reflect and identify ways that restore your energy, hope and courage: take time to practice selfcare, reflect and engage in conversation with like-minded people to share ideas about the moment and the direction of prevention of VAW.

ii. Join action that challenges harmful norms, speak out against VAW, support survivors with dignity, and use your voice and platforms to strengthen solidarity and prevention.

For Communities: Organize, Care and Create Change

i. Create spaces where women and girls can participate and lead. Challenge practices that enable violence and build networks of care, accountability and collective action that sustain violence prevention beyond the 16 Days campaign.

For Organizations: Building resilience and shaping the future

i. Bring together staff and partners to explore how we can cultivate renewed collective power within our organizations and partnerships, strengthening our ability to respond effectively to the opportunities and challenges of this moment, and identify actionable steps.

For funders and policy makers: Create the Conditions for Prevention to Thrive

i. Invest in evidence-informed, community-led prevention; protect civic spaces; address the structural drivers of VAW; and meaningfully involve women-led and feminist organizations in shaping policies, systems and long-term solutions.

7. Join the 16 Days Campaign 2026

The 2026 edition of the 16 Days campaign is an invitation to **renew our power, strengthen our connections, and act together**. From **25 November to 10 December 2026**, let us use our collective voices, platforms, relationships, creativity and resources to advance prevention and build a future free from violence against women.

#RenewOurPower | #EmpowerActShapeTheFuture | #16DaysOfActivism