

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

What can you do to help?



ABOUT VAWG

VAWG is not a new concept, it is an historical issue seen throughout the decades in one form or another and remain ever present today. It is defined as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, Physical, sexual or Psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats Of such acts, coercion or deprivation of liberty. It is important to be clear and to reiterate what VAWG includes so that everyone working towards the elimination of VAWG understands what they are fighting for. VAWG includes Rape, domestic Violence, forced marriage, Honour based violence, FGM and sexual harassment. It is important to acknowledge that Men and Boys can also experience the same forms of Violence however, Victims are disproportionally women and perpetrators are disproportionally men.

CHANGES FOR A BETTER WAY OF LIFE

Over time changes to legislation support and empower women to make decisions about their own lives. These changes only work if people understand the purpose and intention of the new laws

1974

Women's Aid was formed
First organisation to fight for women's rights

2003

Female Genital Mutilation Act
included mandatory reporting of FGM and carries up to 14 years in prison.

1975

Sexual Discrimination Act
Addressed sexual discrimination in the workplace

2014

Claire's Law
police policy – request for information about your current or ex-partner's previous history of violence or abuse.

1976

Domestic Abuse and Matrimonial proceedings Act
Enabled Married women to stay in the property without their abuser.

2021

Domestic Abuse Act
Included Coercive control as a form of DA and acknowledged Children as victims of DA.

2003

Sexual Offences Act
Acknowledged that Rape in Marriage was still rape and made it a criminal offence.

WHAT CAN WE DO AS ORGANISATIONS?

Call out unacceptable behaviour in and out of the workplace – It is important for men to call out other men's behaviour and not let misogynistic and sexist comments continue to be deemed as 'banter'

Consider becoming White Ribbon accredited – By agreeing to become accredited you are agreeing to look at all your organisational policies and ensure that the language and actions within them are appropriately aligned to ended Male violence against women.

Most importantly - Share Resources

- Share with the group any funding available for work around VAWG & consider making joint applications.
- When you receive emails from other organisations about awareness campaigns, projects, programmes and training, forward them to all your contacts, you may not think these are professionally relevant but try to remember that many victims of Violence are professionals.
- Promote the Feelings of safety survey – Both Three Rivers and Watford have their own. The data collected can be used for funding bids.
- Use free resources like the Hollie Guard App to make residents feel safe and heard.



WHAT WE ARE DOING LOCALLY- PARTNERSHIP WORKING

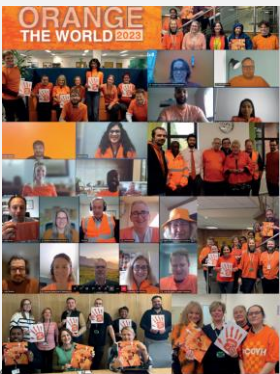
As a District we join forces with the other local authorities in Hertfordshire to present a united front for '**16 days of activism**'.



We raised the flag for White Ribbon



We raised money for Charity



We 'Orange the world' for international elimination of violence against women and Girl's day

- **Police led Female Self-defence classes.** – Free 6-week course open to all females in Rickmansworth.
- **Charity led Female self-defence classes** – Sisters for VAWG are running classes in South Oxhey.
- **Promoting the Chrysalis centre** at all Council led partnership meetings.
- **Engaging perpetrators in interventions** – Free full day training programme for female professionals in engaging and changing the behaviour of perpetrators of Domestic abuse and VAWG.
- **Walk with a Cop** - launched in Rickmansworth and Abbots – areas of vulnerability were highlighted by Echo surveys that were sent to residents of Three Rivers and a route was planned. SNT were joined by partners from the Council and members of the public to identify problems that lead to residents feeling unsafe
- **Increased foot Patrols** around nighttime economy and school start and finish times.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team stands incorporating VAWG** – supplying safety advice, leaflets and merchandise to increase feelings of safety.

SUMMARY

Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls will not happen overnight

We can only do our best, all efforts make a difference

If you are considering a project and don't have the resources on your own, ask for support from another partner.

Take part in important days of the year, 16 days of action, Orange the world and white ribbon day.

Share other partners information about VAWG, We need to protect our colleagues as well as out residents.

Share funding opportunities, everyone should have the same opportunities to bid for money to support their residents and deliver robust and sustainable support services.

**Lastly,
Violence against women and girls is everyone's business.**

Any Questions?

