16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2019

In 2019 we continue to demand that all girls and women are safe from harassment and physical violence in the streets because these are #OurStreetsToo.

We call on governments and leaders around the world to pass laws criminalising street harassment and call for action to ensure the safety of girls and women in the streets.

We recognise the reality that on a daily basis girls and women are experiencing harassment and violence when they are in the streets. This year we stand in solidarity with these girls and women. As a movement for any girl and every girl, we want to turn the spaces and places where we meet into safe spaces for girls and women to let them know #ImHereForHer.

Child safety disclaimer

This session may cause some participants discomfort. Sometimes discussions and activities surrounding child safety may be upset and cause emotional distress for some children. It is crucial that you prepare appropriately before beginning this session. If you are from an organisation that works with children and young people, familiarise yourself with your organisation’s child safety protection or safeguarding policies and know the correct procedures to follow in the case that a child chooses to disclose an incident of abuse during the session. If you are not part of an organisation you can find referrals to local support services in your country using this link: www.gbvhelpmap.crowdmap.com

Remind participants that they always have the right to say NO to things that make them feel uncomfortable, including any aspect of the following session. Remind the group that anything discussed during your session will be kept confidential, but do explain that if information is shared that requires action to protect the child, this information may be shared with people that can help to protect the child.
**Setting a safe space**

It is important that you create a space for children and young people to feel supported and comfortable to talk about their experiences, rights, gender equality and violence against girls and young women. It is important to have an agreed code of conduct that is supportive, sensitive and understanding of diversity and difference.

Here are some guidelines on how to create safe and supportive, equal and ethical spaces.

1. **FOLLOW YOUR CHILD PROTECTION POLICY IF YOU HAVE ONE.**

2. **DO NOT ACCEPT OR TOLERATE ANY ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOUR.**

3. **USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE** - Use clear communication and age-appropriate words to ensure that everyone understands you. Check in with the group to find out if they need extra explanation. Use gender-neutral language and be careful not to reinforce any gender stereotypes or use any discriminatory language.

4. **BE INCLUSIVE** - Remember to be inclusive of all types of gender identities and sexualities.

5. **RESPECT CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS BUT CHALLENGE HARMFUL ATTITUDES THAT SUPPORT VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN** - Be aware that changing attitudes takes time. It must be done sensitively and in partnership with the community.

6. Identify a space in the room away from the main session where participants can go if they are feeling overwhelmed or upset during the session. Monitor if any child goes to this space and talk to them more to see how they feeling and if they need additional help and support.

**Warm Up**

**Explain the following to participants:**

“This session is being run as part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) campaign for 16 Days of Activism 2019. WAGGGS is the largest movement in the world for any girl and every girl and we work with 10 million girls in 150 countries.

16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence runs from 25 November – 10 December each year. It is a time in the year when people around the world raise their voice and unite to call for an end to all forms of violence against girls and women. By participating in this session they are joining other girls and young women around the world that are reclaiming the streets.”

**WAGGGS materials available on website:**

Downloadable Placard
Downloadable stickers, t-shirts and pins
Activity 1: Walk the walk

To think about their own personal safety, line everybody up in two lines opposite each other with enough room between the lines for five people to walk down the middle. Take it in turns for each person to walk down the middle on their own. Ensure that no one says anything to that person as they are walking. Then ask people to walk down the middle in pairs. Then ask them to walk down the middle in small groups until the groups walking outnumber the participants in the two lines opposite each other.

Ask the group how they felt at each point. When did they feel most safe or unsafe? Explain that we all have a responsibility to promote and protect women's and girls' right to live a life free from violence and that we are using this year's 16 Days of Activism to think about what we can do in our communities to help women and girls feel safer.

Activity 2: Stand together

**Supplies needed:**
Orange pieces of string/ribbon/fabric enough for every participant.

Linking this activity with Activity 1, ask the girls when they felt safer, walking alone or walking together? Standing together and supporting each other, can be a start of a movement. Explain that 16 Days of Activism is a global movement of different organisations that want girls and women to be free from violence. For this year WAGGGS is focusing in standing together with women and creating more safe public spaces for girls and women.

To mark those safe spaces in their neighbourhoods girls will need orange pieces of string/ribbon/fabric.

Place all the orange ribbons on the floor on one side of the room. About 4 meters away (opposite from ribbons) ask the participants to form a line. If you have a large group you can split them into equal teams.

When you give the go ahead, the first player (A) in the line, runs towards the ribbon and picks one up. They then run back to their team waiting on the line. Next, player (A), holds the hand of the second in line player (B) and together they run towards the pile of ribbons and pick up one for the second player. Following this when players A and B run back to the line. They should not to break the chain (holding hands) whilst going back and forth.

Now, player (A) and (B) hold the hand of the third player (C) and run to the line to collect one ribbon. They then run back to their team.

The teams need to continue this relay until all the players are running together and every team member has a ribbon in their hand. They also need to be careful not to break the chain whilst going back and forth.

Once all participants have a ribbon in their hand and the relay is over, gather the group and explain that making streets safe for girls needs everyone’s help! So, we need to work together, as we did in the relay game to turn our meeting spaces and neighbourhoods into safe spaces for girls and women.
Activity 3: Create

Supplies needed:
- Placards
- Paper
- Pen
- Orange fabric, ribbon or other orange items

We want to create a safe spaces in our communities for women and girls and encourage our communities to think about the importance of keeping women and girls safe in the streets.

Participants will decorate the space outside of the place where they are meeting. If the meeting is taking place outside we will ask them to decorate the space they are already in.

To decorate:
- Orange is the official colour of 16 Days of Activism. Use orange fabric, ribbons and decorations to decorate the space.
- Download the placard and poster and put them up.
- Print and wear the stickers, t-shirt and take pictures standing outside in the streets.

Activity 4: On-going call to action

- Print our template letter asking for safer streets for girls and women and send it to the decision makers in your community that can take action to help. You can download the letter here: https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/stop-the-violence/16-days-activism/

- Sign our online petition calling for safe streets for girls and women around the world, you can access our petition here: https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/stop-the-violence/16-days-activism/

- Organise an action/event in the community to raise awareness about the issue of street harassment and invite decision makers to the event to tell them about what girls and women are experiencing and ask them to take action to improve street safety in your community.
Pictures and videos:

Please take lots of pictures and share them with WAGGGS

Explain to participants that these images will be shared with WAGGGS to add to the images we will be receiving from girls all over the world as part of the campaign. Tell participants that WAGGGS wants to share their images and videos with decision makers so that action is taken to improve the safety of girls and women in public spaces and places.

Once 16 Days kicks off on the 25 November we will be sharing the images online via WAGGGS social media platforms.

Photograph/ video your groups action of 16 Days and share it with WAGGGS. You can email images and videos to us for use on social media. Emails should be sent to:

stoptheviolence@wagggs.org

You can connect with us and send us pictures via:

facebook.com/wagggs
@wagggs_world
@wagggs_world

For more information on the 16 Days of Activism campaign, please visit:

www.wagggs.org/16-days

Consent:

Please seek consent before sharing images with us. By sharing images with us you consent for these images to be shared externally, on social media and on our website. Make sure girls are not taking pictures of each other and sharing them on social media or other channels without permission.

If you have any questions please contact Jean-Ann Ndow, Global Advocacy Lead at the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts via email:

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