

Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

User's Guide & Manual

"Violence against women and girls continues unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women's lives, on their families, and on society as a whole. Most societies prohibit such violence - yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up or tacitly condoned."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon,
8 March 2007



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign (PCWRC)

Introduction

On December 6, 1989 fourteen female students at the École Polytechnic in Montreal, Canada were systematically targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman. The events of that day highlighted the issue of men's violence against women. In response to the massacre three Canadian men decided that they had a responsibility to urge other men to speak out. In 1991 they founded the White Ribbon Campaign, which became the first organization of men to address this problem.

In the year 2000, Plymouth County continued to respond to the need to address violence against women in our own communities by initiating the White Ribbon Campaign. Founding members include the South Shore Women's Resource Center, Family & Community Resources (*formerly Brockton Family & Community Resources*), A New Day (*formerly Womansplace Crisis Center*) as well as the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and the Plymouth County Sheriff Department. For the last ten years the campaign has given men an opportunity to become active supporters in addressing violence against women. Events have been held at schools, town meetings, town parades, sporting events and local hospitals.

The White Ribbon Campaign continues to offer a forum for men to speak out against violence against women. For too long, only women's voices were heard challenging violence against women but the truth is men's violence against women will not change until men decide to work to end it. Through the campaign, men have the opportunity to create change by no longer remaining silent and becoming active supporters in this effort. Taking the pledge and wearing the white ribbon expresses their commitment to setting an example and playing an important role in transforming the social norms that perpetuate and make excuses for gender violence. The white ribbon is a powerful symbol. It represents the challenge to everyone to think about their own beliefs, language, and actions.

This manual was created to organize the many details involved with sponsoring or hosting White Ribbon Campaign events. The intent of this manual is to assist the core members of the PCWRC in our own events and to assist interested community members/agencies/groups with all aspects of the White Ribbon Campaign and accompanying events.

Disclaimer

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We ask that the following footnote be included on all the materials:

**"Produced by the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign, Massachusetts;
wrc.plymouth@gmail.com"**



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign (PCWRC)

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Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

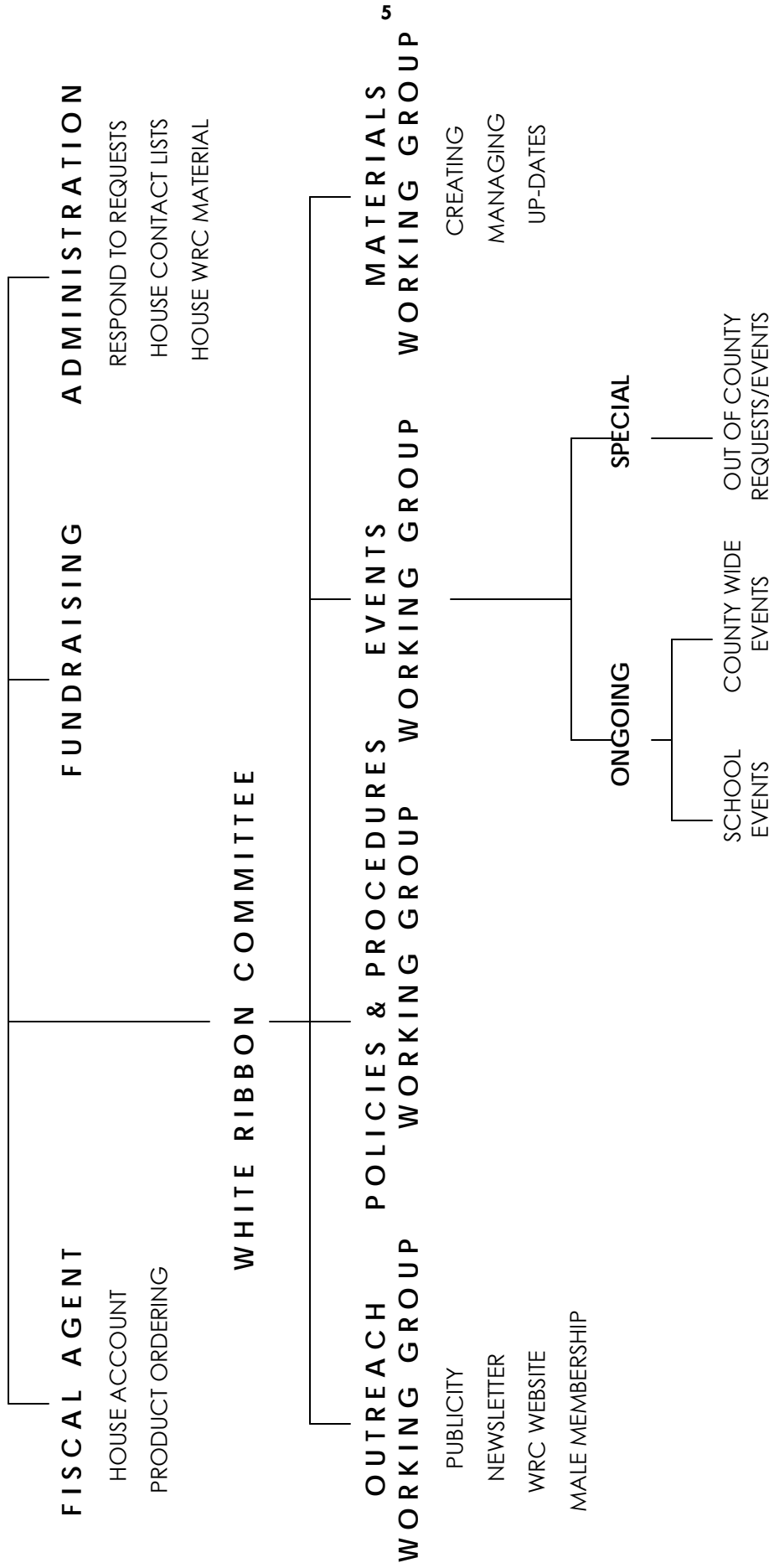
Section 1: WRC Guidelines and Protocols

This section of the manual is intended to assist the core members of the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign (PCWRC) in the internal workings of our collaborative.

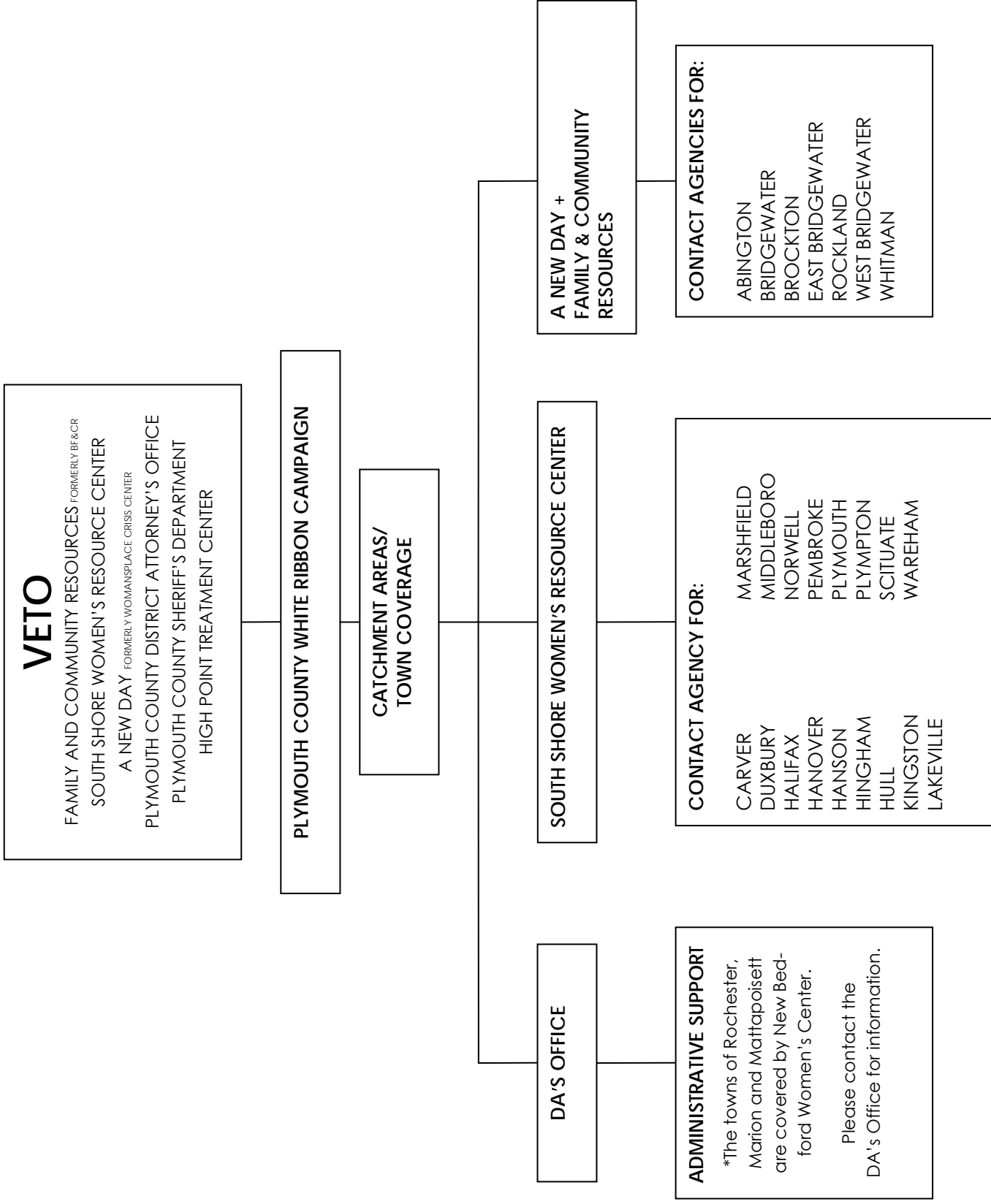
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VETO *

PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



* VETO is a Plymouth County collaborative whose members include Family & Community Resources formerly Brockton Family & Community Resources, Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, South Shore Women's Resource Center, A New Day formerly Womansplace Crisis Center





Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Event Point Person

Guidelines

Requirement:

- Working knowledge of WRC and violence against women issues required

Responsibilities:

- Promote event in community
- Contact and follow up with potential host organizations and individuals
- Meet with potential host organizations and other interested parties
- Provide host organization with appropriate information and referrals
- Discuss banner options, i.e. design, cost, alternatives, funding options
- Discuss supply of pins, i.e. cost
- Facilitate design of banner if necessary
- Facilitate purchase of banner and pins if necessary
- Coordinate handouts, programs and other material
- Contact appropriate agencies
- Coordinate co-facilitators
- Coordinate speakers
 - * Screen for working knowledge of WRC and violence against women
 - * Confirm date 2 weeks prior to event
 - * If speaker does not confirm a different speaker may be contacted
- Coordinate guests
- Coordinate press coverage
- Coordinate agenda, time etc
- Meet and prepare with key participants
- Confer with PCWRC whenever necessary

Host organizations may want to tailor the process to their situation. We encourage new ideas and accommodate requests as long as they do not compromise the principles of the White Ribbon Campaign. Contact WRC Committee for input.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Event Co-Facilitator

Guidelines

Requirements:

- Identified by WRC Event Point Person
- Female/Male team strongly recommended
- Working knowledge of WRC and violence against women issues

Responsibilities:

- Communicate with WRC event point person to coordinate various aspects of the event
- Confirm at least two weeks prior to scheduled event.
If co-facilitator does not confirm in a timely manner an alternate person may have to be contacted
- Arrive at least ½ hour prior to event to allow for introductions, coordination with other participants, contact with press, networking, etc
- Share introduction of speakers and guests – as determined by point person
- Address historical aspects of violence against women issues, including, domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, exploitation etc
- Share wrap-up time – as determined by point person

The co-facilitators' responsibilities do not include the sharing of a personal/survivor story. Although a co-facilitator may be approached to also be a featured speaker, it is a separate responsibility.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Event Speaker Guidelines

Requirements:

- Identified by WRC Event Point Person
- Speaker's personal story must be reviewed and approved by WRC event point person before event

Responsibilities:

- Communicate with WRC event point person to coordinate date and times
- Confirm at least two weeks prior to scheduled event.
If speaker does not confirm an alternate speaker may have to be contacted
- Arrive at least ½ hour prior to event to allow for introductions, coordination with other participants, contact with press, networking, etc.
- Stay within allotted time frame.
Please be aware that on occasion the established time frame may have to be adjusted

The speaker's responsibilities do not include the co-facilitation of the event. Although a speaker may be approached to also act as a co-facilitator, it is a separate responsibility.

* Availability to answer questions will be appreciated but is not required

** Requests for anonymity will be honored



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Identifying Lead Organization

Policy

- ◆ The lead organization for a Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign event is the domestic violence service organization covering the specific area.
- ◆ The lead organization will contact/coordinate with other agencies/organizations as needed.
- ◆ If a VETO member agency/organization is not the domestic violence lead agency for that area, but has a special arrangement and/or contract with an organization requesting an event, member agencies will discuss options and identify a solution to accommodate the particular situation.

Identifying Fiscal Agent

Policy

- ◆ When a fiscal agent is needed, interested VETO member will be identified and a vote will be taken to determine a new fiscal agent.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Public Inquiries and Requests

Policy

- ◆ Administrative agent is the District Attorney's Office.
- ◆ The administrative agent will respond to public requests via phone, email or mailing out printed information.
- ◆ Town specific requests will go to the appropriate domestic violence agency who will follow up in a timely manner.
- ◆ All other requests will be handled by the administrative agent and the WRC working group.
- ◆ Administrative agent will keep mailing list and is responsible for maintaining that list.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

County-wide Events

Policy

- ◆ External or internal idea will be presented to VETO
- ◆ Project idea will be approved or disapproved
- ◆ Event working group will identify project manager
- ◆ Group will work together until project is complete



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Speaker Requests from Outside of Plymouth County

Policy

- ◆ Working Group will establish speaker pool of people interested and willing to speak at White Ribbon Campaign Events.
- ◆ Requests will be forwarded to WRC administrative person at the District Attorney's Office.
- ◆ Admin person will disseminate request information to White Ribbon Campaign committee.
- ◆ The committee will review information and if appropriate extend request to speakers.
- ◆ Speakers will be instructed to reply to the admin person or a designated person.
- ◆ If multiple speakers respond to a request, the WRC Committee will make a decision based on events, frequency of speaking engagements, audience, knowledge of White Ribbon Campaign and violence against women.
- ◆ If scheduling speakers is time sensitive, information will be exchanged via email.
- ◆ Speaker will contact the requesting organization to get the details and make arrangements for the engagement.
- ◆ Any honorary or monetary reimbursement goes to the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign account.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Section 2: Event Planning Material For Internal Use

This section of the manual is intended to assist the PCWRC event point person in the planning of any White Ribbon Campaign event (school-based or not). These materials are not intended to be shared directly with the organization hosting event.

- PCWRC Internal Contact Information
- Event Planning Chronological Check List
- White Ribbon Campaign Banner Details
- White Ribbon Campaign Pins Details
- Sample Invitation Letter
- Sample Pin Cards:
 - * Business card size
 - * Post card size - with resource info
- Talking Points



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

PCWRC Internal Contact Information

August 2010

¹ WRC Admin person:

Tamara (Spinney) Dzialo, Domestic Violence Coordinator
 Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
 Tel. 508-894-6312
tamara.dzialo@state.ma.us

² Victim Services Agencies' WRC contacts:

· Family & Community Resources *formerly Brockton Family & Community Resources*
 Susan Tower, Civilian Police Advocate
 Tel. 508-583-5200
susan.tower@bfcrinc.org

· South Shore Women's Resource Center
 Marianne Shean, Coordinator of Community-based Services/
 Civilian Domestic Violence Advocate
 Tel. 508-746-2664 / Cell 781-738-3115
marianne.sswrc@hptc.org

· A New Day *formerly Womansplace Crisis Center*
 Terri Maxfield, Community-based Advocate
 Tel. 508-588-2045 x 23
tmaxfield@healthimperatives.org

³ District Attorney's Office contact:

Tamara (Spinney) Dzialo, Domestic Violence Coordinator
 Tel. 508-894-6312
tamara.dzialo@state.ma.us

⁴ Sheriff's Department contacts: *(please e-mail both contacts)*

Liisa Budge-Johnson, Community Outreach Coordinator
 Tel. 508-732-1852
lbjohnson@pcsdma.org

Paul Chiano, Director of Programs
 Tel. 508-830-6282
pchiano@pcsdma.org



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

WRC Event Planning Chronological Checklist

Every event is different. This checklist/timeline is in roughly chronological order. Please use it as a guide for any Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign (PCWRC) Event.

When	Task	Responsible	Status	Details
As soon as call/request comes in	1. Notify WRC admin person ¹ 2. Notify other involved agencies ²	WRC point person		Info for admin/other agencies: Date of call: Name of entity: Contact person:
	Schedule informational meeting with event host	WRC point person		Date of meeting: Time: Place:
At meeting	1. Introduction to PCWRC 2. Identify host point person 3. Set tentative date	WRC point person Event host		PCWRC material handed out. Host point person:
After meeting	Notify WRC admin person ¹	WRC point person		Tentative Date: Host point person:
1 – 2 weeks after meeting	Call event host · Confirm date/time · Confirm space · Provide additional info · Schedule planning meeting	WRC point person Host point person		Final event date: Time: Place: Planning meeting date:
After meeting	Notify WRC admin person and other involved agencies	WRC point person		Provide final date, time and place
At planning meeting	Hand out: · WRC packet · WRC event checklist	WRC point person Host point person		PCWRC handed out Checklist handed out
	Discuss structure of event	WRC point person Host point person		If school event follow school event outline.

	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Regular speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victim service provider ○ DA ○ Sheriff ○ Survivor 	WRC point person		
	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Additional speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Host rep ○ Police rep ○ Students ○ Other · Who will contact speakers? 	WRC point person Host point person		Speakers' names/contact info: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5
	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sponsors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify ○ Define role · Who will contact sponsors? 	WRC point person Host point person		Sponsors' names/contact info:
	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Politicians ○ School admin ○ Press ○ Other · Who will invite the guests? 	WRC point person Host point person		Guests names/contact info:
	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Banners – options, cost · Pins – options, cost · Handouts – options, cost · Funding options 	WRC point person Host point person		Follow WRC process of ordering banners, pins, etc.
After meeting	Notify WRC admin person ¹ and other involved agencies ²	WRC point person		Provide any new information
	Contact PCWRC co-chairs DA's office ³ Sheriff's Department (PCSD) ⁴	WRC point person		Provide DA contact person with date and time of event ³ Provide PCSD contact person with date and time of event) ⁴

	Contact survivor	WRC point person		Provide Survivor with date and time of event
	Contact others involved	WRC point person Host point person		Provide appropriate contact persons with date and time of event
	Order banner	WRC point person		See banner information
	Order pins	WRC point person		See pin information
1 month before event	Follow up with all involved	WRC point person		Use appropriate contact method. Ask for commitment
2 weeks before event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Follow up with all who did not commit. · If no commitment, advise of need to secure alternate speaker. · If necessary contact alternate speaker. 	WRC point person		Use appropriate contact method. Ask for commitment
Day before event	Follow up with all involved	WRC point person		Use appropriate contact method.
Day of event	Arrive early	WRC point person Host point person All speakers, guests etc.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Banner ○ Pins ○ Camera ○ Handouts ○ Markers ○ Other 	WRC point person		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Check all necessary equipment 	WRC point person Host point person		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Talk to all participants · Establish final order of speakers · Expect the unexpected 	WRC point person Host point person		



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Campaign Banner Details

Option 1: Utilize existing Plymouth County WRC banner

- o No cost
- o Can stay on display at event location for an agreed upon time
- o Notify DA's office contact¹ to bring the banner
- o Retrieve banner after agreed upon time

Option 2: Purchase a new banner

- o PCWRC point person will facilitate the ordering process and pick-up
- o Cost:
 - Starts around \$120 (as of February 2009) depending on size
 - Has to be paid by event host
 - If shipping is requested allow additional cost and time
- o Supplier – has template of PCWRC banners. Allow 1 - 2 weeks (may be sooner)
 - * for supplier contact information – see Section 5 Suppliers
- o Funding options, i.e.:
 - Police association
 - PTO/PTA
 - Rotary/Lions/Kiwanis Clubs
 - SADD, MADD
- o Banner Design:
 - Mandatory elements -
 - Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
 - PCWRC Logo
 - Pledge
 - Optional elements – *have to be approved by PCWRC*
 - Name of event host
 - Take the pledge
 - Additional logos
 - Other design elements



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Campaign Pins Details

White Ribbon Campaign pins will be handed out to male students and faculty after pledge.

Option 1: School will provide ribbons

- o Buy own ribbons
 - May be personalized (i.e. name of school, date of event, etc.)
 - Contact information for suppliers provided upon request (see Section 5 Suppliers)

Option 2: Students create white ribbon pins

- o Can be a school-wide project
- o Low cost
- o Material needed: White ribbon, cut in sections, pins

Option 3: Ribbons provided by Plymouth County WRC (white plastic pins)

- o Cost:
 - Cost to Plymouth County WRC
 - Contributions to off-set the cost are appreciated.
- o Supplier:
 - Bulk of ribbons are housed at South Shore Women's Resource Center
 - Every participating agency will receive ribbons to be stored at their site
 - Contact SSWRC White Ribbon point person for additional ribbon
 - When ribbons run low SSWRC will order new ribbon
 - SSWRC will be reimbursed out of WRC account

Sample Invitation Letter

May be put on organization/school letter head or WRC letterhead

Signature has to match letterhead

Dear NAME,

On behalf of ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL we would like to invite you to attend the White Ribbon Campaign event in TOWN. The purpose of this event is to encourage men to work against men's violence against women. It is the largest effort in the world to this cause. On DATE at TIME, the campaign will come to ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL. Please join NAMES OF PRESENTERS, PARTICIPANTS etc and others to show your support to the students in your community.

Violence against women and girls takes many forms including date rape, physical assault, sexual assault, psychological abuse and emotional abuse, and not to forget the school shootings in Pennsylvania and Colorado, where girls were systematically singled out by male gunmen. But it also includes the horrific crimes women experience all over the world. Millions of women are sexually exploited and sold into prostitution. Female infants are killed because boys are more desirable. Women have to endure female genital mutilation and get killed for premarital sex even if it was rape.


But not all violence against women leaves visible scars like horrible bruises or broken bones. It also includes a variety of things we see and hear almost every day and often don't even notice: demeaning sexist jokes, domineering or controlling behavior and unwanted sexual advances.

Those who have studied violence against women have learned several important facts that we should be aware of: First violence against women is everywhere. Every nine seconds a woman is beaten by her partner in the US. Virtually all women will be sexually harassed or subjected to domineering behavior at some point in their lives. Second, in most cases violence against women is not committed by strangers. Most women who are physically assaulted know their attacker. Violence against women is often committed by boyfriends, dates, husbands, employers and so on. Lastly, violence against women is largely about control, domination and a lack of human respect.

Male members of the ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL community will be encouraged to stand in support of all women in community. Their pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women will send a strong signal that this behavior will not be tolerated in our ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL.

Please let me know if you can attend. I am looking forward to seeing you at the ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL.


Sincerely,



"I pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women."

Today I take this pledge and wear this white ribbon to express my commitment to helping create a future without violence against women.


CREATED BY THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN
& _____



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CREATED BY THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN
& _____



**WHITE RIBBON
CAMPAIGN**

Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

"I pledge never to commit, condone,
or remain silent about
violence against women."

Originally founded in Canada following the 1989
massacre of 14 young women a handful of men
recognized that as men, they have a responsibility
to urge other men to speak out against men's
violence against women. These men organized the
White Ribbon Campaign to ask men to take the
pledge, wear a small white ribbon as a symbol of
men's opposition to men's violence against women,
and to enter into a dialogue about men's violence
against women.

Please wear this ribbon as
a sign of your support

- Card front -

While we are concerned about all forms of violence, the central focus of this project is ending men's violence against women. This violence includes physical or emotional abuse, financial control, sexual harassment, or other domineering behavior. We do not think that men are naturally violent, but violence against women is a learned behavior that we as a society can help end. The vast majority of men are caring human beings who can no longer remain silent. The White Ribbon Campaign offers a constructive means for men to speak out against violence.

The Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign is sponsored by V.E.T.O. (Violence-free Education, Training, and Outreach), a collaborative to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Members include Family & Community Resources, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz, Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph McDonald, South Shore Women's Resource Center, A New Day, and HighPoint Treatment Center

**Local Services For Victims & Survivors of
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault**

Family and Community Resources *formerly Brockton Family & Community Resources*
(508) 583-6498 Domestic Violence Services for children, adolescents and adults
Services can be provided in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Cape Verdean Creole

South Shore Women's Resource Center
(888) 746-2664 24 hr Domestic Violence hotline
Services can be provided in English, German and Farsi

A New Day *formerly Womansplace Crisis Center*
(508) 588-2041 24 hr Domestic Violence hotline
(508) 588-8255 24 hr Sexual Assault hotline
Services can be provided in English, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian, and Portuguese

- Card back -



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Talking Points

White Ribbon Campaign:

- Through this campaign men have an opportunity to become active allies and supporters in the fight against violence against women.
- We believe the vast majority of men are caring human beings who can no longer remain silent. The White Ribbon Campaign offers a constructive means for men to speak out against this violence. The responsibility for the prevention of violence lies with all of us.
- While the White Ribbon Campaign is concerned with all forms of violence, this campaign deals specifically with men's violence against women because it is an important topic that deserves attention.
- Men can be victims of violence as well, but this particular campaign deals specifically with violence against women.

What we want.....

- * that men's violence against women becomes a men's issue
- * to set an example and spark a conversation by wearing the white ribbon
- * to create a climate where violence is not tolerated

Violence Against Women:

- Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse. It cuts across the boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography.
- It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crises. It has many manifestations — from the most universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence, trafficking in women and girls, to harmful traditional practices such as honor killings and other types of femicide.
- Globally, up to 6 out of every 10 women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- All of us have an obligation to protect women from violence, to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide justice and remedies to victims.
- Eliminating violence against women remains one of the most serious challenges of our time.

Important information to note:

- If you know someone who is being abused, talk to them about it in a caring manner and help them seek services.
- There are people out there to help. You can always speak to someone from one of the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs via their hotline, 24 hours a day, at no charge and anonymously.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Section 3: School Specific Event Materials *For Internal Use*

This section of the manual is intended to assist the PCWRC event point person in the planning of a school-based event. These materials are not intended to be shared with the school personnel.

- White Ribbon Campaign in Your School *Introductory letter to schools*
- Itemized Checklist For Event Point person
- School Event Material, Speakers, Invitees Check List
- School Event Materials and Supplies Options
- Activities:
 - * Sample Speaker Line-up and Agenda for Assembly Format
 - * Assembly Format Script with Speakers and Survivor Story
 - * Commit, Condone, Remain Silent - Interactive Student Game
- Student to Student Call to Action
- Sample Press Release
- Sample Citation
- Sample Certificate
- Assembly Format Program

PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



“I PLEDGE NEVER TO COMMIT, CONDONE, OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.”

CO-CHAIR

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ, *PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY*

CO-CHAIR

JOSEPH D. MCDONALD, JR., *PLYMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF*

THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN IN YOUR SCHOOL

This information has been put together to help your school participate in the effort to bring attention to the worldwide problem of violence against women. We hope that the facts and advice will encourage school staff and students to take the lead in organizing a campaign.

What is the goal of WRC? How is this accomplished?

The main goal of WRC is ending violence against women in all its forms. We accomplish this in several ways:

- Challenging everyone to speak out and to think about their own beliefs, language and actions.
- Educating young people, especially young men and boys, on the issue through the educational resources we provide.
- Raising public awareness of the issue.
- Working in partnership with women's organizations, the corporate sector, the media and other partners to create a future with no violence against women.
- Supporting White Ribbon Campaigns all around the state.

What does it mean to wear the white ribbon?

Wearing a white ribbon is a personal *pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls*. Wearing a white ribbon is a way of saying, "Our future has no violence against women."

How can you help?

We encourage you to support White Ribbon activities in your community and to help the Plymouth County WRC by holding an event in your school.

Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign Founding Members

Family and Community Resources *formerly BF&CR*
Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

High Point Treatment Center/
South Shore Women's Resource Center

Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
A New Day *formerly A New Day*

E-mail address: wrc.plymouth@gmail.com

You are thinking about holding a White Ribbon Campaign event in your school:

Your first step will be to contact your local domestic violence/sexual assault program. There is no single right way to organize a White Ribbon Campaign. However, it is important to work closely with your local domestic violence/sexual assault service provider. The point person has a lot of experience in this campaign and can provide access to updated information, appropriate speakers and guests, and assistance with the details.

Contact information for your point person:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

If you decide to host a WRC event the local WRC contact person will provide you with detailed information to make your event a memorable experience.

Event specific material may include the following:

- Facts on violence against women and girls
- List of materials and supplies needed, including suggested invitation list
- Sample event agenda
- Sample program booklet
- Press release samples
- Information on activities to support and enhance your WRC

When you start planning your White Ribbon Campaign you will have to decide what types of activities you would like to host and how many people you will need to help make your vision a reality. You and a few others will have to take a leadership role to ensure a successful event. It is always best if you can work together as a team.

One thing to remember is that the White Ribbon Campaign is aimed primarily at males and is organized primarily by males. Women have played an important role getting White Ribbon Campaign activities going, but ultimately it should be males who take responsibility for challenging the men around us.

School wide WRC events have been held in schools around the county since February 2000 and we can provide you with feedback from participants. You can also check information and pictures from past activities on the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign website at www.mass.gov/daplymouth/veto/ribbon.html

All of us at the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign are looking forward to hearing from you.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Itemized Checklist for Point Person

Meet with school officials

Responsible: WRC representative

- Introduction to WRC. Hand out packets.
- Follow-up 1 - 2 weeks after mtg.
- Set date
- Assign school point person (if different from WRC person)

Meet school point person

Responsible: WRC representative

- Hand out WRC packet
- Event checklist
- Start thinking of speakers, students...
- Discuss banner/pins (for details see "School Event Materials and Supplies")
- Sponsors (police, SADD, student groups, No Place for Hate...)
- Identify
- Define roles
- Develop timeline
- Follow-up at agreed upon intervals

Meet students, teachers, other school staff involved

Responsible: WRC representative

- Hand out WRC packet, including sample talking points (Section 3 Information for Schools)
- Discuss Responsibilities
- Follow-up at agreed upon intervals

Contact State Reps

Responsible: WRC representative, school administration, students - *tbd*

- Info on event - Background
- Invitation
- Responsible, what, where, when
- Ask for citation
 - Provide sample wording (Section 2)
 - Coordinate receipt of citation

Contact News Outlet Reps

Responsible: WRC representative, school administration, students - *tbd*

- Coordinate press release with school (Section 2)
- School will get approval if necessary
- Submit press release to news contacts

Contact co-facilitators

Responsible: WRC representative

- Info on event - Who, What, Where, When?
- Invitation
- If commitment –
 - Follow-up 2 weeks before event
 - Follow-up day before event
- If no commitment
 - Follow-up 1 month before event
 - Follow-up 2 weeks before event
 - Follow-up as necessary



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Contact DA's office

Responsible: WRC representative, DA's Office representative

- Info on event - Who, What, Where, When?
- Invitation
- If commitment –

- Follow-up 2 weeks before event

Follow-up day before event

- If no commitment
- Follow-up 1 month before event
- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up as necessary

Contact Sheriff's Department

Responsible: WRC representative, PCSD representative

- Info on event - Who, What, Where, When?
- Invitation
- If commitment –

- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up day before event

- If no commitment
- Follow-up 1 month before event
- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up as necessary

Chief of Police/school resource officer/police department representative

Responsible: WRC representative, school representative

- Info on event - Who, What, Where, When?
- Invitation
- If commitment –

- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up day before event

- If no commitment
- Follow-up 1 month before event
- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up as necessary

Survivor/Personal Story representative

Responsible: WRC representative, school representative

- Info on event - Who, What, Where, When?
- Invitation
- If commitment –

- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up day before event

- If no commitment
- Follow-up 1 month before event
- Follow-up 2 weeks before event
- Follow-up as necessary



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

School Event Materials, Speakers, Invitees Checklist

Banner

White and red "Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign" banner

- ◆ If purchase, consider
 - Design, i.e. name of town, sponsoring groups, etc.
 - cost
 - funding options
- ◆ No purchase
 - temporary use of Plymouth County WRC banner
 - point person will contact DA's Office to obtain Plymouth County banner
 - Display in visible place, i.e. raise at the back of stage or fasten to a table in the front of the stage

Equipment

podium and microphone*
 table toward the front of the stage for signing of banner*
 permanent markers*
 chairs on stage*
 white ribbons

Invitees

Politicians
 DA
 Sheriff
 Chief of Police or representative, school resource officers
 SADD, No Place for Hate, etc
 Town selectmen, rotary, business people, etc.*
 Superintendent*
 School Committee*
 Coaches*
 Teachers*
 Guidance Counselors*

Students

3 – 5 male students to participate in assembly*
 5 – 6 female students who hand the white ribbons to the people who signed the pledge*

Speakers - suggestions

Principal*
 Superintendent*
 Students*
 Facilitators
 Survivor
 Politicians
 DA
 Sheriff
 Police Chief, law enforcement, school resource officer
 Other people selected by group*

* indicates "Done by school or as determined by group"



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

School Event Materials and Supplies Options

Banners/Alternatives Forms of Pledge Signing

White Ribbon Campaign banners are hung up on the stage or in a visible place. If a school purchases a WRC banner they might use it for male students and faculty to sign after the pledge and display it in a common area in school.

Option 1: Utilize existing Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign banner

- o No cost
- o Can stay on display at event location for an agreed upon time
- o Usually cannot be used for signing
- o Has to be returned to PCWRC

Option 2: Purchase a new banner

- o Banner will become property of the school and can be used for students and faculty to sign after pledge
- o PCWRC point person will facilitate the ordering process
- o **Cost:**
 - starts around \$120 (as of February 2009) depending on size
 - has to be paid by event host (think about sponsors)
- o **Banner Design:**
 1. Mandatory elements
 - Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
 - PCWRC Logo
 - Pledge
 2. Optional elements – have to be approved by PCWRC
 - Name of event host
 - Take the pledge
 - Additional logos
 - Other design elements

Option 3: Use large white ribbon paper cut-outs

- o A signing after the pledge is desired but cost prohibits the purchase of a banner:
 - Large ribbon shapes can be cut out of paper and mounted on walls for signing.
 - After the event the ribbon cut-outs can be displayed in common areas.

Option 4: Pledge sheets

- o A signing after the pledge is desired but cost prohibits the purchase of a banner:
 - Pledge sheets can be provided to be signed after the pledge.
 - After the event, sheets can be displayed in common areas.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Pins

White Ribbon Campaign pins will be handed out to male students and faculty after the pledge.

Option 1: School will provide ribbons

- o Buy own ribbons
 - May be personalized (i.e. name of school, date of event, etc.)
 - Contact information for suppliers provided upon request
- o Students create white ribbon pins
 - Low cost
 - School wide project

Option 2: Ribbons can be provided by PCWRC

- o Cost to PCWRC
- o Contributions to off-set the cost are appreciated but not required.

Permanent Markers/Pens

Used to sign banner/ribbon cut-outs/pledge sheets

- o Need approximately 10 markers
- o Preferably supplied by school

Assembly Program

The program contains information on White Ribbon Campaign, presenters, guests and people who worked on the event, and will be handed out at the event.

- o PCWRC point person will complete the program.
- o School to provide names & titles of guests invited by school, school officials, & students
- o School will make appropriate amount of copies.

Equipment – to be supplied by school

- o Podium
- o Microphone
- o Table toward the front of the stage for signing of banner
- o Chairs on stage for presenters and guests

Other

As determined by planning group



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Sample Speaker Line-up/Agenda Assembly Format Event with Speakers and Survivor Story*

- ◆ Principal**
 - Very brief. Welcomes students and guests. Tells students that meeting deals with an important topic. Hands over assembly to the selected students.
- ◆ Students
 - Introduce themselves. Take turns talking about White Ribbon Campaign. Why it is important to students, that violence against women cannot be tolerated and that male students have to take a stand. Then introduce co-facilitators.
- ◆ Co-Facilitators
 - Talk about issue, history, WRC.... (see Talking Points)
 - Will lead through the assembly. Will introduce other speakers and call them to the podium.
- ◆ State Reps**
 - Will bring and read citations
- ◆ District Attorney
- ◆ Sheriff
- ◆ Chief of Police/police department representative**
- ◆ Personal/Survivor Story
 - A speaker (preferably male) will relay a personal experience with domestic violence.
 - When he is finished he will ask the 3 or 4 students back to the podium.
- ◆ Students
 - They will say a few words and ask that male audience members come up to sign the pledge.
- ◆ Male presenter
 - After the signing the Sheriff or the District Attorney will ask the students and the other men who are on stage to join him at the podium. He will ask all men in the audience to stand up and to raise their right hand and join in the pledge.
- ◆ Signing of pledge
 - As audience members leave they will receive a white ribbon as they go back to their seats
- ◆ Facilitators
 - Final remarks
- ◆ Students
 - Thank guests

* This is just a sample of how an event might proceed. The line-up might change depending on schools' specific requests and needs, as well as speaker's availability etc.

** May utilize Talking Points for Additional Participants. Additional information can be provided.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Assembly format event with Speakers and Survivor Story

Student Remarks 1st part

When: At the beginning, after Principal **Who:** Students **What:** Sample script for the students

Student 1:

Good morning and thank you for being here today. My name is _____ and I am a _____ here at _____ High School. I would like to begin today by giving you some statistics on violence against women. According to a study done in 2006, **at least 1 out of every 3 women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime - with the abuser usually someone known to her.** Violence against women is perhaps the most pervasive human rights violation that we know today, it devastates lives, fractures communities and stalls development.

Statistics paint a horrifying picture of the social and health consequences of violence against women. **For women age 15 to 44 years, violence is the major cause of death and disability.**

The United Nations General Assembly defines "violence against women" as *"any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women"* This type of violence targets a specific group with the victim's gender as the primary motive.

Violence against women takes many forms and is a global problem. Some of the forms include domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and other harmful traditional practices. If our generation doesn't speak out against these forms of violence, they will continue.

Student 2:

My name is _____ and I am a _____ here at _____ High School. I would like to talk to you about those different forms of violence against women just mentioned.

The 1st form I'd like to mention is **Domestic violence** (also known as partner violence, dating violence and family violence) is intentional behavior that causes physical and emotional harm; creates fear; prevents the victims from doing what she wants; forces the victim to do something she does not want to do.

Domestic violence can take many forms including verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. It can occur in the context of casual dating or serious long-term relationships.

Often a relationship doesn't start out violent but progresses over time. Abusive relationships can also have good times and bad times. That can make it hard for the victim to understand that the relationship they are in is an abusive one. Domestic violence can happen to anyone, either gender.

The 2nd form of violence against women is **Sexual Assault** which is any unwanted sexual contact that includes force or coercion, committed by a dating relationship, current partner, ex-partner or stranger. **In America, 1 in 5 women have experienced an attempted or completed rape.** More than 1/2 of all rapes of women happen before the age of 18.

The 3rd form I'd like to explain to you is **Stalking** which is a pattern of behavior that makes you feel afraid, nervous, harassed, or in danger. It is when someone repeatedly contacts you, follows you, sends you things, talks to you when you don't want them to, or threatens you. According to a study done in 1998, **1 in 12 women will be stalked at least once in their lifetime.** **78% of stalking victims are female** and 87% of the perpetrators are males.

The last form of violence that I will explain is Human Trafficking which is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people for the purpose of exploitation. It is estimated that 40,000 to 50,000 people are trafficked into the US each year. **Nearly 80% of trafficking victims are female.**

I'm going to let _____ tell you about some of the other forms of violence against women.

Student 3:

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a _____ here at _____ High School.

The first form of violence that I'm going to explain is Sexual Harassment which is harassment or unwelcome attention of a sexual nature. It is also considered a form of abuse and bullying. Forms of sexual harassment are unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

I also want to explain to you some of the other harmful traditional practices include honor killing, dowry murder, female infanticide, and female genital mutilation.

Honor killing is an ancient practice in which men kill female relatives in the name of family 'honor' for forced or suspected sexual activity outside marriage, even when they have been victims of rape.

Dowry murder is a brutal practice involving a woman being killed by her husband or in-laws because her family is unable to meet their demands of her dowry.

Female infanticide is defined as the killing of an infant by a relative because it is female. Infanticide has been practiced as a brutal method of family planning in societies where boy children are still valued above girls.

Female genital mutilation refers to several types of deeply-rooted traditional cutting operations performed on women and girls involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia. This is sometimes justified as a way to ensure chastity and purity. It is estimated that more than 130 million girls and women alive today have undergone this practice.

The forms of violence against women just described were just samples of the atrocities that women and girls endure simply because of their gender.

Student 4:

My name is _____ and I am a _____ here at _____ High School.

The White Ribbon Campaign was founded in Canada in 1991 as a response to the 1989 Montreal Massacre when a gun man shot and killed 14 college women that he targeted solely because of their gender.

The men the created this campaign decided that wearing a white ribbon would be a symbol of men's opposition to men's violence against women.

Since then the campaign has spread around the world and is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women.

We know that most men are not violent. We believe that the more men and boys take responsibility and expect responsibility from others, the faster violence against women and girls will come to an end.

We believe that all men have the roles and responsibilities in ending violence against women. Please don't stay silent and allow these things to continue.

Now I would now like to introduce _____ from _____ and _____ from _____.

- Hand it over to the Co-Facilitators -

Student Remarks 2nd part

When: After Personal/Survivor Story **Who:** Student 5

Student 5 or students who spoke before:

My name is _____ and I am a _____ at _____ High School.

We want everyone to know that you have the right to be treated with respect and to not be harmed physically or emotionally by another person. Violence and abuse are not acceptable in any relationship to anyone.

If you feel that you have been the victim of violence it is important to know that you are not alone, the abuse is not your fault, and that there are people that will support and help you through it.

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people between 10 and 19 years old. While this generation faces unprecedented threats to their health and well-being, we also represent an opportunity to put an end to centuries of entrenched gender discrimination and violence. We have the opportunity to change the future and make it one without violence against women.

We would now ask that all the male audience members as well any other males in the auditorium that would like to, please stand and join us in taking the pledge.

Male Co-Facilitator will ask the students to rise and take the pledge

Pledge:

"We pledge never to commit, condone or stay silent about violence against women".

Thank you for taking the pledge and we now ask each of you to come up here on stage and sign the banner and receive your white ribbon.

These remarks can be broken down into more than 5 parts if you have more male students that would like to speak



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Commit, Condone, or Remain Silent An Interactive Student Participation Game

Opening:

Introduction of all presenters and 'thank you' to school personnel

White Ribbon Campaign background:

On December 6, 1989 a terrible act of violence took place in Canada. A gunman walked onto a college campus and into several classrooms where he separated the women from the men and shot and killed 14 women. All of these women were engineering students and none of them knew their killer. This man felt that women were not worth as much as men and that all women were somehow taking over things that he felt men should be in control of. This terrible act of violence has been called the Montreal Massacre.

In response to the Montreal Massacre three men decided to create a campaign where their male voices would be heard. Right after the massacre, they had started working with their local women's shelters and realized that there wasn't anything out there that asked men to stand up and speak out. They felt that as men they had a role to play in changing these stereotypes and behaviors and they believed that there were other men out there that felt the same way. They were right, since they started the White Ribbon Campaign in 1991 it has grown to become the largest gender violence effort in the world and it is in over 50 different countries around the globe.

So why ask men & boys to help stop violence against women?

Two reasons:

1. Because all men have women in their lives that they care about.
2. Because men will listen to other men.

For many years women have worked to raise awareness and to put an end to this type of violence and made great strides. But much still needs to be done. We need to be united as human beings – we all need to stand together against this form of hatred.

Violence against anyone is unacceptable especially when the person is targeted because of a specific trait. This is why there are numerous anti-violence campaigns out there. There are campaigns to fight for those who are targeted because of their race, disability, sexual orientation, age....do you have to be part of this targeted group to be outraged? Do you have to be a woman to think that violence against them is wrong? **No you don't**, and that is why all of these anti-violence campaigns, just like the WRC, exist. To raise awareness and to work towards ending the violence.

So what is the campaign trying to do and why them?

The WRC is trying to end the violence but also change the social norms that allow this type of violence to continue. The feelings that the gunman had about women and the specific roles they must play were the building blocks to his hatred and violent massacre.

The premise of the campaign is straightforward: although most men will never commit acts of violence against women, men have traditionally been silent about the violence. Through that silence, violence was allowed to continue. When a male wears a white ribbon he is making a public pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. White Ribbon's basic philosophy is that while not all men are responsible for committing violence against women, all men and boys must take responsibility for helping end it.

We ask those men to join in the conversation and be part of changing the social norms and wear the ribbon. Displaying the white ribbon is both a personal and a collective statement that our future has no violence against women. White Ribbon Campaign is an act of collective caring and love for the women in our lives. We believe that our mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and friends should never have to live in fear of violence at the hands of men.

The WRC is strictly non-partisan and includes men from across the social, political, ethnic, and religious spectrum. Since its inception in 1991 it has grown to become the largest gender violence effort in the world and it has chapters in over 50 different countries around the globe.

We ask YOU young men:

- * to be aware of your words and actions and how they affect others
- * to be respectful in your relationships &
- * to not prescribe to those stereotypes which continue to put women in an inferior position

This campaign is about the positive change that men can have in this world.

California Story:

The presenter will read aloud this story and then explain how this story shows the role of bystanders and the importance of getting involved.

On October 16th in Richmond CA a 15 year old girl got ready to attend her high school homecoming dance. On school grounds, before she reached the front door a small group of students somehow intercepted her and led her away from the door to a more secluded spot on.

There, she was beaten and assaulted by several people for over 2 hours.

Inside hundreds of people including students, teachers, chaperones and a police officer were unaware of what was happening just outside the doors.

As time went by, a few people came across the situation and witnessed 1st hand what was happening. A few texted students who were inside at the dance.

Some students left the dance to go and see what was happening.

In time as many as 20 people watched as the girl was viciously assaulted. Some laughed. Some took photos. Others actually participated in the assault.

NO ONE INTERVENED

NO ONE RAN TO GET HELP

NO ONE CALLED 911

The victim was found later, under a bench, semi-conscious.

Discussion Questions & Explanation of Bystander Effect:

1. Do you think something like this could happen here at your school? Why? or why not?
2. Why do you think as many as 20 students watched what was happening, and not one of them intervened or went for help? Are they bad kids?
3. What are some reasons why someone may not have intervened or gone for help?

Brainstorm ideas- fear, retaliation, being ostracized socially, No Snitch theory etc...

4. What would be some ways that someone could have intervened SAFELY?

Brainstorm ideas- anonymous call to 911, tell a trusted adult, get a police officer from inside the dance to investigate etc...

Discuss briefly Bystander Effect:

If you are in a crowd and you see that everyone is doing nothing... then doing nothing becomes the norm.

- In this story, we have people who *committed* a terrible act of violence
- In this story we have people who *condoned* a terrible act of violence

Those students who texted the news to others and spread the word about what was happening, and told others to come and watch...were condoning the violence.

- In this story we have people who *remained silent* during a terrible act of violence.

Those students that remained silent were passive bystanders that allowed the violence to continue by not intervening.

Being an active bystander:

An active bystander takes steps that can make a difference.

Why does a bystander's response matter?

1. It matters to the person who is or may be harmed in the situation
2. It indicates to both persons where the larger community stands

We have all been bystanders in our lives, and we will all be in situations where we are bystanders in the future. The choice, then, becomes whether we are going to be active bystanders who speak up and say something, or whether we will be passive bystanders who stand by and say nothing.

We want to create a community (school, town, etc) where bystanders are actively engaged in preventing violence.

Which is worse...To Commit, To Condone or To Remain Silent?

Examples of possible answers:

- Commit because they did it?
- Condone because by there will always be those few people who do bad things, but when others look on and encourage that behavior you are giving permission and power for them to continue.
- Remain Silent because when an individual or a group remains silent you/they are sending a clear message that doing those things are OK and acceptable here.

What might have been different if even one person had the Courage to Change?

To be an active bystander and intervene safely or to call for help?

Examples of possible answers:

- The girl would not have suffered
- The boys would have been caught and punished
- Everyone would know the norm that this behavior was not appropriate

Are there things that happen at this school where people commit, condone or remain silent?

Examples of possible answers:

- Hearing rumors being spread that you know aren't true
- Bullying
- Fights/violence

The 'Bystander' Game:

Signs to be used:

"Commit"

"Condone"

"Remain Silent"

"Courage to Change"

How to play:

You need a few students to hold the signs and stand across the front of the stage. The students should stand in a straight line across the front of the stage with the signs progressing from left to right: beginning with "commit" followed by "condone", "remain silent" and ending with "courage to change". The students holding the signs will become a line of continuum.

Presenter will explain that the wording on the signs is taken for the White Ribbon Campaign pledge except for the "Courage to Change" sign which we are asking them to decide about after hearing each scenario.

Presenter will read each scenario (see 'Scenarios page') and ask under which 'sign' does that scenario fit into & why.

Encourage students to have different opinions and express them. There can be good discussion about where along the continuum different scenarios should be positioned and why.

End discussion of each scenario by asking students how the scenario might have been different if someone had "the Courage to Change" i.e. refused to remain silent, intervened safely, got help, told someone.

Wrap up the activity with a 'Call To Action' for the students to think about having the Courage to Change the next time they see something happening.

Call to Action:

Challenge students to actively do something differently as a result of what they have heard/experienced in this program.

Some examples of Calls to Action:

- Become an active bystander, the next time you see something happening that you know is not right... do something!
- Work with others to change the "norm" at your school. Send a clear message that bullying, spreading hurtful rumors, and other types of abuse are not welcome in this school.
- Create posters and other art work to hang around the school which send clear messages about not accepting abusive behavior.

White Ribbon Pledge:

Ask the male students (and staff members) to join in the White Ribbon Campaign pledge by standing, raising their right hand, and repeating after you (then read pledge).

Pledge: "I pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women"

Then explain that we would like to memorialize this day by having both the boys and girls write down their answers to a question we will pose to them on a white ribbon that can be hung up in the school.

Ribbons Project:

Supplies:

- Large white ribbon cut outs
 - Sharpies for students to use
- You can use a different color Sharpie for boys & girls to further separate their answers*

For this event we found it beneficial to separate the boys and girls by asking them to sit in different sections of the auditorium. We did this so that it would be easier for us to direct them on the question and collect the ribbons separately once complete.

At the end of the assembly we ask the boys and girls to answer the question we posed to them and write it on the white ribbon we've handed them.

Boys question: "What have you learned today regarding your role as a boy/bystander in society?"

Girls question: "How does it make you feel to see the boys in your school taking this pledge?"

The school personnel can then hang these ribbons on a wall in the school to show the students reaction to the presentation. It would be beneficial to hang the ribbons around the question so that everyone knows what the comments on the ribbons mean.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Students to Students Call to Action

This information is best used before the pledge

Now that we heard this information...

- ◆ We know that most men are not violent against women.
- ◆ We also know that the majority of men remain silent.
- ◆ We will no longer remain silent and encourage other male students to speak out about violence against women and girls.
- ◆ We believe, the more men and boys take responsibility and expect responsibility from others, the faster violence against women and girls will come to an end.
- ◆ We will not tolerate violence and will show solidarity with our female friends.
- ◆ We will take responsibility and will be part of the solution.
- ◆ We ask all of you now to please join us in the White Ribbon Campaign Pledge.

“I pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.”

Sample Press Release

[School Letterhead]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[School Name Here]

To host a [Event Name] as part of its White Ribbon Campaign Activities

[City/Town] [Date]

Students at [school name] will be [describe event] to officially launch a White Ribbon Campaign at the school.

At [time] [detail what will be taking place]. More than [number] students will be participating in the event. [school name] is located at [address].

[School name] is holding this event to create awareness among the student body about the issue of men's violence against women. "[Quote from student on your White Ribbon activities organizing committee about what participating in the White Ribbon Campaign means to him/her]," says [student name/ title].

[school name] will be joining numerous other schools in Plymouth County participating in the White Ribbon Campaign efforts this year. The event is supported by the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign which was created in the year 2000 to address the issue of violence against women. For the last nine years this campaign has given local men and boys an opportunity to become active supporters in this effort. Events have been held at schools, town meetings, sporting events and local hospitals. For more information on this local campaign visit: www.mass.gov/da/plymouth/veto/ribbon.html.

The White Ribbon Campaign was founded in 1991 by a group of men committed to ending men's violence against women through education, discussion, and action. The campaign was founded after fourteen female students were systematically targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman at the University of Montreal. Eighteen years later the initiative has grown into the largest effort in the world addressing gender violence. For more information on the international campaign visit: www.whiteribbon.ca

Media are invited to attend. Please sign in at the main office.

For more information, contact:

[Your name]	and/or	[Facilitator's name]
[his/her title]	i.e. Student, White Ribbon Committee Member	[his/her title]
[contact info]		[contact info]

YOUR NEWS RELEASE SHOULD:

Your news release should be delivered or faxed to your local media outlets at least a week prior to the event. For newspaper coverage, the release should be addressed to either a specific newspaper reporter who covers local issues, or to the city editor. For radio and television coverage, the release should be addressed to the news director.

Aside from your major local media, you might also consider faxing your release to your area's community or ethnic newspapers, your local city magazine, a local talk show host, your local cable television station, or even to a community group that produces a newsletter.

It is a very good idea to follow up your submission/fax with a phone call a day prior to the event. Just indicate who you are, where you are calling from, that you are calling about the event that will be taking place at said location, and ask whether any further information is required.

We would really appreciate receiving copies of any newspaper coverage you receive.

Sample Wording for Citation

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE SENATE

OFFICIAL CITATION

BE IT KNOWN, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO:

THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

OF: NAME OF SCHOOL

IN: NAME OF TOWN

IN RECOGNITION OF:

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY'S INITIATIVE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED
AGAINST WOMEN BY HOLDING A WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN EVENT **ON THIS DATE**

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED
SUCCESS WITH THIS EFFORT; THAT THIS CITATION BE DULY SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
AND ATTESTED TO AND A COPY THEREOF TRANSMITTED BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

IN HONOR OF YOUR OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN

Signature

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ,
PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY & CO-CHAIR OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Date

Signature

JOSEPH D. MCDONALD JR.,
PLYMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF & CO-CHAIR OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Date

Signature

Victim Service Provider signature here

Date

PRESENTED BY: THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

FOUNDING MEMBERS: FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES FORMERLY BF&CP, HIGHPOINT
TREATMENT CENTER, PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, PLYMOUTH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, SOUTH SHORE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER,
& A NEW DAY FORMERLY WOMANSPLACE CRISIS CENTER

PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

**“I PLEDGE NEVER TO COMMIT, CON-
DONE, OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”**



_____ **HIGH SCHOOL**
_____ **DATE**

**Remember that silence is affirming.
When we choose not to speak out against
men's violence, we are supporting it.**

To contact the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
email us at wrc.plymouth@gmail.com

The White Ribbon Campaign focuses on men's violence against women because it is an important social problem. It does not mean that this is the only type of violence that occurs or that other forms of violence are unimportant. It simply means that violence against women deserves attention.

Like other anti-violence campaigns, the WRC is motivated by the fundamental belief that all forms of violence are wrong. This campaign is compatible with, and would complement, other campaigns focused on violence against men or other specific forms of violence (such as child abuse, homophobic violence, and racist or sectarian violence).

Resources

Family & Community Resources *formerly BF&CR*
(508) 583-6498

South Shore Women's Resource Center
(508) 746-2664
24 hr domestic violence hotline (508) 746-2664

A New Day *formerly Womansplace Crisis Center*
(508) 588-2045
24 hr domestic violence hotline (508) 588-2041
24 hr sexual assault hotline (508) 588-8255

SafeLink
Statewide 24 hr domestic violence hotline
(877) 785-2020

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
24 hr dating violence hotline (866) 331-9474
Interactive website - www.loveisrespect.org

Program

Welcoming remarks by _____

Guest speaker presentation:

- Name, agency
- Name, agency
- Name, agency
- Name, agency

Pledge / Banner signing

Closing remarks by _____

Thank you to all of those who helped put this together.

Name, agency
Name, agency
Name, agency

In December 1989, fourteen female students were systematically targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman at the University of Montreal. Following this horrific event a group of Canadian men founded the White Ribbon Campaign in 1991. Seventeen years later the initiative has grown into the largest effort in the world addressing gender violence.

In the year 2000, Plymouth County responded to the need to address violence against women in our own communities and initiated the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign. The campaign encourages men and boys to play a vital role in constructing a healthier world, free of violence and founded on principles of equality and compassion. For the last eight years it has given men an opportunity to become active supporters in this effort.

Violence against women takes many forms and is a global problem. "At least 1 in every 3 women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime - with the abuser usually someone known to her.

Taking the pledge and wearing the white ribbon expresses men's commitment to setting an example and playing an important role in transforming the social norms that perpetuate and make excuses for gender violence.

For more information on the international campaign visit www.whiteribbon.com.

For more information on the statewide campaign visit www.ianedoe.org/involved/involved_whiteribbonday.htm.

For more information on the local campaign visit www.mass.gov/da/plymouth/veto/ribbon.html.

Parts of this project were supported by Grant #2007-WF-AX-0023 by the Violence Against Women Grants Office, U.S. Department of Justice to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. Points of view in this document are those of the authors



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Section 4: School Specific Event Materials For School Contacts

This section of the manual is complete with materials that can be shared freely with the host school.

- White Ribbon Campaign in Your School
- Options for Events
- After your White Ribbon Campaign Event
- Classroom Activities to Support and Enhance Your Event
- School Event Material and Supplies Options
- School Event Materials, Speakers and Invitees Checklist
- Sample Speaker Line-up for Assembly Format
- Discussion Questions

PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



"I PLEDGE NEVER TO COMMIT, CONDONE, OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN."

CO-CHAIR

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ, PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CO-CHAIR

JOSEPH D. MCDONALD, JR., PLYMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF

THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN IN YOUR SCHOOL

This information has been put together to help your school participate in the effort to bring attention to the worldwide problem of violence against women. We hope that the facts and advice will encourage school staff and students to take the lead in organizing a campaign.

What is the goal of WRC? How is this accomplished?

The main goal of WRC is ending violence against women in all its forms. We accomplish this in several ways:

- Challenging everyone to speak out and to think about their own beliefs, language and actions.
- Educating young people, especially young men and boys, on the issue through the educational resources we provide.
- Raising public awareness of the issue.
- Working in partnership with women's organizations, the corporate sector, the media and other partners to create a future with no violence against women.
- Supporting White Ribbon Campaigns all around the state.

What does it mean to wear the white ribbon?

Wearing a white ribbon is a personal *pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls*. Wearing a white ribbon is a way of saying, "Our future has no violence against women."

How can you help?

We encourage you to support White Ribbon activities in your community and to help the Plymouth County WRC by holding an event in your school.

Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign Founding Members

Family and Community Resources *formerly BF&CR*
Plymouth County Sheriff's Department

High Point Treatment Center
South Shore Women's Resource Center

Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
A New Day *formerly Womansplace Crisis Center*

You are thinking about holding a White Ribbon Campaign event in your school:

Your first step will be to contact your local domestic violence/sexual assault program. There is no single right way to organize a White Ribbon Campaign. However, it is important to work closely with your local domestic violence/sexual assault service provider. The point person has a lot of experience in this campaign and can provide access to updated information, appropriate speakers and guests, and assistance with the details.

Contact information for your point person:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

If you decide to host a WRC event the local WRC contact person will provide you with detailed information to make your event a memorable experience.

Event specific material may include the following:

- Facts on violence against women and girls
- List of materials and supplies needed, including suggested invitation list
- Sample event agenda
- Sample program booklet
- Press release samples
- Information on activities to support and enhance your WRC

When you start planning your White Ribbon Campaign you will have to decide what types of activities you would like to host and how many people you will need to help make your vision a reality. You and a few others will have to take a leadership role to ensure a successful event. It is always best if you can work together as a team.

One thing to remember is that the White Ribbon Campaign is aimed primarily at males and is organized primarily by males. Women have played an important role getting White Ribbon Campaign activities going, but ultimately it should be males who take responsibility for challenging the men around us.

School wide WRC events have been held in schools around the county since February 2000 and we can provide you with feedback from participants. You can also check information and pictures from past activities on the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign website at www.mass.gov/daplymouth/veto/ribbon.html

All of us at the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign are looking forward to hearing from you.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign in Your School

Options for Events

Thank you for bringing the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign to your school. Violence against women thrives upon silence and by bringing this campaign to your school you have taken the first step towards breaking the silence and raising awareness.

You may be asking, how you can incorporate this campaign into your current school curriculum.

The following is a list of activities that your school can implement to showcase the White Ribbon Campaign:

- ⇒ **Plan an Assembly:** If you have the time to devote to a White Ribbon Campaign assembly, you will not be disappointed. The Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign will help you every step of the way. We have scripts, timelines, and line ups to help make the event run smoothly. If you are interested in this type of event talk to your local White Ribbon Campaign representative and they will help you plan this event.

- ⇒ **Host an Awareness Day:** An awareness day or White Ribbon Day in your school is an easy way to educate your students about this campaign without having to schedule an assembly and figure out those logistics. During this type of event your school may distribute White Ribbon Campaign materials in a number of different ways. White ribbons can be placed on cards describing the campaign and its importance, and distributed to male students anytime throughout the day. Information about your school's White Ribbon Day may also be disseminated to your students through the morning announcements, during any type of school-wide news program, or through educational materials displayed around the school. This type of outreach can be tailored to your school in many ways and can include many different White Ribbon Campaign activities.

- ⇒ **Ask your existing school groups to take on this challenge:** Many high schools already have groups like S.A.D.D. or a sports team that would be willing to face the challenge of educating the school on this campaign. Getting a group of your active students to take this responsibility can help them grow into a leadership role in the school along with educating their peers on such an important topic. Your local White Ribbon Campaign representative would be happy to speak to these groups about the campaign and explore the options for a successful event.

- ⇒ **Create a White Ribbon Campaign Contest:** Another way to convey information about this campaign is to create a school-wide White Ribbon Campaign contest. It can be narrowed down to a specific type of expression, for example a poster contest where students must create a poster that best encompasses the meaning of the campaign (those posters can then be hung around the school for a period of time). Or you may leave the choice of the way of expression to the individual participants, for example some students may prefer to write a paper while others would rather create a piece of artwork to describe the campaign. Once the contest is over you may choose to reward the winner with extra credit or some other form of accolades.

- ⇒ **Participate in the Statewide White Ribbon Day:** Every year the state of Massachusetts celebrates and hosts the statewide 'White Ribbon Day' in February. Governor Deval Patrick is the chair of this important day and urges male Massachusetts residents to join him working to end violence against women. Many local schools take this opportunity to bring the campaign to their school and since it is in February and around Valentine's Day some have come up with unique ideas of how to incorporate the two. Some examples of this are sending 'white carnations' to the one you care for instead of the traditional pink or red (most schools host a carnation fundraiser where they distribute carnations – the white carnations come with a little note about the WRC) or sending out the Valentine's Day cards created by the statewide White Ribbon Day.

- ⇒ **Implement other supporting antiviolence events along with the WRC:** Refer to the form titled "Classroom Activities to Support and Enhance Your White Ribbon Campaign" for ideas on other ways to support the theme of antiviolence in your school. Creating an 'Antiviolence Week' in your school is a great way to incorporate the White Ribbon Campaign along with highlighting other forms of violence and oppression.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

After your White Ribbon Campaign Event

The students have now heard about the White Ribbon Campaign and learned about violence against women. What did they take away from it? How can you ensure that they will use this moment to effect positive change for themselves and their communities?

We realize that we can only fit so much information into a White Ribbon Campaign event. We feel that it is important to allow the students time to digest the information they just heard and have a conversation about the issue. There are a number of ways in which you can do this and we have provided you with documents to help you navigate this.

We have included for you discussion questions and educational material to help assist in classroom conversations as well as a document titled 'Classroom Activities To Support & Enhance Your White Ribbon Campaign' that suggests ways in which you can incorporate the principles into school activities, curriculum and the school environment in general.

Talking to the students about the role they can play in ending this type of violence might spark an interest and encourage them to become more aware of what is going on right around them. It might inspire them to be a positive role model and work toward a change in the world.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Classroom Activities to Support and Enhance Your White Ribbon Campaign

Where do we go from here?

Below is a list of interesting, fun and interactive classroom activities you can implement to continue the conversations about violence against women and to enrich and enhance your schools White Ribbon experience.

- ◆ Set the tone: What messages do the posters, artwork and pictures displayed in your school send? Display posters, banners and artwork that send clear messages that your school values respect, healthy relationships and equality and that violence of any sort will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Sponsor a door decorating contest! Divide students into small groups and assign each group a door to decorate. Encourage students to illustrate the messages teens hear and see about intimate relationships in the media, music, from parents and peers, to illustrate healthy vs. abusive relationships, or to show what they want from a partner in a healthy relationship. You may want to broaden the topic to include various forms of violence and hate crimes that women around the world commonly experience. To encourage student body awareness and participation, the student body can vote on their favorite door. Partner with a local merchant to offer a prize for the winning door. Encourage parents to view doors during parent teacher conferences.
- ◆ Change-up the typical book report. Encourage students to read a book (or view a film) about relationship abuse. What barriers to seeking safety exist for the victim in the story? What resources were available to help? Have student's research and report what a victim of relationship abuse can do legally to prevent further abuse from a perpetrator. Encourage students to research what resources are available within their own community for both victims and perpetrators, include school resources and responsibilities.
- ◆ Recognize awareness dates. April is sexual assault awareness month, October is for domestic violence, and International women's day is in March. Read relevant facts or statistics during morning announcements to raise awareness of these important dates.
- ◆ Map violence around the globe. Explore different types of violence against women that happen around the world. Have individuals or small groups research types of violence that happen in different countries i.e. bride burning, female infanticide, dowry deaths; rape as a tool of war, female genital mutilation etc... Have art students create pieces that reflect their perceptions of global violence as well as what world peace would look like.
- ◆ Take advantage of Hot Topics! Encourage facilitated conversations about current headlines as they happen such as the Chris Brown and Rihanna abuse incident or the arrest of Roman Polanski. Encourage students to bring in articles and discuss in class.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY?

Here are some ideas other local schools have implemented:

- * Bring in a play about dating violence or sexual assault such as The Yellow Dress or Consent.
- * Bring an awareness display to school such as "The Clothesline Project" or allow students to attend an awareness event for extra credit.
- * Sponsor a school wide poster campaign with an anti-violence theme.
- * Devote an entire week to Anti-Violence. Each day a different form of violence is the focus. Guest speakers are invited to speak. Students wear purple ribbons in support of ending domestic violence or teal ribbons in support of ending sexual violence.
- * Invite speakers to come from your local domestic violence and/or rape crisis center to talk about the impact of violence on survivors and families, and to help students identify the early warning signs of abusive relationships as well as.
- * Host a Health, Safety and Respect Fair at your school. Invite local agencies that deal with all areas of health and safety to host a resource table at your event. In addition to brochures and information about their agency, each table should provide a fun, interactive activity to engage students. Allow students ample time to visit all exhibits.
- * Train teachers on these topics during an in-service training day so they know how to respond to a student who discloses abuse and where to refer them.
- * Bring a group like MVP or Coaching Boys into Men to your schools athletic department. Both are leadership programs designed to instruct athletic coaches and student athletes about the attitudes and behaviors that can lead to violence against women and to prevent violence before it happens.

Please contact your White Ribbon Campaign point person for additional information or for assistance in bringing any of these activities to your school.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

School Event Materials and Supply Options

Banners/Alternatives Forms of Pledge Signing

White Ribbon Campaign banners are hung up on the stage or in a visible place. If a school purchases a WRC banner they might use it for male students and faculty to sign after the pledge and display it in a common area in school.

Option 1: Utilize existing Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign banner

- o No cost
- o Can stay on display at event location for an agreed upon time
- o Usually cannot be used for signing
- o Has to be returned to PCWRC

Option 2: Purchase a new banner

- o Banner will become property of the school and can be used for students and faculty to sign after pledge
- o PCWRC point person will facilitate the ordering process
- o **Cost:**
 - starts around \$120 (as of February 2009) depending on size
 - has to be paid by event host (think about sponsors)
- o **Banner Design:**
 1. Mandatory elements
 - Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
 - PCWRC Logo
 - Pledge
 2. Optional elements – have to be approved by PCWRC
 - Name of event host
 - Take the pledge
 - Additional logos
 - Other design elements

Option 3: Use large white ribbon paper cut-outs

- o A signing after the pledge is desired but cost prohibits the purchase of a banner:
 - Large ribbon shapes can be cut out of paper and mounted on walls for signing.
 - After the event the ribbon cut-outs can be displayed in common areas.

Option 4: Pledge sheets

- o A signing after the pledge is desired but cost prohibits the purchase of a banner:
 - Pledge sheets can be provided to be signed after the pledge.
 - After the event, sheets can be displayed in common areas.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Pins

White Ribbon Campaign pins will be handed out to male students and faculty after the pledge.

Option 1: School will provide ribbons

- o Buy own ribbons
 - May be personalized (i.e. name of school, date of event, etc.)
 - Contact information for suppliers provided upon request
- o Students create white ribbon pins
 - Low cost
 - School wide project

Option 2: Ribbons can be provided by PCWRC

- o Cost to PCWRC
- o Contributions to off-set the cost are appreciated but not required.

Permanent Markers/Pens

Used to sign banner/ribbon cut-outs/pledge sheets

- o Need approximately 10 markers
- o Preferably supplied by school

Assembly Program

The program contains information on White Ribbon Campaign, presenters, guests and people who worked on the event, and will be handed out at the event.

- o PCWRC point person will complete the program.
- o School to provide names & titles of guests invited by school, school officials, & students
- o School will make appropriate amount of copies.

Equipment – to be supplied by school

- o Podium
- o Microphone
- o Table toward the front of the stage for signing of banner
- o Chairs on stage for presenters and guests

Other

As determined by planning group



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

School Event Materials, Speakers, Invitees Checklist

Banner

White and red "Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign" banner

- ◆ If purchase, consider
 - Design, i.e. name of town, sponsoring groups, etc.
 - cost
 - funding options
- ◆ No purchase
 - temporary use of Plymouth County WRC banner
 - point person will contact DA's Office to obtain Plymouth County banner
 - Display in visible place, i.e. raise at the back of stage or fasten to a table in the front of the stage

Equipment

podium and microphone*
 table toward the front of the stage for signing of banner*
 permanent markers*
 chairs on stage*
 white ribbons

Invitees

Politicians
 DA
 Sheriff
 Chief of Police or representative, school resource officers
 SADD, No Place for Hate, etc
 Town selectmen, rotary, business people, etc.*
 Superintendent*
 School Committee*
 Coaches*
 Teachers*
 Guidance Counselors*

Students

3 – 5 male students to participate in assembly*
 5 – 6 female students who hand the white ribbons to the people who signed the pledge*

Speakers - suggestions

Principal*
 Superintendent*
 Students*
 Facilitators
 Survivor
 Politicians
 DA
 Sheriff
 Police Chief, law enforcement, school resource officer
 Other people selected by group*

* indicates "Done by school or as determined by group"



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Sample Speaker Line-up/Agenda Assembly Format Event with Speakers and Survivor Story*

- ◆ Principal**
 - Very brief. Welcomes students and guests. Tells students that meeting deals with an important topic. Hands over assembly to the selected students.
- ◆ Students
 - Introduce themselves. Take turns talking about White Ribbon Campaign. Why it is important to students, that violence against women cannot be tolerated and that male students have to take a stand. Then introduce co-facilitators. - See Talking Points/Scripts/Information in Section 2
- ◆ Co-Facilitators
 - Talk about issue, history, WRC.... (see Talking Points)
 - Will lead through the assembly. Will introduce other speakers and call them to the podium.
- ◆ State Reps**
 - Will bring and read citations
- ◆ District Attorney
- ◆ Sheriff
- ◆ Chief of Police/police department representative**
- ◆ Personal/Survivor Story
 - A speaker (preferably male) will relay a personal experience with domestic violence.
 - When he is finished he will ask the 3 or 4 students back to the podium.
- ◆ Students
 - They will say a few words and ask that male audience members come up to sign the pledge.
- ◆ Male presenter
 - After the signing the Sheriff or the District Attorney will ask the students and the other men who are on stage to join him at the podium. He will ask all men in the audience to stand up and to raise their right hand and join in the pledge.
- ◆ Signing of pledge
 - As audience members leave they will receive a white ribbon from female students and go back to their seats
- ◆ Facilitators
 - Final remarks
- ◆ Students
 - Thank guests

* This is just a sample of how an event might proceed. The line-up might change depending on schools' specific requests and needs, as well as speaker's availability etc.

** May utilize Talking Points for Additional Participants. Additional information can be provided.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Discussion Questions

A tool to help students understand what they just heard

Having now heard about the White Ribbon Campaign, what do you take away from it?

What do you think about a campaign that focuses solely on women as victims of violence?

Do you think it takes away from violence that is perpetrated against men?

What do you think about men doing this work? Is it their job?

What do you think about the WRC claim that you should be an active by-stander?

How could you be an active by-stander? If you were being victimized or targeted would you want others to step in and not allow this to continue?

What do you think your school would look like if everyone believed in being an active by-stander and didn't watch quietly while others were harassed?

Do you agree with the WRC statement that 'silence is affirming' and that by not standing up and speaking out against something you are supporting it? Why?

Did you realize how much violence was perpetrated against women and girls solely because of their gender?

Do you feel that violence against women is a human rights issue?

Do you feel that men should be concerned with it even though they aren't the target?

Do you feel that this type of violence is similar to any other type of violence? If so, what type?

Do you feel that this type of violence says anything about the larger culture of violence?

Do you feel that there is something that can be done to end this type of violence?

What can be done right now and what can be done to eliminate this from our future?

Do you feel that you could be part of this solution? How?

Do you feel that ending this type of violence would help to change the culture of violence?



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Section 5: Handouts

This section of the manual is intended to assist the PCWRC in educating the public regarding the White Ribbon Campaign and Violence Against Women. These materials are to be shared freely.

- The International White Ribbon Campaign
- Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
- Understanding Violence Against Women
- Types of Violence Against Women
- Global Violence against Women Facts/Statistics
- National Violence against Women Facts/Statistics
- Massachusetts Violence against Women Facts/Statistics
- Male and Female Participation in the White Ribbon Campaign
- Information for Friends—Be On The Look Out
- Message by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon
- United Nations Violence Against Women Fact Sheet
- White Ribbon Campaign Pledge – Large Print
- Pledge Sheet



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

The International White Ribbon Campaign

On December 6, 1989 fourteen female students at the École Polytechnic in Montreal, Canada were systematically targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman. The events of that day highlighted the issue of men's violence against women. In response to the massacre three Canadian men decided that they had a responsibility to urge other men to speak out. In 1991 they founded the White Ribbon Campaign, which became the first organization of men to address this problem.

The WRC has grown into an organization that includes men from across all social and political perspectives, who work together on a common agenda and with respect for their differences. It has been able to avoid becoming hierarchical or bureaucratic. Its basic principle is the importance of men and boys speaking out against all forms of violence against women. In many communities, women's organizations play a key role in getting a white ribbon effort off the ground.

In the last 18 years the White Ribbon Campaign has grown to a worldwide movement challenging men to take a stand against violence against women in over 57 countries, including the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Austria, Brazil, Spain, Namibia, Cambodia, China, Finland, Singapore, Pakistan, Australia, the Philippines, South Africa and many more. As a result of the growing support the First Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys on Achieving Gender Equality was held in Rio de Janeiro in the spring of 2009. The final declaration of the conference, The Rio Statement, can be found at: <http://engagingmen.wordpress.com/2009/04/03/the-rio-declaration/>

White Ribbon Campaign events can be held throughout the year. In Canada activities take place annually from November 25 (the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women) until December 6, the anniversary of the Montreal massacre and Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In other countries the WRC is part of the 16 Days of Action from November 25 until December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to emphasize that violence against women is a violation of basic human rights. In Massachusetts and many other parts of the United States WRC event have been held around Valentine's Day.

The simple white ribbon has become a powerful, international symbol for the personal commitment to *never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls*. It says: "Our future has no violence against women".

PLYMOUTH COUNTY WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



"I PLEDGE NEVER TO COMMIT, CONDONE, OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN."

CO-CHAIR

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ, PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CO-CHAIR

JOSEPH D. MCDONALD, JR., PLYMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF

In December 1989, fourteen female students were systematically targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman at the University of Montreal. Following this horrific event a group of Canadian men founded the White Ribbon Campaign in 1991. Nineteen years later the initiative has grown into the largest effort in the world addressing gender violence.

In the year 2000, Plymouth County responded to the need to address violence against women in our own communities and initiated the Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign. The campaign encourages men and boys to play a vital role in constructing a healthier world, free of violence and founded on principles of equality and compassion. For the last ten years it has given men an opportunity to become active supporters in this effort. Events have been held at schools, town meetings, sporting events and local hospitals.

The United Nations General Assembly defines "violence against women" as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women" This type of violence targets a specific group with the victim's gender as the primary motive.

Violence against women takes many forms, including domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and other harmful traditional practices. It is a global problem. *At least 1 in every 3 women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime - with the abuser usually someone known to her.*¹

The White Ribbon Campaign focuses on violence against women because this is an important social problem. It does not mean that this is the only type of violence that occurs, or that it is the most common form of violence, or that other forms of violence are unimportant. It simply means that violence against women deserves attention. Like other anti-violence campaigns, the WRC is motivated by the fundamental belief that all forms of violence are wrong, whether their victims are female or male, and whether their perpetrators are male or female. And this campaign is compatible with, and would complement, other campaigns focused on violence against men or other specific forms of violence (such as child abuse, homophobic violence, and racist or sectarian violence).²

White Ribbon Campaign offers a forum for men to speak out against violence against women. Through the campaign, men have the opportunity to create change by no longer remaining silent and becoming active supporters in this effort. Taking the pledge and wearing the white ribbon expresses their commitment to setting an example and playing an important role in transforming the social norms that perpetuate and make excuses for gender violence. The white ribbon is a powerful symbol. It represents the challenge to everyone to think about their own beliefs, language, and actions. What begins as a personal reflection has the possibility of becoming the catalyst for wider change. The responsibility for creating violence-free communities lies within us all.

¹ General Assembly. In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary General, 2006. A/61/122/Add.1. 6 July 2006

² Adapted from WRC Blog – Michael Reed

Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign Founding Members

Family and Community Resources *formerly BF&CR*
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E-mail address: wrc.plymouth@gmail.com



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Understanding Violence against Women

Violence against women is a problem that has been deeply rooted not only in our culture, but in many other societies as well. The continued stigma of being 'feminine' or a male sharing any female traits, goes hand in hand with the aggressive image of what it is to be a man in our society. Telling a boy that he is acting 'like a girl' is meant to be degrading and reinforces the idea that girls are weak, inadequate, and definitely not equal. By telling boys that masculinity equals dominance, power, and control we perpetuate the idea that men are superior to women.

Statistics paint an alarming picture of the social and health consequences of violence against women. For women age 15 to 44 years, violence is a major cause of death and disability. Violence against women can happen to anyone regardless of income, race, religion, age, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental status, or (dis)ability.

Types of Oppression and Violence Against Women

- Sexual assault, which can include; rape, inappropriate and unwanted touching, and pressure to have sex.
- Harmful traditional practices, which includes but is not limited to: female genital mutilation, honor killings, acid attacks, dowry murder, and forced early marriage.
- Female infanticide (killing of female infants because of their gender)
- Trafficking of women and girls as sex slaves
- Femicide
- Stalking
- Domestic violence, which can include; emotional abuse, verbal abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse and physical abuse. Examples of abuse are name calling, isolation from friends and family, rape, pushing, shoving, hitting, and strangulation, pulling hair, punching, use of weapons and stalking.
- Sexual harassment in the workplace, religious institution, school, or family
- Acts of violence, such as school shootings that targeted female students solely because of their gender. In 2006 a gunman held ten girls hostage in an Amish school house before he systematically shot and killed several of the girls after he had released the male students. Also in 2006 a gunman in a Colorado high school, released the male students and held six female students where they were sexually assaulted and forced to watch as the gunman shot and killed their female classmate.
- Sexist humor
- Objectification of women through the media. Advertising that uses sexual images of women to promote their products. Images that portray women being harmed or killed violently.
- Giving girls more work than boys
- Paying women less than men for the same work (woman earn \$0.81 to every \$1.00 a man earns)
- Feminization of poverty (most poor people are women)
- Prostitution and pornography
- Limitations on female leadership (women are severely under-represented in Congress, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Supreme Court)

1 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 2002, Recommendation 1582 (2002) on Domestic Violence Against Women



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Types of Violence against Women

Violence against women takes many forms and is a global problem. The following are examples of some of the most common kind of violent acts committed against women around the world.

Sexual Assault: Any unwanted sexual contact that includes force or coercion. *In America, 1 in 5 women have experienced an attempted or completed rape. More than ½ of all rapes of women happen before the age of 18.*

Domestic violence (also known as partner violence, dating violence and family violence): Intentional behavior that causes physical and emotional harm. Creates fear; prevents victims from doing what they want; forces victims to do something they do not want to do.

Domestic violence can take many forms including verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. It can occur in the context of casual dating or serious long-term relationships.

Often a relationship doesn't start out violent but progresses over time. Most abusive relationships have good times and bad times. That can make it hard for someone to realize that the relationship is an abusive one. Domestic violence can happen to anyone.

Stalking: A pattern of repeated, unwanted attention, harassment and contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking is against the law in every state. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law. It may make a person feel afraid, nervous, harassed, or in danger. According to a study done in 1998, *1 in 12 women will be stalked at least once in their lifetime. 78% of stalking victims are female and 87% of the perpetrators are males.*

Cyber Stalking: The illegal use of the Internet, email, or other electronic communication systems to follow someone or threaten them.

Human Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people for the purpose of exploitation. It is estimated that 40,000 to 50,000 people are trafficked into the US each year. *Nearly 80% of trafficking victims are female.*

Sexual Harassment: Harassment or unwelcome attention of a sexual nature. It is a form of abuse and bullying. Types of sexual harassment are unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can happen at home, in the work place, school, religious institutions and other places.

Additional harmful traditional practices still practiced in many parts of the world:

Honor killing: A practice in which men kill female relatives in the name of family honor for suspected sexual activity outside marriage, even when they have been victims of rape.

Dowry murder: A brutal practice involving a woman being killed by her husband or in-laws because her family is unable to meet their demands of her dowry.

Female infanticide: The killing of an infant by a relative because it is female. Infanticide has been practiced as a brutal method of family planning in societies where boy children are still valued above girls.

Female genital mutilation: Several types of deeply-rooted traditional cutting operations performed on women and girls involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia. This is sometimes justified as a way to ensure chastity and purity. It is estimated that more than 130 million girls and women alive today have undergone this practice.

The forms of violence against women just described were just a few examples of the atrocities that women and girls endure simply because of their gender.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Global Violence Against Women Facts and Statistics

Violence against women and girls is a major human rights and public health concern. It encompasses a wide range of abuses, from physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family and in the general community, including battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, rape, female genital mutilation, child marriage, honor killings, acid burning and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state.¹

Gender-based violence both reflects and reinforces inequities between men and women and compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims. It is almost always sustained by a culture of silence and denial of the seriousness of the health consequences of abuse. In addition to the harm they exact on the individual level, these consequences also exact a social toll and place a heavy and unnecessary burden on health services.¹

Systematic rape, used as a weapon of war, has left millions of women and adolescent girls traumatized, forcibly impregnated, or infected with HIV.¹

Globally, at least one in three women and girls is beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.²

In Asia, at least 60 million girls are 'missing' due to prenatal sex selection, infanticide or neglect.¹

Female genital mutilation/cutting affects an estimated 130 million women and girls. Each year, 2 million more undergo the practice.¹

Forced prostitution, trafficking for sex and sex tourism appear to be growing problems. Each year, an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across borders – 80% of them women and girls. Most of them end up trapped in the commercial sex trade. This figure does not include the substantial number of women and girls who are bought and sold within their own countries, for which there are scant data. War, displacement, and economic and social inequities between and within countries, and the demand for low-wage labor and sex work drive the illicit trade in women.¹

In eastern and southern Africa, 17 to 22% of girls aged 15 to 19 are HIV-positive, compared to 3 to 7% of boys of similar age.³

Out of ten countries surveyed in a 2005 study by the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 50 percent of women in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and Tanzania reported having been subjected to physical or sexual violence by intimate partners, with figures reaching staggering 71 percent in rural Ethiopia. Only in one country (Japan) did less than 20 percent of women report incidents of domestic violence. An earlier WHO study puts the number of women physically abused by their partners or ex-partners at 30 percent in the United Kingdom, and 22 percent in the United States.¹

Worldwide, 40-70% of all female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner.⁴

In a survey in South Africa, 25% of the young men admitted to having had sex with a woman without her consent, before he was 18 years of age (Human Rights Watch).⁵

¹ United Nations Population Fund ² *UN Commission on the Status of Women, 02/2000* ³ International Women's Health Coalition
⁴ The Advocates for Human Rights ⁵ Human Rights Watch



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

National Violence against Women Facts and Statistics

1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹

Women who experience physical abuse as children are at a greater risk of victimization as adults, and men have a far greater (more than double) likelihood of perpetrating abuse.²

Growing up in a violent home is a terrifying and traumatic experience that can affect every aspect of a child's life, growth and development. Children who have been exposed to family violence suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, such as bed-wetting or nightmares, and were at greater risk than their peers of having allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.²

Females are generally murdered by people they know. In 64% of female homicide cases in 2007, females were killed by a family member or intimate partner. In 2007, 24% of female homicide victims were killed by a spouse or ex-spouse; 21% were killed by a boyfriend or girlfriend; and 19% by another family member.²

In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner. That's an average of three women every day. Of all the women murdered in the US, about one-third were killed by an intimate partner.²

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the cost of domestic violence in 2003 was more than \$8.3 billion. This cost includes medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity.³

Less than 20 percent of battered women sought medical treatment following an injury.³

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes. Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalkings perpetrated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.⁴

1 in 6 women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.⁵

66% of rapes are not reported to police⁵

According to a report in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 28 % of US female veterans reported sexual assault during their careers.⁵

In one year 4,000 incidents of rape or other types of sexual assault occurred in public schools across the country.⁶ (U.S. Department of Education, 1997)

Over 32,000 pregnancies result from rape ever year⁷

1 out of every 12 women will be stalked during her lifetime. On average victims report the stalking lasted 1.8 years; in cases involving intimate partners, the average duration for stalking increased to 2.2 years.⁸

An estimated number of 244,000 American children and youth are believed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, in 2000.⁹

The average age of a girl's at entry into street prostitution is between 12 and 14 years old, though there have been cases of girls as young as 9 years old.⁹

¹ National Violence Against Women Survey, 2000, ² National Organization for Women, ³ Centers for Disease Control
⁴ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, ⁵ RAINN, U.S. Department of Education, ⁶ Women's eNews, ⁷ Holmes et al., 1996, ⁸
 National Center For The Victims Of Crime, ⁹ USA - End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Massachusetts Violence Against Women Facts and Statistics

In 2007, there were 38 people murdered as a result of intimate partner violence. Of those, 27 were women, 8 were men, and there were 3 children. The total of deaths resulting from domestic violence in 2007 is 50, that number includes the 12 perpetrators that committed suicide after murdering their partners.

Source: *Jane Doe Inc.*

From 2003-2009 (10/21/09) 190 people have died in domestic violence homicide. Out of the 190 59% were female(112), 8% were male(16), 2% were females associated with the dv victim(4), 14% were male associated of dv victim(26), 8% were children(16), 5% family members(9) and 4% were perpetrators killed by dv victim in self defense(7).

Source: *Jane Doe Inc*

During Calendar Year 2005, 28,760 Orders of Abuse Prevention, commonly referred to as restraining orders or 209As, were issued: 82% of the defendants were males. During the same period; 4,347 adults (88% of whom were men) were arraigned for violating restraining orders.

Source: *Research Dept, Field Services Division, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Boston MA*

During Fiscal Year 2006, the statewide Domestic Violence Hotline SafeLink answered 21,637 domestic violence calls and another 3,373 calls from people looking for general information on resources available. In addition, local programs responded to thousands of calls to their community-based hotlines.

Source: *Jane Doe Inc.*

Immigrants account for a disturbingly high share of domestic violence homicides in MA. While only an estimated 14% of the state's population, immigrants accounted for 26 % of the 180 domestic violence deaths in Massachusetts from 1997 to 2006.

Source: *Massachusetts Department of Public Health*

From July 2005 to June 2006 Rape Crisis Centers around the state received 12,000 hotline calls.

Source: *Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, Incidents reported by survivors who seek help from Rape Crisis Programs. June 2006*

In Fiscal Year 2006, 2,582 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to the 17 DPH-funded rape crisis centers and Llamanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline.

Source: *Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2008*

A total of 12,171 hotline calls to rape crisis centers were placed in 2006; of those, 7,191 were from survivors; 2,585 were from significant others; and 2,395 were from professionals .

Source: *Jane Doe Inc.*

Sexual minority youth (i.e. students who either identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual) were significantly more likely than other students to report having experienced sexual contact against their will (34% vs. 19%). Source: *Jane Doe Inc.*

Fifteen-percent of Massachusetts high school females and 5% of high school males reported ever experiencing sexual contact against their will.

Source: *Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007*



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Male and Female Participation in the White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign is primarily a campaign of men, aimed at men. Wearing a ribbon is a statement of *men's* opposition to violence against women in any form. It is the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women.

More and more men and boys want to make a difference and the White Ribbon Campaign offers them a chance to let their voices be heard. It presents an opportunity to make a personal promise to refuse to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and to work together to challenge those around them to do the same.

For too long, only women challenged violence against women, but true change will not happen until men decide to speak. Therefore, while campaigns may be run with men and women working in partnership, the pledge is typically taken only by men.

It is men who are in a strong position to call other men to account for their actions. In most of the world it is men who control most of the resources required to effect change and they are integrally involved in the relationships that produce gender inequality.

Although the ribbon started as a symbol of men's opposition to violence against women, in many schools and communities today both males and females wear the ribbon. For men, it is a personal pledge, for women a show of support that men and boys have an important role and responsibility in ending violence against women. Many local campaigns are encouraged by women's groups, many are led by men and women together, and women participate in many, if not most, activities.

We acknowledge the expertise and central role of women in challenging violence against women. They pioneered this work; they set up support programs for women and pushed for social awareness and legal change. It is essential for local White Ribbon groups to have an ongoing dialogue with women's groups in their community. Real progress will only be achieved in partnership with women's organizations.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Information for Friends

Be on the lookout for friends that may be in abusive dating situations or relationships

Are you concerned that your friends have been emotionally or physically abused or injured in some way?

Sometimes the signs are not obvious. Friends in abusive relationships may:

- Change their style of clothing or makeup
- Seem to lose confidence in themselves and begin to have difficulty making decisions
- Stop spending time with you and other friends
- Begin to receive failing grades or quit school activities
- Turn to using alcohol or drugs

If you suspect a friend is in an abusive relationship, you might try to find out for sure by saying something like, "You don't seem as happy as usual" or asking in general terms, "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

This non-confrontational and indirect approach may prompt your friend to reveal what's wrong. Listen without judging, condemning, or giving unwanted advice. If a friend wants help, suggest that he or she talk to a trusted adult, call the local domestic violence/sexual assault service provider.

If you believe your friend is in danger, talk with an adult you trust immediately about your friend's situation so that you aren't carrying the burden by yourself. Please do not try to "rescue" your friend or be a hero and try to handle the situation on your own.

If your friend is in imminent danger please call 911 immediately.

What else can you do to?

- Attend a training on domestic violence or sexual assault in order to counsel peers
- Volunteer for a hotline
- Speak to classes about the signs of an abusive relationship and where to find help
- Encourage your church or school to develop programs to educate teens about dating violence
- Work to ensure that there are resources for teens that are being abused in your community.



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Message of the Secretary-General on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25 November 2008

Across the world, in countries rich and poor, women are being beaten, trafficked, raped and killed. These human rights violations do more than harm individuals; they undermine the development, peace and security of entire societies.

Women everywhere are at risk, but those living in societies experiencing armed conflict face even graver danger. As conflicts have become more complex, the pattern of sexual violence has evolved. Women are no longer in jeopardy only during periods of actual fighting; they are just as likely to be assaulted when there is calm, by armies, militias, rebels, criminal gangs or even police.

We do not know the true number of victims, but we do know that there are far more crimes than ever get reported and far fewer lead to arrests. In too many places, rape still carries a stigma that forces women to avoid the courts that should exist to protect them. In some countries, victims are brutalized twice: first during the crime itself, and then by the justice system, where they may face trumped-up charges of "adultery" and the possibility of subsequent punishment.

Even when perpetrators are identified, they often go unpunished, especially if they are working in the police or military. At times, these crimes are particularly shocking. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo's troubled North Kivu province, where some 350 rape cases are reported every month, victims are also sometimes subjected to genital mutilation.

Even more disturbing is the age of many victims. In certain violent areas of Haiti, fifty per cent of the young women have been raped or sexually assaulted. Of the handful of courageous victims who do seek justice, one in three is under thirteen. During one particularly violent month earlier this year in Liberia, the majority of reported rapes were committed against girls under the age of twelve, some of whom were not even five years old.

These examples come from countries where the United Nations has a peacekeeping presence. Thanks to the Security Council's groundbreaking resolution 1820, adopted in June, the use of sexual violence as a tactic of warfare is now recognized as a matter of international peace and security. According to the resolution, peacekeeping missions, in particular those with mandates to protect civilians, must now include the protection of women and children from all forms of violence in their reporting on conflict situations. Resolution 1820 also requested stronger efforts to implement the vital zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation by UN personnel, and urged troop and police contributing countries to ensure full accountability in cases of misconduct.

The adoption of resolution 1820 is part of a growing global trend to address this scourge. This past February's Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, and the continued leadership of the General Assembly, are additional signs of international momentum.

At the national level, more and more countries are meeting their obligations to protect women through comprehensive legislation, better services for victims, stronger partnerships and increased efforts to engage men and boys in addressing the problem.

This progress is welcome, but there are still gaps. We need to do more to enforce laws and counter impunity. We need to combat attitudes and behavior that condone, tolerate, excuse or ignore violence committed against women. And we need to increase funding for services for victims and survivors.

I am determined to strengthen these efforts, including through my global campaign "UNITE to end violence against women", which aims to raise public awareness, increase political will and resources and create a supportive environment to make good on existing policy commitments.

All of us – men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders – have a responsibility to help end violence against women. States must honor their commitments to prevent violence, bring perpetrators to justice and provide redress to victims. And each of us must speak out in our families, workplaces and communities, so that acts of violence against women cease.

Provided by: Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Unite To End Violence Against Women Fact Sheet

HOW WIDESPREAD IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

- ◆ The most common form of violence experienced by women globally is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner. On average, at least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of her lifetime.
- ◆ Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.
- ◆ Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners. In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, 40%-70% of female murder victims were killed by their partners, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In Colombia, one woman is reportedly killed by her partner or former partner every six days. Hundreds of women were abducted, raped and murdered in and around Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, over a 10-year period.
- ◆ It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.
- ◆ Violence against women during or after armed conflicts has been reported in every international or non-international war-zone. Between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the conflict in Bosnia in the early 1990s.

WHY AND HOW DOES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OCCUR?

- ◆ Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in historically unequal power relations between men and women, and persistent discrimination against women.
- ◆ Rape has long been used as a weapon of war. Women as old as grandmothers and as young as toddlers have routinely suffered violent sexual abuse at the hands of military and rebel forces.
- ◆ Dowry murder is a brutal practice where a woman is killed by her husband or in-laws because her family cannot meet their demands for dowry — a payment made to a woman's in-laws upon her marriage as a gift to her new family. While dowries or similar payments are prevalent worldwide, dowry murder occurs predominantly in South Asia.
- ◆ The practice of early marriage is common worldwide, especially in Africa and South Asia. This is a form of sexual violence, for young girls are often forced into the marriage and into sexual relations, causing health risks, including exposure to HIV/AIDS, and limiting their attendance in school.
- ◆ Between 500,000 to 2 million people, the majority of them women and children, are trafficked annually into situations including prostitution, forced labour, slavery or servitude, according to estimates.
- ◆ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to several types of deeply-rooted traditional cutting operations performed on women and girls. It is estimated that more than 130 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM, mainly in Africa and some Middle Eastern countries, and 2 million girls a year are at risk of mutilation. As of April 2006, 15 of the 28 African States where FGM is prevalent had made it an offence under criminal law.
- ◆ In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery have been murdered by their relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honour. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the annual worldwide number of so-called "honour killing" victims may be as high as 5,000 women.
- ◆ Many women face multiple forms of discrimination and increased risk of violence. Indigenous women in Canada are five times more likely than other women of the same age to die as the result of violence. In Europe, North America and Australia, over half of women with disabilities have experienced physical abuse, compared to one-third of non-disabled women.
- ◆ Women experience sexual harassment throughout their lives. Between 40% and 50% of women in the European Union reported some form of sexual harassment in the workplace. In Malawi, 50% of schoolgirls surveyed reported sexual harassment at school.

- ◆ Young women are particularly vulnerable to coerced sex and are increasingly being infected with HIV/AIDS. Over half of new HIV infections worldwide are occurring among young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and more than 60% of HIV positive youth in this age bracket are female.
- ◆ Violence against women in police custody is common and includes sexual violence, inappropriate surveillance, strip searches conducted by men and demands for sexual acts in exchange for privileges or basic necessities. • Female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and systematic neglect of girls are widespread in South and East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.

COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES

- ◆ The costs of violence against women are extremely high. They include the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice. The indirect costs include lost employment and productivity, and the costs in human pain and suffering.
- ◆ The cost of intimate partner violence in the United States alone exceeds US\$5.8 billion per year: US\$4.1 billion is for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly US\$1.8 billion.
- ◆ In Canada, a 1995 study estimated the annual direct costs of violence against women to be Can\$684 million for the criminal justice system, Can\$187 million for police and Can\$294 million for the cost of counseling and training, totaling more than Can\$1 billion a year. A 2004 study in the United Kingdom estimated the total direct and indirect costs of domestic violence, including pain and suffering, to be £23 billion per year or £440 per person.
- ◆ One effect of sexual abuse is traumatic gynecologic fistula: an injury resulting from severe tearing of the vaginal tissues, rendering the woman incontinent and socially undesirable. It is believed that tens of thousands of women have suffered from sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since armed conflict began.
- ◆ The prevalence of violence and of HIV/AIDS are interlinked. Women's inability to negotiate safe sex and refuse unwanted sex is closely linked to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Unwanted sex results in a higher risk of abrasion and bleeding and easier transmission of the virus. Women who are beaten by their partners are 48% more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS.

HOW ARE COUNTRIES DOING ON LEGISLATION?

- ◆ According to the 2006 Secretary-General's In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women, 89 States worldwide had some form of legislative prohibition on domestic violence, and a growing number of countries had instituted national plans of action to end violence against women. Marital rape may be prosecuted in at least 104 States, and 90 States have some form of legislative provision against sexual harassment
- ◆ There are 102 States that have no specific legal provisions against domestic violence. Marital rape is not a prosecutable offence in at least 53 States. Only 93 States (of 191 reviewed) have some legislative provision prohibiting trafficking in human beings.
- ◆ In many places, laws contain loopholes that allow perpetrators to act with impunity. In a number of countries, a rapist can go free under the penal code if he marries the victim.
- ◆ UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, adopted in the year 2000, calls for women's equal participation in peace and security issues. Yet, eight years later, it is evident that much more effort is needed to strengthen mechanisms to prevent, prosecute and remedy violence against women in times of war, and to ensure that their voices are heard in peace building.
- ◆ Although the 1981 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) does not explicitly mention violence against women, the CEDAW Committee clarified in its General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) that countries party to the Convention are under an obligation to eliminate violence against women.
- ◆ Courtroom procedures that protect the privacy of victims during trial, such as allowing evidence to be given by video link or restricting access to courtrooms during rape trials, are being used more often, including in Finland, Ireland, Japan and Nepal.

Providing Services

- ◆ In Timor Leste, Fokupers, an NGO, provides legal aid services for women victims and raises public awareness of women's legal rights. It distributes information to service providers, religious institutions, government agencies and lawmakers.
- ◆ It has proven effective to bring together health services for victims of violence in one interagency unit, often called a "One-Stop Centre". First developed in Malaysia, this model is currently being replicated in much of Asia as well as in other countries, including South Africa.

Preventing Violence

- ◆ There are promising strategies to engage men in the prevention of violence against women. The White Ribbon Campaign, established in Canada in 1991, has spread to 47 countries.
- ◆ States have become increasingly involved in trying to change attitudes. In Denmark, a comprehensive nation-wide government campaign was launched in Danish, English, Arabic, Turkish and Somali.
- ◆ In Upper Egypt, NGOs used community mobilization to inform local and religious leaders of the adverse effects of female genital mutilation/cutting and to call for an end to the practice.

THE WAY FORWARD

- ◆ There has been significant progress in establishing international standards and norms. International and regional legal and policy instruments have clarified the obligations of countries to eradicate and punish violence against women. However, States are failing to meet the requirements of the international legal and policy framework.
- ◆ Violence against women must be prioritized at all levels — it has not yet received the priority required to enable significant change. Leadership and political will is critical.
- ◆ There is need for investment of resources and for consistent assistance, especially to the least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict. A more cohesive and strategic approach is needed from all actors, including governments, the international community and civil society.
- ◆ There is compelling evidence that violence against women is severe and pervasive throughout the world: in 71 countries at least one survey has been conducted. However, there is an urgent need to strengthen data collection in order to inform policy.
- ◆ The problem of under-reporting complicates data collection. A 2005 WHO study based on data from 24,000 women in ten countries noted that 55% to 95% of women who had been physically abused by their partners had never contacted the police, NGOs or shelters for help. Stigma and fear prevent women from seeking assistance and redress.

Provided by: Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN PLEDGE:

**I pledge never to commit,
condone or remain silent about
violence against women.**



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Pledge Sheet

Date _____

Location _____

"I pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women."

PRINT NAME	TOWN	SIGNATURE



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

Section 6: Material Suppliers

This section of the manual is intended to assist the PCWRC event point person in the locating and purchasing of supplies for any White Ribbon Campaign event.

- White Ribbon Banners
- White Ribbon Pins and Stickers



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Banners Suppliers

February 2009*

Banners:

Signs By Russ, Inc.

Contact: Russ Baker

244 Liberty Street #9A

Brockton, MA 02301-5561

508-580-2221

508-580-4550 fax

e-mail: russbaker@covad.net or signsbyruss@covad.net

Comments:

- Price start around \$120 (February 2009) – depending on i.e. size, design changes, additional information on banner
- This vendor has the template of the PCWRC banner
- Allow 1 – 2 weeks for production
- Banner will usually be picked up at Signs By Russ
- Can be shipped at additional cost



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Pins/Stickers Suppliers

November 2009*

Embroidered Ribbons (Stickers)

The Ribbon Lady

Website: www.theribbonlady.com

Tel. 1-888-Ribbon-8*

Price: 100 @ \$0.28 each = \$28.00
1,000 @ \$0.26 each = \$260.00

Custom Ribbon Cards - \$1.25 each

Ribbon Pins (customized & non-customized)

Creative Services of New England

Website: www.csne2.homestead.com/awareness03.html

Lapel Pins (hard plastic pins not customized):

Price: 500 @ \$0.26 each* = \$130
500 @ \$0.28 each* = \$140

*Price depends on style of pin

Customized Memories

N. Billerica, MA

Website: www.customizedmemories.com

Tel: 1-978-667-4446 or 1-866-385-7467

Lapel pins (hard plastic pins not customized):

Price: 500 @ \$0.38 each = \$190

Customized Lapel pins (hard plastic) with text in shiny gold at no additional cost:

Price: 500 @ \$0.97 each = \$485 (text in shiny gold at no extra cost)

The Pin People

Website: www.pinpeople.com

See website for contact information

Customized Lapel pins (hard plastic): check website

Ribbons Galore

Website: www.ribbonsgalore.com

See website for contact information

Personalized fabric ribbons (fabric - not hard plastic):

200 - 499: \$0.60 each

500 - 999: \$0.40 each

Ribbon Warehouse

Website: www.ribbonwarehouse.com

See website for contact information

Precut fabric ribbons (not in bow form yet):

100 - 1500: \$0.25 each

Bowed fabric ribbons:

100 -1500: \$0.50 each