

Have a School Assembly

White Ribbon Campaign



Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign
Photo by Craig Norberg-Bohm



High School Assembly in Lowell
Photo by Craig Norberg-Bohm

What's a White Ribbon Campaign School Assembly

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) Assembly engages students at a local high school or college. Typically in high school, all students are expected to attend assemblies, providing an opportunity to reach the entire student body. An informational and inspiration program concludes with the audience standing and taking the White Ribbon Pledge. In each community, the schools help organize the assemblies and invite state and local elected officials, the Chief of Police, victim services, students and teachers to speak. Some schools hand out individual pledge cards while others create oversize murals for students to sign.

Why would I want to participate?

The international WRC aims to raise the voice of boys and men to bring an end to men's violence against women, sexual assault and domestic violence. School assemblies offer a constructive means for men and boys to speak out and encourage reflection and discussion, which can lead to personal and collective action. Hosting an Assembly also creates an opportunity to facilitate a conversation in the school setting among teachers and students – as well as parents – before and after the event. Assemblies often coincide with a school's recognition of one of the national awareness months (April for Sexual Assault or October for Domestic Violence) or another national or international landmark.

Massachusetts Examples:

White Ribbon Campaign School assemblies are taking place in Franklin, Berkshire and Plymouth Counties and the city of Lawrence. The Plymouth County White Ribbon Campaign is sponsored by V.E.T.O. (Violence-free Education, Training, and Outreach), a collaborative between several local JDI member programs - Brockton Family and Community Resources, Highpoint Treatment Center, South Shore Women's Resource Center, Womansplace Crisis Center- and both Plymouth County's Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office. Within the past year, over 8,000 men and boys throughout Plymouth County have signed the pledge against violence against women. A similar collaboration has developed between both NELCWIT and Elizabeth Freeman Center and the Northwest District Attorney's Office, where three high schools are operating assemblies this year.

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence has operated numerous White Ribbon Campaign activities over the past several years, including high school events, father/son basketball games and swimming events, plus walking with their Lawrence Men Against Violence banner in local parades.

Websites:

<http://www.brocktonfamilyandcommunityresources.com>

<http://www.hcsm.org/dfhs/wcc.htm>

<http://www.sharingweb.org/agencies/sswomenscenter.htm>

<http://www.hptc.org>

<http://www.mass.gov/daplymouth/veto/index.html>

<http://www.ywcalawrence.org/>

<http://www.nelcwit.org/>

<http://www.berkshirenonprofits.com/nonprofitinfo.php3?non=22>