



White Ribbon Day 2023 – Report for F&GP on 16th October 2023

Introduction – What is White Ribbon Day?

Every 25th November is White Ribbon Day which is followed by 16 days of action to end male violence against women. It's intended to promote a greater understanding among the public about what needs to change, and to show people where to find help. This year, the focus is about effecting culture change:

See the website (link below) - I've copied & pasted the following:

Culture change doesn't happen overnight, but we can end men's violence against women and girls in our lifetimes.

This year, we are encouraging individuals and organisations to make consistent choices and actions to #ChangeTheStory for women and girls, so that they may live their lives free from the fear of violence.

Violence experienced by women and girls takes many forms. Some behaviours and words may seem 'harmless' but normalising them ignores the short- and long-term effects on women and can lead to more extreme violence.

Being allies with women every day shouldn't be underestimated, even the smallest actions can affect big change.

HOW YOU CAN #CHANGETHESTORY

We're calling on all organisations and individuals to #ChangeTheStory for women and girls. This starts with challenging the seemingly 'harmless' attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence for women and girls.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/white-ribbon-day-2023>

There are resources online including a workplace briefing (<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/white-ribbon-day-2023#changethestory-resources>) as well as model social media posts which we could use to help raise residents' awareness.

Wearing a White Ribbon

Many people wear a white ribbon as a show of support. They can be worn for as long or as short a time as people wish. Some people wear them for the month of November. Cheaper ribbon & safety pins are available from eg: Amazon, but the money would not then go to the White Ribbon organisation - which exists to support victims & survivors of domestic abuse.

SBC supports White Ribbon Day and has always tied a white ribbon around the tree at the entrance into the Civic Offices to show their support. The Emergency Services, the PCC, the Mayor etc are generally invited and attend, along with local organisations which support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and violence against women & girls.

NALC supports White Ribbon Day <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/2644-help-nalc-support-white-ribbon-day-1>

NALC will make a video to show male support for White Ribbon Day. They want as many men as possible from the sector to participate and send a video, following the instructions below:

The video should be around 5 to 10 seconds long.

Hold up a sign (a piece of paper/whiteboard, etc.) stating who you are (e.g. Cllr John Doe, Example Town Council) and with the hashtag #ChangeTheStory.

Look at the camera and say, "This White Ribbon Day, I want to Change the Story to end violence against women and girls" (for individuals) or "This White Ribbon Day, we want to Change the Story to end violence against women and girls" (for groups).

The video should be filmed in landscape (holding your phone sideways).

Record as many takes as you need.

NALC states: *'We have a duty as a sector to show support for this important message, and the more contributions we have, the more significant impact you can make.'*

Please send your videos to daisy.petrov@nalc.gov.uk or to 077496 415 361 on Whatsapp by 17 November 2023

Become a DA Ambassador

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SDASS) provides training and information free of charge to raise awareness and provide tools so people can recognise domestic abuse, and know what to do if you come across it. SDASS will provide training for any staff and councillors who wish to become DA Ambassadors. SDASS will do this for free but I would suggest a £100 donation (this is what we pay the Silver Band to play at the Christmas Lights Switch-on). Here are the answers they provided to the questions asked:

- What kind of training this would entail?
It is usually face to face training over 6 hours.
- Whether it's possible for it to be delivered here at the Ellendune Community Centre during the evening? Yes, absolutely.
- Would there be a cost involved & if so how much?
We would be really grateful for a donation to help cover any costs for us, but we are just pleased to support.
- Minimum/ maximum number of attendees?
I'd say to enable discussion a minimum of 8 and max of about 20.
- How long the session(s) would be?
Our usual Ambassadors course is 6 hours, so either 9-3:30 or 2 evenings of 5-8pm. If you feel this is too long, then we could look at condensing it.
- Is there anything you would require to enable the course to take place by way of room set-up etc?
It's useful for participants to sit at tables so they can make notes. I usually use a flip chart stand and would need a screen/projector if possible.
- Please could you also set out the outcomes which would be delivered?
 - To understand the work that SDASS do in Swindon and the support we can offer to anyone you are concerned about
 - To understand the forms of domestic abuse and the reasons it is so hard for victims to break away
 - How to have sensitive conversations with anyone you are concerned about; what is and isn't helpful
 - What is the role of an Ambassador
 - What other support is available locally and nationally
- Are there any expectations of attendees following the session?
There are no set expectations, we are always really grateful for any support people are willing to offer the charity and usually ask all participants to complete a form to let me know if there is anything they would be interested in doing. In terms of supporting victims or survivors within your community I think there should be a conversation around any processes you feel you would like people to follow.

Recommendations:

1. Buy an A3 white ribbon promise poster A3 to put in the library (maybe photocopy for the office & ECC): £3.00
The White Ribbon Promise: *never to use, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.*
2. Buy 20x white fabric ribbons with pin for staff and councillors to wear as a visible show of support: £27.00
3. Arrange for SDASS to provide a training session for all staff & any councillors who wish to become DA Ambassadors and provide a donation to SDASS of £100. £100.00
4. Support NALC's initiative & send a video. Members could either send individual videos or a single video with a group of all male councillors & staff who wish to take part (no cost).