PCANZ WHITE RIBBON 2026

25 NOVEMBER

The Generation That Changes the Story, Together

Each year on 25 November, New Zealand joins the global observance of White Ribbon Day, a day that calls us to stand against violence towards women and to promote relationships built on respect, dignity, and equality. White Ribbon Day also marks the beginning of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender–Based Violence**, which **continues until 10 December**, Human Rights Day. [whiteribbon.org.nz]

A message for the Church from PCANZ White Ribbon Ambassador, Rev Hana Popea

Friends in Christ

White Ribbon Day (25 Nov) invites us to reflect on the kind of community God calls us to build.

Violence and abuse thrive in silence. Respect, dignity, and love grow when people are prepared to speak, listen, and act.

This year's theme, "The Generation That Changes the Story, Together," reminds us that transformation begins with ordinary people making everyday choices. It begins with parents teaching respect. It begins with men modelling healthy masculinity. It begins with churches creating safe spaces. It begins with young people learning that relationships should be built on kindness, equality, and mutual care.

When we teach kindness, challenge harmful attitudes, speak respectfully, listen well, and care for one another we help shape a new generation and create a different future.

This theme reminds us that changing the story of violence is not someone else's responsibility. It belongs to all of us. Together we can raise children who respect others, nurture healthy relationships, support those affected by violence, and build communities where everyone can flourish.

As churches, we have an important role to play. We can pray. We can educate. We can support. We can challenge attitudes that diminish others. We can stand alongside those affected by violence and help create communities where everyone can live safely and flourish.

As a Church, we believe every person is created in the image of God and deserves to live free from fear, abuse, violence, intimidation, and harm.

The Church is called to be a place of safety, healing, justice, welcoming and hope.

May God help us become people who reflect Christ's love and peace in our homes, churches, and communities.

Hana

Rev Hana Popea, PCANZ White Ribbon Ambassador

PCANZ website White RIbbon

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS | SAFETY | DIGNITY | EQUALITY | CARE | LOVE