PCANZ 2026 RESOURCES

WHITE RIBBON DAY 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the presence of the God who created every person in love.
People: We gather to worship the God of justice, mercy, and peace.
Leader: God calls us to respect the dignity of every person.
People: We commit ourselves to building relationships marked by love and respect.
Leader: Together we build a world free from violence and fear.
People: Through God's Spirit, may we be part of the generation that changes the story.

FIVE IDEAS FOR CHURCHES DURING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

1. **Wear White Ribbons:** Invite members to wear white ribbons during worship as a visible sign of commitment to ending violence and promoting respectful relationships.
2. **Include a White Ribbon prayer:** Offer prayers for: Families experiencing difficulty; Survivors of violence; Children and young people; Community support services; Leaders & policy makers.
3. **Create a 'Wall of Hope':** Provide paper leaves, ribbons, or hearts on which people can write: "One thing I can do to build a safer community is..." Display them in the church throughout the 16 days.
4. **Hold a Conversation:** Host a discussion after worship or any other day: "What can churches do to help create communities of respect and safety?" Encourage listening rather than debating. Create spaces for sharing and listening.
5. **Share Positive Messages:** Throughout the 16 days, share weekly messages via: Church notices; Facebook; Newsletters; Youth groups; Congregation meetings. Focus on respect, dignity, healthy relationships, and God's love for all people.

PRAYER

God of love, we thank you for your gift of life and for every person created in your image.
Forgive us when we remain silent in the face of hurt and injustice.
Help us to be people who build peace, show kindness, and respect one another.
Strengthen families, support those who are suffering, and bring healing where there is pain.
Guide us to raise a new generation marked by compassion, equality, courage, and hope.
May our churches be places of safety, belonging, and love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

IDEAS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILDREN

Invite children to complete the sentence: "*I can show respect by.....*" Display their responses around your church.

YOUTH

Ask young people, "What does a healthy friendship look like?"
Create a youth discussion around: Respect, Kindness, Listening, Boundaries, Inclusion.

SERMON REFLECTION

Micah 6:8 "*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God*."

Violence begins when people are treated as less valuable than others. The Bible calls us to move in the opposite direction.
When we treat others with dignity, listen with compassion, challenge harmful behaviour, create safe communities, we are helping write a new story.
A story where respect replaces fear.
A story where healing replaces hurt.
A story where every person is valued as a child of God.
Together, with God's help, we can be the generation that changes the story.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Together we commit ourselves to...

- Treat every person with dignity and respect.
- Promote healthy and safe relationships.
- Speak out against violence and abuse.
- Support those who are vulnerable.
- Build churches where all people feel safe and valued.
- Be part of the generation that changes the story, together.

Find more resources at: **PCANZ website and at White Ribbon NZ**
https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out/pcanz-white-ribbon