



PCANZ White Ribbon GA25

Presbyterian Church Aotearoa NZ



PCANZ White Ribbon Sunday

Any Sunday 23 Nov to 14 Dec 2025

BREAKING THE SILENCE: A Call to Action This Advent

What is PCANZ White Ribbon?

Rev Hana Popea is the Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand White Ribbon NZ Ambassador. Hana offers support, including visits to presbyteries, parishes and Presbyterian events, to discuss and share what our parishes and Church can do to help prevent family violence in our communities.

White Ribbon NZ: Every year on 25 November, communities worldwide pause to remember victims of violence and commit to creating safer homes and communities.

**This year, we invite our national Church to observe White Ribbon Sunday
any Sunday between 23 November and 14 December.**

Why This Matters to Us as a Church

Violence happens in silence. It happens behind closed doors. Sometimes it happens in places we consider safe - our homes, our communities, even our churches.

This Advent season, we're choosing to break that silence. As followers of Christ, we believe:

- **Every space should be sacred** – Our homes, churches, schools, and communities should be sanctuaries of safety
- **Every life is sacred** – Each person bears God's image and deserves dignity and respect
- **Silence enables violence** – We must move from witnessing to acting

Our 2025 Theme: Sacred Spaces, Sacred Lives

The Christmas story reminds us that God entered our world as a vulnerable child, born to a young woman who needed protection and respect. This season of hope calls us to ensure that every person - women, men, children, and elders can live free from fear and abuse.

When violence exists, something sacred is being violated

How We Can Observe White Ribbon Sunday

During Worship:

- Special prayers for victims and survivors
- A message on creating cultures of respect and safety
- White Ribbon display at the altar/entrance

Take Action:

- Men and boys: Wear a white ribbon as your pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence
- Everyone: Sign a Sacred Pledge board with your commitment to stand against violence
- Learn about local support services available in our community



The 16 Days of Activism (25 Nov - 10 Dec)

White Ribbon Day launches 16 Days of Activism ending on Human Rights Day (10 December). During this time, your church could:

- ✓ Display White Ribbon resources and information
- ✓ Share stories of hope and healing
- ✓ Connect with community support services
- ✓ Create a White Ribbon tree where you can tie ribbons with prayers or commitments

What You Can Do

This Week:

- Talk with your church and family about respect and healthy relationships
- Speak out if you witness disrespectful behaviour
- Support someone who has experienced violence

Wear White: The white ribbon is a simple symbol with a powerful message: "I pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls."

Get Involved: See the PCANZ White Ribbon information pack couriered to every PCANZ church, you could place it at your church entrance. Inside are practical resources for preventing violence in our homes and communities. You can also download these resources – video, information flyer, poster links below, and on the [PCANZ website](https://www.pcanz.org.nz)

A Prayer for White Ribbon Sunday

*God of peace and justice,
You created each person in your image,
sacred and worthy of dignity and respect.
Forgive us when we have remained silent
in the face of violence and abuse.
Give us courage to speak out,
wisdom to support those who are hurting,
and commitment to create communities
where all people are safe.
This Advent, as we await the Prince of Peace,
help us to be peacemakers in our homes,
our church, and our world.
Amen.*

Let Peace Begin With Us

This Advent, as we light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, let us also shine light into the darkness of violence. Let our celebration of Emmanuel - God with us inspire us to be truly present for one another, especially the most vulnerable.



Resources

Download Resources that have been sent by courier to every PCANZ church:

- [2025 Video](#) for PCANZ White Ribbon.
Note: You can watch and download all PCANZ White Ribbon videos [here](#).
- [2025 Information Sheet](#) for PCANZ White Ribbon
- [2025 Updated Poster](#) for PCANZ White Ribbon

For more information about PCANZ White Ribbon resources, support services, or how to get involved, see the PCANZ website <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out/pcanz-white-ribbon/white-ribbon-2025>

Contact

Rev Hana Popea, PCANZ White Ribbon NZ Ambassador, is available to speak with your group or congregation about White Ribbon. Contact Hana to visit or for additional information, email hanapd.pcanzwrnza@gmail.com