

**In every country,  
gender-based violence  
is a tragic reality:**

**1 in 3**

1 in 3 women today experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.

**70%**

Women and girls represent 70% of human trafficking victims.

**1/2**

Of all women who were murdered in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members, compared to less than 6 percent of men killed in the same year.

**246M**

An estimated 246 million girls and boys experience school-related violence each year.

Statistics from UN Women

Cover photos: Albin Hillert/WCC (left)  
Ivars Kupcis/WCC (top right) and  
Magnus Aronson/WCC (bottom right)

**Thursdays in Black**  
Towards  
a world  
without  
rape and violence



## Churches' Advocacy against Sexual, Gender-Based Violence



## The Thursdays in Black Campaign



Gender-based violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

## Thursdays in Black: Resistance and Resilience

The campaign is simple but profound. Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of violence. Encourage others to join you.

Often *black* has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign *Black* is used as a color of resistance and resilience.

## What is the Thursdays in Black Campaign?

*Thursdays in Black* grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency and personal efforts to resist such violations.

## The campaign was inspired by:

- ▶ The **Mothers of the Disappeared** in Buenos Aires, Argentina who on *Thursdays* protested at the Plaza de Mayo, against the disappearance of their children during the violent dictatorship.
- ▶ The **Women in Black** in Israel and Palestine, who up to now protest against war and *violence*.
- ▶ **Women in Rwanda and Bosnia** who were protesting against the use of *rape* as a weapon of war during the genocide.
- ▶ **Black Sash** movement in South Africa protesting against apartheid and its use of violence against black people.

This global ecumenical campaign has been adopted by many of the WCC's 348 member churches, national councils and ecumenical and inter-religious partners, academic institutions, student associations, and more.

Join this movement of people and organizations that can make a difference to individuals, communities, and national and international policy forums.



Thursdays in Black pins are available in English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish and Swahili.

Share your Thursdays in Black campaign photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Use #ThursdaysinBlack #WCC

For more information on how you can join the campaign and order Thursdays in Black pins, contact: [media@wcc-coe.org](mailto:media@wcc-coe.org).

[www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black](http://www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black)