

## **2023 ACTIVITIES**

### **REPORT ON THE 16 DAYS ACTIVITISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023.**

#### **Introduction**

The 16 Days of Activism campaign has been a vigorous and impactful initiative aimed at combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Justice for victims of violence against women and girls often comes too late. By the time a case reaches the courtroom, irreversible damage has already been done. While legal sanctions are important, they do not undo the harm inflicted on victims. Therefore, the focus should shift towards preventive education within communities, ensuring that people are equipped to identify, oppose, and report assailants before they succeed in their harmful actions.

#### **Objectives**

1. Community Awareness: Educate communities on the behaviors and tendencies of potential assailants.
2. Preventive Strategies: Provide individuals with the tools to recognize and counter predatory advances.
3. Early Intervention: Encourage timely reporting to prevent incidents before they escalate.
4. Reducing Courtroom Cases: Promote proactive justice to minimize the number of victims seeking legal redress after suffering harm.

#### **Activities Undertaken**

1. Community Workshops: Sessions were conducted to educate residents on the warning signs of potential assailants and ways to protect themselves.
2. Interactive Discussions: Open forums allowed participants to share experiences and discuss strategies to counteract threats.
3. Advocacy Campaigns: Public awareness efforts, including social media, posters, and town hall meetings were used to spread the message

## **Impact and Achievements**

The 16 Days of Activism campaign has yielded remarkable results:

**Increased Awareness:** Through the various activities, the campaign has significantly increased public awareness about the causes, consequences, and legal frameworks surrounding GBV. People are now more informed about their rights and the importance of taking action against GBV.

**Community Mobilization:** The engagement with local communities, particularly in Mile 16 Bolifamba, has sparked conversations and actions surrounding GBV. The residents are more motivated to take a stand against violence in their households and neighborhoods.

**School and Institutional Support:** The sensitizations in schools have created an educational environment where students, teachers, and administrators are more knowledgeable and equipped to handle and respond to instances of GBV. This has laid a foundation for future advocacy work within educational settings.

## **Conclusion**

Educating communities is a vital step in balancing justice. When people are informed and empowered, they are less likely to become victims or passive witnesses. Advocacy should begin at the community level, making the courtroom a last resort rather than the primary means of seeking justice. Through continued education and engagement, a safer environment for women and girls can be fostered.

## **Challenges**

While the campaign achieved significant success, there were challenges faced along the way, including:

**Resource Constraints:** Limited resources, including funding and personnel, at times made it difficult to reach certain target areas within the time frame of the campaign.

**Community Resistance:** In some instances, there was resistance from individuals within the community who were either unaware or unwilling to engage with the campaign. Overcoming cultural and traditional barriers remains an ongoing challenge in the fight against GBV.

**Sustained Awareness Campaigns:** There is a need for continuous sensitization and engagement in both schools and communities to maintain the momentum created during the 16 Days of Activism.

**Resource Mobilization:** Further efforts should be made to secure adequate funding and resources to scale the campaign and reach more communities, especially marginalized ones.

**Addressing Resistance:** It is important to continue engaging communities in dialogue, addressing misconceptions about GBV, and working to change harmful cultural norms that perpetuate violence.

**Policy Advocacy:** Advocacy for stronger policies and frameworks to protect victims of GBV should remain a central focus of future initiatives, alongside efforts to ensure effective implementation of existing laws.

## Pictures





