TH PRAJNYA DAYS CAMPAIGN **AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE**



Campaign Calendar

Day 1 Nov 25, Sunday

The Counterpoint @ Elliot's Beach

Community Cafe

The Counterpoint @ Vadapalani Metro Station

Day 2 Nov 26, Monday

Letterbox Resistance

Day 3 Nov 27, Tuesday

No Recourse - A symposium

Day 4 Nov 28, Wednesday

Community Cafe

Men Talk Consent

A conversation about gender violence in graduate school

Day 5 Nov 29, Thursday

Film Screening and discussion on gender violence

Day 6 Nov 30, Friday

No Place for Us in Chennai

Day 7 Dec 1, Saturday

Short Takes: What Women Write

Day 8 Dec 2, Sunday

Ending Gender Violence: Mapping the Road Ahead

Day 9 Dec 3, Monday

Domestic Violence Workshop

Day 10 Dec 4, Tuesday

Equality, Diversity & Safety: Tweet Chat on Workplace Sexual Harassment

Day 11 Dec 5, Wednesday

Swords and Ploughshares: A workshop on peace, disarmament & gender equality

Day 12 Dec 6, Thursday

'But What Was She Wearing?' Screening and Discussion

A Tangled Tale: The Politics of Gender & Engendering Politics - A short talk

Day 13 Dec 7, Friday

Speak Up! A storytelling open mic session

Day 14 Dec 8, Saturday

#Metoo, #Youtoo -Survivors Together

Day 15 Dec 9, Sunday

Streetside Stories Podhuveli Kadaigal Activist Research Project

Day 16 Dec 10, Monday

Human, Woman, Citizen, But A Panel Discussion

Gender Violence Report 2018 Release

Nov 25 - Dec 10, Campaign Long Activities

- · Sisterhood Chits @ Chamiers & Maal Gaadi
- Tree for Change at our corporate partners Chrysalis Pvt.Ltd & Facilio Pvt.Ltd
- Distribution of Call for Help @ Sundari Silks, Nalli Silks, & RmKV Silks

About the 16 Days Campaign

The "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign originated in 1991 as an initiative of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University.

Between November 25 and December 10 every year, organisations and individuals across the world use the campaign as a tool to draw the attention of the general public, policymakers and specific constituencies of change to the various ways in which gender violence affects people, and the ways in which we can eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

The campaign extends between International Day for the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women (November 25) and International Human Rights Day (December 10), thus emphasising that gender violence is a legitimate and critical human rights issue and must be acknowledged as such.

In addition, International Women Human Rights
Defenders Day falls on 29 November, spotlighting
countless individuals and organisations who dedicate
themselves to defending the rights of women
throughout the year; and World AIDS Day on
December 1 is an opportunity to highlight the impact
of gender violence on public health issues such as HIV
and AIDS.

The 2018 Prajnya Campaign

"The 2018 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence was the 9th Campaign conducted by Prajnya"

The 2018 campaign was the third and the last campaign of the third cycle of Prajnya 16 days campaign.

We took a hard look at the successes and failures of our past campaigns and designed a campaign with events that have maximum impact. We wanted to put together a solid campaign with no frills.

We had 23 events scheduled out of which 2 events were public and open to all, 4 events were registration based, 7 events happened in partnership with leading colleges across Chennai, and 2 events had to be cancelled due to unforeseen reasons.



The highlights of this year were The Counterpoint at Elliot's Beach and Vadapalani Metro Station, a public awareness event in partnership with Hindu Car Free Sundays and Chennai Metro respectively. It was a new venture and we were able to reach out to a larger number of people which made it a success. This also gave us an opportunity to bring back our mannequins, though only for a day. Another highlight of this year's campaign is our first ever satellite event in partnership with students of the University of Illinois. The Sisterhood Chits and Tree of Change are two other activities we introduced this year that received a great response.

Though #metoo revelations and sexual harassment allegations had dominated the news as we prepared for the campaign retained our usual focus on the spectrum of gender-based violence, and on reaching out to new audiences.

2018 Campaign Partners



Thanks to Nalli Silks, RmKV Silks, Sundari Silks for partnering with us to distribute Call for Help

Thanks to Chrysalis Pvt. Ltd & Facilio Pvt. Ltd for being great corporate partners!

Our Donors

Anand Bala

RmKV Silks

R.Narayanan

Sneha Narayanan

Sweta Narayanan

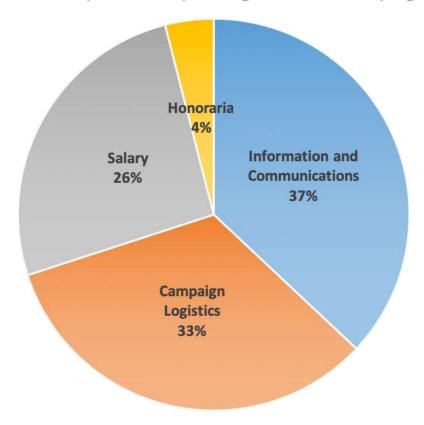
Amital Virmani Padmini Subramaniam Ragamalika Karthikeyan **S.Sripathy** Sarraju Narasinga Rao Shyamala Rajagopalan Swarna Rajagopalan The Thoon Trust

A special Thanks to all our donors who donated through Ketto and our Donation box

Thanks to each and every one of our donors, partners, and volunteers for making the 2018 Prajnya 16 days Campaign a success!

Campaign Accounts

How we spent money during the 2018 Campaign



- Under 'Information and Communications,' we include the costs of printing and photocopying gender violence related handouts, invitations and posters; office supplies; courier, postal and campaign telephone charges. We spent **Rs. 35,716** under this head.
- Under 'Campaign Logistics,' we include the costs of renting venues and audiovisual equipment (including projector, screen, laptop, speakers and lights); travel costs and refreshments.

 We spent Rs. 32,267 under this head.
- Under 'Honoraria' we include the costs of presenting resource persons with honoraria, conveyance or mementoes. We spent Rs. 4000 under this head.
- Under 'Salary,' we include the salary of the Campaign Coordinator. We spent Rs. 25,000 under this head.



Day 1 The Counterpoint at Elliot's Beach

A Public Awareness Event

We kickstarted the 2018 16 days campaign with a public event at Elliot's beach. We partnered with Hindu Car Free Sundays to organise The Counterpoint. The idea behind this was to reach out to the early morning beach-goers. Our intention was to connect with as many people as possible and initiate conversations around Gender Violence.

The event was a success with many of the beachgoers stopping by The Counterpoint for a photo with the Photo Standee, and women leaving messages on Sisterhood Chits, and typing white ribbons on Ribbon Tree to show solidarity.

This year we brought back our Dummies' Guide to Sexual Harassment Mannequin and urged the women visitors to leave stickers to show where they have been inappropriately touched. Soon we had a mannequin covered with hand stickers.



Visual representation of sexual harassment on the Mannequin at Elliot's Beach Counterpoint



Men tying ribbon in ribbon tree to show their solidarity



A collage of Photo Standee photos



Day 1 Community Cafe

The women of the Inner Wheel Club got together to sit down and talk about gender violence on Sunday afternoon.

What followed was an interesting discussion on topics from workplace sexual harassment to dowry to sex education for adolescents to children practising good touch bad touch to marriages to general atrocities in the world against women.

The conversation ended with the women resolving to do more. To hold many more such discussions in the future.







Day 1 The Counterpoint at Vadapalani Metro

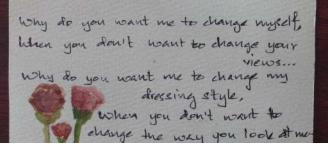
A Public Awareness Event

In partnership with Chennai Metro, we organised The Counterpoint at Vadapalani Metro Station on Sunday evening to reach out to newer audiences and create awareness about Gender Violence on the International Day for the Elimination of all forms of violence against women. At the Counterpoint we had:

- 1. The Dummies' Guide to Sexual Harassment Mannequin
- 2. A Photo Standee with the message, 'End Silence End Violence' on it.
- 3. Sisterhood Chits for women to write messages for women.
- 4. A ribbon tree to show solidarity with sexual violence survivors.
- 5. And performances by Nora and Prithvi on vocals and guitar, Zainab performed spoken word poetry.







Day 2 The Letterbox Resistance

For the third consecutive time, we organised The Letterbox Resistance due to its popularity among the Prajnya team and its success as a powerful as well as fun activity.

This time we went to the human rights department of Ethiraj College for Women to a captive audience with letter writing stationery.

The students were enthusiastic and eager to write letters. And at the end of one hour, the students were writing multiple letters completely engrossed in this cathartic process.

Below are some of the letters written by the students.



Some of the letters written during the Letterbox Resistance 2018



Day 3 No Recourse

A Symposium on Informal Women Workers rights In partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), we conducted a symposium with the objective to discuss the challenges faced by women workers in informal sectors like street vendors, construction workers, domestic workers, garment workers and brainstorm on the way forward for a better life.

It was designed as a day for sharing and learning, with a view to acquiring a clear understanding of pressing problems and preferred solutions.

Due to the delay in the arrival of some of the speakers, the morning session was turned into an open mic session for women to share their problems and experiences. During this session, almost all the women present had an opportunity to share their struggles and perspectives. The following sessions went according to the schedule with the final brainstorming session bringing out great ideas for reform.



Day 4 Community Cafe

A group of young professionals, both men and women, at Chrysalis Pvt. Ltd got together to discuss gender and gender-based violence.

The conversation primarily revolved around gender stereotyping that young women and men face in this day and age. Each shared an interesting anecdote which reflected on how deeply we are entrenched as a society in patriarchy.

The conversation was lively and insightful as the perspectives and experiences shared were diverse.



Day 4 Men Talk Consent

A Workshop on Consent



One of the posters made by the students at the end of the session to demonstrate their understanding of consent

As one of our objectives is to break the silence surrounding gender violence we wanted young men to participate in gender violence discussion as often men are left out of it.

By reaching out to young men of the Madras School of Social Work and by facilitating a conversation on consent, masculinity, and gender stereotyping we wanted to create a platform for frank and honest conversations related to gender. While this was just the first step in that it was definitely a success, as the boys participated in the workshop were enthusiastic to continue this discussion further. And so did the college.

A special thanks to our resource person Mr Sandhiyan from AWARE who conducted the session. At the end of the session, the students made posters to explain their understanding of consent.



Day 4 A Conversation about Gender Violence In Graduate School

This year Women & Gender In Global Perspectives, University of Illinois organised a conversation about gender violence in graduate school in partnership with Prajnya. This was held under the aegis of the Prajnya 16 days Campaign against Gender Violence, as a Satellite event.

From the conversation:

"...the conversation highlighted many more similarities in the attendees' experiences than it did differences: from the types of behaviors grad students are subjected to, to the shared fears and concerns regarding speaking out, to the challenge of striking a balance between academic responsibilities and the time-consuming and emotional work required to keep fighting for cultural change...the discussion was empowering. It not only pointed out institutional resources available at the University but also ways to build relationships with fellow grad students across departments to push for change both within and outside of our own academic circles. By the end of the event, it was clear that this was only the first of a series of conversations about gender-based violence and discrimination among graduate students—at UIUC and beyond."



Day 5 Film Screening

Movie Screening and Discussion on Dowry On 29th November which is the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, we wanted to honour a women human rights defender and as well as initiate conversation around a particular aspect of gender violence.

We decided a documentary on Shahjehan Apa and her contribution to the anti-dowry laws of India would provide the right framework to initiate a discussion/conversation on modern dowry.

We partnered with the Damini Club of Stella Maris College for Women where 30 students participated in the movie screening and discussion which was filled with anecdotes. The film 'Shahjehan Apa' is an 80-minute long documentary made by SPARROW.



Day 6 No Place for Us in Chennai

A Symposium on Gendered Impact of Forced Eviction How does forced eviction affect the livelihoods, safety, community support, life-chances of people, and how does this impact vary by gender?

We organised a half-day symposium in partnership with Penn Thozhilalar Sangam to raise awareness of the gendered impact of forced eviction.

Speakers included NGO professionals, researchers, and women from evicted communities from across Chennai. Chennai Housing Secretary, IAS S. Krishnan attended the event and took questions from the community members. Answering to the many complaints raised, he promised to look into issues such as safety and facilities available for evicted communities immediately.



Day 7 Short Takes: What Women Write

As part of the 2018 Prajnya 18 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, a special edition of 'Short Takes' was organised in partnership with the English Department of the Women's Christian College which explored the question 'What do Women Write?'. In an age that coined the word 'chicklit,' what, in fact, do women write? And what is, identifiably, women's writing?

Out of the six topics given to the students, three pairs of speakers spoke on the topics of 'Seduction of Patriarchy,' 'Does gender violence have to feature in literature in order to authenticate a woman's voice?' and 'Writing from the Shadows especially for and by LGBTQ community'.

At the end of the discussion, the students, both speakers and audience acknowledged the deeprooted patriarchy in the society and in the fiction they consume.



Day 8 Ending Gender Violence: Mapping the Road Ahead

An Internal Discussion

As part of the 2018 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, we organised a discussion on the future of gender violence activism.

Sujata Mody from Penn Thozhilalar Sangam, Bader Sayeed from Roshni, Tamilrasi from Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation were the organisation partners who joined the discussion.

The discussion broadly covered the challenges faced by organisations in the sector, effective implementation of projects, success stories, resource mobilisation, and way forward.



Day 9 Domestic Violence Workshop

We partnered with Roshni and invited members from their Self Help Groups to participate in the Domestic Violence workshop conducted by Ms Sudaroli Ramasamy our GRIT programme officer.

25 women participated in this interactive workshop which covered topics such as what domestic violence is and how it manifests through group activities and short films. This was followed by an activity where they had to identify domestic violence from the situation given to them.



Screened short films on Domestic Violence



Women participating in group activities



Day 10 Equality, Diversity & Safety

Tweetchat on Workplace Sexual Harassment

Suchismita @muchishisuta I have always pushed back which hasn't exactly endeared me to my male colleagues / seniors. "You are too argumentative" or "tum bohot zada sochti ho" etc are how some of their "hurt" responses sounded like Prajnya Initiatives @prajnya Replying to @swarraj @muchishisuta This is where an understanding of what sexual harassment actually is could potentially make such a big difference. Too often, these actions are dismissed as not actually constituting inappropriate or offensive workplace behaviour. #prajnya16days #nosgbv O 12:52 PM - Dec 4, 2018 0 See Suchismita's other Tweets >

What is workplace sexual harassment? How does it manifest in workplaces? What needs to be done to bring about a sustainable change? - These are the pressing questions of workplace sexual harassment discourse and the topic of our Tweet Chat moderated by Dr. Shakthi S.

We raised questions, we shared relevant resources and got a chance to listen to different opinions on this subject.

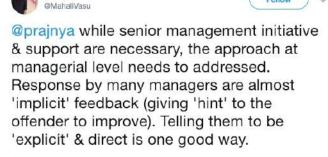














12:30 AM - 4 Dec 2018

Mahali



Follow

I can't say that it has adversely affected me at the workplace, or if it has, I haven't noticed. I mean I desexualise myself at the office and stick to my business which has been enough to get me my desired growth within organisations. I guess it has toughened me up though



11:33 PM - 3 Dec 2018



Replying to @prajnya

If we haven't created a society where workplaces are not obstacle courses of put-downs and octopus-hands, then we must have these conversations so that we can start. #nosgbv #prajnya16days

Follow

12:01 AM - 4 Dec 2018



Day 11 Swords & Ploughshares

One day workshop on Peace, Disarmament and Gender The Swords & Ploughshares was a 9-5 workshop on peace, disarmament and gender conducted by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan at Prajnya office.

The entry to the workshop was registration based. 15 students registered for the workshop out of which, 8 were from Madras University Defence Studies Department, 5 from Madras School of Social Work, 1 individual participant, and 1 from Women's Christian College.

The workshop was divided into three sessions with group activities and video screenings.

Student Feedback

"I loved the lectures and how things were presented keeping in mind how people can understand more effectively"

"The sessions are quite interactive and I'm glad that I had attended the workshop"



Ice Breaker Session



Group Activity



Session on Small Arms and Gender



Brainstorming for a Campaign Activity

Final Discussion of the Brainstormed Idea





Day 12 But What Was She Wearing?

A Film Screening and Discussion

'But What Was She Wearing?' is a 2018 documentary film by Vaishnavi Sundar on workplace sexual harassment in India.

As workplace sexual harassment is one of the core areas of our work, we wanted to take this informative film to future human resource professionals.

We partnered with DG Vaishnav College to screen this film for human resource, social work and management students. Around 200 students watched this information-packed film, following which Vaishnavi Sundar took questions from the students on workplace sexual harassment law, her personal experience in making the film and more.

Day 12 A Tangled Tale: The Politics of Gender and Engendering Politics

A Short Talk by Dr Swarna Rajagopalan

"From October 5th onwards for almost a month, the media were awash with revelations of workplace sexual harassment. Some prominent accused were members of the government, but there was a deafening silence in the highest offices. Those who were caught in situations where they had to say something, hedged their bets and talked about due process."

"Politics is conducted in ways that were convenient for men...Violent election seasons and violence against women in politics...The invisibility of women...But most critical, women do not see themselves as leaders."

As part of the 2018 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, Dr Swarna Rajagopalan gave a short talk at "Being and Doing Gender: Multidisciplinary Perspectives" a conference organised by the University of Madras. Her talk discussed some dimensions of the relationship between politics and gender.

Some quotes from her talk:

"To engender politics should mean to bring a gender lens to policy and a gender sensitivity to all interactions..."

"Forget counting, if you look at the content of these provisions (election manifestos), what can we understand about how women are viewed? They are bodies, which must be protected. They are dependents for whom we must provide. And sometimes, rarely, they are agents"

"...The first is the 'protectionist' one, where male politicians speak out about protecting mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. The second is the argument for surveillance, such as CC TV cameras and phone trackers that allow a woman's family to know where she is at all times. The two intersect in this culture of policing—moral policing, policing of mobility and policing of dress and manners. The solution for patriarchal violence is to lock women up in safe holding cells such as homes and hostels."



Day 13 Speak Up!

An open mic storytelling on street sexual harassment

We wanted to create a safe space for women mainly young girls to share their experiences of sexual harassment, especially street sexual harassment as it is the most trivialised form of violence against women but also the most commonly experienced.

Nirupama Sarathy our first Campaign Coordinator, graciously agreed to moderate the session which turned out to be a 2-hour long session of sharing stories and experiences of harassment. A lot of laughter, tears, and joy was shared by all the participants and all of us left the room feeling light and happy.



A ball of rope was passed from one narrator to the next. The participants held on to it as they narrated their story of sexual harassment



Day 14 #Metoo, #Youtoo Survivors Together

Prajnya Women's History Roundtable The second Saturday of every month is the Women's History Roundtable, where a woman is invited to share her work with a group of people.

For this month's roundtable, we invited Ms. Sudha Umashanker, a storyteller and a freelance journalist.

Ms. Sudha narrated two gripping tales of women who had faced sexual abuse. While one was a survivor, the other was not.

What followed the storytelling was a lively discussion around #metoo movement covering the legal, psychological, social and personal points of view.



பொதுவெளி கதைகள் Streetside Stories





Day 15 Streetside Stories

A Volunteer based Research Activity How do women feel when they step outside? What do they experience in public places? We wanted to take these questions to the women in the streets and record their responses.

Owing to the small number of volunteers we could only divide into two teams and cover one area in Chennai. We visited Natesan Park and Panagal Park and interviewed 18 women of different age and socio-economic groups in and around the park.

The data collected in compiled as a report. From the report: "85% of the women said they take precautions while stepping out of home", "80% of the women said a woman's behaviour determines her encounter with sexual harassment or gender violence", "Majority of the women felt comfortable going out in groups".

The report can be accessed in both English and Tamil here:

http://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/16d18pke.pdf http://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/16d18pkt.pdf



Day 16 Human, Woman, Citizen, But

A Panel Discussion on Caste and Gender Violence

On the 16th and the last day of the campaign, Dec 10, which also happens to be the Human Rights Day, we planned a panel discussion on caste and gender violence in partnership with the human rights department of the Ethiraj College for Women.

On the day of the event two of our speakers couldn't make it due to some unforeseen reasons, but our other speaker Ms. Semmalar Selvi turned up to offer an interactive session with the students.

Her talk covered topics such as the caste system in India and its active role in oppressing women. Following her talk, she took questions from the students which ensured more discussion around the topic.

The last day of the campaign ended on a high note, all thanks to the energetic and enthusiastic speaker and the attentive students.



Day 16 2018 Gender Violence Report Release

The Gender Violence Report India 2018, a
Prajnya publication was released on December
10 on the last day of the 16 days activism
campaign and on the eve of Human Rights Day.
The report can be accessed
here: http://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/gvr1

here: http://prajnya.in/storage/app/media/gvr1 8final.pdf

2018 was a year of landmark judgments, horrific reports of sexual violence especially targeting children and #MeToo revelations, and this report provides definitions, data, legal FAQ and a review of recent case law.

From the introduction of the report:

"Significant developments took place in the legislative and the judicial arena as well...decriminalisation of India's colonial law, especially Indian Penal Code Section 377...decriminalisation of yet another colonial relic, Section 497 or India's adultery law...allowing entry of women of menstruating age to Sabarimala temple, to name a few. Patriarchy, however, did not give in without a fight...feminist movement also saw a tremendous backlash from men's rights groups and conservative clerics be it, in opposing women's entry to temple, or to make the domestic violence law a toothless legislation."

Campaign Long Activities

Sisterhood Chits

Sisterhood Chits encourage women to write positive messages for fellow women and in turn, pick a message left by someone. This activity was carried out at Chamiers, Maal Gaadi, and Prajnya Office.









CALL FOR HELP For Women in Distress. Helplines. Counselling. Emergency shelter. Safe Homes. Legal Aid. Women's helpline (Police): 1091. Childine: 1098. AASHRAYA (ANDHRA MAHILA SABHA) 24-hour counselling, Swadhar Greh Home for Women and Children, legal aid, medical aid, Rehabilitation. 9 044 - 24642566 is asshrayassh@gmail.com # 21/12, Ronary Church Road Santhome, Chennai - 600 004. KALAISEWI KARUNALAYA SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY Short - stay shester home, legal clinic, family counselling. 9 044 - 2625779, 044 - 26254956 il info@Mkssindia.org # 3/PPJ, Mogappair West, Chennai - 600 097. (Near MGR Statue) MADRAS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE Swadhar Greh Home for Women and Children in difficult circumstances, family counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support, Ujwala Home for Trafficking and Rescue 9 044 - 267074, 044 - 2670548 m ccss@mccs.org Ro. 23, 6th Main Road, Jawahar Nagar, Chennai - 600 082. (Opposite KS Police Station) PCVC 2-4-hour crisis line, shelters, medical aid, legal aid, rehabilitation for burns survivors. 9 044 - 311143, 1800-102 - 7282 (70LL FREE) prev 2000@yahoo.com, dvsupport@pevconline.org # 2001. 15th Main Road, Ana Nagar West, Chennai - 600 040. (Near Revathi Super Market) SAHODARI (YWCA) Short-stay shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251073 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251073 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, legal aid, medical and psychiatric support. 9 044-251074 shelter home, counselling, leg

Call for Help

Call for Help is a listing of helplines for women in distress.

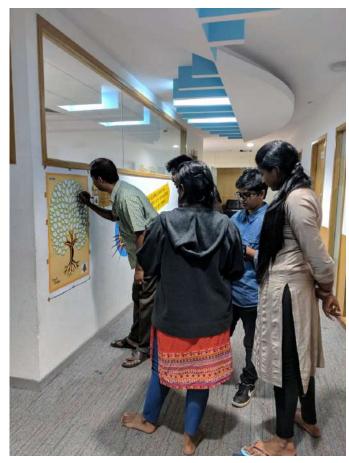
Throughout the 16 days more than 15,000 copies of it was distributed at Sundari Silks, Nalli Silks, RmKV Silks, and at our events. Wall posters of the same were also distributed.

2018 (updated November 2018) http://www.prajnya.in | prajnyatrust@gmail.com

Tree of Change

This activity was carried out at Prajnya Office & two corporates - Chrysalis & Facilio
The idea was to write the change that will create a violence-free world







Ribbon Tree

Ribbon Tree in which white ribbons are tied to show solidarity and support to gender violence survivors was an activity we carried with us to every campaign event. The end result was a tree completely covered in white.



Stay in touch!

During Campaign Season

Email: prajnya.16days@gmail.com

Web: www.prajnya.in/16days

Blog: www.prajnya16days.blogspot.com

Facebook: fb.com/prajnya16dayscampaign

Twitter: @prajnya

Beyond Campaign Season

Email: grit.prajnya@gmail.com

Web: www.prajnya.in

Blog: gritprajnya.wordpress.com

keepingcount.wordpress.com/

Facebook: fb.com/prajnyatrust

Twitter: @prajnya

Instagram: prajnyatrust