



PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

2012

CAMPAIGN REPORT

2012 CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

Events in **MAROON** were open to the public.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 25/11 <i>Look Out. Speak Up. Take Action. A Prajnya Community Café</i>	2 26/11 <i>Where in cyberspace are you? An Online Safety Initiative</i>	3 27/11 <i>Cybersafety Workshop for School Students</i>	4 28/11 <i>Symposium on Mental Health and Gender Violence</i>	5 29/11 <i>Not Silence, but Verse: A Poetry Reading</i>	6 30/11 <i>Roundtable on Workplace Sexual Harassment for HR Managers</i>	7 1/12 <i>Violence on the Page: A Literary Symposium</i>
8 2/12 <i>Songbird: An Evening of Music, featuring Vedanth Bharadwaj and Bindhumalini</i>	9 3/12 <i>Research Survey on Pre- Natal Sex Selection</i>	10 4/12 <i>Gender Violence Awareness Training for Nursing Students</i>	11 5/12 <i>One Sutra, Many Stories, featuring Anita Ratnam and Anil Srinivasan</i>	12 6/12 <i>Be Streetsmart! A Hollaback! Chennai Discussion and Screening of 'Mera Apna Sheher' by Sameera Jain</i>	13 7/12 <i>Can Good Girls Have Fun? A Book Reading and Discussion with the Authors of 'Why Loiter?'</i>	14 8/12 <i>Progress Report: Law, Gender-based Violence and Indian Society Women's History Roundtable feat. Sheila Jayaprakash</i>
15 9/12 <i>Be Smart, Be Safe: A Personal Safety Workshop for Women</i>	16 10/12 <i>Outlawing Gender Violence: A Symposium on Gender Violence Laws in India and Abroad</i>	INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN: <i>'Chennai Men Say NO! to Violence against Women' video series: http://www.youtube.com/user/gritprajnya</i> <i>Blog posts by senior and emerging scholars on the global 16 Days Campaign theme, 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women!'. The posts can be read at: http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com/</i>				

Why 16 Days?

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence originated in 1991 as an initiative of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and has since been used as an organising strategy by several organisations around the world. Between 25 November and 10 December every year, the 16 Days Campaign draws the attention of policy makers, governments and civil society to gender violence, and advocates for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

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

Features of the 2012 Campaign

After a one-year hiatus, Prajnya's 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence returned for its fourth edition, held between 25 November and 10 December 2012 in Chennai. As with previous years' campaigns, the 2012 edition sought to create platforms for frank, open and productive conversations on different aspects of gender violence.

- This year's campaign was perhaps our most ambitious yet, with a total of 17 events over the 16 days, at 14 different venues. In addition, 9 of these events were open to the public, the first time that a majority of events have been for a general audience.
- One of the main themes of this year's campaign was 'bystander intervention', or how to respond as a witness to gender violence. This was the topic of discussion at our community café that launched the campaign as well as at our public forum (one of the campaign staples).
- Other themes that came up multiple times during the campaign were online safety, street sexual harassment and laws on gender violence.
- For this year's campaign, we issued a call for poetry, inviting any amateur or professional poet from any part of the world to submit poems on the theme 'No Violence, No Silence'. Following an overwhelming response, we selected a few of the submissions we received, and published them in 'Origami micro chapbooks', which were distributed at another of our campaign staples, the poetry reading.
- After many failed attempts at incorporating female foeticide into the campaign, we finally succeeded this year: we carried out a pilot survey of private-sector diagnostic clinics in the city to find out their staff's awareness of pre-natal sex selection laws and practices. We also distributed posters to the clinics, in both English and Tamil, which declared that sex determination is banned.
- In keeping with the global 16 Days Campaign theme, 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women!', we commissioned special posts on militarism and gender violence by nine senior and emerging scholars, which were released periodically over the campaign on Prajnya's GRIT (Gender Violence Research and Information Taskforce) blog.
- A very special feature of the 2012 campaign was our 'Chennai Men Say NO to Violence against Women' video series, in which 16 well-known Chennai men shared their views on violence against women and declared categorically that they say 'NO!' to such violence. The videos were released on Prajnya's GRIT YouTube channel over the 16 days of the campaign, and were also screened at most of our events. They can be accessed at www.youtube.com/gritprajnya

2012 Campaign Partners

[A38 Journal of International Law](#)

[Amethyst](#)

[Arangham Trust](#)

[Centre for Social Policy and Strategy](#)

[Chamiers](#)

[Chennai Volunteers](#)

[Empowering Women in IT \(eWIT\)](#)

[FLEXI Careers India](#)

[Friedrich Ebert Stiftung](#)

[International Krav Maga Federation – Chennai Chapter](#)

[Madras School of Social Work](#)

[Origami Poems Project](#)

[The Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan \(PSBB\) Millennium School, Gerugambakkam](#)

[Puthiya Thalaimurai](#)

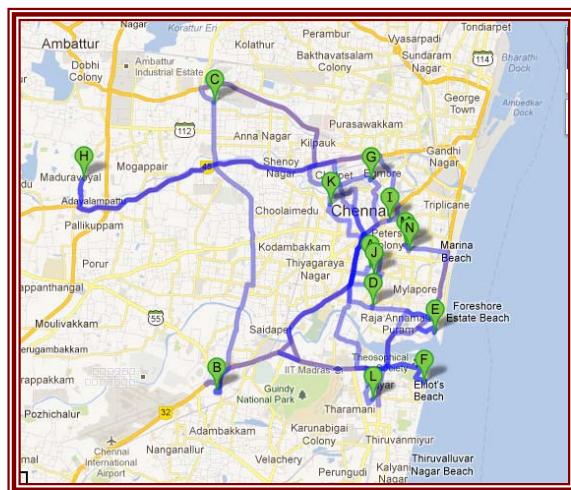
[Sa.Ma](#)

[Schizophrenia Research Foundation \(SCARF\)](#)

[Transparent Chennai](#)

**Thanks to each and every one of you!
Without you, there would be no campaign at all.**

And the places we went in 2012...



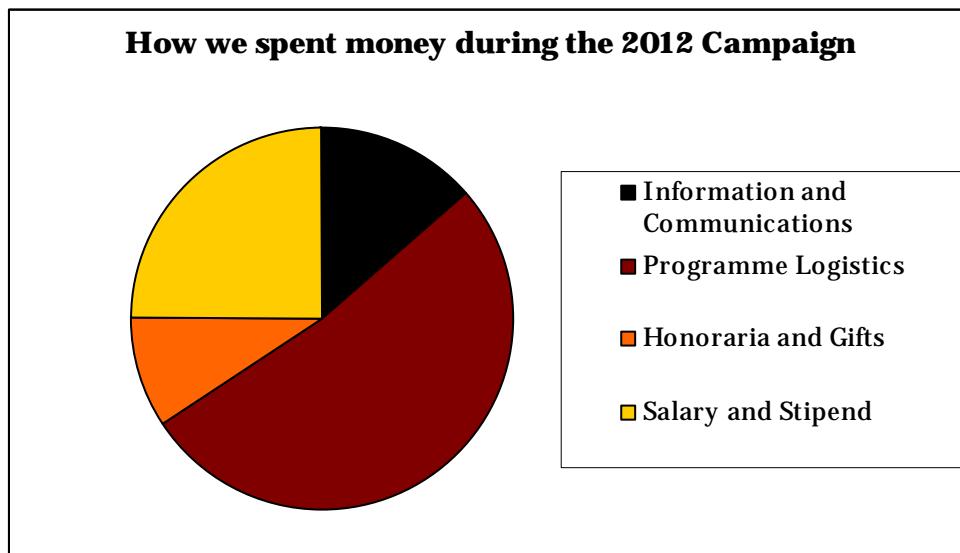
A map of all our campaign venues which shows we tried to cross the length and breadth of Chennai!
Thank you for hosting us!

Campaign Accounts

For the 2012 campaign, we had earmarked ₹ 62,000/- from previously raised funds, and specifically for the campaign, we raised ₹ 68,551/- afresh. Thus, we had ₹ 1,30,551/- available for our use.

Thank you for your financial support! Kasturi & Sons, Sridhar Krishnaswamy, Ashish Bhatt, S.Sivakumar, Malati Jaikumar, L.Ramakrishnan and Nandhini Shanmugham.

In all, we spent ₹ 1,28,424/- on the 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 ₹ 17,309/- under this head.
- Under 'Programme Logistics,' we include the costs of renting venues and audiovisual equipment (including projector, screen, laptop, speakers and lights); travel costs and refreshments. We spent ₹ 66,754/- under this head.
- Under 'Honoraria and Gifts,' we include the costs of presenting resource persons with honoraria, conveyance or mementos. We spent ₹ 12,361/- under this head.
- Under 'Salary and Stipend,' we include the salary and travel allowance of the Campaign Associate and the stipend given to the Media Intern. We spent ₹ 32,000/- under this head.

The 2012 Campaign Team

Campaign Associate: Shakthi Manickavasagam

Media Intern: Jennifer Raj

Aishwarya Sankara Narayanan
Archana Venkatesh
Michelle James
Priya Raju
Subhashini Selvanathan
Tanuja Ramani

Anupama Srinivasan
Hemant Shivakumar
Nandhini Shanmugham
Ramesh B.
Swarna Rajagopalan
Uma Vangal

Anuradha Rao
Jyothi Kumar
Nirupa Sundaravadanan
Sharanya Manivannan
Sweta Narayanan
Vasughi Adityan

And all those who pitched in at the programmes they attended! Thank you so much everyone!

THE 2012 PRAJNYA CAMPAIGN, DAY BY DAY

**Day 1
NOVEMBER 25
LOOK OUT. SPEAK UP. TAKE ACTION.
A Prajnya Community Café**



The 2012 Campaign began with a ‘community café’ at a residential complex in Alwarpet. The concept of a community café involves bringing together people who belong to a particular community (in this case, people who live in the same apartment building or complex), to discuss gender violence. The idea behind this is that talking about the issue, particularly with people we know, is the first step in the fight against violence.

Residents in the complex gathered in the community hall to discuss the theme of bystander intervention - how do we respond when we becomes aware that a friend, a relative, a colleague, a neighbour or even a stranger on the street is experience violence? Can I get involved, should I get involved? How can I get involved?

This event was a pilot for a proposed plan to conduct one community café every month at different residential complexes and apartment buildings across the city.

‘We can take small steps to help even if we are unsure of how it will turn out in the long run.’ – Resident of Aashiana

Day 2
NOVEMBER 26
WHERE IN CYBERSPACE ARE YOU?
An Online Safety Initiative

Find yourself. It's not just an ego trip!

It's a Monday morning. You are back at work after a wonderful weekend. You're studying for next week's exams. Or maybe you are just bored, wondering what you *should* be doing.

No matter what you're doing (or not), you're online. But of course. You have at least three Gmail accounts that you need to check every few minutes, you are on Facebook, you tweet... every day, you interact online with dozens of people, some whom you consider friends, others whom you've never met and a few you hope you'll never meet.

So, if I were to ask:

**WHERE IN CYBERSPACE
ARE YOU?**

Your answer will most likely be, in one word: everywhere. That's the truth. You're everywhere. And that's great. Who doesn't want visibility and maybe a teeny bit of (temporary) fame?

There's just one tiny little problem. Sometimes, your answer could be: 'I don't really know'. Because, lets face it, we really have no clue what's out there about ourselves. Because sometimes, the truth is, we have no control over what's out there.

It's time to fix this. In **FIVE simple steps**.

Step 1: Google yourself (assuming you don't already do this regularly!). Remember to also search in Google Images. Or any search engine, for that matter. Make sure you sign out of all email/social media accounts first.

Step 2: Scan the results carefully (and not just the first page, keep going for a few pages!). Say you find a plethora of information about yourself including some praising your professional expertise. You also stumble across flattering photos that you authorized. Great! Skip to Step 5. *But*.

The advent of social networking sites has resulted in a plethora of information about all of us being available in the public domain. It is possible that some of this information (including contact details and photos) may not have been authorised or approved by us. In order to prevent this, and to raise awareness about the necessity of looking ourselves up online periodically, Prajnya launched an online safety initiative, 'Where in cyberspace are you?', on the second day of the campaign, by releasing a simple and handy five-step guide, which we shared online repeatedly throughout the day. This guide can be read at:
<http://www.prajnya.in/16d12wicsay.pdf>

"Most Internet users are ignorant of the dangers of sharing information indiscriminately. In this campaign, Anupama and her team ask the women, 'Do you go to Google or any other search engine and look for information about yourselves?' This concern is reflected in a simple five-step manual on staying safe in cyberspace." Prince Frederick, Put on your virtual shoes, The Hindu, November 28, 2012.

Day 3
NOVEMBER 27
CYBERSAFETY WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS



The third day of the campaign took us to the PSBB Millennium School in Gerugambakkam, where we conducted online safety workshops for two batches of students. As the number of young children going online and joining social networks is increasing rapidly, we believe it is essential to sensitise them about the risks that may accompany their Internet usage. This was also an opportunity for us to engage with school children in the format of a workshop for the first time.

Students from the 6th, 7th and 8th standards attended the first session, in which they were given an overview of the general rules they should follow when using the Internet. The second, more intensive session, was with the teenage students of the 9th and 10th standards. This included several interactive exercises to gauge the students' awareness of cybersafety, tips and guidelines on how to stay safe online and the screening of videos that highlighted the extent of Internet usage among young people today.

**Day 4
NOVEMBER 28
SYMPOSIUM ON MENTAL HEALTH AND GENDER VIOLENCE**



Prajnya partnered with Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) once again to conduct a half-day symposium for psychology, sociology and social work students on the linkages between mental health and gender violence. Experiencing violence is a traumatic experience, and the healing process often requires the expertise of trained counsellors and social workers. Keeping this in mind, this symposium was organised to introduce students to the unique issues that arise when dealing with victims of gender violence.

This event featured mental health experts with both research experience and a practical knowledge of treating victims of violence. The speakers at the symposium were Dr Shuba Kumar (SAMARTH), Dr Hema Tharoor (SCARF), Ravi Samuel, a psychotherapist and Anupama Srinivasan (Prajnya). The event was chaired by Dr Sheela Julius from the Madras School of Social Work.

Some of the key points discussed were:

- Counsellors and social workers should always be sensitive and non-judgmental of victims of violence, whether they seek professional help or not.
- Domestic violence should be classified as a major health issue.
- Witnessing violence, particularly at a young age, can be as traumatic as experiencing it firsthand.
- While violence is often impossible to predict, there are warning signs that can indicate the possibility of violent behaviour.

**Day 5
NOVEMBER 29
NOT SILENCE, BUT VERSE
A Poetry Reading**



For the fourth campaign in a row, Prajnya organised a poetry reading featuring some of the city's most acclaimed poets; as with previous campaigns, the purpose of the reading was to initiate a discussion on gender violence, to incorporate the arts into the campaign, and to spread our message to a general audience.

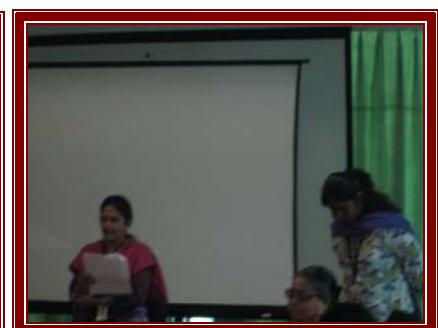
Held at Chamiers, the reading featured Dr K. Srilata, L. Ramakrishnan (Ramki) and Sharanya Manivannan, who also conceptualised and moderated the event. Their poems addressed various themes of gender violence, equality and emancipation.

The reading also featured submissions from Prajnya's call for poetry, 'No Violence, No Silence'. This open call for poetry encouraged both aspiring and established poets to send in haikus or tankas in English, Hindi and/or Tamil on the theme of gender violence. Select poems were published in Origami micro chapbooks (in partnership with the [Origami Poems Project](#)) and distributed at the reading; in addition, these poems were read by the invited poets, as part of the event.

All the submissions to our call for poetry can be read at: <http://notsilencebutverse.tumblr.com/>.

'It was a treat listening to the sensitive poets!' – Tulsi Badrinath, writer and dancer.

**Day 6
NOVEMBER 30
ROUNDTABLE ON WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT
FOR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS**



We joined hands with AVTAR (Flexi Careers India) and eWIT to organise a roundtable discussion on workplace sexual harassment (WSH) for human resources managers from companies in the IT/ITES sector. The purpose of this discussion was to formulate best practices that companies could adopt to ensure that their employees feel safe and secure in their work environment.

The human resources representatives made presentations on the WSH policies of their respective companies, which was followed by a lively discussion. The discussion was moderated by Ms Sheila Jayaprakash, a senior advocate in the Madras High Court. Ms Jayaprakash provided insightful comments, observations and recommendations on the policies presented, and also gave an excellent overview of the Vishakha guidelines, the legal code that governs WSH in India.

**Day 7
DECEMBER 1
VIOLENCE ON THE PAGE
A Literary Symposium**

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the title bar "Violence on the Page: Symposium Compendium". The address bar shows the URL "gritprajnya.wordpress.com/2012/12/01/violence-on-the-page-symposium-compendium/". The main content area displays a list of posts from December 1, 2012, including contributions from C.S. Lakshmi, Sharanya Manivannan, Mangai, and others. The sidebar on the right contains links to "Follow @prajnya on Twitter", "GRIT@Prajnya Projects", "Campaign Chronicle", "What's in a Game?", and "Prajnya Online". The status bar at the bottom right indicates the date and time as "12-01-2013 10:42".

Our second online event of the campaign featured a 'blog' symposium, or a collection of perspectives on a given issue, published online, where invited experts reflect on how sexual and gender violence is portrayed or represented in literary works. The participants were Dr K Srilata, Sharanya Manivannan, Mangai and C.S. Lakshmi (Ambai).

This 'symposium' consisted of two parts:

- First, our contributors wrote a short post about any one work of fiction (written in any language) that portrays gender or sexual violence, directly or indirectly, by which they have been particularly impressed for some reason.
- Second, our contributors responded to three key questions posed by us. These questions explored two issues –
 1. the role that literature plays in depicting social realities such as violence, and its potential to alter, in any way, the discourse around it;
 2. broad reflections on the rhetoric within Indian literature (if any) on gender and sexual violence.

This blog symposium can be viewed at:

<http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com/2012/12/01/introducing-violence-on-the-page-a-literary-symposium/>

Day 8
DECEMBER 2
SONGBIRD
An Evening of Music



Music has always been an integral part of the campaign, and this year was no exception, as Vedanth Bharadwaj and Bindhumalini lent their considerable talent to our cause. Combining Carnatic and Hindustani musical traditions with Vedanth's guitar, the duo brought alive the works of Kabir and other mystic saints. Held at Spaces, next to Elliot's Beach, the programme also featured rising talent Aditya Srinivasan on the tabla, and included a cameo by Mattio, a musician from Germany. The large audience was unanimous in declaring that it was a magical evening. From Prajnya's perspective, we were given a completely new audience to share our message with; we also had the opportunity to infuse some positive energy into the campaign, as the joyous music was symbolic of those who have been liberated from the cycle of violence.

'Artists of any kind are those who have chosen to share with the world their voice, their identity and what they believe in... music is the most powerful medium that reaches to one and all across all kinds of differences and borders. When artists have the privilege to express themselves in the way they feel right, it makes it more meaningful if they express and support thoughts and ideas that benefit each and every individual.' – Vedanth, on why it is important for artists to be a part of a campaign such as ours.

Day 9
DECEMBER 3
RESEARCH SURVEY ON PRE-NATAL SEX SELECTION



With a focus on female foeticide and pre-natal sex selection, we conducted a workshop for a group of graduate students at the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), which dealt with these specific issues, as well as with gender violence in general. After the workshop, the students were sent in smaller groups to various zones in the city, to survey the staff at diagnostic clinics, centres and laboratories on their awareness of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act and the responsibility of clinics in this regard.

The students were also given posters in both English and Tamil to distribute to the staff at these clinics, which stated clearly that sex determination is illegal. All diagnostic clinics and centres are mandated by law to display these posters.

We are currently analyzing the data from this survey and will share the key findings in the coming months.

**THIS CLINIC DOES NOT PERFORM
SEX DETERMINATION TESTS**

Sex Determination Tests are Punishable by Law



**Save the Girl Child.
SAVE YOUR FUTURE.**



www.prajnya.in

**Day 10
DECEMBER 4**

GENDER VIOLENCE AWARENESS TRAINING FOR NURSING STUDENTS



Gender violence sensitisation for health care workers is critical for the physical, mental and emotional healing of victims. With this in mind, we went to a prominent nursing school in the city, to conduct workshops for the students, with the aim of introducing them to the linkages between violence and health.

The first introductory session for students from all the four batches at the school provided a general overview of gender violence, and touched upon some of the key issues that a health care professional must be aware of in dealing with violence.

In a second, more intensive workshop for final year students, the students were given practical advice on how to be sensitive and compassionate when encountering victims of violence, and were taught the basic skills needed to respond to violence.

‘One of the important issues we have focused on, and were keen to do so once again, is the impact that gender violence has on public health and therefore, the role of health care professionals in responding to violence. Nurses are often the first point of contact for those who experience violence, whether at home or at work; nursing students will someday be in a position where they can offer invaluable support to someone who has experienced violence and needs help.’ – Dr Swarna Rajagopalan, Prajnya

Day 11
DECEMBER 5
ONE SUTRA, MANY STORIES



Artiste and performer Dr Anita Ratnam, Friend of Prajnya, joined classical pianist Anil Srinivasan in an enthralling performance at Amethyst. Conceptualised specifically for our campaign, 'One Sutra, Many Stories' was an intriguing amalgamation of music, dance, speech and audience interaction.

"One Sutra, Many Stories" showed how currents of violence run through our lives, even through acts and attitudes we do not think of as violent. From colour and size prejudices to the preference for male offspring to the casual diminution of a woman's personhood, the actual act of violence is only a culmination. Through this Sutra of violence, Anita Ratnam wove the stories Sita, Manthara, Persephone, Ahalya and Surpanakha, as illustration and as mirror. She began by contrasting our idealised expectations for girls and boys, and finished by asking people to express their anger about this issue without words... and without violence.

Naan oru vilayattu bommaya, played by Anil Srinivasan at the beginning of the performance, seemed to speak for not just the women portrayed by Anita Ratnam, but all of us whose lives are mirrored in the stories enacted. The percussionist, Krishna Kishor, through his use of instruments and rhythms from all over the world, echoed and underscored Anita Ratnam's message.

The evening ended with dimmed lights and the audience voicing their frustration with violence through noise without words.

Day 12
DECEMBER 6
BE STREETSMART!
A Hollaback! Chennai Discussion



Street sexual harassment has always been an important theme of the campaign. For the 2012 edition, Prajnya's related initiative, Hollaback! Chennai (part of the international Hollaback! movement, which seeks to initiate a crowd-sourced empowered response to street harassment), organised a workshop for female members of Chennai Volunteers, at their office on Eldams Road. Participants ranged from high school and college students to working professionals. The event included the screening of clips from the documentary '*Mera Apna Sheher*' by Sameera Jain, which explores the relationship that the urban Indian woman has with public spaces in her city.

Day 13
DECEMBER 7
CAN GOOD GIRLS HAVE FUN?
A Book Reading and Discussion with the Authors of 'Why Loiter?'



One of the events we were most excited about this year was a book reading by Sameera Khan and Shilpa Ranade, authors (along with Shilpa Phadke) of the well-received book 'Why Loiter?'. 'Why Loiter?' presents an original take on women's safety in the cities of 21st century India. It maps the exclusions and negotiations that women from different classes and communities encounter in the nation's urban public spaces.

The aim of this event, which was open to the public, was to initiate a discussion on women's access to public spaces in India, and to analyse the real and implied risks that women face everyday.

Held in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Transparent Chennai, at the Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR) in Nungambakkam, this event featured the authors reading excerpts from their book, interspersed with a discussion on several aspects of women's access to public spaces, including the ways in which women navigate public transport, access to public toilets and the freedom that women have to 'loiter' in spaces such as public parks. The programme also included an interactive exercise, which was meant to create awareness about the limited accessibility that women have in Indian cities.

Sameera Khan and Shilpa Ranade also made an appearance on a popular local English-language radio station, to discuss these issues.

'Instead of safety, what women would then seek is the right to take risks, for it is only by claiming the right to risk that we can truly claim citizenship.' – Excerpt from 'Why Loiter?'

**Day 14
DECEMBER 8**

**PROGRESS REPORT: LAW, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND INDIAN SOCIETY
A Prajnya Women's History Roundtable Presentation by Sheila Jayaprakash**



Prajnya spearheads several initiatives besides our 16 Days Campaign; one of these is our Women's History Roundtable Series, which takes place on the second Saturday of every month. This month's roundtable seminar was a special one; in keeping with the spirit of the campaign, Madras High Court lawyer Sheila Jayaprakash spoke about gender violence and the law.

Ms Jayaprakash provided an overview of gender violence laws in India, described her experiences in court and recounted the various interpretations judges and lawyers have applied to the law. Some of the important points she made were:

- Compensation or even enhancement of punishment (from imprisonment to death) will not stop rape. What is likely to work better is the surety of conviction and also a time-bound investigation.
- Civil laws dealing with domestic violence all relate to remedies within the home, namely, divorce. However, there are multiple problems associated with this. The concept of equal division of assets is nearly unknown in Indian courts, and the woman often leaves the marriage with nothing. As a result, most women prefer not to recourse to divorce.
- Even those legislations that are intended to protect women are based on extremely unequal assumptions. For example, in a case of adultery, only the 'other man' can be prosecuted if a married woman is having an affair. Implicit in this system is the assumption that the man is at fault, even though the woman is a willing participant. In effect, this system of prosecution controls the sexuality of a woman.
- The way forward lies in positive equality rather than formal equality or protective equality. For example, in a workplace, the onus should be on the employer to ensure the safety on women.

A full report of the roundtable can be viewed at: <http://keepingcount.wordpress.com/2012/12/10/16-days-campaign-womens-history-roundtable-8-12-12-sheila-jayaprakash-on-law-gender-violence-and-society/>

**Day 14
DECEMBER 8
SIRAIGALUM, SIRAGUGALUM/ BREAKING FREE
A Public Forum On Responding To Gender Violence**



One of the main themes of the campaign, bystander intervention, was discussed at our public forum at the Indira Nagar Youth Hostel, held in partnership with Puthiya Thalaimurai. Moderated by poet Thamizhachi Thangapandian, the forum featured Arul Mozhi, an advocate in the Madras High Court, Prasanna Poornachandra from the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC), Jothimani, a political activist from the Indian National Congress and Maithreyi, a writer and journalist. Two survivors of domestic violence also shared their stories.

The evening also featured an open mic session, which allowed the audience to engage in a spirited discussion, not just on bystander intervention, but on several aspects of gender violence, including the need to educate women on the definition of violence. Some members of the audience also voluntarily shared their own experiences of violence, and others, several of them male, spoke up against the pervasive nature of violence against women.



Day 15
DECEMBER 9
BE SMART, BE SAFE
A Personal Safety Workshop for Women



The penultimate day of the campaign took us to the Jammi Buildings in Royapettah, where our partner, S. Sreeram of the International Krav Maga Federation (Chennai Chapter), conducted two personal safety workshops for women. The purpose of this event was to equip women with practical skills and techniques to escape an attacker. Mr Sreeram used a pragmatic approach to self-defence, advising the participants that the surest way of protecting themselves was to demobilise the attacker temporarily, which would give them enough time to run away; he warned against trying to overpower an attacker, who is likely to be bigger and stronger than the victim. His simple and effective self-defence techniques, using the principles of Krav Maga (an Israeli self-defence system) gave all the women present a confidence boost.

'Ordinary people can learn self-defence. They have a right to protect themselves, their assets and their dependents.' – S. Sreeram.

Day 16
DECEMBER 10
OUTLAWING GENDER VIOLENCE
A Symposium



For the last day of the campaign, we organised a symposium, 'Outlawing Gender Violence', for law students and service providers, on gender violence laws in India, in other democratic countries, and in the international system. Our objective was to spread awareness among future lawyers about the specific legal questions that may arise when dealing with gender violence.

This symposium featured some of Chennai's most eminent lawyers: Geeta Ramaseshan, K. Santhakumari, Sheila Jayaprakash and Vidya Chetan. The US Consulate, Chennai, British Deputy High Commission, Chennai and EU delegation to India also sent or suggested speakers on gender violence laws in their respective countries.

In the first session on international law, Ms Ramaseshan provided an overview of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) provisions relating to gender-based violence.

The next session dealt with Indian laws on gender violence. Ms Santhakumari tackled laws on rape and sexual assault, Ms Jayaprakash spoke on workplace sexual harassment and Ms Chetan addressed domestic violence laws. The participants were then given the opportunity to form smaller 'breakout' groups, which were each led by one of these three lawyers, to discuss the specific issue that each of the lawyers had spoken about.

The final session, on gender violence laws in other democratic states, featured another senior advocate, NV Sreejaya, providing an overview of gender violence laws in the UK; US Vice-Consul (Chennai) Daniel Lee, speaking on laws in the US; and Philipp Oliver Gross, First Secretary Political Affairs, EU Delegation to India, speaking on laws in the EU.

CAMPAIGN THEME POSTS 'FROM PEACE IN THE HOME TO PEACE IN THE WORLD'

Peace in the Home, Peace in the World: A special series for the 2012 Campaign

NOVEMBER 25, 2012 BY PSW TEAM LEAVE A COMMENT (EDIT)

As part of the [2012 Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence](#), we are very proud to bring you a series of specially commissioned posts on militarism and gender violence by senior and emerging scholars. The posts centre around the global campaign theme, *From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*

The objective of this series is to make accessible in the blog format, some of the issues and arguments that fieldworkers and feminist scholars have been writing about, in relation to militarism, conflict and gender violence (including sexual violence). The issues range from the actual occurrence of violence and its rhetorical underpinnings; to the laws that pertain to this violence; to the various contexts in which it occurs and the relationships that emerge to give it legitimacy; and finally, to the continuum of violence, from the home to the street to the now ubiquitous battlefield.

We are most of all grateful that everyone we approached readily took the time out to find or write something for us, no matter that each one has so many commitments. It says a great deal both about their generosity as scholars and also how important this issue is.

Our contributors: Anuradha Chenoy, Sumona DasGupta, Preeti Gill, Saumya Uma, Binalakshmi Nepram, Swati Parasher, Soumita Basu, Akanksha Mehta and Kirthi Gita Jayakumar.

Starting today, posts will appear every other day, plus the 10th of December. We will also make a single file .pdf version available online at the end of the campaign.

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FILED UNDER 2012 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN THEME SERIES, GRIT JOURNAL TAGGED WITH 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN THEME 2012, CONFLICT, GENDER VIOLENCE, INSECURITY, MILITARISM, PEACE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, WOMEN

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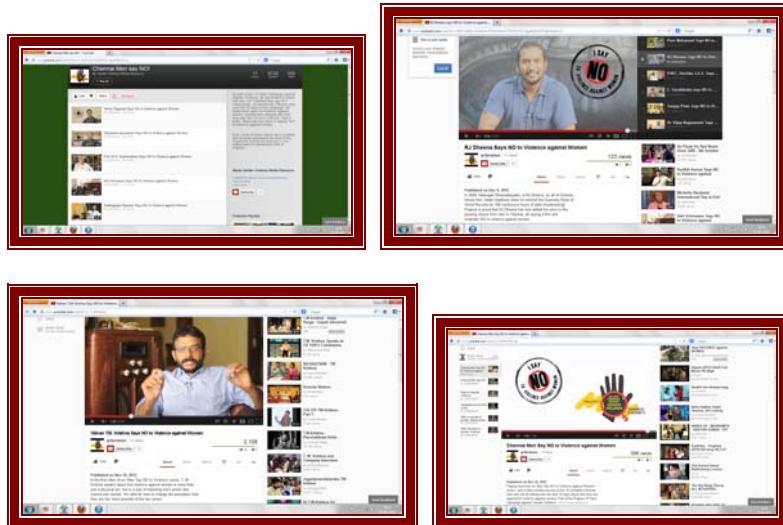
Every year, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, which initiated the 16 Days Campaign, announces a global campaign theme, which it encourages organisations around the world to incorporate into their respective campaigns. The global theme this year was 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women!' In keeping with the campaign theme, we commissioned a series of special posts on militarism and gender violence by nine senior and emerging scholars, which we published online periodically over the course of the campaign.

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Our contributors: Anuradha Chenoy, Sumona DasGupta, Preeti Gill, Saumya Uma, Binalakshmi Nepram, Swati Parasher, Soumita Basu, Akanksha Mehta and Kirthi Gita Jayakumar.

The posts appeared every other day during the campaign on Prajnya's GRIT blog. They can be viewed at <http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com/category/grit-journal/2012-16-days-campaign-theme-series/>.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE 'CHENNAI MEN SAY "NO!" TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' VIDEOS



For many years, we have been trying to get men more actively involved in our campaign, to make two important points—

- Violence against women is not just a women's issue, it affects all of us at different stages of our lives. Many of us know friends, family members, neighbours who have experienced violence, in some form or the other.
- This is not about men v/s women – we want to make the point that there are men who do not endorse or support violence of any form against women.

To this end, we launched our 'Chennai Men Say NO! to Violence against Women' video series during the 2012 campaign. Each of the 16 videos in the series features one prominent man from Chennai, who has given a personal, powerful and motivating message about why he says no to violence against women. We believe that these men, by saying loud and clear, that it is wrong to abuse women, to beat your wife, to assault a young girl travelling on a bus, will encourage and motivate people (particularly young boys and men) to follow their lead.

The videos were screened at most of our campaign events, and were also uploaded on our GRIT Prajnya YouTube channel over the 16 days of the campaign. They can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/gritprajnya?feature=watch>



This would not have been possible without two wonderful Prajnya volunteers, Ramesh B and Jyothi Kumar, who filmed and edited all the videos. Thank you so much, Ramesh and Jyothi!

The men featured in our videos are (in first-name alphabetical order):

Anil Srinivasan, Arasu Dennis, N. Dheenadayalan (RJ Dheena), Karthik Kumar, Kiruba Shankar, T. M. Krishna, Nityanand Jayaraman, Peer Mohamed, P. C. Ramakrishna, Sadagopan Ramesh, Sanjay Pinto, E. Sarathbabu, Dr. MS Swaminathan, Venky Rajgopal, Dr. Vijay Nagaswami, and Wilfred Davidar.

How Did We Fare?



- In terms of numbers, this year's campaign was a success. We had around 2,000 people at our various events, with close to 500 attending our public events. While press coverage of the campaign was slower than in previous years, we were featured repeatedly on the radio; our campaign blog (<http://prajnya16days.blogspot.in/>), Facebook page and tweets also received several views.
- The quality of the discussions at our events was almost uniformly excellent, particularly at the public forum and the law symposium, which we found very encouraging.
- Several of our events served as a launching pad for long-term initiatives. For example, the community café was met with positive feedback, and will be conducted at other residential complexes in Chennai. The roundtable on workplace sexual harassment for human resources managers in the IT industry was also well received, and will be extended to other sectors. We are also in the preliminary stages of formulating a week-long module on gender violence for nursing students.
- While continuing to have a successful relationship with partners who have been with us over multiple campaigns, we also forged several new partnerships, which have the potential to be extended to non-campaign activities.
- Our 'Chennai Men Say NO to Violence against Women' video series, gave us greater visibility than ever before (and also attracted a considerable amount of media coverage). At the time of writing this report, the videos had been viewed by 4500 people on YouTube.

Even as we are writing this report, the nation has been rocked by the news of a woman in New Delhi being gang-raped by up to seven men on a moving bus. This incident, and the countless others like it that occur on a daily basis, are what make the 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence relevant, urgent and essential, and motivate us to continue our activism to educate and inform people about this issue.

We hope you will continue to support our efforts.



Stay in touch with us!

During the Campaign season

Email: prajnya.16days@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.prajnya.in/16days.htm>

Blog: <http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnya16dayscampaign>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/prajnya>

In the Campaign off-season

Email: prajnyatrust@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.prajnya.in>

Blog: <http://keepingcount.wordpress.com/>

<http://gritprajnya.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/prajnyatrust>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/prajnya>