

WORKING TOGETHER TO END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

White Ribbon Day 2024
Activities in Congleton



## The theme for White Ribbon Day 2024 - #ItStartsWithMen



# What we did for Congleton White Ribbon Day 2024:

- Outdoor Awareness Campaign
- Town Centre Stall and Drop-in Day
- Ambassador Letters to Chronicle
- White Ribbon Pub Tour
- School Workshops
- Our flagship video #ltStartsWithMen
- Participation in National Campaign
- Press
- Social Media and Online
- Results





WORKING TOGETHER TO END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE







## **Outdoor Awareness**

White Ribbons on lampposts and the Town Hall gates, the White Ribbon flag flying on the Town Hall and posters around town and in the information centre.







# Stall and 'Drop-in' Day in the Town Hall

















wember 2024

#### White Ribbon requires dedication

Dear Sir, - As White Ribbon day on 25th November approaches, I wanted to offer a heartfelt follow-up to my previous

Becoming a White Ribbon ambassador has been both a deeply fulfilling and often challenging

The principles of the White Ribbon movement - ending gender-based violence and promoting respect and equality - are straightforward yet require real dedication and courage to uphold in daily life.

As a father of three and a member of the community, I feel it's essential to share both the rewards and the struggles I've encountered in putting these principles into practice.

In today's society, standing against firmly particularly violence against women and girls, means actively confronting a culture that has often allowed harmful attitudes and behaviours to persist.

As a man, I am aware that silence on issues like these can be perceived as passive acceptance.

One of the greatest challenges I face as a White Ribbon ambassador is navigating those difficult conversations. Speaking up, even in casual social settings, isn't always easy - especially when friends, colleagues or family members don't yet fully understand the importance of what we're trying to change.

Calling out inappropriate behaviour or language, or advocating for a different approach to masculinity, can be met with resistance, or even defensiveness. It's uncomfortable at times, but I know that it's a crucial part of shifting attitudes.

As a father, I also feel a profound responsibility to lead by example.

For me, the principles of the White Ribbon movement have been transformative, impacting how I approach everything, from discussions with my children about respect and empathy to showing emotional vulnerability.

Teaching my kids the importance of kindness, consent, and equality is a cornerstone of my role as a parent, and that work requires constant reflection.

# Ambassador letters to the **Congleton Chronicle**

from what we say but, more importantly, from what we do. White Ribbon's commitment of to non-violence, respect, and allyship aligns closely with the values I hope to pass on to my inf

At times, it feels challenging society doesn't always provide consistent models of respectful masculinity, and I want to ensure hu my children see and understand that strength comes from compassion, not dominance.

For men like myself middle-aged, and well into the responsibilities of work, family, and community involvement the impact of living by

these principles has been overwhelmingly positive.

It's given me a deeper sense of purpose and connection to others. Knowing that I am actively contributing to a safer and more respectful world for my family, friends, and future generations is incredibly rewarding.

In my role as a father and ambassador. I've also noticed a deepening of my relationships, particularly with my children. They see the efforts I make, and I hope that by witnessing my commitment, they too will carry forward these ideals.

In essence, being a White Ribbon ambassador is not just about a title or a role - it's a commitment to daily action.

For men and fathers within the community, White Ribbon provides a framework not just to reject violence, but to champion respect and equality in all aspects of life. While it isn't without its challenges, the impact on those we love, and the community at large, makes every moment worthwhile.

Thank you for supporting this conversation. As 25th November approaches, I urge our community to join in the spirit of White Ribbon day by taking small steps to foster a culture of respect, compassion, and non-violence. Together, we can create lasting change. - Yours faithfully,

(COUN) RICHARD WALTON

White Ribbon ambassador,

#### vember 2024 Men need to be role models

Dear Sir, - As we approach White Ribbon day on 25th November, I want to reinforce the vital message behind this year's theme: "It Starts With Men."

In my role as chair of the White Ribbon Working Group at Congleton Town Council, I work alongside dedicated colleagues to raise awareness about the urgent need to eradicate gender-based violence.

While I live in a predominantly female family and work in a predominantly female workforce, I joined White Ribbon because the statistics are stark: it is highly likely that someone in my family or community could be affected by sexual violence. The thought of standing by and doing nothing was simply not an option for me.

Gender-based violence affects individuals across all demographics, but men play a critical role in changing the culture that enables it.

Violence against women is not just a "women's issue" — it's a societal issue. It's about the attitudes, behaviours, and structures that perpetuate inequality and allow violence to occur. To truly create a safe and equitable society, we must address these issues at their root - and this starts with men.

Men need to be role models, calling out inappropriate behaviours, challenging harmful stereotypes, and fostering respect and equality in their homes, workplaces, and communities. These actions, though seemingly small, collectively create a ripple effect that leads to lasting change.

On this White Ribbon day, I urge everyone, particularly men, to take the White Ribbon Promise: to never commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women. Together, we can challenge the norms that allow gender-based violence to persist.

This is not just an individual responsibility but a collective effort. I invite all readers to join us in making Congleton a community where everyone feels safe and valued, free from the shadow of violence. Remember, ending gender-based violence truly starts with men. — Yours faithfully,

(COUN) RICHARD WALTON White Ribbon Ambassador, Chair of the White Ribbon Working Group, Congleton Town Council.

It's white Ribbon day this Monday. As a White Ribbon Ambassador I'd like to add my voice in support of the campaign, which aims to end male violence against women and girls.

There are some who say there's no point trying because, they claim, it'll never be eradicated.

Please don't be so defeatist. Instead why not show your support for the cause?

This year's theme is, "It starts with men".

Most men don't indulge in violence, sexism and misogyny but how many of us men challenge our mates who do?

It's a question us men should ask ourselves and perhaps do more to persuade friends that even cat-calling, wolf-whistling and sexist jokes should be things of the past.

Congleton is a leader in the White Ribbon Camaopign. Its achievements have been widely recognised by, among others, the House of Lords. More and more men in towns across he country are following the example set by so many men in Congleton. Will you? — Yours faithfully.

(COUN) MARK EDWARDSON Central Ward. Congleton Town Council.

chronicleseries.com It all starts

## with men

Dear Sir, - As white Ribbon ambassadors in Congleton we are promoting this year's White Ribbon day and 16 days of activism against violence against women and girls.

The theme for this year is "It starts with men", and we will be highlighting how internalised misogyny and sexism leads to the subtle victim blaming of women and girls for the violence and abuse inflicted upon them.

For too long the message has been about women and girls protecting themselves; not walking home in the dark; not wearing short skirts, or covering their drinks, when, in reality it should be about preventing the violence and abuse in the first

Women are not afraid of the dark, they are entitled to have a drink, and to wear whatever clothes they like, and these things they should be able to do without fear of abuse or violence.

So this year let's stop making women solely responsible for their own safety, because it starts with men. - Yours faithfully,

> MIKE WESLEY White Ribbon ambassador. Congleton.

#### Stats paint a very sad picture

Dear Sir. - Monday, 25th November is White Ribbon day. The White Ribbon campaign is about reducing the extent of male violence towards women.

Congleton Town Council. as an accredited White Ribbon organisation, is working hard in our town to reduce the incidence of this serious problem.

The statistics paint a very sad picture. For example, more than 25% of women report experiencing domestic violence at some point in their lives and, on average, an incident of domestic abuse is reported to the police in our town each day.

Sexual harassment is common and around 50% of women report having been "groped" in public. These factors, along with the "toxic masculinity" being promoted on sections of the social media are contributing to a negative culture of misogyny which is making many women and girls very uneasy and unsafe.

For these reasons White Ribbon has chosen as its theme for this year "It starts with men", nudging all men to examine their attitudes and behaviour towards women and girls, to root-out the negative in ourselves and to call out the unacceptable when seen in others. This is my mission. Please, men, make it yours, too. Join us in the White Ribbon campaign. -Yours faithfully,

> PETER MUNRO White Ribbon ambassador.

## White Ribbon Pub Tour

Several pubs took beermats and posters, bar staff made their white ribbon promise, and we had some good conversations with regulars











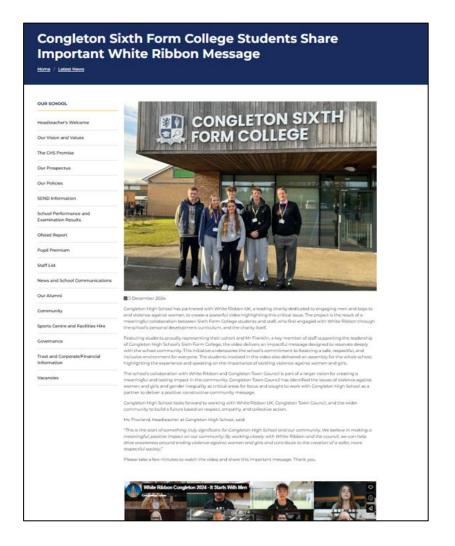






# Partnering with Congleton High School

Workshops with years 10-13 and 6th form students took part in our video









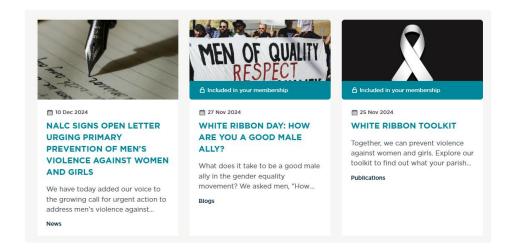
# Congleton White Ribbon 2024 Film

This year we partnered with Prickly Peach
Films who produced a highly-polished and thought-provoking film on the theme
#ItStartsWithMen...

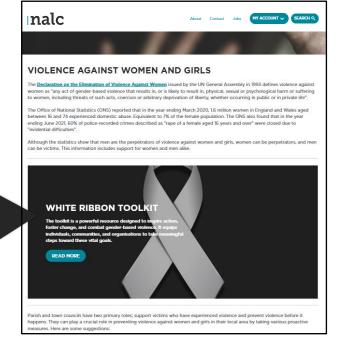


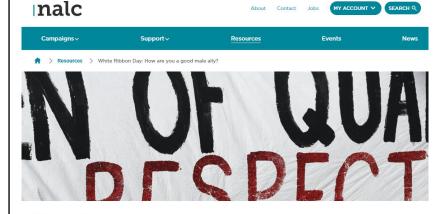
...that featured students, business owners, Councillors, Cheshire Fire & Rescue and Police Officers, the MP and the PCC as well as our White Ribbon Ambassadors

# Working with the National Association of Local Councils



This year the Congleton
White Ribbon team has
helped NALC to create a
Toolkit to support the
growing number of councils
that are becoming White
Ribbon Accredited





logs 27 Nov 2024

### WHITE RIBBON DAY: HOW ARE YOU A GOOD MALE ALLY?

Author: Daisy Petrow, former communications officer at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

What does it take to be a good male ally in the gender equality movement? The theme for this year's White Ribbon Day is 'It starts with men.' So, we asked men the question: "How are you a good male ally?" We collected 16 quotes for the 16 days of action. Here are the responses.

Cllr Keith Stevens, chair of NALC: "I appreciate it's not just about calling other men and boys out who are violent or threatening towards women and girls but also recognising the concern and fear men can engender by their mere presence and mannerisms".

Jonathan Owen, chief executive, NALC: "I will show my allyship by being prepared to say that it is not ok. I will also have at my fingertips the facts about the terrible abuse women suffer at the hands of men to raise awareness amongst my friends, colleagues, and others".

Cllr David Francis, vice chair, NALC: "I am always keen to promote gender equality in my parish council, so we are currently and actively seeking further women members whom we can co-opt. I will also be supporting efforts in 2025 to attract some female involvement in NALC's chair and vice-chairs' team".

Clir Richard Walton, councillor, Congleton Town Council: "I call out sexist and misogynist behaviour whenever I see it".

Jonathan Dakin, White Ribbon Ambassador: "The problem - it starts with men. I will continue to challenge and encourage men and boys to understand and action better behaviours. It starts with us!"

For White Ribbon Day, NALC asked Ambassadors from around the country to answer the question 'how are you a good male ally?'; several of ours took part

# **Press Coverage**

#### - White Ribbon message is 'it starts with men'

for the annual "16 days of activism" to end violence against Ribbon day (25th November) and campaign and share beermats and ending on international human posters rights day (10th December).

Men", to end violence against

challenge the attitudes and schools. behaviours that lead to men's violence against women.

Congleton Town Council other organisations to consider is a White Ribbon accredited becoming White Ribbon supporter organisation and has a White group comprising officers members of the public, who are more. We are happy to come and White Ribbon ambassadors or

centre on Saturday from 10am-2pm to encourage shoppers to make their White Ribbon promise to "never use, excuse or remain based violence"

at Blueys in the town hall; the

Congleton Town Council's same on 25th November from White Ribbon Group is preparing 10am-2pm. On 4th December the ambassadors and champions will be visiting pubs and bars in women and girls, starting on White the town centre to talk about the

Ribbon day is "It Starts With "We have had a good year of The White Ribbon movement social clubs, the Mothers' Union, engages men specifically to and for the first time, primary

> "We would really like sports clubs, businesses and organisations this year. Please get in touch or come along to our stall or drop-in if you'd like to know give a talk anytim

The team has worked with Members of the group will be at a street stall in Congleton town Prickly Peach Films on a short officers, crime commissioner Dan silent about men's violence Price, local MP Sarah Russell, against women or any gender- business owners and sixth form The team will also be offering White Ribbon aims to address,

White Ribbon ambassador Coun Richard Walton said: engagement with the campaign,

video that will be released on 25th November. The film features coffee and cake at a drop-in and that the solution starts with

#### White Ribbon Group visits Astbury St Mary's Primary



#### White Ribbon group visits primary school

recently visited St Mary's Primary gender equality, showing respect challenging "unhelpful"

art in the sessions, which were nathan Dakin and Yacob Cajee.

White Ribbon engages men

The class learned that 85% of

The youngsters were told that these and other influences could zirls and boys were supposed to



way, adding: "The session opened ahead of international women's

session with the White Ribbor

#### Mothers' Union and White Ribbon unite

White Ribbon ambassaders formather Dakin and Mike Wesley in Congleton town centre on 23-rd and the Wesley in Congleton town centre on 23-rd and the Wesley in Congleton town centre on 23-rd and the White Mohan-orgadi.

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unsate, and to challenge those behaviours in others.

Mossley MU branch leader Helen Harrison said after the meeting: "Reducing inequalities requires tackling discrimination and biases ingrained in society. "As a global organisation, the Mothers' Union has a commitment

and gender arous date preprisate and gender arous date proposition and gender arous date proposition and gender arous date proposition. The two ambassadors gave a presentation about their work in Congleton. They explained that more characteristic proposition of the corner characteristic proposition of the corner characteristic proposition. They explained that women characteristic proposition of the corner characteristic proposition of the corner characteristic proposition. The proposition of the corner characteristic propos



#### National recognition for council's White Ribbon campaign





High school working

gender-based violence

with charity fighting

#### White Ribbon talk at All Saints Breakfast Group



#### Sexual predators have 'nowhere to hide' in Congleton, says White Ribbon Group

Tuesday 1 October 2024 11:01





#### Sexual predators have 'nowhere to hide', says White Ribbon Group

White Ribbon Ambassadors' message is 'It starts with

Congleton's White Ribbon Group has spoken out to condemn the actions of high-profile sexual predators who have been in the news.

## Social Media and online

We had a 'takeover' of our website and social media spaces on White Ribbon Day, and posted throughout the '16 days of activism'



White Ribbon Day: 25th November 2024 | #ItStartsWithMen

White Ribbon Congleton 2024 - It Starts With Mer

## Results

The Chronicle Series

Print and radio media covered an audience of more than

40,000

Our Facebook posts were seen

18,540 times

Our Instagram posts were seen

3909 times

Total post reach = 22,449

>150 Congleton people made their White Ribbon Promise

2236 people interacted with our content



>220
Watches of our
White Ribbon Video