

United Nations Campaign “Orange the World”



Every year, UN Women and its subsidiary **Say No UNiTE** organise a 16 day long campaign to “**End Violence against Women**”. This is a global initiative, and is activated both by the UN but also at grassroots level, by NGOs and other organisations willing to participate.

In 2015, the campaign ran from 25 November (International End Violence Against Women Day) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The overall campaign theme is ‘Orange the World’, and participating countries often light up important monuments and buildings in orange in recognition of this. Photos from 2015 are available on the Say NO UNiTE Facebook page.

Every year has a different central topic – in 2015 the focus was on **Prevention**. This coincided with the release of a new framework by UN Women, details of which are available on their website.

Here at Sambhali Trust, we decided to get involved in a number of ways:

- We organised two workshops, for all the centres, that provided the women and girls with practical information regarding their human and civil rights in the context of domestic abuse. These workshops were created in collaboration with local law students, and given in Hindi.

On several occasions they were also attended by some of Jodhpur's leading female lawyers.

- We ran a 16 day long 'social media takeover' that covered several themes:
 - o General information regarding the global campaign (using the social media toolkit provided by Say No UNiTE)
 - o Interviews with Sambhali staff who have first-hand experience of domestic violence cases
 - o Interviews with Sambhali women, themselves victims of domestic abuse
 - o Interviews with local men (shopkeepers etc.) to find out their views on the situation
- A rally, which took place on the final day of the campaign. Around 150 people (staff, volunteers, women and girls) marched through Jodhpur to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence. The event was a great success and featured heavily in local media, both press and TV.

Overall, the 16 day activation was very successful and achieved great traction both with the women and girls of Sambhali, and also the general public via the Sambhali social media pages. Given the importance of the issue, and its central role in the work we do here at Sambhali, we hope to continue collaborating with the UN on this campaign for years to come.

Interviews

Ms. Manju Mehta – Sambhali's very own Superwoman

For the past 6 years, Ms Mehta has been the voice behind the Sambhali Trust domestic abuse helpline, working tirelessly as its principle caseworker. Personally handling approximately 25 cases a month, Ms Mehta has accumulated valuable insight into the complexities surrounding domestic abuse in Rajasthani society. Every day she acts as counselor to the victims, mediating between them and their families, in addition to representing the women in front of third parties, such as the police and courts. Ultimately, she is working to stop the cycle of violence through intervention, and if possible, ensure economic and social independence to the women in its aftermath. Read the full article here : <http://sambhali-trust.blogspot.in/2015/11/ms-manju-mehta-sambhalis-very-own.html>

Pinky's Story

Pinky, a recent addition to Sambhali's Jodhpur Empowerment Centre, is fighting to stay positive having emerged from four years of devastating abuse at the hands of her husband, and his family. To those acquainted with domestic violence, Pinky's story is a familiar one. As is so often the case anywhere in the world, it was only after an initial honeymoon period that a pattern of abuse began to noticeably manifest itself. Following the wedding, Pinky had two peaceful months before her new

family first exhibited the controlling behavior that would quickly escalate into psychological and physical torment. Read the full story here :

<http://sambhali-trust.blogspot.in/2015/12/pinkys-story.html>

Corinne

Living in India for over 5 years, Corinne has experienced the lack of equality between men and women and feels that domestic violence is caused through men feeling inadequate – that they feel that they are unable to provide for their family financially, due to their low-paid job or lack of education; they often have large families and so many mouths to feed and feel the pressure of responsibility to provide for them. Find out more about Corinne’s personal experience here :

<http://sambhali-trust.blogspot.in/2015/12/corinne-rose-trust-administrator.html>