



White Ribbon Campaign 2011 Newsletter

The theme of the White Ribbon Campaign for this year was: "Not Violent, Not Silent...Women and men, hand in hand to end violence against women". Kafa focused on the approach of men speaking out against violence. The main message was that it is not enough for men only to not perpetrate violence. Rather, men should also speak out against violence they witness and act towards ending violence against women. Thus, the men participating in this campaign pledged not to commit any form of violence and to raise awareness among other men regarding this issue.

Activities in Baalbek in collaboration with the local men's forum to end violence against women

In partnership with OXFAM GB funded by EU, UN Women, UN Trust Fund, UNFPA

Media and awareness raising campaign

1- Billboards were displayed in the Bekaa Area, mainly on the to Baalbek being the focus area of this year's White Ribbon Campaign. The message was the slogan of the campaign "Not Violent, Not Silent... Women and men hand in hand to end violence against women".

2- Flyers and posters were distributed in Baalbek, in universities and by partner organizations. The flyers outlined the campaign - the importance of engaging men to eradicate violence against women as well as the pledges made by men who are actively working for this.

3- Stickers, T-shirts and Dog tags with the campaign's slogan were distributed to university students in Beirut, and to school students in Baalbek as well as to the general public throughout the activities.



Awareness raising sessions and discussions:

1- Awareness raising sessions were held for the general public in Baalbek and Yammoune. The sessions focused on the necessity of engaging men in the struggle to end violence against women, as well as on the issue of violence itself. The documentary "About Latifa and others..." was screened and along a PowerPoint presentation on the concepts underlying our approach that was made in order to fuel discussion.

2- The role of religion in the struggle to end violence against women | Religious scholars gave a lecture in Baalbeck explaining the role of religion and the different points of view regarding violence against women and the necessity to end it.



3- A discussion with lawyers in Baalbek was held on the draft law to protect women from family violence. Member of Parliament Marwan Faris (Syrian Socialist National Party) spoke during the discussion on his activity in Parliament regarding the law and stated that he will vote in favor of it.

4- A discussion with school teachers in Baalbek was held on how to integrate the issue of violence against women in school curricula and the benefits it would provide for the quality of education.

5- Launching of the men's forum and distribution of prizes to schools students who won the creative writing competition (find it enclosed). The launching took place in three schools with the presence of high school students and teachers. Moreover, prizes were distributed to the students who won the creative writing competition on violence against women, where 10 students won and read their winning essays. This event gathered around 150 students, teachers and parents.

Silent witness in Baalbek:

A street action took place, where silhouettes of victims of femicide were displayed on a street in Baalbek along with their personal stories in order to provoke discussion and reactions amongst people on these individual stories. The activity was a great success as it triggered discussions among people who do not usually attend awareness raising sessions. Supporters and non-supporters attended and discussion continued for several days, with people demanding the action be held once again.

Activities Implemented in Beirut

supported by UN Women, the Danish Center on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity KVINFO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Norwegian people's Aid, the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, the Swedish organization Kvinna till Kvinna, the United Nations Development Programme UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA.

Press conference:

During the aforementioned press conference held to launch the 16 days of activism against violence against women, the White Ribbon Campaign was launched, with the slogan and pledge announced to the media.

In Universities:

1- Awareness raising sessions in the University of Balamand in Beirut:

The session targeted students, and focused on the necessity of engaging men in the struggle to end violence against women, as well as on the issue of violence itself. The documentary "About Latifa and others..." was screened, along with a PowerPoint presentation on the concepts underlying our approach that was made in order to fuel discussion.

2- Forum theatre on marital rape in the Lebanese American University:

A piece forum theatre on marital rape was done by Live Lactic Culture, where a play portraying different forms of violence (including marital rape) was performed in the university. Many students attended and participated through re-enacting the play by taking the role of the wife-victim of marital rape. The play fueled discussion among the students on how to address the issue of violence against women, with a lot of diverse opinions expressed.



3- Symbolic Funeral at the American University of Beirut:

With the collaboration of the Human Rights and Peace Club and the Civic Welfare club, a symbolic funeral of patriarchy was held at the American University of Beirut. A coffin was displayed on campus, in which students buried the discriminatory practices of patriarchy. Furthermore, speeches were given by participating student clubs in which they supported and adopted the struggle to end violence against women.



4- Play in Her Shoes, a street basketball tournament to end violence against women:



In collaboration with GAM3 Association, KAFA held a street basketball tournament in Beirut for boys and girls under the age of 18, in order to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women. Over 100 players participated in the tournament along with their friends and families. The game announcer delivered messages of gender equality during the game, and a 3-point competition and a dribble competition were held where girls played between silhouettes of men. Furthermore, a rally paper competition was held on the theme of gender equality and ending violence against women. Winners received medals at the end of the competition.



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