16 Days

Every year between 25 November and 10 December we commemorate the sixteen days of activism against violence against women and children.

Ons herdenk elke jaar tussen 25 November en 10 Desember die 16 sestien dae van aktivisme teen geweld teen vroue en kinders.

These dates are significant. The 25th of November is the International Day if Elimination of Violence against Women, and the 10th of December is International Human Rights Day.

Hierdie datums dra betekenis. 26 November is die Internasionale dag van Uitwissing van Geweld teend Vroue, en 10 Desember is Internasionale Menseregte Dag.

Over the last year we have experienced a groundswell of women opening up about their pain and their anger at being victimised. Particularly, for the first time we heard women speaking up about the reasons for their previous silence. We have seen and may even have been amongst those participating in marches. On social media hashtags like #MeToo and #TimesUp have trended. Many of us may have been confronted for the first time with the knowledge that someone we care about had been a survivor of sexual violence.We have seen men in positions of power be accused of sexual violence against women who trusted them. In some instances justice has been served. In other instances power protected these men.

Gedurende die afgelope jaar het ons 'n stortvloed ervaar van vroue wat openhartig praat oor hul pyn en hul woede nadat hulle geviktimiseerd was. Vir die eerste keer het vroue oopgemaak oor die redes vir hul stilswye vantevore. Ons het mense sien deelneem aan optogte, en mag dalk self deelgeneem het.Op sosiale media het hutsmerke soos #MeToo en #TimesUp ongekende reikwydte behaal. Heelparty van ons is vir die eerste keer gekonfronteer met die wete dat iemand na aan ons moet saamlewe met seksuele geweld. Ons het gesien hoedat mans in gesagsposisies beskuldig word van dade van seksuele geweld teen vroue oor wie hulle in vertrouensposisies aangestel was. In sommige gevalle het geregtigheid geseëvier. In ander gevalle het hul mag die mans beskerm.

It is against this backdrop that the themes for this year's 16 Days of Activism must be seen. The UN Women has chosen as their theme "Orange the World:#HearMeToo." The Official 16 Days Campaign announced their theme as "End Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work." Both speaks to the same concern: Women's safety when they go out to earn a living.

Dis teen hierdie agtergrond dat ons die temas vir hierdie jaar se 16 Dae van Aktivisme moet beskou. UN Vroue se gekose tema is "Orange the World:#HearMeToo/Kleur die wêreld oranje: #HoorMyOok". Die Amptelike 16 Dae Veldtog het aangekondig dat hulle tema "Beeindig Geslagsgebaseerde Geweld In die Werkswêreld" is. Beide temas spreek dieselfde kwessie aan: vroue se veiligheid wanneer hulle gaan werk.

As the body of Christ, as a loving, caring church, we are challenged to sit with the pain of our brothers and sisters who have survived sexual violence. Moreover, we are challenged to sit with and hold the knowledge that not only survivors are in our churches, but also perpetrators. How do we as the body of Christ deal with this?

As die liggaam van Christus, as 'n liefdevolle kerk wat omgee, word ons uitgedaag om mededoë te hê met die pyn van ons broers en susters wat seksuele geweld oorleef het. Meer as dit, ons word uitgedaag om te lewe in die wete dat daar nie net diegene in ons kerke is wat seksuele geweld deurleef het nie, maar ook oortreders. Hoe hanteer ons as die ligaam van Christus dit?

There is no easy answer. We are reminded of our diocesan theme for this next few years. *I am because we are because God is: opening hearts to heal God's World.*

Daar is geen maklike antwoorde nie. Ons word herinner aan ons bisdomlike tema vir die volgende paar jaar: Ek is want ons is want God is: geopende harte om God se Wêreld te herstel.

This is the task we as christians are called for: healing this broken world. It may seem daunting when we think of acting as individuals.Corporately, however, we are unstoppable - and it starts with each of us doing what we can in the little corner of God's vineyard that we call home.

Dis hierdie taak waartoe ons as christene geroep is: om hierdie gebroke wêreld te genees. Dit mag oorweldigend lyk wanneer ons daaraan dink om as indiwidue iets te doen. Gesamentlik is ons egter onkeerbaar- en dit begin deurdat elkeen van ons dit doen wat binne ons vermoë is in die klein akker van God se wingerd wat ons ons tuiste noem.

And so, my brothers and sisters, I invite you to join me in beginning the healing in this corner of God's world, in the diocese of False Bay. Let the 25th of November be the start, but let's not stop on the 10th of December. Let's strive to make our diocese whole and safe every day of the year.

Daarom, my broers en susters, nooi ek u uit om saam met my te begin om in hierdie hoekie van God se wêreld, in die bisdom van Valsbaai, heling te bring. Laat 25 November die begin wees, maar laat ons nie ophou op 10 Desember nie. Kom ons strewe daarna om ons bisdom te heel en te beveilig elke dag van die jaar.