

November 25: International Day for Elimination of Violence

Against Women (UN). The Right to be free from violence is a recognised human right; in 1999, the UN recognized the day. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women asserts that violence against women is a manifestation of power relations and is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men, and that the term “violence against women “ means any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation on liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Women’s activists have marked 25th November as a day against violence since 1981. This date came from the brutal assassination in 1961, of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic.

This day is also marked by the White Ribbon Campaign, campaigning against gender-based violence in all its forms, whether it be domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, torture and abuse of women prisoners, or violence against women in armed conflict. The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men’s violence against women, and wearing a white ribbon is seen as a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.