

OXFAM 16 DAYS DISCUSSION GUIDE

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



OXFAM
Canada

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

November 25 – December 10

Join Oxfam and people around the world to raise awareness and take action!

Oxfam is a global movement for change, working to build a safe and just world, where women and girls have rights, dignity and power over their lives. We want a world where women live free from violence.

WORLDWIDE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IS A WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION:

- Globally, it's estimated that one out of three women and girls will be physically or sexually assaulted in her lifetime.
- Violence against women and girls is a major cause of death, ill health and disability.
- Violence blocks opportunities for women and girls to escape poverty by limiting their choices and access to education – making it harder to earn a living and participate in public life.
- Since 1980, 1,100 Aboriginal women in Canada have gone missing or been murdered.
- Growing militarization and conflict in many parts of the world is increasing violence in the lives of women and girls.

This discussion guide is intended for use with Oxfam's *16 DAYS STORIES*.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

- Read our stories about Oxfam partners in action to deepen your knowledge about gender-based violence.
- Bring together a group of friends, classmates, students or colleagues to learn more about violence against women and the ways in which violence can be stopped.

JOIN OXFAM'S CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

To learn more about Oxfam's work visit: www.oxfam.ca

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are examples of violence against women that you identified in one or more of the stories?
2. Was there one form of violence that was more prominent than others across the stories? Why do you think that is?
3. What were some of the similarities or differences between the women experiencing violence?
4. What are some examples you saw of people standing up to violence?
5. In *On the Road to Justice* and *People Now Know* laws are discussed as a way to defend women's rights. What do you think could be done to ensure legislation is successfully used to defend women's rights?
6. In the stories *Jacoba is Now a Feminist* and *Theatre after the Tsunami* different people talk about their attitudes about violence and women's roles changing. Why do you think that happened in each of the stories – was it for the same reasons or different ones?
7. What are some examples from these two stories of tools that communities have used to change attitudes and beliefs about violence against women and girls?
8. What are some simple actions you can think of that you could do to help change attitudes about women's roles and rights in your community?
9. *A Brighter Future* speaks about issues of sex and sexuality. What is your understanding of sexual and reproductive rights in the context of these stories?
Discuss and then compare with this definition:

The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences.

- Paragraph 96, Beijing Platform for Action, 1995

Do you think there are things missing from this definition that should be included? Why or why not? Why is a definition of sexual rights important to end violence against women?
10. Considering what people did in the stories, what things could you do in your community to stand up against violence against women?