



**KWO Message on the 16 days of Activism to Stop  
Violence Against Women**

**Theme: 'Let's create a community free from violence against women.'**

November 25th, 2023

Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, marking the beginning of 16 Days of Activism that concludes on International Human Rights Day (10th December). This day holds particular significance for Karen women, as it symbolizes our ongoing fight against violence directed at women, with the aim of fostering respect, equality, and value within our community.

This year's theme is "Let's create a community free from violence against women." Despite our decades-long efforts, we have not yet succeeded in realizing this vision. As part of the 16 days of activism, I want to emphasize five key actions to eliminate violence against women:

1. Educate ourselves about violence against women and its impact.
2. Reject violence against women in our community.
3. Advocate for the creation of women's protection laws.
4. Take action against perpetrators without favoritism.
5. Support the victims of violence against women.

To build a violence-free community, we must first educate ourselves and our community about the different types of violence against women. Understanding the impact of such violence is the crucial first step, as some community members, including women themselves, may lack awareness of violence against women.

Additionally, the establishment of women's protection laws is essential to ensuring justice for women who experience violence. These laws, if well understood and implemented by justice authorities, can provide a strong foundation for women's safety.

Taking action against perpetrators is another critical step. Laws should be applied equally, regardless of the status of the perpetrator, ensuring that women have access to justice.

Finally, supporting victims of violence against women is paramount. By keeping victims at the center, providing assistance, counseling, shelter, and advocacy, we empower them to seek help and find justice.

In conclusion, by educating ourselves, rejecting violence, advocating for laws, taking action against perpetrators, and supporting victims, we can work together to build a community free from violence against women.

Karen Women's Organization  
Central