

An Open Letter to the Members and Friends of the Uniting Church in South Australia.

The most prevalent incidence of human rights abuse in the world today is violence against women. Recent ABS statistics show that over one third of Australian women will experience physical or sexual violence in their life time.

Our church at the November meeting of the Presbytery and Synod agreed to call upon its members to support the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by wearing a white ribbon on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

We write to inform you of this decision and to ask the men in our church to join us in becoming Ambassadors for White Ribbon Day.

As an Ambassador you will seek ways of furthering the message 'Men – Not Violent – Not Silent' as well as making a commitment to not be violent to women. Here are some examples of how Ambassadors personally get involved with the campaign:

- Wearing a White Ribbon throughout November in the lead-up to White Ribbon Day and encouraging others to do the same.
- Promoting public interest by talking with colleagues, parishioners and friends about the campaign i.e. about what the campaign involves, how important it is to change community behaviours and attitudes, etc.
- Hosting meetings, social events, awareness raising activities to mark White Ribbon Day.
- Approaching local councils, men's organizations, sports and services clubs, etc. and offering to be a guest speaker and encourage them to buy and distribute White Ribbons.

You can become an Ambassador by going to <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/> and clicking on the 'Supporters' menu. There you will find more information about becoming an Ambassador as well as how to nominate.

We encourage you to show your support for this Campaign and to join us in being 'Men – Not Violent – Not Silent' for the coming year.



Moderator Rod Dyson



Rev Dr Andrew Dutney



Rev Peter McDonald



Rev Les Underwood