

Message

Boodskap

Umyalezo

Molaetso

from the **CEO**

November 2003



## Calling all Sheriffs to show their support ! 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

This is an impassioned plea on behalf of the South African Board for Sheriffs to urge all sheriffs, deputies and

- Approach a woman's shelter or place of safety in your area and explain how the maintenance system works.
- Offer to serve family violence and maintenance matters at a reduced cost for the period of the campaign.

office personnel throughout the country to embrace the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

For the past ten years the 16 Days of Activism has marked activities around the world to end gender violence. The campaign is utilised to create a global movement to raise awareness, to address policy and legal issues, to campaign for the protection of survivors of violence and to call for the elimination of all forms of gender violence.

The campaign runs from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December and revolves around three key dates:

- **25<sup>th</sup> November** – International Day For No Violence Against Women and Children
- **1<sup>st</sup> December** – International AIDS Day
- **3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Disabled Persons Day
- **10<sup>th</sup> December** – International Human Rights Day.

Our profession is a key player in civil justice and I would encourage that each sheriff's office become involved in the campaign.

There are a number of ways that each of us can make a meaningful difference, here are a few examples:

- Ask all your staff to wear a **'white ribbon'** – the international symbol to stop violence against women and children – during the 16 day campaign. As the red ribbon show support of the Aids campaign, the white ribbon portrays support of "No Violence against women and children".

The campaign enjoys the support of President Mbeki and is driven by the Deputy Minister of Justice, Cheryl Gillwald. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is coordinating a variety of public events at which sheriffs are also encouraged to participate. Contact your local magistrate and ask for their calendar of events.

Please support the Campaign by attending and showcasing the sheriffs' profession. Please contact Lise van Schalkwyk at the Office of the Board for possible events scheduled in your area. The Board will assist with arrangements on behalf of the sheriff. We will further assist you by supplying you with a written speech and the necessary promotional material that you will need in support of the envisaged event.

The Calendar for the main events of the 16 Days of Activism for "No Violence Against Women and Children" is available on the following website:  
**[www.womensnet.org.za](http://www.womensnet.org.za)**

So, go ahead and make a difference. Let's show how our profession is united against the terrible scourge of violence against women and children. Wear your white ribbon with pride.

On behalf of the Board and Office of the Board, we wish all Moslem sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and office staff a blessed Ramadan Mubarak.

Yours in service with dignity  
Veliswa Baduza

**[www.sheriffs.org.za](http://www.sheriffs.org.za)**

