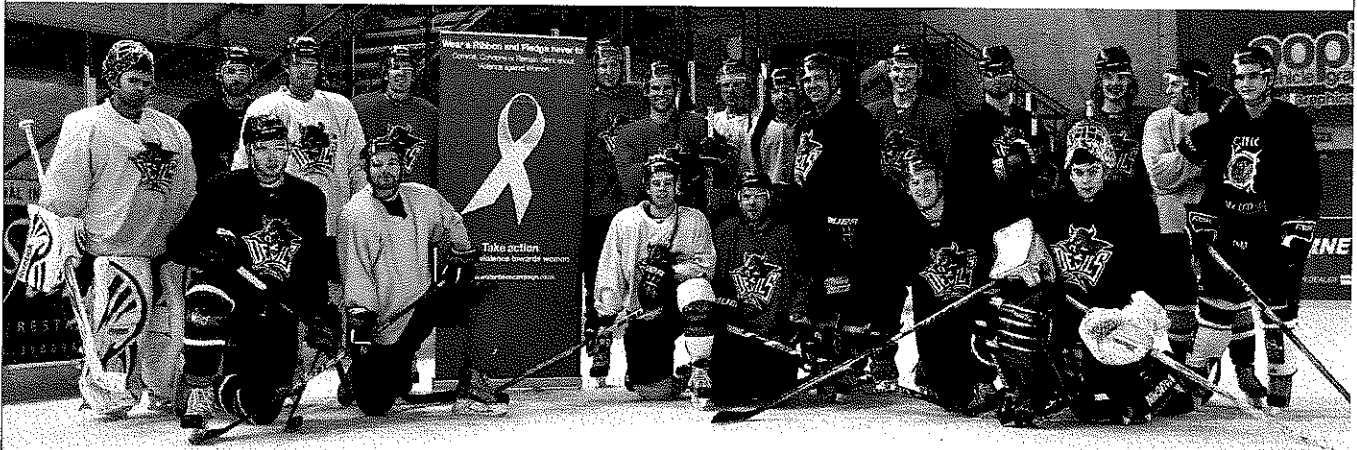




16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE 2011



PHOTOS BY LOUIS EMERY

Here at Welsh Women's Aid, we're all looking forward to November 25 – International Day to End Violence against Women. The 25th also kicks off a global campaign, '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence', which ends with Human Rights Day on December 10.

Since 1978, Welsh Women's Aid has campaigned for improvements in policy on behalf of women and children affected by domestic abuse. Last year, our 31 member groups supported more than 2,000 women and 1,500 children and young people across Wales. Every day, our member groups make a profoundly positive impact on the lives of women and children who have experienced domestic abuse. Their dedication prevents further harm, builds survivors' confidence, educates children and young people about healthy relationships, and saves lives.

For 2011, Welsh Women's Aid has launched a campaign website to promote events taking place across Wales during the 16 days. The website includes '16 Facts for 16 Days', to raise awareness of the prevalence and nature of violence against women. A selection of these facts are listed below. Please see the website www.16dayswales.org.uk for further details

Violence against Women – the facts

- Worldwide, violence against women causes more death and disability for women aged aged between 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.

- In the UK, 33 per cent of girls aged 13 to 17 who are in an intimate partner relationship have experienced some form of sexual partner violence.

- A total of 3.7 million women in England and Wales have been sexually assaulted at some point since the age of 16.

- Welsh police forces recorded 2,367 sexual offences in 2010. Given that only approximately 11 per cent of victims report sexual assault to the police, there may have actually been 21,518 offences.

- On the weekend that Wales hosted England in the 2010 six-nations rugby tournament in Cardiff, South Wales Police recorded a 79 per cent increase in domestic violence incidents compared with the previous weekend (from 66 incidents to 118).

- In the UK, 29.9 per cent of women aged 16 to 59 have experienced an incident of domestic abuse since the age of 16.

- Reunite International estimates that 1000 British Asian girls are forced into marriage each year.

- Around 66,000 women in England and Wales have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) and 33,000 girls under the age of 16 are at risk.

- One in five women in the UK aged between 16 and 30 has experienced some form of stalking.

- A total of 80,000 women work in 'on-street' prostitution in the UK. More than

'LAST YEAR OUR 31 MEMBERS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 2,000 WOMEN ACROSS WALES'

half have been raped or seriously sexually assaulted, while 68 per cent of women in prostitution meet the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the same range as victims of torture and combat veterans undergoing treatment.

See www.16dayswales.org.uk for the full 16 facts

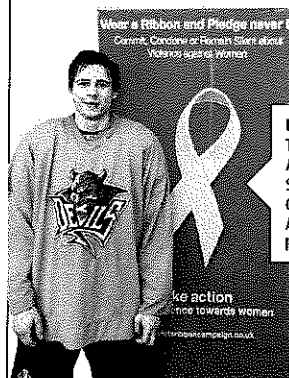
Join us to celebrate International Day to End Violence against Women!

And finally, Welsh Women's Aid and BAWSO Women's Aid would like to invite all Big Issue readers to 'Light a Candle'. Light a Candle is our annual event to mark International Day to End Violence against Women. It will take place in Llandaff Cathedral between 11am and midday on Friday November 25. Please see our website for further information.

Further information

Anyone affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence in Wales can call the free, 24-hour, bilingual, gender-neutral Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 80 10 800. The helpline offers confidential information for anyone experiencing abuse, and to individuals and organisations. ●

For more information about Welsh Women's Aid please visit our website: www.welshwomensaid.org. To find out more about the 16 Days campaign and events in your area, please visit www.16dayswales.org.uk



DEVILISHLY GOOD
THE CARDIFF DEVILS,
ABOVE AND LEFT,
SUPPORT THE WORK
OF WELSH WOMEN'S
AID DURING WHITE
RIBBON DAY