



# ELECT HER. END VIOLENCE.

## ඡන්දය ඇයට. ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨත්වයට හිත.

### அவளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுப்போம். வன்முறையை ஒழிப்போம்.

To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka, the National Forum Against Gender-based Violence is delivering a public advocacy campaign titled 'Elect her. End Violence. ඡන්දය ඇයට. ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨත්වයට හිත. அவளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுப்போம். வன்முறையை ஒழிப்போம்.'

The campaign aims to bring all Sri Lankans together through a public pledge that calls for action in ending Violence Against Women in Elections (VAWIE) in order for women to have equal access and opportunities for active political participation.



A caravan carrying the pledge will travel the island during the 16 days, obtaining signatures from the public to advocate for a violence-free election environment for women.

## What is the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence?

A global campaign that runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day), advocating for the elimination of all forms of Gender-based Violence (GBV) against women around the world.

## During these 16 days and beyond let us all pledge that:

01

We will respect and accept women's right to participate in politics.

02

We will not circulate any negative campaign material including text, memes, emails, printed materials or rumors that disparage or undermine women candidates because they are women.

03

We will not force, intimidate or threaten our family members, friends, and relatives to vote against their will.

04

We will hold political parties, public servants and general public accountable to take actions against those violating women's political rights.

05

We will promote women's political participation as equal stakeholders in the democratic process.

52%  
of Sri Lanka's  
population  
are women

Female  
representation in the  
parliament is only  
5.3%

Only  
1.9%  
of positions in  
local government were  
held by women

A major deterrent to women's political participation is  
**Violence Against Women In Elections**



Watch the pledge video featuring key political figures, activists, and forum members

[www.fagbvsl.org/16days2017.php](http://www.fagbvsl.org/16days2017.php)

In Sri Lanka, women in elections face different types of violence, including, but not limiting to:

- Harassment
- Sexual bribery
- Intimidation
- Physical harm or coercion
- Threats
- Financial pressures
- Unethical media reporting
- Slander on social media



**Message from Chair of the Forum Against Gender-based Violence and Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Ms. Ritsu Nacken**

Violence against women in elections is a prevalent issue in Sri Lanka, as well as in many other countries around the world. It is imperative that we collectively respect and accept every woman's right to participate and actively engage in politics.

As the National Forum Against Gender-based violence, we selected to highlight this issue during the 16 days campaign, given its relevance and importance in the context of the upcoming elections. We hope that all Sri Lankans come together to create a violence free election environment for women, enabling equal access and opportunities for her active political participation.



The National Forum Against GBV is a collective of over 50 organizations representing Government agencies, UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and individual experts and activists. The Forum, which has evolved into a National-level platform for coordinated advocacy and collective actions against GBV, is chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sri Lanka.

Follow us and join the conversation  
**#ElectHer**

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