VIOLENCE IS EVERYBODY’S PROBLEM

An initiative of the Queens College Women & Work Program and the Office of Compliance & Diversity Programs

WHITE RIBBON PLEDGE

I pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

From this day forward I promise to be part of the solution to ending all forms of this violence.

www.qc.cuny.edu/WhiteRibbonCampaign

THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & DIVERSITY PROGRAMS is responsible for monitoring recruitment, hiring, and employment at Queens College to ensure its compliance with university and college policies and procedures. It also makes sure the college is in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and workforce diversity.

www.qc.cuny.edu/about/administration/affirmativeaction

The White Ribbon Campaign is committed to raising awareness about the global pandemic of violence against women and girls in all its forms through educational programming, community outreach, and corporate and organizational partnerships. By adding your voice, you’ll join the growing community of those who are saying NO to gender-based violence.

www.qc.cuny.edu/WhiteRibbonCampaign

QUEENS COLLEGE prepares students to become leaders of our global society by offering a rigorous education in the liberal arts and sciences under the guidance of a faculty dedicated to both teaching and research. This is a community of high standards and higher ambitions. With a faculty and student population that reflects the diversity of New York City, Queens College provides an unusually rich education. Whatever they major in, our students develop the analytical abilities, communication skills, and broad perspective that will enable them to succeed in any career.

www.qc.cuny.edu

WOMEN & WORK is an empowerment program focusing on financial stability and life-management skills, offered free of charge to women in New York City. Reaching out to all races, ethnicities, ages, religions, and sexualities, the program accepts women with modest educational attainment and little or erratic work experience. This underserved population includes victims of domestic/family violence, single mothers, immigrants, displaced homemakers, and downsized workers. Women & Work provides the tools for women to rebuild their lives, creating an infrastructure capable of supporting long-term change.

www.qc.cuny.edu/womenandwork
In 2011–2012, we plan to:

- We are a catalyst for change.

The White Ribbon Campaign aims to:

- Raise public awareness of violence against women and girls
- Change societal attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate and make excuses for such violence
- Promote safety and respect in all relationships and situations
- Foster a positive image of masculinity
- Work with others to create a future with no violence against women and girls

We are a catalyst for change.

In 2011–2012, we plan to:

- Train volunteers as White Ribbon Presenters
- Introduce violence awareness training through outreach
- Engage students, faculties, and staff of middle schools, high schools, and colleges
- Hold monthly White Ribbon Events at Queens College, CUNY, which will address a wide array of violence-related topics
- Partner with businesses to establish White Ribbon companies dedicated to violence-free workplaces
- Work with elected officials to make ending violence a top priority

Choose how you would like to become involved.

The following types of support and involvement are described on our website (www.qc.cuny.edu/WhiteRibbonCampaign):

- Take the White Ribbon Pledge
- Sign the White Ribbon Petition
- Become a White Ribbon Partner
- Attend White Ribbon Events
- Stay informed by signing up for our e-mailed White Ribbon Updates

In April 2012, we will conclude our petition drive and:

- Present the signed White Ribbon Petition to President Barack Obama, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, and UN General Assembly President Joseph Deiss
- Publish a report detailing our accomplishments
- e-Publish a directory of White Ribbon Partners

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- WHAT IS THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN?
The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women. Although the focus is on men and boys, men and women share the leadership in campaigns under way in more than fifty-seven countries.

- HOW DID THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN GET STARTED?
In 1989 a gunman killed fourteen women on a Montreal campus, an event that had a traumatic effect on many Canadians who rallied against gendered violence. In 1991 a handful of Canadian men decided they had a responsibility to urge men to speak out about violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon would symbolize men’s opposition to violence against women. With only six weeks of preparation, 100,000 men across Canada wore a white ribbon while many others were drawn into discussion and debate.

- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WEAR A WHITE RIBBON?
Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls and a promise to be a part of the solution to end all forms of such violence. Wearing a white ribbon is a way of saying, “I want to be part of creating a future with no violence against women and girls.”

- WHAT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CONCERN YOU?
Violence against women can be physical, emotional, sexual, or financial. The most widespread problems are physical violence (from nonlethal to lethal) and sexual violence (usually committed by a boyfriend, husband, trusted adult, or family member). Emotional abuse includes sexual harassment at work or on the street, stalking, jokes that demean women, and controlling behavior. Financial abuse is a common tactic of abusers to control women’s personal liberty and access to people who might help them. In some countries, violence occurs in the form of genital mutilation of girls and the trafficking of women and girls for sexual slavery.

- WHAT ABOUT OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE?
Although ending men’s violence against women is our focus, we are concerned about all forms of violence. We are deeply concerned about violence against children, among boys on the playground, in sports, and in relationships. We are concerned by acts of violence by women, although these are not as extensive or typically as lethal as men’s violence against women. Unlike violence by some men against women, violence committed by some men against women has long been socially acceptable and is deeply rooted in belief in men’s superiority and inherent right to control the lives of “their” women.

- ARE WOMEN A PART OF THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN? DO THEY WEAR THE RIBBON?
Many campaigns are supported by women’s groups; many are led by men and women working together; and women participate in many, if not most, activities. Although the ribbon started as a symbol of men’s opposition to violence against women, in many schools and communities both males and females wear the ribbon. For men, it is a personal pledge; for women, a statement that men and boys have a role and responsibility in ending violence against women and girls.