

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Key messaging document – November 2024

The **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** launches on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and runs to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

How can you help? Add your voice to the cause.

- Share a social media post or newsletter article
- Share this key messaging document to your networks and stakeholders
- Talk with your colleagues, neighbours, friends and family members
- Download and share a [promotional poster here](#)
- Ensure you are aware of the signs of DFSV
- Ensure you know where to find information and support
- Follow the Queensland Government's [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Facebook page](#) @dfvpqld

Key messages	<p>What is domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic and family violence (DFV) is when one person in an intimate or romantic relationship or former relationship, or family or informal carer relationship uses violence or abuse to maintain power and control over the other person.• DFV does not always involve physical violence and can take many forms including non-physical forms of abuse.• Coercive control is when someone uses a pattern of abusive behaviours over time that hurt, humiliate, isolate, frighten, or threaten another person in order to control or dominate them.• Coercive control isn't a separate form of DFV but is almost always a defining feature of DFV.• Any sexual activity without consent is sexual violence – no one has the right to make anyone do anything they don't want to do.• Sexual violence can happen to anybody, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, socioeconomic status, ability, sexual orientation or location. However, women and girls are the majority of victims of sexual violence.• Domestic, family and sexual violence is about power and control. It might make you feel unsafe, scared or threatened. It is never okay.• Domestic, family and sexual violence is a serious and pervasive issue that impacts on a person's safety, wellbeing, and sense of identity. <p>What drives domestic, family and sexual violence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic, family and sexual violence is a gendered issue – overwhelming perpetrated by men against women and their children.• Gender inequality, gender stereotyping and condoning disrespect towards women are key drivers of violence against women and their children.• Real or perceived barriers to reporting violence or seeking help and support can allow DFSV to continue. These may include language barriers, financial barriers, dependence on the person using violence, additional risks and complexities when children and pets are involved.
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What can you do to improve the safety of women and children?

- To improve future outcomes for women and their children, we all need to challenge the harmful attitudes, behaviours and gender norms that contribute to domestic, family and sexual violence.
- Actively take steps to seek out information, learn the signs of DFSV and make sure you are aware of support options.
- Speak up if you notice disrespect of women happening around you. This might look like disparaging comments positioned as jokes or banter amongst your friends or workplace.
- If you think someone might be experiencing gendered violence – reach out and offer support. You can make a difference.

Information and support options:

- Everyone has a right to live free from the threat and experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. Support is available for anyone impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.
- Help and support options are available via www.qld.gov.au/needtoknow
- Find out what the Queensland Government is doing to end gendered violence, via www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/end-domestic-family-violence
- Find information on coercive control via www.qld.gov.au/coercivecontrol
- Find information on sexual violence and consent via www.qld.gov.au/consent
- Follow the Queensland Government's [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Facebook page](#) @dfvpqld