NORTH AYRSHIRE · PROGRAMME 2026

16 Days of Activism

against Gender-Based Violence

25 November – 10 December 2026

All together to prevent and end violence against women and girls



VAW

Violence Against Women

North Ayrshire Partnership

NORTH AYRSHIRE · PROGRAMME 2026

Programme of Events

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DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
Wed 25 Nov	9:45am – 10:30am	**Campaign Launch & Flag Raising**	Irvine	5
Wed 25 Nov	12pm – 2pm	**Women's Aid Open Day**	Saltcoats	5
Thu 26 Nov	10am – 2pm	**Information Stall**	Ardrossan	6
Thu 26 Nov	11am – 12:30pm	**Informal Drop-In Session for NAC Employees**	Irvine	6
Thu 26 Nov	1pm – 3pm	**Information Stall**	Irvine	6
Fri 27 Nov	11am – 12pm	**School Visit to Women's Aid**	Saltcoats	7
Fri 27 Nov	12pm – 1:30pm	**Information Stall**	Kilbirnie	7
Sat 28 Nov	11am – 12pm	**Women's Aid Community Walk**	Saltcoats	8
Mon 30 Nov	9:30am – 11am	**Information Stall**	Irvine	9
Tue 1 Dec	10am – 12pm	**Online Webinar**	**Online**	10
Wed 2 Dec	9am – 5pm	**Women's Aid Information Stall**	Irvine	11
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Thu 3 Dec	11am – 1pm	**Ayrshire College Stall**	Kilwinning	12
Thu 3 Dec	2pm – 4pm	**Online Webinar**	**Online**	12
Thu 3 Dec	4pm – 6pm	**Information Stall**	Glengarnock	12
Fri 4 Dec	10am – 12pm	**Information Stall**	Saltcoats	13
Fri 4 Dec	10am – 1pm	**Information Stall**	Kilwinning	13
Mon 7 Dec	10am – 1pm	**Information Stall**	Isle of Arran	14
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Tue 8 Dec	10am – 12pm	**Online Webinar**	**Online**	15
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Wed 9 Dec	10am – 2pm	**Women's Aid Event**	Saltcoats	16
Wed 9 Dec	4pm – 6pm	**Information Stall**	Stevenston	16
Thu 10 Dec	5pm	**Reclaim the Night**	Irvine	17
Thu 10 Dec	6pm	**Closing event & Young MVP Awards**	Irvine	17

Introduction

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that starts on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations to end violence against women and girls (VAWG).

North Ayrshire VAW Partnership has taken part in this campaign since 2015 by working alongside our local partners, the National VAW Network and White Ribbon Scotland, to organise events and activities that engage with the community and help raise awareness around gender-based violence and the support available to women and girls in our communities.

The VAW Partnership Planning Group considered feedback from previous years and decided that this year's campaign would prioritise engaging with the public to inform communities about how best to support and protect women and girls from abuse and violence. We have organised information stalls in Irvine, the Three Towns, Garnock Valley and Arran in libraries, leisure centres, a GP practice, a community campus and community centre. You will find dates and locations in this programme. At some stalls, dedicated representatives from Police Scotland will be available to talk to anyone wanting to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), which has been helping to keep people safe from domestic abuse by allowing members of the public to request information about a partner's abusive past. Knowing about this scheme and how to make an application could make a real difference to someone at risk. We will also hold informal drop-in sessions for North Ayrshire Council employees on our Domestic Abuse Policy.

Tech-facilitated abuse and online harms are growing concerns raised by services and partnerships across North Ayrshire. This year's online webinars and an in-person learning and development session at Cunninghame House answer that call, equipping professionals and practitioners in housing, justice, health and police with the knowledge and skills to respond. Details and registration links are included in this programme.

Making its debut this year, our closing event will celebrate the outstanding work of young people across North Ayrshire secondary schools as Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP). We will announce the winner of the Young MVP Mentor of the Year Award 2026 and celebrate their commitment to promoting healthy relationships and challenging gender stereotypes in their schools. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Libraries have curated a list of recommended reads celebrating women and girls, from fierce and inspirational stories to guides that help us understand dangerous relationships and everyday sexism in modern society. There is something for everyone. Contact your local librarian or visit northayrshire.borrowbox.com to find out more.

For the duration of the campaign, we will be lighting the Kilwinning Abbey, Saltcoats Townhouse and the Portal in Irvine in purple, our campaign colour. We will also be flying the VAW flag at Cunninghame House, raised by the Provost at the campaign's launch.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign is taking place throughout Scotland. To find out more about events and activities in other local authorities, visit the Improvement Service website to read the national calendar.

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly contributed their expertise, time and resources in bringing together this lively programme. We hope you get the chance to join our events in person and online, and we look forward to seeing you at our Reclaim the Night walk on 10 December.

For any enquiries regarding the events and activities in this programme, contact vawp@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Wednesday

25 November

16 Days of Activism Campaign Launch and Flag Raising Ceremony

9:45am – 10:30am · Cunninghame House

The 16 Days of Activism campaign will be formally launched with a flag-raising ceremony. The event will mark the beginning of this year's campaign and reaffirm our commitment to ending violence against women and girls. The first White Ribbon pledge of the campaign will also be signed during the event. Attendance at the launch will be by invitation.

North Ayrshire Women's Aid Hub Open Day

12pm – 2pm · 17 Vernon Street, Saltcoats, KA21 5HE

Drop in to our Hub Open Day to learn more about our services and how support can help women and families live safely and free from abuse. Meet the team, enjoy a chat over refreshments, and pick up information resources and wee gifts to take away.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday

26 November

Ardrossan Hostel Information Stall

10am – 2pm · 87 Princes St, Ardrossan, KA22 8DQ

Visit our stall to find out more about local support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available.

Open to hostel residents and visitors.

Informal drop-in sessions on the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy

11am – 12:30pm · Cunninghame House

Join our informal drop-in session to learn about the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy and the support available to employees. Find out about workplace rights and protections, specialist support services in the community, and how managers can support colleagues affected by domestic abuse. HR colleagues will be available to provide information in a safe and welcoming environment. Please check staff newsletters and internal communications for further details.

This event is for Council employees only.

Irvine Library Information Stall

1pm – 3pm · 168 High Street, Irvine, KA12 8AN

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), community-based support services, and the impact of violence against women and girls in North Ayrshire. Chat with our team, sign the White Ribbon Scotland pledge, and pick up leaflets and promotional materials. The library will also be hosting a Bookbug session, alongside a themed display and curated list of books celebrating women and girls.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday

27 November

Saint Matthew's Academy Visit to North Ayrshire Women's Aid

11am – 12pm · 17 Vernon Street, Saltcoats, KA21 5HE

Pupils from Saint Matthew's Academy will visit North Ayrshire Women's Aid to learn about the support available to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The visit will provide an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the impact of violence against women and girls and the role of specialist support services in the community.

This event is for participating pupils of Saint Matthew's Academy.

Bridgend Community Centre information Stall

12pm – 1:30pm · 17 Bridgend, Kilbirnie, KA25 7DJ

Visit our stall to learn about community-based support services and the impact of violence against women and girls in North Ayrshire. Chat with our team, sign the White Ribbon Scotland pledge, and pick up leaflets and promotional materials.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Saturday

28 November

North Ayrshire Women's Aid Community Walk: Enough is Enough

11am – 12pm · Saltcoats Train Station Car Park

Join North Ayrshire Women's Aid for the "Enough is Enough" Community Walk, raising awareness of violence against women and girls and showing solidarity with those affected by abuse. The walk offers an opportunity for the community to come together, reflect, and demonstrate a shared commitment to ending gender-based violence.

The walk will begin at Saltcoats Train Station car park and finish at the North Ayrshire Women's Aid Hub.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Monday

30 November

Cunninghame House Information Stall

9:30am – 11am · Service Desk Area, North Ayrshire Council

Visit our stall to learn about community-based support services and the impact of violence against women and girls in North Ayrshire. Chat with our team, sign the White Ribbon Scotland pledge, and pick up leaflets and promotional materials.

Tuesday

1 December

Spotlight Webinar: Responding to Tech-Facilitated Abuse

10am – 12pm · Online

This webinar will explore the nature and impact of tech-facilitated abuse, current challenges in preventing and responding to it, and how services and partnerships can work together more effectively.

Register Here

Wednesday

2 December

North Ayrshire Women's Aid Information Stall

9am – 5pm · Rivergate Shopping Centre, Irvine

Visit the North Ayrshire Women's Aid stall to find out more about the support available to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. Chat with our team and pick up information resources.

Informal drop-in sessions on the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy

11am – 12:30pm · Cunninghame House

Join our informal drop-in session to learn about the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy and the support available to employees. Find out about workplace rights and protections, specialist support services in the community, and how managers can support colleagues affected by domestic abuse. HR colleagues will be available to provide information in a safe and welcoming environment.

Please check staff newsletters and internal communications for further details.

This event is for Council employees only.

Spotlight Webinar: Understanding Non-Fatal Strangulation

2pm – 3:30pm · Online

Experts from health & advocacy services explore non-fatal strangulation, early identification, risk assessment and trauma-informed responses. Non-fatal strangulation is a significant indicator of risk in violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and coercive control cases. Despite often leaving little or no visible injury, it can have serious and long-lasting physical, neurological and psychological impacts and is recognised as a key marker for future harm and homicide risk.

This webinar, hosted by the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership, will bring together experts from health and advocacy services to explore the dynamics and consequences of non-fatal strangulation, highlighting the importance of early identification, effective risk assessment and trauma-informed responses. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the signs, impacts and support pathways available for victim-survivors.

Register Here

Thursday

3 December

16 Days of Action Marketplace Event

11am – 1pm · Kilwinning Campus, Ayrshire College

Ayrshire College Students' Association is hosting a 16 Days of Action Marketplace Event at Kilwinning Campus, featuring the White Ribbon campaign and the That Guy initiative. Visit the stalls to access information and resources, learn more about gender-based violence, and find out about the support available. While this event is intended for students and staff, our college campus is open to the community, including our refectory and coffee shops, and we welcome anyone wishing to visit the stalls on the day.

Spotlight Webinar: Hidden Harm and Intersecting Experiences of Violence Against Women and Girls

2pm – 4pm · Online

This webinar will explore how intersecting inequalities shape women's experiences of VAWG and how gaps within systems and services can create barriers to support, contribute to unmet needs, and allow harm to remain hidden.

Register Here

Garnock Community Campus Information Stall

4pm – 6pm · Beith Road, Glengarnock, KA14 3BF

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), community-based support services, and the impact of violence against women and girls in North Ayrshire. Chat with our team, sign the White Ribbon Scotland pledge, and pick up leaflets and promotional materials.

Open to campus users and visitors to Garnock Community Campus.

Friday

4 December

Saltcoats Library Information Stall

10am – 12pm · Springvale Place, Saltcoats, KA21 5LS

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and community-based support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available. The library will also be hosting a Bookbug session and has a curated a list of books celebrating women and girls.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kilwinning Library Information Stall

10am – 1pm · St Winnings Lane, Kilwinning, KA13 6EP

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and community-based support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Monday

7 December

Brodick Ferry Terminal Information Stall

10am – 1pm · Isle of Arran

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and community-based support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ardrossan Library Information Stall

11am – 1pm · 39 - 41 Princes Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8BT

Visit our information stall to find out more about local support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available. The library will also be hosting a toddler group session and has a curated list of books celebrating women and girls.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tuesday

8 December

Spotlight Webinar: Violence Against Women and Girls in Rural Areas

10am – 12pm · Online

Who is this for: Staff across justice, health, policing, social work, community safety, and frontline support roles who want to strengthen their understanding of digital inequality and embed trauma informed digital practice.

Register Here

Learning and Development Session: Digital Inequality Understanding Digital Inequality for Women in Contact with Services

10am – 1pm · Cunninghame House

This in-person session, delivered by Mhor Collective in partnership with Soft Edges at Simon Community Scotland, invites practitioners to step into the lived realities behind "non-engagement". We'll explore how digital inequality shows up in women's lives, why digital routes can feel unsafe or inaccessible, and what a trauma-informed, relational response looks like in practice across justice, health and policing settings.

Who is this for: Staff across justice, health, policing, social work, community safety, and frontline support roles who want to strengthen their understanding of digital inequality and embed trauma informed digital practice.

This event is open to professionals only. To register, please use your work email address and complete the registration form here.

Dalry Medical Practice Information Stall

10am – 12pm · 50 Vennel Street, Dalry, KA24 4AF

Visit our information stall to find out more about community-based support services. Leaflets and White Ribbon Scotland pledge-signing sheets will be available.

Open to patients and visitors to the practice.

Wednesday

9 December

North Ayrshire Women's Aid Remembrance and Reflection Day

10am – 2pm · 17 Vernon Street, Saltcoats, KA21 5HE

Join North Ayrshire Women's Aid for a Remembrance and Reflection Day, providing an opportunity to come together, remember those affected by violence against women and girls, and reflect on the impact of abuse on individuals, families, and communities. The event offers a space for reflection, solidarity, and hope for a future free from violence.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Auchenharvie Leisure Centre Information Stall

4pm – 6pm · Saltcoats Road, Stevenston, KA20 3JR

Visit our stall to learn about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), community-based support services, and the impact of violence against women and girls in North Ayrshire. Chat with our team, sign the White Ribbon Scotland pledge, and pick up leaflets and promotional materials.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday

10 December

Reclaim the Night

5pm · The Portal - 66 High Street, Irvine, KA12 0AZ

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Reclaim the Night walk as we mark the final day of 16 Days of Activism. This family-friendly and peaceful walk through Irvine town is an opportunity to stand up for women's right to feel safe at night and to call for safer public spaces for everyone. Glow sticks will be provided at the start of the walk, which will conclude at Fullarton ConneXions with refreshments and our closing event.

Please check updates or RSVP through the official North Ayrshire Council Facebook Event page.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

16 Days of Activism Closing Event and Young MVP Awards Presentation

6pm · Fullarton ConneXions - Church Street, Irvine, KA12 8PE

Join us as we bring this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign to a close and celebrate the positive impact of young people in our communities. We will announce the winner of the Young MVP Mentor of the Year Award 2026 and recognise this year's MVP mentor winners from schools across North Ayrshire, celebrating their outstanding commitment to promoting healthy relationships, challenging gender stereotypes and helping to prevent gender-based violence in their schools. Refreshments will be provided as we reflect on the campaign and acknowledge the commitment and action shown across our communities.

Everyone is welcome to attend.