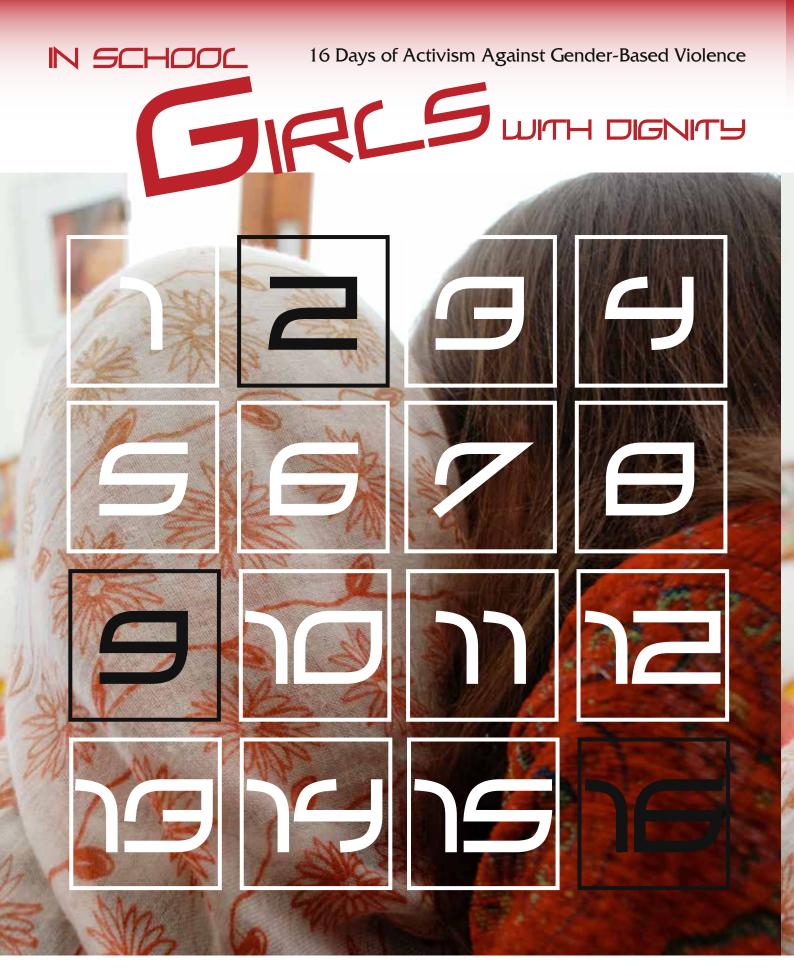


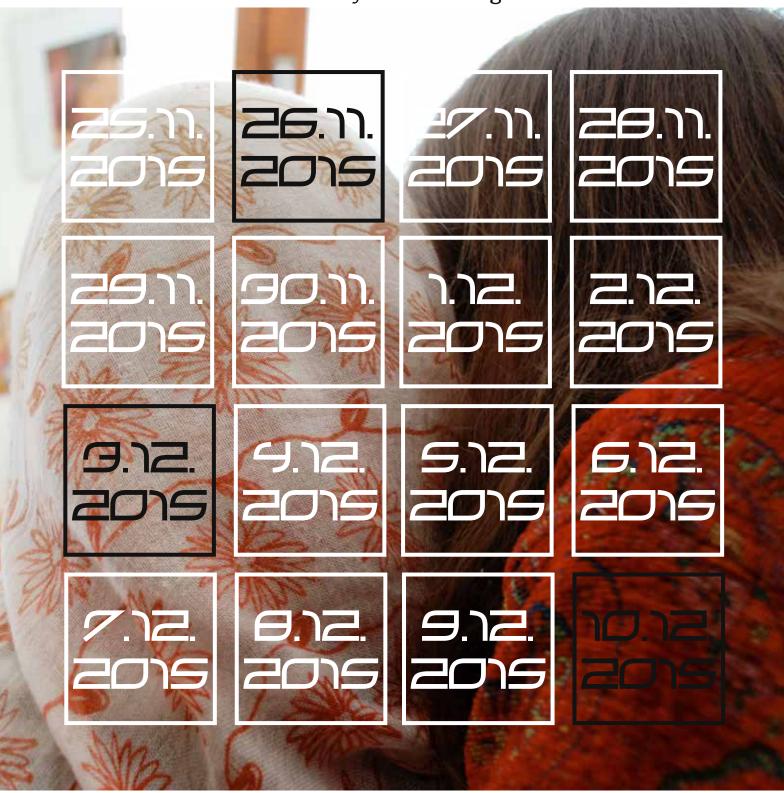
potential economically, politically and socially. But school is often not a safe place for a girl.





WITH DIGNITY

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence





Thursdays in Black until all girls will live with power & dugnity

Join us as we link with a growing global movement of women and men who lament violence against women and girls and show their solidarity and commitment to ending it by wearing black every Thursday. The Thursdays in Black websites link to information and tools to help us, including resources on girls' safety in and out of school.

We are using each of the three Thursdays during the 16 Days:

- to gather sacred narratives from the Christian and Islamic traditions that empower and give voice to girls and women
- to tell the stories of initiatives by our faith institutions or faith-based organisations to end violence against girls and women
- to promote a prayer of lament and confession and a prayer of blessing relating to the girl child.

https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/thursdays-in-black-zero-tolerance-for-violence-against-women

https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-men and http://www.thursdaysinblack.co.za/about-tib/





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in school I I I with dignity

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence









16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



New images for God – Genesis 1, 27

I have some new images of God today
As we sat and talked of dignity
And how that could be damaged
God crept in and sat and listened
And bowed us our dignity
In the most unexpected places
I have some new images of God today
Today God went up to the children's panel
And spoke up quietly for her son
Whose humanity can not be defined as a problem
And who, too, is created in God's image
God refused to go to school today
and dug his heels in
And refused to confirm to anyone else's image
Of what he should be

And didn't walk out when it wasn't What she expected - and God discovered That she liked disco-dancing I have some new images of God today (she paints beautiful pictures)

God went disco-dancing by mistake today

God's womb surrounds and nurtures
Yet knows the pain of birth and death

God's rainbow breaks into the chains of Responsibility and duty

Bringing gifts and illuminating forgotten talents

And God's no good jigsaw

The pieces don't make a neat pattern

God is untidy - not easy to define

Will not fit in my boxust isn't quite the right shape

Yet lives in the holes where the pieces don't fit

As well as the pattern

I have some new images of God today

God the alarm clock wakes me each morning

Ready or not to be a disciple or not

God the Granny stands and waits

Strong, forthright, dependable

Watches me grow - teaches me justice

God the woman

Who will be Elisabeth for me

And see me through God's eyes

When I am misjudged and celebrate my state

I have some new images of God today

God rejoices over me

She dances for me with shouts of joy

She renews me with love

I talked of dignity

But I am God's creation created in God's image

In God's image - and so are you

in school with dignity
16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

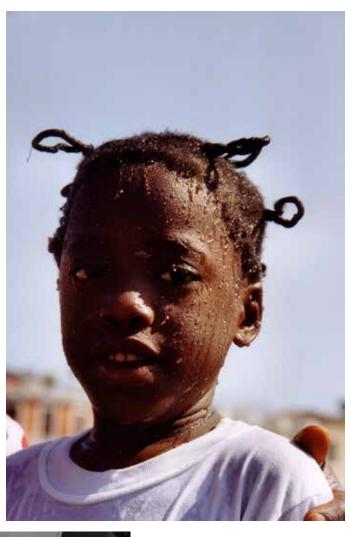






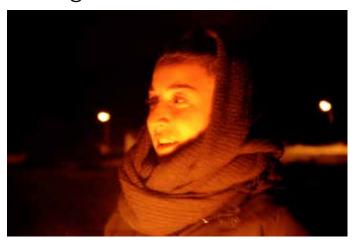


in school CIRLS with dignity 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence





















Girls out of School

Every girl has an inherent dignity as God's creation. Making sure that every girl has access to education honours that dignity. Yet in spite of promises made to children in many international conventions and national constitutions, one in five adolescents and one in 11 primary schoolaged children are excluded from the classroom. Fifteen million girls are unlikely to set foot inside a classroom (UIS/UNICEF 2015). Girls who miss out on education or who leave school too soon are less likely to develop themselves and their families and communities. They are less likely to have any say in what happens to their lives and their bodies. They are more likely to live in poverty, be trafficked and prostituted, be exposed to HIV and sexually transmitted infections, be coerced into early marriage, have pregnancies at an early age, and to die or suffer serious physical injury during childbirth. Faith leaders and the whole faith community have a vital role to play in advocating for compliance of the universal right to education and for national policy - adequately resourced - for the prevention and elimination of violence against girls in school. The new Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning) and 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) provide fresh impetus for this.







