

# Helping Children Out of the Shadows and into the Light: Linking actions to raise awareness in churches and communities



The World Council of Churches has a long history of addressing issues of violence and abuse, motivated by facts like these:

- One in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence.
- More than eight out of ten girls have experienced street harassment before the age of 17.
- One in four children lives in a household with domestic violence.

Along with the Out of the Shadows campaign, we have developed several resources to help individuals, churches and communities to take action against violence and abuse and to make their concern about them more visible and effective.

## Thursdays in Black



Thursdays in Black grew out of the WCC Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many related became much more visible. The campaign is simple but profound: Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for those who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

More information and resources are available at [www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black](http://www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black)

## Churches' Commitments to Children

Since 2017, the WCC has coordinated the Churches' Commitments to Children programme, which was developed with member churches, UNICEF and other key partners to promote concrete actions that churches can undertake to respect and support children's rights.

The "Out of the Shadows and into the light" campaign supports Commitment 1, focusing on Child Protection.

You will find more information and resources at [ww.oikoumene.org/children](http://ww.oikoumene.org/children). Join the collaboration through our Churches' Commitments to Children Online Platform

## Children, Adolescents and HIV

Children and adolescents are vulnerable to HIV infection and in many places still lack adequate treatment.

Concern for children's health, preventing abuse, and accessing support is critical: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/children-adolescents-and-hiv>

**God is light; in  
God there is no  
darkness at all.  
1 John 1:5**