



Congleton Town Council received a presentation from Richard Walton, a White Ribbon Ambassador, to encourage the Town Council to sign up to the White Ribbon Campaign. This is a precise of the presentation.

What are the aims of the White Ribbon organisation?

The White Ribbon UK Campaign is a non-political charity formed in 2007. White Ribbon UK's mission is to end male violence against women, once and for all. The White Ribbon campaign enjoys cross-party support both nationally and in Parliament- it is not associated with any political party

The campaign encourages men to stand up against violent, bullying behaviour amongst their peers, and spread a message of equality and respect. It encourages men to recognise and stand-up against sexism and gender-based violence in all forms. Over 32,400 men have signed up to the pledge:

Never Excuse, Commit or Remain Silent about Male Violence against Women.

1) Male violence against women occurs with unbelievable frequency, severity and is so often hidden from view

- 2 women per week are murdered by their current or former partner
- 6 out of 7 victims of domestic abuse are women
- 9 out of 10 defendants are men
- The March 2017 Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that nationally 10,000 women are sexually abused **every week**
- CPS figures for March 2017 showed that 20% of women experience sexual assault.

2) We all lose by this abhorrent behaviour

- Data from the NSPCC estimate that one in 5 children have been exposed to domestic violence.
- A third of children witnessing domestic violence also experience another form of abuse.
- One in 5 teenagers have been physically abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend
- Nationally, 130,000 children live in households with a high-risk domestic abuse. Children exposed to domestic abuse are more likely to have behavioural and emotional problems
- 90% of domestic violence is male on female. But it is also the severity of the male on female violence, not just the frequency that is so devastating.

In a year that marks the 100th anniversary of women gaining the vote, I sincerely hope that you'd be interested in gaining White Ribbon accreditation for Congleton Town Council. This would make the Council one of the very first Town Councils in the UK with this accreditation and would thus be leading the way in promoting women's rights in this anniversary year.

Any public-facing organisation can apply for White Ribbon accreditation; councils, local authorities, police and fire services, schools and universities, sports clubs and venues are eligible for the White Ribbon Award programme.

White Ribbon provides a comprehensive action plan for organisations to effectively marshal their resources and personnel to challenge male violence against women and make a genuine difference.

The action plan is concise and wide-ranging and offers achievable goals for organisations to reach to bring about genuine change. Once an organisation can demonstrate a commitment to this plan, it becomes eligible for the White Ribbon Award.

White Ribbon Status is an official White Ribbon accreditation that entitles an organisation to White Ribbon training and campaigning guidance, use of White Ribbon branding on official documents and signage, and exclusive access to a network of other accredited organisations to promote fundraising, awareness and events.

The cost of application to become a White Ribbon Authority is **completely free** for two years of accreditation, though there would be a requirement to support an annual fund-raising event in lieu of an application fee, which would usually be £500 for an organisation such as Congleton Town Council.