



## Newsletter - January 2006

In the following newsletter, we will be presenting both European and International V-Day news followed by current global news stories concerning violence against women.

### V-Day News

#### V-Day Europe wishes you a Happy New Year!

The V-Day Europe team would like to wish a wonderful year 2006 to all our friends and supporters. We would like to thank you for all the support that you have given us in 2005 and hope that we will be able to continue to work together in 2006!

2006 will be an important year for the V-Day Europe network, as there should be more V-Day events than ever in Europe. These will be in new countries and cities as well as innovative V-projects such as:

An exceptional V-Day in Belgrade, Serbia, a bread bag campaign in Bakeries raising awareness in Frankfurt, Germany, an exclusive screening of the V-Day documentary Until The Violence Stops in Helsinki, Finland, and V-Day events in Spain, the UK, France, Greece, Norway, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Switzerland, Belgium, and many others!

That's a fantastic step forward for the movement and regarding the awareness raising surrounding the issue of violence against women in Europe.

Happy V-Season 2006!!

#### V-Season 2006 – Not too late to sign up!

Thinking of organising or taking part in a V-Day in 2006? Now is the time to get signed up! All you have to do is go to the following link and register your details. All performances must take place during V-Season 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> February 2006- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006). The application is quick and easy to complete, and be sure to read the rules and regulations.

Remember, all profits made should go to local organisations working to stop violence against women and 1 to 10% will go to the 2006 Spotlight Campaign.

Once your application has been approved, you will receive all the necessary information and scripts to get started. Don't forget, men can't take part on stage, but are more than welcome to do so behind the scenes!

V-Day Europe  
[info@vdayeurope.org](mailto:info@vdayeurope.org)  
[www.vdayeurope.org](http://www.vdayeurope.org)

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



It is not only a fun and inspirational experience, but you will also be raising vital funds for local and international causes.

V-Season 2006 - Organise your own V-Day!

<http://www.vday.org/signup>

New Bread Bag Campaign in Frankfurt:  
“Gewalt kommt nicht in die Tüte!”

From 20.02.06 to 05.03.06, the bakeries in Frankfurt, Germany will add the slogan “Gewalt kommt nicht in die Tüte!” (Literally: “Violence is not coming in the bag!”, which means that Violence shouldn’t be tolerated) to their bread bags, as well as a hotline number for victims.

V-Day Frankfurt, together with the Women’s Shelter of Frankfurt and Bakeries, would like to raise awareness among new and wide groups of population on the taboo issue of violence against women.

This action will bring the issue to the breakfast table and raise discussion among family members and/or colleagues in the office.

The campaign will end with two exceptional benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* on 4 and 5 February in the Saalbau Nidda in Frankfurt Bonames. The benefits will be donated to the Frankfurter Women’s Shelter.

More information about the campaign:

[www.gewalt-kommt-nicht-in-die-tuete.de](http://www.gewalt-kommt-nicht-in-die-tuete.de)

<http://www.vdayeurope.org/monos.htm>

If you would like to organise the same kind of campaign, please contact Karin Heisecke ([kheisecke@gmail.com](mailto:kheisecke@gmail.com)) and Tracey Grey: ([vday@traceygrey.com](mailto:vday@traceygrey.com))

“Blessures de femmes” (“Women’s Wounds”) project supported by V-Day France

Catherine Cabrol, a well known French photographer, is developing a project on the issue of

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violence against women, photographing women victims of all sorts of violence and telling their stories. The series is composed of high quality black and white photographs and do not show any visible wounds, but show the women as they are in their everyday life.

Catherine Cabrol and V-Day France would like to give a European perspective to the project, and therefore are keen to photograph women from other countries in Europe.

If you are interested in the project, would like more information, or know women interested in participating by accepting to tell their stories and being photographed, please contact

[vday@paris-mcr.com](mailto:vday@paris-mcr.com)

<http://www.catherinecabrol.com/>

### BIO-FEM supported by UTVS/ V-Day UK

UTVS/ V-Day UK is supporting the BIO-FEM products.

BIO-FEM is a range of products specially designed for women offering instant relief from common discomforts, whilst understanding women want a safe and gentle solution that they can trust.

BIO-FEM products are based on Bio-Active Science using medicinal properties of plant extracts.

They are very gentle products that give instant relief of discomforts. All products were developed with GPs, Gynaecologists and midwives.

You can obtain any further information from the website [www.biofem.co.uk](http://www.biofem.co.uk) and information about UTVS support to these products by contacting Sarah at [sarah@tender.org.uk](mailto:sarah@tender.org.uk)

### [www.vdayeurope.org](http://www.vdayeurope.org) website – new features

The V-Day Europe website continues to develop and now offers additional information and communication tools:

- New Section on the V-Day 2006 Spotlight: On this page, you will find information about the Comfort Women, 2006 International V-Day Spotlight.

<http://www.vdayeurope.org/spotlight.htm>

- Monologues: In this section, you will find a list of V-Day events happening in Europe. If you want to advertise your event on the [www.vdayeurope.org](http://www.vdayeurope.org) website, don't hesitate to contact us at the following address: [emilie@vdayeurope.org](mailto:emilie@vdayeurope.org)

<http://www.vdayeurope.org/monos.htm>

- Forum: European Organisers have now the access to a brand new forum on the [www.vdayeurope.org](http://www.vdayeurope.org) website. This forum allows you to communicate and ask questions in

English, French and German

<http://www.vdayeurope.org/phpBB2/>

- On the organiser's webpage <http://vspot.vday.org/>, new information about the organisation of a V-Day is now available in French and Spanish (Foreign languages section in the menu)

### V-Day 2006 Spotlight - Comfort Women

V-Day Europe

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Every year V-Day supports a group of Women suffering violence in order to raise media attention and funds to support them. Each year, 1 to 10% of all funds raised from V-Day performances go to this spotlight campaign. The 2005 V-Day spotlight campaign was **Women Of Iraq, Under Siege**, and the 2006 Spotlight will be focusing on **Comfort Women**.

August 2005 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second World War. However, for the many Japanese female civilians or "Comfort Women" forced to provide sexual services to the Japanese military, this memory is not buried in the past. In support of these women and their fight for an official apology and compensation from their government, V-Day has decided to make these "Comfort Women" the 2006 spotlight.

Given the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's rapidly increasing armed conflict and the fact that these patterns of systematic rape and sexual violence continue today in places of armed conflict such as Sudan, Congo, and Iraq, the importance of recognising the human rights atrocity committed against these women during The Second World War is of utmost importance.

For more info on this and previous campaigns go to:

[www.vday.org/contents/vcampaigns/spotlight/](http://www.vday.org/contents/vcampaigns/spotlight/)

## Roundup of International and European news

### **Daphne Programme : New Call for Proposals**

The Daphne II programme runs from 2004 until 2008 with a budget of EUR 50 million. It aims at supporting organisations that develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect the victims and groups at-risk. The new call for proposals is open. The deadline is on 10 February 2006. More information under:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/funding/daphne/funding\\_daphne\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm)

### **Mama Cash Campaign 88 Days**

Campaign 88 Days is an effort to raise awareness, take action and mobilise resources for women's rights worldwide. In the 88 days between December 10, 2005, International Human Rights Day and March 8 2006, International Women's Day, you can help keep women safe from domestic and sexual violence, guarantee them equal treatment in the work force, push governments to do what's right for women, and support groundbreaking initiatives.

<http://www.mamacash.nl/site/en/news/campaign88/index.php>

### **New Call for proposals for projects promoting gender equality between women and men including activities concerning "Trafficking in women"**

The aim of this call for proposals is to support the operating costs of organisations which submit a work programme to develop activities in the field of gender equality between women and men including activities concerning "Trafficking in women".

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More information under

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders\\_en.cfm?id=65](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=65)

**UN: CEDAW 34th Session - 16 January to 3 February 2006**

The Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will hold its thirty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 January to 3 February 2006.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/34sess.htm#pro>

**New Amnesty International Report: Russian Federation: Nowhere to turn to Violence against women in the family.**

Violence against women in the Russian Federation is one of the most pervasive, yet hidden human rights abuses. Recent independent research revealed that 70 per cent of married women had been subjected to one or another form of violence by their husband.

<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGEUR460592005>

**New Publication by Urgent Action Fund**

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, the only international fund designed to respond on a short notice to the protection of women's human rights globally recently produced a book, *Rising up in Response: Women's Rights Activism in Conflict*, that explores women's rights activism in conflicts looking at both the barriers and support to this activism, with a particular focus on security of activists.

<http://www.urgentactionfund.org/publications.html>

If you would like to unsubscribe from the V-Day newsletter mailing list, please contact us at [info@vdayeurope.org](mailto:info@vdayeurope.org)

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