



Newsletter - November 2005

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

Jour-V Europe Cheque Giving Presentation

On the 4th October 2005, the Jour-V cheque giving presentation went ahead as planned at the European Parliament in Brussels. The presentation was hosted by Lissy Gröner (MEP).

At the presentation, cheques for 12,834 Euros were presented to each representative of our European Jour-V beneficiary organisations. Josiane Coruzzi, director of **Solidarités et Refuges pour Femmes Battues asbl** was presented a cheque by the songwriter Marka, **Irene Zeilinger, Garance asbl President** was presented a cheque by Theatrical Director Natalie Uffner and Sandy Brindley, member of **Rape Crisis Network Europe** was presented a cheque by actress Laurence Bibot.

The presentations also included inspirational speeches by each of these representatives and activists on the work carried out by their organisations on a grass roots level and how the money would aid the development of their causes.

This event was continued with a speech by Colette De Troy (European Women's Lobby) who explained why policies regarding violence against women need to be addressed by EU legislation. Their cooperation would raise the rate of international support and recognition surrounding the issue.

Françoise Guilitte from Amnesty International Belgium presented the situation in Belgium and called on the Belgian and European authorities for concrete measures against violence against women.

The event was concluded by a presentation of V-Day Europe plans for 2006 by Tamsin Larby, V-Day Europe Coordinator. She stressed the importance for the European Commission's support to the success and development of the movement. She also presented the 2006 V-Day Spotlight and explained the focus on trafficking that the V-Day organisers in Europe intend to undertake.

The event was covered by the European Parliament's press team.

V-Day Europe
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www.vdayeurope.org

With the support of the Daphne Programme (European Commission)



For more information, please contact: info@vdayeurope.org

"No Slap Just Tickle"

UK – A Night of Comedy and Games to Stop Violence Against Women

On Sunday 27th November at 7pm, UTVS/ Tender presents No Slap, Just Tickle - London's Comedy Pub Olympics spectacular! **No Slap, Just Tickle** is Tender's annual, all-male line up, 'stand up against domestic violence' comedy event to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The event is supported by the Mayor of London and The Metropolitan Police and will be raising money for The Greater London Domestic Violence Project.

For tickets or more info:

www.tender.org.uk

Email: nikki@tender.org.uk

Phone : +44 (0)20 7431 7278

V-Day Europe 2006

V-Season 2006

Thinking of organising or taking part in a V-Day next year? 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 (1st February 2006- 8th 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 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!

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

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

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

V-Day 2006 Spotlight - Comfort Women

Every year V-Day supports a group of Women suffering violence in order to raise media attention and funds to support them. Each year, 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 60th 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 21st 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/

Roundup of International and European news

"NOT A MINUTE MORE"

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25th November- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Throughout the world, 1 in 3 women of all ages, backgrounds and cultures will have violence directed towards them simply because they are female.

Since 1981, the 25th November has been marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This date came from the horrific assassination of three Mirabal sisters who were political activists in the Dominican Republic on orders of ruler Rafael Trujillo in 1961. On this day, people are encouraged to take part and organise activities raising awareness around the issues of violence against women and ways of eliminating it.

For more details or to find out the events that will be taking place go to:

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/violence/>

New UN Report Says Stopping Violence Against Women Is The Key To Eliminating Poverty

In 2000, the U.N. agreed to eight Millennium Development Goals, which include halving extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education and stemming the AIDS pandemic, all by 2015.

A new report said one of the targets, *promoting gender equality and empowering women* is "critical to the success of the other seven."

"We cannot make poverty history until we stop violence against women and girls," stressed Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1205776>

Iraq - Iraqi people urged to boycott referendum by OWFI

The Organisation for Women's Freedom in Iraq called for a boycott of the referendum that took place on 15 October regarding a constitution that undermines both the integrity of the Iraqi society and women's civil rights.

<http://www.equalityiniraq.com/english/2005/OWFI-Referandum121005.htm>

Iraq - Increasing cases of abuse against women in Iraq

According to the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs, there has been a significant increase in cases of abuse against women, especially in the capital, Baghdad.

[http://www.wluml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd\[157\]=x-157-380183](http://www.wluml.org/english/newsfulltxt.shtml?cmd[157]=x-157-380183)

US Senate Passes Violence Against Women Act

The United States Senate passed the *Violence Against Women Act of 2005* on October 4.

"Today's action means our nation is on its way to improving its response to domestic, sexual and dating violence, and stalking," said Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) President Esta Soler.

<http://endabuse.org/newsflash/index.php3?Search=Article&NewsFlashID=701>

Amnesty International publishes a guide on violence against women in armed conflicts

Countless women have been subjected to crimes of violence in times of armed conflict. Violence

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against women in war is widespread and often systematic. Amnesty's guide is aimed at those in influential positions in public services and also service groups and campaigners. It is part of a toolkit for activists in Amnesty International's **Stop Violence Against Women** Campaign.

<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGACTION770562005>

Netherlands - New Resource Centre for Sexual Rights launched in the Netherlands.

On October 12th 2005 the IIAV launched the Dutch component of the European Sexuality Resource Center, cooperation between libraries, training centres, and advocacy and research organisations. In March 2006 the IIAV will host a Europe-wide event aimed at securing European partners for this ambitious project.

www.iiav.nl

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