



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, 10 March 2018

Thousands of women will march through London to call for an end to male violence against women.

- 11th annual Million Women Rise march
- Europe's biggest women only march
- Organised by grassroots activists
- Calling for an end to all forms of violence against women

Thousands of women and children will take to the streets on Saturday, 10th March 2018 on the weekend just after International Women's Day.

In the last 18 months issues such as sexual violence have entered the public consciousness in unprecedented ways, as a number of high profile women have shared their stories of victimisation and abuse by men. We are experiencing growing resistance and solidarity as more and more women come together to demand change. Yet we know that many women's voices go unheard. We know that some of the most marginalised women are pushed into the shadows and we know that we may never hear their names, or their stories, even if they wanted to share them.

This march, which is organised by Million Women Rise (MWR) calls for an end to male violence against ALL women and girls. We demand an end to the silence around issues such as immigration, detention and cuts to vital services. The march is 'by us, for us, and with us.' We are survivors, workers, activists, educators, community organisers, artists and more. We are ALL working together to end violence against women and girls.

This year at our march and rally, we will honour the women and girls that continue to rise, despite the oppression we face. This year we will also, once again honour and mourn those that we have lost.

'Together we can end all forms of violence against women and girls!'

The march is supported by women's organisations up and down the country including Women and Girls Network, Imkaan, Southall Black Sisters, the Women's Resource Centre and Rape Crisis England and Wales.

While the march is for women and children only, men are invited to cheer from the sidelines.

At the rally in Trafalgar Square following the march, there will be inspirational speakers to listen to, including survivors of the kind of violence and abuse we are marching to prevent.

The march and rally demand more than words, enquiries, policies and strategies from government. Women are marching to demand the money and resources to match the levels of violence we live with and to enable women to live free from the threat of male violence.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Million Women Rise is a coalition of ordinary women who want to see an end to all forms of violence against women in their lifetime. Everybody who works with MWR does so free of charge and our activities are funded entirely by donations. Please check our website for more information: millionwomenrise.com

Journalists wishing to speak to someone from Million Women Rise should contact Marai Larasi 07939936348 or Sabrina Qureshi 07727419634 or email: info@millionwomenrise.com

Statistics on violence against women in the UK:

- One woman in four will experience domestic violence at some point in her life.
- Domestic violence has more repeat victims than any other crime (on average there will have been 35 assaults before a victim calls the police).
- Two women are murdered every week by their partner or ex-partner.
- One incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute.
- One woman in four will experience sexual assault as an adult.
- Only 5% of rapes reported to the police result in the perpetrator being convicted in court.
- Women are more worried about rape than any other crime.
- 250 cases of forced marriage are reported each year.
- Up to 1,420 women per year are trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation.
- One woman a month is murdered in the name of 'so called' honour.
- Nearly 90% of local authorities do not have a rape crisis centre.
- More than 20,000 girls could be at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK.