

"I came to know of the We Can Campaign through one of my students who had participated in it.

What impressed me is that the campaign talks of the smaller forms of violence that we ignore, though they happen daily in homes.

I feel very strongly that violence against women is not acceptable, and we must end discrimination in homes. I want all my students get this message.

I believe in the campaign's stand on how schools can help children live in homes that are safe and happy for them. We can do this by (a) intervening when there is a crisis at home (b) having teachers sensitively counsel affected children and (c) by alerting children that they can seek help from friends,

"In our school the teachers, students and I are collectively making changes in our attitudes and practices"



teachers and principals if they feel threatened.

My teachers have admirably counselled children facing violence at home. They take the children aside and talk to them at length. My teachers tell me that many children they have spoken to have found a new will and zest to study.

Our day often begins with talking to children during morning assemblies - about violence against women within homes. I often personally raise such issues.

I also ensure that girls in my school break stereotypes. They play basketball and work in science labs. I am so happy to see many girls take enthusiastically to it. I am keen that girls in all schools become good human beings who are able to counter violence against them positively"

**Ms. Usha Mishra, Principal**  
Senior Secondary Girls School,  
Dakshinpuri, New Delhi



## Sign up for the We Can Campaign

Get in touch with us at the addresses below. You can share your experience and challenges so other schools can learn from them.

local alliance address

**We Can India National Secretariat, 4/203, 1st Floor,**  
Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110 016



hundreds of schools across the country are showing the way

ANDHRAPRADESH • LLURISITARAMARAJUHIGH SCHOOL • SHREEVENKATESHWARA DEGREE COLLEGE • WEST BENGAL • KATHAL PURMADHUSUDHAN HIGH SCHOOL • MOHANPURK. G. SCHOOL • UTTAR PRADESH • DR. RAMMANOHARLOHIA AVADH UNIVERSITY • SRIMAHAVIRPRASAD GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE • TIMES BUSINESS STUDIES • TAMILNADU • GOVT. HS RANGANATHAN PEETA • KUPPANUR BLOCK PANCHAYAT MIDDLE SCHOOL • MAHARASHTRA • DR. AMBEDKAR SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTE • NATIONAL COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK • RAJASTHAN • EKALAYA VIDHYA NIKETAN SR. SEC. SCHOOL • RAJKIYA BALIKA SR. SEC. SCHOOL • ORISSA • PROJECT UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL • SHRI GANESWAR HIGH SCHOOL • UTTARAKHAND • BALIKA INTER COLLEGE CHAMBA • RAJKIYA INTER COLLEGE AGATHATH • GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE (GIC) NAUGAON REETHAGAD • GIC MANOLI • GIC CHAMTOLA • GICKHETI • GIC PANWANOLA • GIC DANYA • HIGH SCHOOL BANTHOK • HIGH SCHOOL ANDOLI • GIC BARECHEENA • GIC NAGARKHAN • GIC BHALYUTA • GIC OLCHHINA • HIGH SCHOOL PETSAL • ACHARYA NARENDER DEV HIGH SCHOOL, BANGLATA • GIC BARAKAL • GIC BALI GUNADITYA • GIC CHILKULELI • GIC HUDOLEE • GIC NAUGAON • GHSS KAPNOL • GIC BARNIGAD • GIC BARKOT • DIET BARKOT • GIC RAJGARHI • HILL GREEN HIGH SCHOOL BARKOT • GIC KHARADI • GIC ARAKOT • GOVERNMENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, KIMMI • GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAINI • GIC BARDAKHAN • GOVERNMENT GIRL INTER COLLEGE (GGIC) KAKAR • GGIC CHAMPAWAT • GGIC KHETIKHAN • GIC MADLAK • GIC KIMTOLI • GHSS KAMAGULA • GIC BANBASA • GHSS RITHAKHAL • GHSS NILOTI • GIC KHETIKHAN • GIC LOHAGHAT • GIC BARDAKHAN • GIC PATI • GIC DHAM • GIC CHAUMEL • GIC KARANKARAYAT • GIC PATI • GIC DHAM • GIC CHAUMEL • GIC KARANKARAYAT • GIC SAITHANIGOTH • GIC SPTI • GHSS VIVIL • GIC REGRU • GHSS TAND • GIC BIRN WAL GAON • GHSS BEORI • GHSS NELOTI • GHS SCHOOL, CHANDEWAL • GHSS KHARKARKI • GHSS SUE • GIC DEVIDHURA • GHSS DABABHAGU • GIC MOOLAKOT • GHSS GAINDAKHALI • GIC BAPRU • GIC CHAMPAWAT • GIC DYARTOLI • GHSS WALA • GGIC LOHAGHAT • GGIC TANAKPUR • GGIC UNLKA • GHSS CHAURAKOT • GHSS DUBCHOURA • GHSS PANIYA • GHSS TAMLI • ST. POLLS SCHOOL, KATHGODAM • GIC PHOOLCHOUR, HALDWANI • LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL, HALDWANI • GIC KALADHUNGI, HALDWANI • GGIC PHOOLCHOUR, HALDWANI • GIC MOTINAGAR, HALDWANI • GGIC KHURPATAL • GIC KUMDAR • GIC BHATKOT • GIC PITHORAGARH • GIC GAURIHAT PITHORAGARH • GIC ANALICHHINA • GIC PITHORAGARH • GGIC PITHORAGARH • GIC JHULAGHAT • GIC PITHORAGARH • GHS BHARKATI • GIC KAMLESHWAR • GGIC AAMCHALI • GIC BASTI • GIC SATSILLING • GIC MAYALEK • GHS BHATELI • GHS KUMANYCHOUR • GIC BISABAGAR • GIC SHAILKUMARI • GIC PIPALKOT • GIC THARKOT • GIC PATHARKHANI • GOVERNMENT HIGHSCHOOL (GHS), KANBA • GHS DATNU • GHS MATIYAWA • GHS BAGTHAT • GHS BESOGILANI • GHS, SAMALTA • GHS, KAMLA • GHS, KYARI • GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE (GIC) NAGAUKHET • GIC NAGTHAT • GIC LAKHWAD • GIC KUNDA DAGORA • GIC MAIRANA • GHS VIDYA MANDIR ARVIND INTER G.I.C. KAPKOT • GIC EITHAN • KASTURBA VIDYALAYA, KAFKOT • KENDRA, KAFKOT • COLLEGE, KAFKOT • GIC HARSHILA • GIC FARALI • GIC, SONG • HIGH SCHOOL, NAGTI • GIC, KARMI • GIC, BAGAR • GIC, CHORASTHAL • HIGH SCHOOL, GULER • JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, RENTHAL • JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, LILY • MADHYA PRADESH • ADARSH H S SCHOOL • ADARSH UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, SHENKI • BHAGYODAYA MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, MAHARAJPUR • CIVILINEMADHYMIKVIDHALAYA • DIVYAJYOTIVIDHALAYA • GOVT. GIRLS COLLEGE • GOVT. GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, BASGHAT • GOVT. GIRLS HS SCHOOL • GOVT. GYAAN DEEP H S • GOVT. GYAN JYOTI VIDHALAYA, SARNGIRI • GOVT. H S PIPARIA • GOVT. H S SCHOOL, BAMANWADA • GOVT. H S SCHOOL, NIWAS • GOVT. HIGH SCHOOL, BICHIA • GOVT. MGUMADHAYAMIKVIDHALAYA, BAPATHAR • GOVT. MADHYMIKSHALA, HATINAPUR • GOVT. MADHYMIK DEVVANI VIDYALAY, SUKLUDHANDHA • GOVT. MADHYMIKSHALA, BAMNI • GOVT. MADHYMIKSHALA, KATANGSVINI • GOVT. MADHYMIKSHALA, MAJHGAO • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIKVIDHALAYA, GAVRI • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIKSHALA, KHAJRI • GOVT. UCCTAR VIDHALAYA, CHANDANGAON • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, BASGHAAT • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, GANERUA • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, KANIWADA • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, KHAMI • GOVT. UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, TIGHARA • GOVT. UTKRASHTA MADHAYAMIKVIDHALAYA, GURUKUL PUBLIC SSSCHOOL, BARGHAT • GYANBHARTI VIDHYALA, CHANDANGAON • GYAN DEEP VIDHYALAYA, KHAPABHAT • GYAN JYOTI VIDHALAYA • GYAN JYOTI VIDHALAYA, KHAJRI • HAMISTHA H S SCHOOL • KANYA UCCHTAR MADHYMIKVIDHALAYA, HANUMANA • KISANGOVT UCCHTAR MADHYMIKSHALA, DHARNA • LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL • MADHYMIKSHALA AAMGAVA • MADHYMIKSHALA, BHALWARA • MADHYMIKSHALA, KHAMADONGRI, NIWAS • MAHARAJPUR KANYA SHALA, GOVT. SCHOOL • MOUNT FORT H S SCHOOL • MSW DEPT. APS UNIVERSITY • PRAGYA H S SCHOOL • RANI AVANTI GOVT. H S SCHOOL • RANI AVASTIBAI PUBLIC SCHOOL, LALBAG • RANI RAMGARH GOVT. H S SCHOOL • SANYAL H S SCHOOL • SARASTI SHISHU MANDIR • SARASWATI SHISHU MANDIR • SARASWATI UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, SGN PG COLLEGE MAUGANJ • SRC COLLEGE, HANUMANA • ST XAVIER SCHOOL • UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, GUD • UCCHTAR MADHYMIK VIDHALAYA, KHATKHARI • UCCHTAR MADHYMIKVIDHALAYA, RAIPUR • UTKRASHTA UCCHTAR MADHYMIKVIDHALAYA, MAUGANJ • JHARKHAND • AMCHIDEVI SARAFF GIRLS HIGHSCHOOL • CHAIBASA WOMEN'S COLLEGE • NEW DELHI • GOVT GIRLS SR. SEC. SCHOOL #3 • SARVODAYA GIRLS SCHOOL A & B BLOCK • BIHAR • HIGH SCHOOL GAWATA • HIGH SCHOOL PANAPUR • based on data as of June 2010

# schools show the way



## How schools are delivering better education by addressing Domestic Violence

Across India, schools are delivering better quality education by addressing the adverse impact of Domestic Violence on children. Here are what people from different parts of the country are saying about their experiences...

### Supporting affected children

"One of my class 4 students had become suddenly very irregular. When asked, he would say he had gone to his village. I decided to visit his family, and there I discovered that his mother was being abused by her husband. That is why she would often go to her parent's home with her son.

Later, I visited the family again with a counsellor from a local women's organisation. After many meetings and follow-ups, the situation has improved and the boy is able to focus a bit more on his education"

**Madhuben Rathod, Principal Parthna**

### Improved student performance

"After attending the We Can Campaign event, the Headmaster and I organised a similar session with the school staff; focussed on identifying children who had witnessed domestic violence, and supporting them. We believe this initiative has improved student performance in the Higher Secondary Board Exam last year. Now our school has become a model to many others"

**Mr. Vishwanathan, President PTA Govt. Higher Sec. School, Ranganatham Pettai Karur, Tamil Nadu**

### Change is difficult, but possible

"When I read about the We Can Campaign in 2008, I felt that the work was difficult, but possible. I started by talking to students about domestic violence. Then I found it necessary to discuss it with the school management. It was hard at first, but eventually the management introduced domestic violence as a topic for discussion with guardians.

Initially the guardians protested strongly, telling us to focus on education instead of irrelevant issues. It took several meetings before we were able to convince them.

Today the management and the guardians committees have together decided that our village should be a Changemakers' village. The board at the school gate now reads 'Balika Inter College **Changemaker**, Chamba"

**Anjali Chandola, Professor Balika Inter College, Chamba, Uttarakhand**

### We Can Question Box

"We now have a Question Box where girls can anonymously share their personal dilemmas. A committee of lady teachers have been formed to respond and counsel the girls. This has made it so easy for us to discuss things that we otherwise would not have raised"

**Prabha Sharma, Student Tala High School, Madhya Pradesh**

### Special teacher to address domestic violence issues

"I have appointed a new teacher specifically to help students experiencing domestic violence. This teacher works with students to build their hope and confidence through different sessions, and meets with parents every quarter. Seeing the benefit of this initiative, I have influenced two other schools to do the same"

**Ponnurajam, Headmaster Onu Ramasamy Middle School, Devaram, Tamil Nadu**

### Adding the mother's name

"We have introduced an additional column in the 'admission and school leaving forms' for the mother's name"

**Kalpna Dave, President Parthna Vidyalay,**

### Encouraging gender neutral behaviour

"We have introduced gender neutral behaviour in the school. We try to ensure that boys and girls both play outdoor games. Boys also welcome guests, prepare for prayers and serve tea - tasks that were earlier done by girls."

**Dharamsinh Parmar, Principal Shreemati V K. Patel High School, Patan, Gujarat**

### Reaching out helps everyone

"I have often noticed students who seemed disturbed, and though I wanted to talk to them to find out why, I kept my distance, thinking it was their personal matter. Then, at a We Can Campaign meeting, I realised how domestic violence affects children, and that moved me. Since then I make every effort to reach out to such students, talk to them and listen to their problems."

**Raj Kumar Mahobia, Teacher High School A, Umeria, Madhya Pradesh**

## what's your story?

your inspiring story may help many other schools to address domestic violence, and improve education



# addressing domestic violence in schools

which of these are practiced in your school?

encouraging boys and girls to adopt gender neutral roles

have a "no violence" policy for the school



listening to children and respecting them

this is how domestic violence affects studies



raise awareness about domestic violence with teachers and parents



influence public opinion through campaigns