

Silent Witness Campaign

‘Wendy’s ex-partner and the father of her children stabbed her then set fire to her. She never recovered from this attack and died aged 33.’

Silent Witnesses are displays of life-sized wooden figures of women who have been murdered in acts of violence. Each figure bears the victim’s story and will be available for interested groups, organisations or local authorities to display on the streets, in parks, at universities and public venues to remind and warn on the consequences of disregarded domestic violence.

The White Ribbon Campaign, U.K., is offering a set of these figures to help raise awareness and educate men to join in the campaign to reduce domestic violence. WRC believes that the current level of violence in our society will never reduce unless people are educated to the consequences of their actions.

Such models have been used in other countries with great effect. All too often these acts of violence remain underground. The public seems to be happier not to face up to the facts of domestic violence in our society which results in an average of two women a week murdered by their partner or ex partner. Not all victims of domestic violence are women. The Silent Witness programme is there to force people to face up to the effects of domestic violence in our society.

In France similar silhouettes are placed on the side of dangerous routes to mark the victims of road accidents. The campaign was started by Jean Pierre Giraud, an artist who lost his son through a road accident. A spokesperson from the French Department of Transport commenting a remarkable reduction in road accidents said, ‘I am certain that the silhouettes are part of that success’.

Chris Green, Director of WRC, U.K., believes that these silhouettes will be equally effective in bringing home the message of the dangers of domestic violence.

As in France, permission has not been sought from the victims’ families, though real names are not given. Far from causing a negative reaction amongst victims’ families in France, people were pointing out where their loved ones’ road deaths were not being recorded by silhouettes.

There are children, female and male victims represented by these silhouettes. These figures are available immediately.

Pic:

Silent Witness Campaign

Some representative stories – no real names used

Halima, 50 years old, stabbed to death by her son.

Neil was killed by his girlfriend after a long history of abusing her. He was aged 41.

Abby, aged 10, was murdered by her father who then shot himself.

Mike, 24, died in hospital following an attack from his girlfriend during which he sustained head injuries.

Lauren was strangled. Her lifeless body was taken to the hospital by her husband. He was later charged with her murder. She was 43 years of age.

George, 22 years of age, was stabbed to death by the new boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend.

Her partner said he found her lying at the foot of the stairs suffering with head injuries. He was later charged with her murder. She was 56 years old at the time of her death.

Peter was stabbed in the stomach with a kitchen knife. He was 24 years old at the time of his death. His wife was charged with his murder.

Matt, 36 years old, was found dead with head and facial injuries. His wife was later charged with his murder.

Charles was found lying dead in his lounge. He had sustained head injuries from an attack by his son. He was 77 at the time of his death.

Renata was 20 years old when she was found dead in the bath. She died from a fatal blow in her head. It was her half brother who delivered the blow.

Cathy, aged 21 and believed to be pregnant was found dead with her throat cut. Her boyfriend murdered her.

Kalila's body was discovered by her teenage son. She had been strangled by her husband. She was 38.

Mohammed aged 5 was murdered by his mother's ex-boyfriend who shot him twice in the head.

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