

## Why Men Support Women at Reclaim the Night

*"Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace."*

**Kofi Annan Former UN Secretary General**



As brothers, lovers, fathers, friends and sons of women we have a lot to gain from an equal society where women's full participation is the norm. We understand and affirm women's right to self-organisation. All too many women know what it is to experience male violence, including rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour' crimes. Women are disadvantaged and discriminated against simply for being women. When women create safe, collective women-only spaces to organise, share experiences, and learn from each other, we support and respect that space.

## Why do Women Reclaim the Night?

According to the British Crime Survey (2001) there are an estimated 47,000 rapes every year, around 40,000 attempted rapes and over 300,000 sexual assaults. Yet as of 2009, our conviction rate is the lowest it has ever been, one of the lowest in Europe, at only 5.3%. This means that more rapists were convicted in the 1970's when Reclaim the Night marches first started than they are now. Women are marching to demand justice for rape survivors, and to demand an end to the social attitudes that place blame and fear of assault on women.

A recent survey by the young women's magazine *More* in 2005 found that 95% of women don't feel safe on the streets at night, and 65% don't even feel safe during the day. 73% worry about being raped and almost half say they sometimes don't want to go out because they fear for their own safety.

## White Ribbon Campaign

White Ribbon Campaign is the largest campaign of men working to challenge the violence of some men against women. The Campaign works all year but focuses on November 25<sup>th</sup> each year for the United Nations Day to Eradicate Violence against Women, or White Ribbon Day.

**"I pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women"**

Take the pledge online: [www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk)