**WEEK WITHOUT 2021:**

**GUIDE FOR PARTNERS**

BACKGROUND

[Week Without Violence](http://www.ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/about) is part of a global movement to end violence against women and girls powered by YWCAs across the country and around the world. For more than 20 years, YWCA has set aside the third week in October as a Week Without Violence. This year, Week Without Violence is taking place October 18 - 23.

Through our Week Without Violence campaign and our work as the largest network of domestic and sexual violence service providers, we are focused on ending gender-based violence. At YWCA, we know that not all violence is acknowledged or responded to equally, and that some victims go unrecognized altogether. Our focus on gender-based violence — which recognizes a spectrum of violence, including but not limited to, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and harassment — and racism allows us to address, educate, and take action around myriad issues that impact our communities.

Throughout this week-long campaign, we encourage you to join us in sharing information and highlighting ways that your members and constituencies can elevate stories, support survivors, talk with federal, state, and local decision makers, and to take action, all with a common goal in mind: together, we can end gender-based violence and racism.

Thank you for joining us on this immensely important mission. Please use this guide as a resource and starting point as you prepare for and participate in Week Without Violence.

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Our Week Without Violence campaign has historically been focused on our national YWCA network. YWCA USA provides resources and tools for our local associations across the country. Once again, we encourage our YWCAs as well as any other interested local organizations and institutions to [get involved](http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/join-us) by hosting an event(s) during this year’s week of action and/or participating digitally. In past years, we expanded the campaign to other national organizations and were thrilled by the incredible support and enthusiasm that we received with over 25 national partners participating. This year we hope to further Week Without Violence’s national footprint by providing even more opportunities to engage with this campaign. We couldn’t be more excited to have your support as an official [Week Without Violence partner](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/about/national-partners/)!

As an official national partner, we ask that you promote, share, and support Week Without Violence in at least one (if not more!) of the following ways:

**Before the Week of Action**

* **Announce your participation and share your excitement about Week Without Violence**. Tell your network that you are participating in Week Without Violence as an official partner for the campaign and the many reasons you decided to join us (see sample social media at the end of this partner guide)! Express enthusiasm for the campaign and share why it is important to your organization. If you are hosting an event(s), share information and logistical details. Use the sample social media language in this packet to get started.
* **Encourage your members/audience to join** the campaign by inviting them to visit the campaign website and [join us](http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/join-us), [sign up to hold their own event(s)](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/host-an-event/), find and attend an [existing event](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/find-an-event/), [contact their members of Congress about VAWA and FVPSA](http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/act-now), and/or join us for any of our national [Week of Action](http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/week-of-action) activities, including taking a campaign selfie.

**During the Week of Action (October 18 - 23)**

* **Promote Week Without Violence’s Week of Action every day** between October 18 - 23 on social media.Schedule a tweet(s) to go out at 3 PM ET every day of the Week of Action to help us create sustained attention on eliminating gender-based violence and our national Week Without Violence campaign.

* **Monday, October 18: Imagine a World Without Violence**:

When we envision a world without violence, we begin to build a path to creating that world. Help us raise awareness about gender-based violence, support survivors, and envision a world without violence!

Today, and all through the week, we ask you to:

* + - Take a Week Without Violence campaign selfie (or group photo) using [one of our customizable signs](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/about/join-our-twitter-chat/), tag us on social and use the hashtag #WWV21, and then tag 5 friends and challenge them to do the same! Check out our useful [Week Without Violence guide](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/about/join-our-twitter-chat/) for more info and sample social media posts.

Can’t or don’t want to post a photo? [Support us!](http://support.ywca.org/site/Donation2?df_id=3427&mfc_pref=T&3427.donation=form1) YWCA is the largest network of domestic and sexual violence service providers in the country, and your support is crucial to our work. Every year, we help 500,000 women, girls and families get and stay safe through sexual assault, trafficking, and violence prevention programs. Our YWCAs couldn’t do this critical work without support from people like you!

* **Tuesday, October 19: Day of Action:**Policy action at both federal and local levels is essential. Join us today to advance survivor safety through:

Capitol Hill Call-In Day – This Capitol Hill Call-In Day, we invite you to engage your Members of Congress by [taking action online](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/act-now/); calling your legislators; and engaging with these discussions on social media, using the hashtag #WWV21 to tweet at your Member of Congress.  Urge your members of Congress to support policies that support survivors of gender-based violence and their families. Call on your legislators to express the importance of supporting VAWA, FVPSA, and the resolution to declare racism a public health crisis. Stay connected and [sign up to receive our action alerts](https://ywca.quorum.us/actioncenter/)!

Making the Local Focal – Engage with your state and local elected officials on this important issue. Ask questions about their position on policies that support survivors and help hold them accountable.  Call on your friends, family, neighbors, and other community members to sign the [Week Without Violence Pledge for Community Members](https://www.ywca.org/wp-content/uploads/20200910-WWV20-PledgeforCommunityMembers-FINAL.pdf) to engage in ending gender-based violence. Call on your local and state elected officials to sign the [Week Without Violence Pledge for Policy makers](https://www.ywca.org/wp-content/uploads/20200910-WWV20-PledgeforPolicyMakers-FINAL.pdf) to engage in ending gender-based violence, and/or encourage them to issue a [proclamation](https://www.ywca.org/wp-content/uploads/20200910-WWV2020-ProclamationforPolicymakers-FINAL.pdf) declaring the third week in October to be YWCA Week Without Violence Week in your community. Hold state and local elected officials accountable by asking questions and find out what their positions are on policies that support survivors. Ask officials how they will work to implement changes to end violence against women and girls, and to better provide support and resources. Use our [policy resources](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/policyresources/) to get started and check out more information about ways to take action in your community and with your elected officials on our [Act Now](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/act-now/) page! Write a letter to the editor! Use the template in the [toolkit](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/policyresources/) to get the word out to your community about the prevalence of gender-based violence in your community and the importance of building a community and a world free from violence.

Stay connected: [Sign up](https://ywca.quorum.us/actioncenter/) to receive our action alerts

* **Wednesday, October 20:**
* More details coming soon!
* **Thursday, October 21: Reimagining the Role of Resilience:**

Join us for a panel discussion on how we can reimagine the role of resilience and build thriving futures for survivors by centering healing – including replenishment, rest, and recovery – and addressing domestic and systemic violence, as well as the root causes of trauma, which feed into the cycle of harm.

More details coming soon!

* **Friday, October 22:**

More details coming soon!

* **Saturday, October 23: #SelfCareSaturday**  
  Service providers, advocates, and activists in the fight to end gender-based violence all care deeply about these issues, and about the survivors they help each and every day. Unfortunately, however, this work can also cause vicarious trauma for individuals as they work with survivors who have undergone serious trauma or can retraumatize individuals who are survivors themselves. Taking the time to engage in healing and self-care as a provider, advocate, or activist is an integral part of your own mental and physical well-being and will help make you an even more powerful advocate for your causes and clients.

If your organization has interest and capacity in participating in Week Without Violence other ways, we encourage you to:

* **Support or participate in an event near you —** and encourage your network to do the same! You can view a current list of Week Without Violence events around the country [here](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/find-an-event/).
* **Hold your own Week Without Violence event(s).**  [Register your event(s)](http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/register) on the campaign website to access other promotional tools and resources to plan an event. [A Week Without Violence event](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/20190815-WWV19-HostinganEvent-DRAFT-FINAL.pdf) can be big or small, and take place anywhere, even online! For example, a webinar, a town hall, a community dinner, a film or book discussion, an issue education Facebook Live, or a “thanking survivors” letter-writing event are just a few ideas.
* **Write a Letter to the Editor or Blog** about your involvement in the Week Without Violence campaign. Public issue education about the importance of ending gender-based violence and racism, and the multiple forms gender-based violence and racism can take is one of the most important ways to engage in Week Without Violence. If you are interested in co-writing a piece with YWCA USA, please email [weekwithoutviolence@ywca.org](mailto:weekwithoutviolence@ywca.org).
* **Share information with your network** about important declaring racism a public health crisis, gender-based violence issues and efforts. Use YWCA gender-based violence fact sheets, updated for most recent data in 2021, available in [this folder](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/wwv-fact-sheets/).

HASHTAGS AND TAGGING

* **#WWV21** **—** please use this hashtag for anything on social media related to Week Without Violence. Feel free to also add on hashtags like #WorkAgainstViolence, #endGBV, #endDV, and #RacismIsAPublicHealthCrisis, as well as #DVAM, #VAWA4ALL, and #FVPSA.
* **@YWCAUSA** **—** space permitting, please tag us in your social media posts and feel free to also tag and interact with other national partners. We will post an ongoing, rolling list of national partners on the [Week Without Violence homepage](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/).

PROMOTIONAL SHARE GRAPHICS

We encourage all of our partners to utilize the promotional shareable graphics created for Week Without Violence to enhance their social media and other external communications. Posts with photos are more likely to capture the attention of stakeholders, receive retweets, or get liked by changemakers. Check out our social media graphics [here](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/join-us/join-our-twitter-chat/social-media-graphics/)!

SAMPLE PROMOTIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook and Instagram:** [insert/use [share graphics](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/1080x1080-Social-Media-Post.jpg)]

We encourage all Week Without Violence National Partners to utilize the following, pre-prepared language on social media to announce their involvement:

We are excited to share that we are a national partner for YWCA USA’s annual Week Without Violence campaign, taking place October 18 to 23. Ending racism and gender-based violence for all womxn is imperative, and in order for that to happen, we must all take part in the effort. Join us: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

We believe that everyone deserves to be safe and free from violence. Unfortunately, not all survivors of violence are given the same access to resources and support. Some violence is ignored altogether. So, as we work to end gender-based violence and racism, it is crucial that we address the unique challenges many womxn and girls may face, including racial inequity, immigration status, housing, or health concerns. That is why we’ve signed on as a national partner with YWCA USA’s Week Without Violence campaign. Join us! <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

The numbers are staggering. One in four women will become a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. Every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted. One in three women experiences gender-based violence. It is time we change this — and, together, we can help create a culture where gender-based violence is no longer a reality. That is why we are proud to be a national partner for YWCA USA’s Week Without Violence campaign. We hope you join us in participating — online, at an event, and/or by hosting your own event! <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

In the U.S., one in four women will be impacted by domestic violence in her lifetime. One in three girls is a victim of physical, verbal or emotional abuse. Every two minutes, another person is sexually assaulted. It’s clear that we have work to do to change our national culture and end gender-based violence. That’s why we are proud to join YWCA USA for their annual Week Without Violence, a campaign aimed at ending violence against women and girls. Join us: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/>

Racism operates on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all of which operate throughout time and across generations. It’s time to dismantle racism, starting with a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis. Visit <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> to learn more. #WWV21

This week, I am joining YWCA and others for Week Without Violence to elevate stories, share information, and raise awareness about gender-based violence, structural and institutional racism—and the need to declare that #RacismIsAPublicHealthCrisis. Please join us: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

**Twitter:** [insert/use [share graphics](https://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/1200X675-WWV-Twitter-Graphic_R2.jpg)]

We’re excited to be a national partner for @YWCAUSA Week Without Violence campaign focused on ending gender-based violence and racism. It’s time take a stand and change our national culture. Join us! #WWV21 <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/>

Until a world without violence exists, we will keep working to ensure that survivors have access to the resources they need to get and stay safe and to heal. We’re excited to partner with @YWCAUSA for Week Without Violence. Learn more & join us: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

.@YWCAUSA’s Week Without Violence Campaign is October 18-24 & we are a national partner! Join us & many others in highlighting the work that needs to be done to end to racism and gender-based violence for women and girls. #WWV21 <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/>

Tell us: What does a world without violence look like to you? Join us for @YWCAUSA’s Week Without Violence campaign and let us know! #WWV21 <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/>

We’re joining @YWCAUSA for a Week Without Violence campaign! Want to get involved? Attend an event or sign up to host your own! <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

We must all commit to eradicating racism, sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, trafficking, and dating violence. Join us and @YWCAUSA for Week Without Violence this week, as we work to raise awareness about these important issues. #WWV21<http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/join-us>

Our mission is bold: to end gender-based violence and racism. But we believe that it is urgent and necessary. That’s why we’re partnering with @YWCAUSA for Week Without Violence. Join us. Together, let’s work to make this a reality! #WWV21 <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/>

Women of color experience disproportionately high rates of violence and face greater challenges in leaving abuse. The statistics paint a stark picture. That’s why we’re proud to join @YWCAUSA this week for a Week Without Violence campaign. Join us: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/> #WWV21

This week, join us and @YWCAUSA as we raise awareness and work to end racism and gender-based violence for women and girls. There are so many ways to get involved. Visit the site and find out how: <http://ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org/join-us> #WWV21