

‘Souls of our Shoes’

This is explanation on how to replicate a similar exhibition

You need a small group of like-minded individuals concerned with raising awareness of domestic abuse. The original exhibition was ‘104 pairs of shoes’ put together by YWCA, we were given permission to replicate it. The 104 shoes represents the women who die each year at the hand of their partner.

Collecting the shoes

Scottish Women’s Aid [SWA]- They obtained many of the shoes with comments. We have a SWA representative on the committee.

Other shoes - These were collected and comments added by the committee from a victims perspective. We particularly wanted to represent disabled people, children and a male victim.

People of Faith - They were asked for a pair of shoes and a comment about domestic abuse.

Scottish Parliament - More prominent MSP’s were asked for a pair of shoes and comment. These comments do date with time, due to elections!

Storage

We collected over 70 pairs and stored them in shoe boxes, these are useful for display purposes. The comments were printed out and laminated and put into the box relating to the pair of shoes. These are bulky to transport, fitting into 5 Ikea blue bags. We have recently put them in soft bags for easier more compact transportation.

Photography Exhibition - laminated

We decided to photograph all the shoes and add comments so these could be sent in the post within Scotland. We now have 3 laminated photographed shoe exhibitions

Feedback from visitors

We always have a comments book at every exhibition. White paper on a wall for comments is also good for everyone to see what is written. This gives a good insight to how useful the exhibition has been.

Displaying the exhibition

They have been displayed in many ways; attached to a wall, on tables and boxes covered by rainbow coloured cloth, in church windowsills, hung up in a tent, on the floor in a prison room and laid in a variety of shapes on the floor.



When hosting an exhibition we are often asked to give a presentation or run a workshop. We insist we are just about raising awareness of domestic abuse, we are no experts on domestic abuse.

Resources for Presentations and workshops

We have a few tools that have helped us along the way.

1. Story of silks - This is a short drama which is quite moving. Statements are read out whilst people cover an individual with cloths which are colours of the rainbow, then remove the cloths gradually. The individual is then asked to say how they feel.
2. Quiz - Statements are read out and marked true or false. They challenge attitudes, values and responses to domestic abuse. This can start discussions.
3. Michael Kaufman's Statement of Principles - Founder of White Ribbon campaign. Very moving words from a man.
4. Children's voices - We have several comments from children who have lived in an abusive situation, we ask people to read out the comments. We highlight how children are affected.
5. Working with perpetrators of domestic violence - A video from Respect, for

people who work with perpetrators, but it gives an in site into this side of domestic abuse. On YouTube.

6. Hear our voice - A video made by Scottish Borders Women's Aid which highlights the difficulty of leaving home. On YouTube.
7. Loving on Another - A Bible based study which addresses gender based abuse. By Christian Aid and Scottish Episcopal church.
8. Liturgy for those affected by abuse - 'Ending the Silence on domestic abuse'. Glasgow and Galloway Scottish Episcopal church diocese.
9. Mothers' Union 16 days of Activism resource.

Many of these resources are available on our website www.ifgoda.org.uk. Please contact us if you require further information. Our contact details are on our website.

Exhibitions held so far: Scottish Parliament on several occasions. St. Mungo's museum of Religious Life, Glasgow. Several Cathedrals. Shop windows. Many churches. Conferences

Venture 2017

Dumbarton Secondary School, and Her Majesty's Prison service in Greenock and Shotts.

Prison service

We have been welcomed and encouraged to visit each prison. They have wanted us to run awareness raising workshops for prison officers, three in a day. Then three workshops for prisoners, three in a day. We use some of the above resources.

Shoes in schools

We had a day in a secondary school where the exhibition was in the main hall, several children came back a few times to look at it, their comments were interesting. We have since made a leaflet outlining how the exhibition can be used within the curriculum , this will be taken to other schools.

Children and young people experience domestic abuse as victims and as witnesses to the abuse of other family members. They are not to be forgotten in the fray.