

Holding a candlelight vigil



Candlelight vigils bring people together, to remember people and to show support for a cause.

We hope that this resource can help you to plan your vigil.

1. Find the right location

- This could be at a local church, a park or even a cathedral. It needs to be big enough to hold all of the people taking part
- Remember to do a risk assessment
- Tell the press
- Take photos and send to MSH
- Consider the weather – is it in an indoor or outdoor vigil, what time of year is it?
- Are people bringing their own candles or will you provide them? Make sure you have candles and maybe electric candles if children will be involved
- Are any special permits/licenses needed?
- Seating – consider if seating is needed for certain people (disabled, pregnant, elderly)

2. Put together a guest list

- Make sure you let your guests know if there is any dress code/special colour to wear
- Provide them with a timeline
- Do you need to recommend warm clothing/umbrella
- Do you need to invite local dignitaries?- give them plenty of notice
- Is it invited guests only or can they bring along other people?
- Make sure you have a list of contact details in case of a last minute cancellation.

3. Speaking

- Are specific people going to speak or can anyone contribute?
- Are you providing prayers or bible readings or do people write/choose their own?
- Poetry – are there poems which could be read
- Will you need microphones?

4. Back up plan

- Will there be an alternative location if the weather is bad?

5. Something to take away?

- Make sure you give out details about how to join or become a supporter of Mothers' Union