

Today we are entering the second day of the 16 Days of activism for no violence against women and children- no gender violence. We are all aware of how many times gender based violence have made the front pages of our written media and how many times it is prevalent on social media platforms.

As a city, we have reached a time where we need to add action to our words- a time we must stand together and combat this crime against humanity. Although it is known as the 16 days of activism we need to ensure that it is maintained for 365 days of every year. It is time that men take up the responsibility of ensuring the safety of our women and children. We are the priests of our families and the priests of our communities. The voices of the men and fathers should be heard and the action should come from us. The time of being quiet – the time of resting on our laurels is over – the time of waiting on one another is over- we should take up the responsibility of ensuring safe families- safe neighbourhoods- safe communities- safe cities- safe region- safe province and safe country. As fathers, we should be the role models.

Today I call on everybody living or visiting our city to wear the white ribbon with pride and add action to this pride. We dare not turn a blind eye- neither dare we look away as if we do that we are condoning any kind of violence.

Let us speak out- let us become in fighting this hideous crime- let us volunteer and build our families and communities. One of our strategic objectives is a safe city- this is not only an objective but an unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of all who live- work, play, serve and study in George. Let us unite behind a safe George- a safe city- safe families and safe communities. We owe to ourselves and to the future generations as it is in realising this objective that the words Land laden with honey can become a reality.