



## News Release

### **Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council gains White Ribbon Accreditation**

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council has taken a stand to end all male violence against women by becoming White Ribbon Accredited. White Ribbon is a global campaign that encourages people, and especially men and boys, to individually and collectively take action and change the behaviour and culture that leads to abuse and violence. To wear a white ribbon is to promise to never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. Commitments made by the Town Council in our White Ribbon action plan include appointing volunteer ambassadors to carry the message out to more men and raising awareness within our local community.

Anthea Sully, Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK said, “Our call to end violence by raising awareness, educating and campaigning to bring about change is greatly strengthened by working together with our White Ribbon accredited organisations. Our partners are able to engage with many thousands of people to change the cultures that lead to violence against women and girls. We are delighted to welcome Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council as one of our White Ribbon Accredited organisations. Together we can prevent violence happening in the first place”.

Cllr Amanda Carter-Philpott, who led this activity on behalf of the Town Council, said ‘We are very proud to achieve White Ribbon Accreditation in such a short period of time and this is just the beginning. We invite residents to join us on this journey to promote ending violence towards women and girls’.

2021 marked the first year of the Town Council promoting the 16 days of activism that take place globally to promote the ending of violence against women and girls. The Town Council hosted and supported a series of online and in person inspiring events, notably ‘The Suitcase’ by CEO of MK Act, Sue Burke. Our Bandstand Community Gathering, held on 25th November to celebrate White Ribbon Day and the beginning of the 16 days of activism, was attended by an enthusiastic audience and you can view the Community Gathering video on the Town Council’s YouTube channel and Facebook page.

More than 100 organisations have received White Ribbon accreditation, including councils, police forces, fire and rescue services, health authorities, housing associations, schools and universities. There is also a scheme for smaller organisations to become White Ribbon supporters. Individuals can also join over 37,000 others who have signed the White Ribbon UK pledge and get more information online at [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk).

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