



## Thursday in Black

MWA Home & Overseas: April 2026

At the recent Unity Women's Desk Consultation we were encouraged to wear black every Thursday<sup>1</sup> and you can too. Why?

Thursdays in Black is a campaign started by the World Council of Churches<sup>2</sup>. By wearing black we are showing our commitment to challenging gender-based violence (GBV). A black outfit or a badge, showing the image above, may start a conversation either raising awareness or even creating the space for a woman to share her story.

GBV is a tragic reality across the world and our Moravian Unity. Frequently, victims are hidden, silenced by fear of stigma and even fear of further violence.

In the UK it is a significant issue: the National Police Chiefs' Council<sup>3</sup> state that a woman is killed by a man every 3 days and 20% of ALL reported crime is violence against women and girls. This means it is happening to our neighbours, in our communities and our churches. We must ask, what can we do to combat these tragic facts?

Violence can be sexual, physical, economic and psychological. Controlling behaviours, withholding money and isolating a woman are all damaging behaviours. The Taliban have recently passed a new law allowing men to beat their wives so long as no bones are broken. In the UK we have laws against domestic violence but these laws do not always protect women against terrible violence in a place that should feel safe.

Patterns of behaviour develop and social media plays its part. What role does our church have in addressing this issue? What partnerships can we foster?

In March we celebrated International Women's Day with the theme of 'Give to Gain'. This emphasised the power of generosity, collaboration and reciprocity to advance women's rights and to create a sustainable impact for women & girls. We can learn from this and seek out ways to use our skills and to work together. As Sr Norma Maynard, from Hall Green, says 'empowered women empower women.' Let us each be an empowered woman.

During April there is the MWA Away Day (Saturday, 18 April). I look forward to seeing many of you there and wish everyone a safe journey. For those of you unable to be there, you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Sr Mary Holmes.

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<sup>1</sup> For photographs see MWA Facebook page. Please join me there as I plan to regularly post items and invite you to add too.

<sup>2</sup> [Thursdays in Black | World Council of Churches](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Violence Against Women and Girls](#)