



## Having Trouble Knowing What to Paint on your T-Shirt?

*Thank you for participating in the Clothesline Project, a worldwide campaign that aims to raise community awareness of the impact family violence, encourage healing through art and strengthen local connections and relationships focused on the prevention of violence against women.*

The concept is simple: each woman tells her story in her own unique way, using words and/or artwork to decorate her t-shirt. Once finished, she hangs it on a clothesline.

### Bearing witness to violence against women for 25 years

The original CLP was held in 1999, and saw 31 t-shirts displayed on a village green in Hyannis, MA, as part of an annual 'Take Back the Night' march and rally.

Currently, there are over 600 CLP in over 20 countries, in cities ranging from Beirut to Namibia to Tel Aviv to Brooklyn to Coburg.



Figure 1 Prevalence statistics for women's experience of different types of violence<sup>20</sup>

The objectives of the Clothesline project are:

- to act as an educational tool for those who come to view the clothesline
- to act as a healing tool for anyone who made a shirt
- and to allow those who are still suffering in silence to understand that they are not alone

When considering what to paint on your shirt, have a look around at some past examples - Do any of these messages stand out or inspire you?



Consider painting:

- Messages of hope for the elimination of violence against women and children;
- Messages of accountability and hope for change for perpetrators of family violence;
- Messages of education about the impact of violence against women and children;
- Messages of protest about the prevalence of violence against women and children.

You might also try jotting down some words/thoughts about the answers to the following questions:

- How do you feel about the prevalence of violence against women?
- Why is safety in the home important to you?
- What hopes do you have for yourself or your children?
- Are there any myths about family violence you want to 'bust' on a t-shirt?

Most importantly – it doesn't need to be perfect, just go for it!