

UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

November 25

Poetry Night

Event Planning Brief

1. Back ground

November 25th is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Events happen throughout the world to honor this day and bring awareness to the issue. This provides a great opportunity for others to create a space where indigenous women gather and use art as expression to celebrate their strength and resilience and stand together to eliminate violence

2. Theme – Orange the World

The theme “Orange the World: End Violence against Women and Girls” can be the focus of the night. Use orange decorations, marketing materials (posters etc.) and think of a special art project to have for the night. An example is having plain large canvases set up with the title “Strong hands Stop Violence” and provide orange paints. Have participants dip their hands in and leave a handprint. This provides a fun activity to express unity as we campaign to end violence against women and girls.

Think of other creative ways you may be able to use the colour orange.



3. Poetry Night at your Site

Determine the location and time of your event. Remember to keep in mind, you are creating a safe space for women and their families to come together to share their stories and show their strength. The location needs to be a space where the women and their families feel safe and secure to come and share.

Do a call for submissions of poetry to be shared during your event. Have a copy of the poems so you can plan the agenda. You want to create the agenda in a way so you end the night in a positive, uplifting way.

Things to consider:

- Invite an Elder to open the event and be there for support
- Create an intimate atmosphere (lamps, candles, rugs, etc.) Consider ways you will make this a safe and comfortable environment for healing through art.
- Invite local musicians to perform – consider the type of music they perform
- Invite community leaders to attend and speak
- Provide refreshments – Coffee, tea, food etc.
- Organize a P.A system
- Have an MC lead the evening

4. Feeling the Event

Violence against women is a sensitive issue and there will be heavy moments throughout the evening. Consider how you will frame the evening to welcome everyone and create a safe space for sharing, allow for expression, connection and emotion, and then bring everyone to a place where they can leave feeling strong, supported, and resilient.

Due to the sensitive nature of the event, we want to ensure there is support available when it is needed. Have support people there, including an elder who can support as needed. The MC can announce the support people throughout the night.

The MC should help guide the flow of the evening. Your event should have your guests feeling and leaving empowered, united, resilient and strong. We are standing for the elimination of violence against indigenous and non-indigenous women and girls. A focus on resilience helps us move forward.

5. Promotion and Social Media

Use posters, emails, word of mouth and social media to get your event out in your community. Local coffee shops may allow you to put posters up to advertise the event.

Hashtags have become very popular and there are many that are used to promote this event

**#unwomen #endviolenceagainstwomen #mmiw
#stronghandsstopviolence #orangetheworld**

