

Event promotes end to violence against women

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SOUTH YARMOUTH — Cape Cod's third annual White Ribbon Day will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at Cape Cod Irish Village, in a collaborative effort of Independence House Inc., the Yarmouth Police Department and the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office. White Ribbon Day calls on men to wear a white ribbon and take a pledge to oppose violence against women and girls.

The free event will feature speakers from state government, law enforcement, nonprofit groups that advocate against domestic violence and students that participate in violence prevention from Barnstable, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional and Falmouth high schools. Men of all ages are invited to attend.

The Wellfleet Board of Selectmen issued a proclamation naming March 5 "White Ribbon Day" in the town, and all municipal employees are urged to wear a white ribbon throughout the week. The selectmen wanted to take steps to raise awareness and support survivors of violence as well as hold offenders accountable, according to the proclamation.

The White Ribbon Campaign was begun in 1991 by a group of men committed to ending men's violence against women, through education, discussion and action. The campaign was founded after 14 female students were targeted because of their gender and killed by a gunman on Dec. 6, 1989, at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Canada.

Independence House, based in Hyannis, provides resources, counseling and advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. For information, visit independencehouse.org.

The Cape Cod Irish Village is located at 822 Route 28.