

We Can End All Violence Against Women! Singapore



ARTIST CALL OUT

We Can! Singapore invites proposals from individuals, organisations, and groups who are excited by the power of collective action in shaping the discourse on violence against women in Singapore.

If you are an artist who is passionate about gender issues and spreading awareness and action for a violence-free society, we urge you to participate in We Can! Weekend, an arts festival aiming to raise awareness about gender-based violence in Singapore. Artists can submit existing material or propose new material that they intend to create in line with the theme. **Deadline for proposal: 23 September 2013.**

EVENT: We Can! Weekend

DATE: 6 - 8 December

VENUE: Aliwal Arts Centre

THEME: THE SILENCE OF VIOLENCE – exploring the less visible forms of gender violence and its impact on individuals and communities.

TARGET OUTREACH: 1000 attendees

EVENT BRIEF: The 'We Can! Weekend' is an arts festival by We Can! Singapore and its partners in conjunction with '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence', an international campaign marked by the UN and other groups around the world. 16 Days of Activism starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. It aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional, and international level.

We Can! Weekend offers a platform to bring together arts, performance, and community-based events in solidarity with the international movement, and to make an impact locally. We Can! Singapore will also run a parallel social media campaign to build up towards the festival.

The objectives of the festival are:

- To use the powerful mediums of art and performance to educate and engage the public on the issue of gender violence
- To draw attention to subtler forms of violence, render them visible, and create a space for people to confront and interrogate social norms and attitudes that allow violence to continue
- To provide a space for local artists and community groups to exhibit their existing or new works relevant to the theme
- To encourage action for a violence-free society
- To recruit Change Makers for the We Can! Singapore campaign
- To collaborate with other communities in tackling the issue of gender violence in Singapore
- To re-engage existing Change Makers and Campaign Alliances

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INTERPRETING THE THEME

Where does violence start? Do social attitudes towards women and men have a role to play in perpetuating violence? Can the gender stereotypes we accept and impose lead to violence? What is the impact of violence on individuals and communities?

The word 'violence' brings to mind certain images and associations, mainly of physical, interpersonal violence. But is only this violence? Can the everyday micro-aggressions that women face in a patriarchal world be considered violence? Is the way society views women an assault against their personhood? Sexual harassment at the workplace, violation of women's human rights, disparaging media portrayals of women, exploitation in pornography, imposition of beauty ideals on young girls and women, slut shaming, victim blaming – are these forms of violence too?

Through art and community engagement, We Can! Weekend hopes to go deeper into the less explored areas of violence against women, areas that are not always visible. Related issues include:

- 1) Beauty myths
- 2) Financial control
- 3) Psychological violence
- 4) Social control
- 5) Verbal violence
- 6) Systemic/structural violence
- 7) Impact of violence on individual, family & community (e.g. impact on children)
- 8) The social avoidance of the issue of violence/social neglect of victims
- 9) Bystanders' role/power in accepting or rejecting violence
- 10) Social persecution of victims (re-victimising)
- 11) Violence – a private or public matter?
- 12) Gender stereotypes and violence
- 13) Masculinity/Femininity

REQUIREMENTS

Proposals will be considered and selected on the quality of the idea and the extent to which the concept creates a space for the interrogation of subtler forms of gender violence, discrimination, and negative stereotypes that persist in our society. We will be looking for ideas that offer a different viewing or participatory experience – that engages and inspires thought, is challenging yet accessible. We encourage artists to consider collaborative work, community engagement, and multidisciplinary art.

Your proposal should include an outline of your idea, work, or project in as much detail as possible, along with any supporting images and links. (no more than 750 words)

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Things to consider:

- What medium you will use
- How you plan to execute the work
- How much time you will need on site
- What sort of space you will need
- What kind of participation/interaction does it allow
- How you will facilitate it
- What supporting resources you will need

Please send proposals to wecan@aware.org.sg by 23 September 2013. We will get back to you by 30 September 2013 at the latest.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

We Can! Weekend is a not-for-profit event with limited resources in place at present. We are currently working on funding proposals to assist in production costs and expenses but cannot guarantee support at this stage. We encourage artists to source their own project funding where possible and are happy to provide supporting statements.

Participating artists are provided with meals whilst on site and guest tickets, promotion of projects and profiles.

We look forward to hearing from you!

ABOUT WE CAN! SINGAPORE

We Can! is a global movement to reduce social acceptance of violence against women. The campaign hopes to spread awareness and action for a gender-equal, violence-free society by empowering individual Change Makers and organisational alliances to reflect on and challenge social beliefs and behaviours that perpetuate violence in their communities.

Through interactive theatre, intimate workshops and other avenues in art, performance, community networks, media, and pop culture, We Can! hopes to reach out to 1,000 Change Makers over the course of three years, from 2013 to 2015. We Can! hopes to be a people's movement, led and supported by diverse community groups willing to work towards a better society.

Read more at www.wecansingapore.com and visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WeCanSingapore.