Minister’s Message for 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

The *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* campaign – which runs from 25th November until 10th December – calls on every woman, man, girl and boy to “UNiTE for Peace to End Gender Based Violence”. This is the multi-year campaign message that was launched last year in Seychelles as part of international and regional UNiTE campaigns run by the United Nations.

Since the beginning of the year Seychelles has recorded a rise in levels of violent crimes and the loss of life. These alarming trends have shocked us as we live in a normally peaceful country. The call for a moral, social and spiritual renaissance has come at a decisive time for us to unite and be pro-active in finding solutions to the problems threatening the social fabric of our nation.

The series of dialogues taking place in our communities, work places and schools are highlighting the need for each and every person to take a stand against all forms of anti-social behaviour, including violence in all its forms. It is now more than ever that we must UNITE FOR PEACE.

Let our preparations for Christmas concern not only material things and let us also use this time to think of what we can do to grow love, promote peace and eradicate violence in our homes, our communities and our country. Let us, every day, individually and collectively, contribute to keeping Seychelles safe and peaceful.

It is through co-ordinated efforts, preventive work and collective responsibility that we can together reduce violence and progress towards meeting the regional target of halving levels of Gender Based Violence by 2015.