**date:** 24 November 2016

**embargo**: Immediate release

North East Women Reclaim the Night

There will be 16 days of activism from the 25th November - the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – to 10th December, Human Rights Day. The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign](http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/) is a time to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls around the world. In Newcastle on Saturday the 26th November hundreds will march to raise awareness of sexual assault and domestic abuse against women

Violence against women continues to occur every minute of every day, but women everywhere are making a stand. Join us and join millions across the globe who will be marking the annual United Nations Day to End Violence Against Women.

One of the major challenges to efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls worldwide is the substantial funding shortfall. As a result, resources for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls are severely lacking. More than 100 people are set to stand up to sexual assault and domestic abuse as part of the Northern TUC’s 10th anniversary Reclaim the Night march.

Debbie Simpson, Chair of the Northern TUC’s women’s group said: “All women have the right to use public spaces both in the daytime and after dark without the fear of sexual harassment and assault. We hope that our event will once again raise awareness that violence against women is unfortunately an ongoing battle - which many face on a daily basis. I hope regional women, and men, will add their support and join with others around the world to mark the International Day to End Violence Against Women.”

The march will begin at 6pm in Old Eldon Square and march up Northumberland Street, led by the Bangshees, a community-based all women drumming band, to The Sutherland Building, Northumberland Road where marchers will hear from **Debbie**, **Emma Lewell-Buck**, Shadow Minister for Children and Families and MP for South Shields, **Joyce McCarty**, Deputy Leader of Newcastle Council and **Pat Heron**, Chair of UNISON’s Northern Region Women’s Network will also be speaking at the event.

Join us for Newcastle Reclaim the Night; bring your banners, whistles and drums to shout a loud NO to rape and all forms of male violence against women and take back your night.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

 - All TUC press releases can be found at [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

 - Register for the TUC's press extranet: a service exclusive to journalists wanting to access pre‑embargo releases and reports from the TUC. Visit [www.tuc.org.uk/pressextranet](http://www.tuc.org.uk/pressextranet)

**Contacts:**

*Media enquiries*: Beth Farhat T: 07747 636408 E: bfarhat@tuc.org.uk