



The One Billion Rising for Justice Campaign is rapidly building upon the energy and momentum that was created in early 2013 when one billion activists in 207 countries came together to strike, dance, and rise to end violence against women and girls.

“In 2013, one billion rose around the world to end violence against women and girls in the biggest mass action in the history of the world. This year we are escalating and connecting the dots. We are rising for gender, economic, racial, environmental Justice. We are rising and dancing with our bodies, to end the violations towards our bodies and the body of the earth,” stated V-Day Founder and award winning playwright Eve Ensler.

Although India as a country is growing faster and faster in so many ways and women’s situation has changed - today she has more opportunities, more mobility and more choices – her status hasn’t! A woman is secondary at home, secondary at work and has no identity of her own. It is all over the news: **RAPE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**. Euphemisms like the term “eve teasing” can’t cover the fact that violence against women is happening everywhere in our day-to-day life.

Violence against women is like an epidemic. It may manifest itself differently from culture to culture: female genital mutilation in one place, internet bullying in another, gang rape here, acid burning there, street harassment here but we believe it is the mother issue of our times. If anything else in the world caused the suffering of over a billion people, the world's energies, resources and attention would be focused on it. But because it is violence against women and girls, a huge part of our fight is overcoming what has become entrenched, expected and normalized.” In Gujarat, there are only 933 women per 1,000 males (Census 2011), this means about 32 million women are “missing” from the Indian society. “Missing” as a result of female feticide, malnutrition and “honour killing”.

The word "billion" in the campaign refers to the statistics that **one in every three women on the planet is violated, harassed, beaten, raped in their life time. This is One Billion Women.** It is the biggest war being raged on women and it takes place in our homes and communities all over the world. It is not something that is fixed to one person or a particular place. It is deeply rooted in the patriarchal structure and mind-set of our society.

The basic thought of the campaign is that **One Billion People across the world will rise and speak up to end violence and to celebrate the power of love and peace.** We the youth from Vadodara will come together to demonstrate our collective strength and solidarity across borders and boundaries. We demand justice for all this forms of gender-based violence to end impunity. We especially demand justice in places where we are entitled to get justice, like home, schools, colleges, public places, roads, public vehicles, police stations and courts where women are lacking adequate support **for a safe and secure society** where every human is treated equal and free of fear.

“Justice is about restoring the primacy of connection so that we understand that violence against women is not a personal problem, but connected to other systemic injustices whether they be patriarchal, economic, racial, gender, or environmental.

Under this campaign Baroda’s Youth Initiative under **Olakh (feminist Organisation)** is organizing an **'OBR Fest' on 15th February at 6 pm on Muktanand Ground in Karelibaug, Vadodara.**

The OBR campaign was launched by calling a meeting of young people, who headed or represented several youth groups that were already in existence in Baroda. In the past two weeks, the organization has seen overwhelming support of youth volunteers coming from diverse and distinct backgrounds. It is truly something special to see so many volunteers sharing one space and promoting and investing their time in a cause that they genuinely believe in. These groups of youth have taken numerous responsibilities including orientation of other youths, publicity of OBR, photography, videography, printing, decoration, concert planning, event organizing and other miscellaneous work.

One Billion Rising is a call to friends and families to join this global revolution. We will sing out loud, we will dance in the streets, we will raise our voices and we will leave our schools, colleges, offices, our homes, and our daily routine behind as we join in a POWERFUL act of REFUSAL under the slogan: “ENOUGH! The violence ends NOW”.

Last but not least we request you all to join hands for the safety mapping of Vadodara. Please share your experiences of areas, places, roads, transportation etc., which are prone to harassment, abuse and violence.

JOIN this GLOBAL campaign to create safe and secure VADODARA. It is our society: let’s create one where no individual is frightened to harness our power and imagination to rise for justice...

RISE. RELEASE. DANCE!