

16 Days of Activism



‘CONFUSION’

This is the name we gave to our floral display in Newcastle Cathedral when we stood back to view the completed work. It seemed to reflect one of the experiences of victims of abuse.

The display attracts attention – partly because it looks so ‘confused’ and people stop to look and ponder what it is trying to convey. Purple Pansies feature in profusion – vulnerable looking yet tenacious little flowers. They are barely noticeable amidst all the other visuals – but that is how victims of abuse feel – unseen and

voiceless, battling against the outrage of physical or mental abuse.

There are three cups and saucers in the display – reflecting domestic situations – one cup is broken. A red triangle bids the viewer to ‘Be Aware’. Peace plants offer a silent prayer. Seed heads of grasses and teasels suggest the hope of new life ahead. Rosemary is a sign of faithfulness and Ivy for eternal love.

This quiet MU display is appropriately sited in the Chapel of the Resurrection, where the MU banner is kept. Lots of visitors pass by – let us pray for awareness, for transformation and for respite for victims of abuse everywhere.