



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

against Gender-Based Violence

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10 2022

Prepared by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

ABOUT CFUW

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) envisions a world where women and girls are educated and empowered to make transformative change in the world.

We promote and enable women's fellowship, continuous learning and empowerment to achieve educational and economic equality and social justice.

Canadian Federation of University Women

815 St. Laurent Boulevard, Suite 230

Ottawa, ON | K1K 3A7

www.cfuw.org

advocacy@cfuw-fcfdu.ca

THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

**LA PUISSANCE AU FÉMININ:
ENSEMBLE POUR RÉUSSIR**

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INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world. Each year from November 25th to December 10th, individuals and organizations participate in the global **16 Days of Activism** campaign and call for the **elimination of violence against women, girls, and gender diverse people.**



2022 marks the 31st anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. CFUW clubs and members can be trailblazers in their communities by raising awareness for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence during the 16 Days - and throughout the year!

Unequal power relations, sexism, racism, ongoing colonial violence, and discriminatory legal dispositions all have a profound impact on the prevalence of violence against women and girls in our society. Preventing and addressing violence against women requires a broad spectrum of actions that starts with our inner circle of friends and family and goes all the way to our national and international governing institutions.

This toolkit is designed to help members get involved in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). It includes background information to increase awareness of GBV and resources to advise Club members of practical actions to take during the campaign. Together, we can end GBV!

WHAT IS THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN?

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25, the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, and ends on December 10, **Human Rights Day**. It was started at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and is one of the largest organizing strategies in the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence around the world.

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE DATES

- **25 November:** International Day to End Violence against Women
- **29 November:** International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- **1 December:** World Aids Day
- **3 December:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **6 December:** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
- **10 December:** International Human Rights Day

December 6, 2022 marks the 33rd anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre (also known as the Montreal Massacre). Fourteen women were murdered simply because they were women, and on this day, we remember those victims of GBV. The École Polytechnique massacre is an example of the deadly impacts of GBV and antifeminist sentiments. Many CFUW Clubs host vigils on this day to remember the victims and commemorate their lives.

We remember the victims of the Polytechnique massacre. Their names were Geneviève Bergeron; Hélène Colgan; Nathalie Croteau; Barbara Daigneault; Anne-Marie Edward; Maud Haviernick; Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz; Maryse Laganière; Maryse Leclair; Anne-Marie Lemay; Sonia Pelletier; Michèle Richard; Annie St-Arneault ; Annie Turcotte.



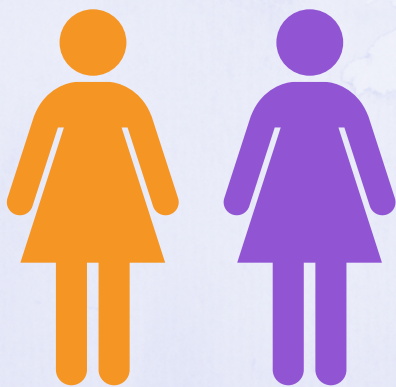
WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

The **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** defines Gender-Based Violence as:

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

GBV is a broad term and can take many different forms, such as:

- domestic violence or intimate partner violence (IPV)
- sexual harassment or assault
- child marriage
- psychological or emotional abuse
- human trafficking
- financial abuse
- stalking
- femicide
- female genital cutting/mutilation



1 in 2 women in Canada have experienced GBV since age 16.

Source: Statistics Canada

Although women and men both experience violence, statistics indicate that women experience higher rates of rates of violence than men. In Canada, Indigenous women and girls, women with disabilities, newcomers, youth, seniors, 2SLGTBQQIA+ and non-binary individuals, and those living in rural or remote communities are disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence. ([Canada Women's Foundation, 2022](#))

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: FOUNDATIONS

Violence against Women vs. Gender-Based Violence

Much of the language around violence that is motivated by one's gender surrounds women. Though women disproportionately are affected by gender-based violence, they are not the only ones. Men, non-binary folks, and trans-women are often left out of the conversation. Though the end-goals of these campaigns and advocacy is the same – to protect women and girls and prevent senseless violence – using the term “gender-based violence” promotes inclusive language.

Intersectionality

To understand the complexity of gender-based violence, it is important to understand intersectionality. Intersectionality was a term coined by lawyer and professor Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw in a breakthrough paper around anti-racism and identity politics. Crenshaw describes how “Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects”. (Crenshaw) The concept is meant to describe the intersection of identities and the surmounting discrimination one may face by holding multiple marginalized identities. For example, a Black woman may often experience discrimination due racism and sexism, or a queer identifying Latinx person will also experience bias and potentially racism because of their multiple identities.

Intersectionality theory is helpful for understanding the complexities and diversity of experience within gender-based violence because racialized women, women with disabilities, trans-women, and other marginalized women face significantly more violence based on their gender, as well as their other identities, than non-racialized women. Indigenous women, are a central focus in our campaign against gender-based violence because they have been historically affected and continue to be affected by colonial violence because of their intersecting identities.



GBV FOUNDATIONS: TERMS TO KNOW

2SLGTBQQIA+

You may have seen the evolution of this term, which will continue to evolve as more people feel safe to openly express their gender and sexual identities. Members of the 2SLGTBQQIA+ community have historically experienced disproportionate amounts of gender-based violence, have high rates of suicide, and are more likely to experience homelessness due to their sexual orientation or gender identity ([Human Rights Campaign](#))

- 2S – [Two-Spirit](#)
- Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual
- + (inclusive of other identities), also: pansexual, non-binary
- Cis-gender – Someone who presents as their assigned gender

Incel

Incel is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as “a member of an online community of young men who consider themselves unable to attract women sexually, typically associated with views that are hostile toward women and men who are sexually active”. It is often also referred to as someone (usually a person who identifies as a man) who is “**in**voluntarily **cel**ibate” ([Vox, 2019](#)). Incel communities originated in the 1990s with online forums of (mostly) men who bonded over their lack of sexual or physical interactions with (mostly) women.

In present day, incel culture is often linked with radicalized young men, several who have been motivated to commit acts of violence or encourage others to do so ([GO, 2018](#)). Two examples close to home are the Toronto van attack in 2018 and the stabbing at an erotic massage parlour in Toronto in 2020. Several mass shootings or killings have been noted by self-proclaimed Incels in Germany, England, and significant numbers in the USA ([whole timeline here](#)). Incel terrorism should not be overlooked as a considerable concern for gender-based violence and action to understand these communities and prevent violence should be taken.

GBV FOUNDATIONS: TERMS TO KNOW

Femicide

UN Women defines femicide as “the intentional murder of women because they are women, but may be defined more broadly to include any killings of women or girls. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.” The use of the word femicide in the case of killings linked to gender increases awareness of the prevalence of the issue.

Rape Culture

As defined by UN Women, “rape culture is the social environment that allows sexual violence to be normalized and justified. It is rooted in patriarchy and fuelled by persistent gender inequalities and biases about gender and sexuality”. Rape culture is often learned through societal pressures and expectations of masculinity and perpetuated in hyper-masculine circles (see GBV in sport).

Shadow Pandemic

Since COVID-19 and more people staying home, a “shadow pandemic” of increased intimate partner violence was declared. In April of 2020, Assaulted Women’s Helpline of Ontario reported a 400% increase in calls. (WAGE, 2021) Further, 6 in 10 women globally felt that sexual harassment in public spaces had worsened since the beginning of the pandemic. (UN WOMEN 2021). To combat these increases, a joint UN Development Program-UN Women report on government responses to COVID-19 found that “feminist mobilization was critical to drive government responses to VAWG during the pandemic.” (Generation Equality Forum)

Learn more terms [here](#).

TAKE ACTION:

- Plan a vigil to commemorate the 14 women who were killed on Dec. 6
- Wear orange during the 16 Days Campaign to raise awareness for GBV
- Download the graphics at the end of this toolkit & share on social media using **#16Days #EndGBV #MyActionsMatter #OrangeTheWorld (Orange is the international colour, but in Canada, purple is also recognized)**
- Hang a poster in a high-traffic area of your community (download some posters at the end of this toolkit)
- Check out the [100 recommendations](#) from civil society organizations to implement a National Action Plan on Violence against Women & Gender-based Violence
- Write an Op-Ed or letter to the editor of your local media outlet to reflect on current status of violence against women & girls in Canada
- Post a press release to your Club's social media pages or website about your actions to end gender-based violence throughout the 16 Days
- Take an open online course offered by the University of Strathclyde Glasgow [“Understanding Violence against Women: Myths and Realities.”](#)
- Donate to [CFUW's Charitable Trust 1989 École Polytechnique Commemorative Awards](#)

KNOW THE FACTS:

- Know Canada's Bail laws – Read about one of CFUW’s 2022 resolution on [tightening bail laws to protect victims of intimate partner violence](#).



3,491 women & 2,724 children sleep in shelters every night because their home isn't safe



of Canadians understand what it means to give consent in sexual situations



Less than 1 % of sexual assaults lead to conviction



67% of Canadians know at least one woman who has experienced GBV

GBV ON POST-SECONDARY CAMPUSES



Attending college, CEGEP, or university is an important milestone that shapes someone's life for years to come. For students and their families, campuses must provide a safe environment to learn and grow.

GBV has no place on Canadian campuses. No one should ever be subject to acts of violence. However, incidents of sexual assault on school, college, and university campuses remain one of the most often reported types of violence.

[According to a report published by Courage To Act](#), **41 percent of all reported sexual assaults in Canada were from students, and 90 percent of those sexual assaults happened to women.**

For decades, advocates have been taking action to end sexual assault and harassment on post-secondary campuses. **Sexual assault and harassment are grossly underreported** to police, campus security, or other institutional authorities due to pervasive stigmas and falsities surrounding this form of GBV. University policies and practices on addressing incidences of [sexual violence are often described as inadequate](#) to effectively take action against perpetrators, help victims, and tackle the root causes of violence.

We must continue to prioritize ending GBV on Canadian campuses. As we remember the victims of the Ecole Polytechnique massacre, we must reflect that violence on post-secondary campuses is not new and is still a significant concern.

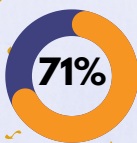
Students who identify as women and/or 2sLGTBQQIA+ students are at the highest risk of experience sexual violence - with **one in five women and almost 47% of 2SLGTBQQIA+ students having been sexually assaulted at least once in their lives**. People must be aware of the risk of GBV on campus, and universities must continue to improve their sexual violence and harassment policies to better support survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and create a safe post-secondary campus environment for all.

TAKE ACTION:

- Review CFUW's 2019 [Report on Sexual Violence & Harassment Policies in Post-Secondary Institutions in Canada](#)
- Familiarize yourself with [CFUW's Women in Universities Report](#) that includes recommendations for addressing gender equality on campuses.
- Read Chanel Miller's [Victim Impact Statement and memoir Know My Name](#) which takes a powerful stand against victim blaming.
- Write a letter to your alma mater's President or Board of Regents demanding improved policies and more support for survivors
- Lead by example. If someone discloses their experience of GBV, support them by believing their story and letting them know they are not to blame.
- Join our campaign to end GBV in Canada by printing one of our posters for the 16 Days Campaign, posting the picture to social media, and tagging us in your post. Share with your friends.
- Stand with other organizations that aim to end GBV in post-secondary institutions like the [Courage To Act Campaign](#) and [Students for Consent Culture](#).

KNOW THE FACTS:

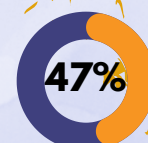
- [New Ontario legislation](#) - banning non-disclosure agreements that allow professors to hide a history of sexual misconduct when applying for work in universities ([Toronto Star, 2022](#))
- [Moving from Theory to Practice - Anti-Oppressive Strategies for Student Mental Health](#)
- [Possibility Seeds Podcast](#) - Canada's first podcast on gender justice
- Understanding the [Extreme Intoxication Defence](#)



of students at Canadian universities have either witnessed or experienced unwanted sexualized behaviours



4 out of 5 undergraduate students reported experiencing dating violence



of students at Canadian post-secondary witnessed gender or sexual orientation discrimination in the past year

Source: Courage to Act

INDIGENOUS WOMEN & GIRLS IN CANADA

“Indigenous women from First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities face violence, marginalization, exclusion, and poverty because of institutional, systemic, multiple intersecting forms of discrimination not addressed adequately by the State.”

- Dubravka Šimonović,

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women



More than 1700 Indigenous women and girls were either murdered or are missing in Canada. Indigenous women and girls face higher rates of violence than other groups of women within Canada, and very little has been done to support these women and girls. GBV is one of the many dire issues that Indigenous women and girls face today.

Although **Indigenous women constitute 4 per cent of Canada’s female population, 16 per cent of all women murdered in Canada** between 1980 and 2012 were Indigenous. [The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) highlighted how these women are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence in Canada. Violence against Indigenous women and girls is a systemic, national crisis which requires urgent action.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN & GIRLS IN CANADA

The National Inquiry Report emphasized Canada's failure to address GBV perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls. It concluded that **acts of genocide are committed against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGTBQQIA+ people**. The Report identifies colonial laws, programs, and practices still exist in Canada today and constitute the root causes of GBV against Indigenous people. These racist and sexist legislative frameworks unfairly deny Indigenous women and girls their fundamental rights.

A National Action Plan on Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls, & Two-Spirit people that is Indigenous-led, well-funded, and emphasizes healing and justice for victims, survivors, and their families is crucial to redress past and ongoing violence.



The REDress Project



The use of red dresses to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was originated by Métis artist **Jaime Black** in 2010. In her exhibit, The REDress Project, Black displayed over one hundred red dresses around the University of Winnipeg campus to raise awareness about this issue. Today, red dresses continue to be used across Canada as a representation of the Indigenous women and girls lost to violent crime and as a call for action to prevent future violence. Many CFUW Clubs spread awareness about violence against Indigenous women & girls by hanging red dresses in high-traffic areas of their communities.

TAKE ACTION:

- Hang a red dress in public areas or outside your house on days of awareness: 16 Days of Activism (Nov 25-Dec 10), May 5,
- Attend a #SistersInSpirit Vigil on May 5 and October 4
- Read and encourage others to read the Final Report and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Write an Op-Ed to raise awareness about the lack government action
- Support Indigenous communities or organizations working to protect Indigenous women
- Fight the stigma of sex work through anti-bias training
- Host kitchen table talks with friends or CFUW club members to discuss the topic and how it affects your local community
- Advocate for Indigenous-led child welfare services to keep Indigenous children close to their culture and break the cycle of trauma
- Support programs like land-based education which connect Indigenous Peoples with the land
- Attend public ceremonies and powwows, get to know your local Indigenous community and powwow etiquette. Getting to know someone or a culture helps break down bias and racism.

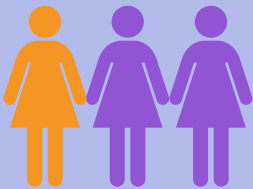
KNOW THE FACTS:



Indigenous women are three times more likely to have been sexually assaulted



Only 53% of homicide cases involving Indigenous women are solved, compared to 84% of all murders



1 in 3 women in federal custody are Indigenous



Indigenous women are killed at 7X the rate of non-Indigenous women

Source: Native Women's Association of Canada,
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

GUN VIOLENCE & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Firearms cause harm to Canadian women and girls in a multitude of ways. In Canadian households, firearms in the home are the single greatest risk factor in deadly domestic violence. The presence of a firearm in the home is closely correlated with risk of homicide and completed suicide. In April 2020, Nova Scotia was the site of Canada's deadliest mass shooting in its history that claimed the lives of 22 victims. The number of shootings in Toronto has increased every year since 2018. An uptick in gun violence has been observed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The crisis of gun violence in Canada has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic and places the safety of everyone at risk, especially women and girls. In the aftermath of the mass shootings in Nova Scotia, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a ban on 1,500 types of "assault-style" weapons. And with the passing of Bill C-71 in June 2019, we've taken a step in the right direction to protect women and girls from gun violence – one form of GBV.

On October 21, 2022, a national "freeze" on the sale, purchase or transfer of handguns by individuals went into effect. Bill C-21, An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms) has passed its second reading and will be under committee study. To protect victims of intimate partner violence (IPV), "red flag" and "yellow flag" laws and expanded revocations of handguns are a way to ensure the emergency prohibition of firearm possession for those who are a danger to others or themselves (Public Safety Canada 2022).

This is significant movement on protecting victims of GBV and CFUW will continue to advocate for the necessary, frequent and in-depth checks on who can purchase, borrow, or transport a firearm, a total ban on assault weapons, large capacity magazines, and handguns in Canada. Gun violence is a threat to the safety of women and girls in Canada and stringent gun control legislation will help make their lives safer. Gun violence is preventable. Let's act now to make Canada safer for everyone.

TAKE ACTION:

- As an individual, write a letter to your MP to urge them to pursue and support evidence-based gun control policies. [Click here to use Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns online letter writing tool.](#)
- Support Doctors for Protection from Guns: <http://www.doctorsforprotectionfromguns.ca/> or the Coalition for Gun Control: <http://guncontrol.ca/>
- Use social media to spread awareness, and support organizations that are in favour of a ban on firearms, encourage others to get involved, and raise awareness of the risks associated with firearm misuse. [Click here for social media resources from Trigger Change.](#)
- Write an Op-Ed or letter to the editor of your local media outlet to advocate for stringent gun control in protection of women & girls on the anniversary of the Polytechnique massacre
- Write your MP on behalf of CFUW on evidence-based gun control.

KNOW THE FACTS:



Canada's rank
among 36 OECD
nations in number of
gun deaths per capita



Victims of firearm-related
crime where the accused
was an intimate partner



From 2009 to 2019, criminal
use of firearms increased 81%



Firearms are involved in
approximately one-third
of all domestic homicides



Nearly 6 in 10 firearm-
related violent crimes in
2017 involved handguns

Source: Canadian Women's Foundation, Statistics Canada

EMERGING AREAS OF CONCERN

GBV in Sport

The systemic violence perpetuated in recreational and professional sports has recently been gaining attention. Researchers in this field emphasize the importance of "contextual considerations to keep in mind when supporting and empowering athlete survivors of gender-based violence". These contextual considerations include the importance of athletic identity, active silencing, and the normalization of harm in sports.

Learn more [here](#).

- See a recently produced [infographic](#) by Gretchen Kerr and Erin Wilson, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto
- The link between team-based sports, power dynamics, and rape culture, as seen in the recent [Hockey Canada scandal](#). Hockey Canada [recently signed on](#) to the [Abuse-Free Sport Program](#), which addresses maltreatment in sport



Human Trafficking

Human trafficking affects individuals and communities all across Canada and involves the "recruiting, moving, or holding victims to exploit them for profit, usually for sexual reasons or forced labour. Traffickers can control and pressure victims by force or through threats, including mental and emotional abuse and manipulation." (Public Safety Canada). In Canada, 96% of victims of human trafficking are women and girls, and 65% of the police-report human trafficking incidences between 2010 and 2020 were report in Ontario (Statistics Canada, 2020). Indigenous women and girls face significantly more dangers of being trafficked due to the long term impacts of colonization and residential schools (Government of BC, 2014).

- Learn the signs of [sex trafficking](#) and [labour trafficking](#)
- [Organizations and initiatives](#) working against human traffickings
- 2019 Report – [Community perspectives on the landscape and realities of human trafficking in Calgary](#) by the [Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta](#)
- Booklet by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – [Stand Strong: Prevent Human Trafficking; Stop the Sexual Exploitation of First Nations People](#)
- 2012 Report of [National Forum and Workshop on Trafficking](#), Canadian Council for Refugees



Natural Resource Extraction and GBV

There has been a demonstrated relationship between the presence of resource extraction worker camps (i.e. “man camps”) and sexual assault and violence against women, particularly of Indigenous women, in certain areas, such as Northern BC, an area of intense development (Condes, 2021). Other areas in Canada have seen similar patterns of gender-based violence however are not as documented. The “Highway of Tears”, a corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert on Highway 16, well-known in Northern BC for the disappearance of over 30 women (mostly Indigenous). A large influx of a high-paid, transient, working men, is often linked to the increased demand of drugs, sex work and sometimes human trafficking. With few opportunities for employment for women in rural areas such as Northern BC, and these resource developments are often male-dominated industries and women are often excluded due to either patriarchal attitudes or lack of skills and training.

Further, when resource extraction projects are permitted and initiated, and their associated infrastructure (like worker camps) are set up, risk assessment and planning focuses on workers’ safety and the profitability of a project, with little to no consideration of environmental, community or cultural safety in the area and context in which the project is taking place (Edwards, 2019). There have been several calls for action by Indigenous communities, coalitions of non-profits, and the national inquiry into MMIWG2S for more Indigenous inclusion in resource extraction project planning and monitoring in an effort to protect Indigenous women.

- Strengthening Impact Assessments for Indigenous Women - CRIAW-ICREF, 2018 for Canada Environmental Assessment Agency
- Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report, 2006
- Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change, by The Firelight Group, 2017
- Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Gender, Indigenous Rights, and Energy Development in Northeast British Columbia, Canada (Executive Summary) - Amnesty International, 2016

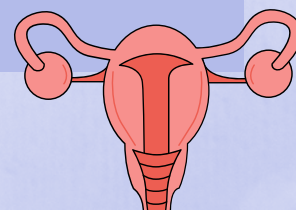


The Forced Sterilization of Indigenous Women

The forced sterilization of thousands of Indigenous women and girls in Canada has long been overlooked and is representative of the systemic gender-based violence at the hands of the Canadian state. Sexual Sterilization acts were in place in Alberta (1928 to 1972) and British Columbia (1933 to 1973) and based upon eugenic beliefs whereby policy makers deemed that “if discharged without being subjected to an operation for sexual sterilization would be likely to beget or bear children who by reason of inheritance would have a tendency to serious mental disease or mental deficiency” (College of Family Physicians). Of those documented: 580 sterilizations occurred in Canada between 1970 and 1975, while 1200 sterilizations (1500 were Indigenous women, 50 remaining men or of undocumented sex) occurred between 1966 and 1976 (CFP). It is believed that forced sterilizations continued to happen well beyond these dates. Many of these sterilizations occurred in Indian hospitals [sic] and in a manner in which women were forced to sign when in labour, medically vulnerable, or the procedure occurred without their knowledge (University of Alberta, 2022).

Over 100 Indigenous women came forward in a class-action lawsuit in 2017 in Saskatchewan stating that they were, without their free, prior, and informed consent, sterilized and permanently unable to become pregnant again. This is a violation of international human rights law. In 2018, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) convened a hearing on the forced sterilization of Indigenous Women and Canada. Further, United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Violence against Women and Health, respectively, declared Canada’s need for “urgent action on systemic violence against Indigenous women” (International Resource Justice Centre). At the hearing, the federal government orally committed to improving healthcare for Indigenous women and acknowledge their role in these forced sterilizations.

These forced sterilizations have caused irreparable harm on Indigenous women, communities, and will have lasting effects for generations. Though some women have individually received justice, national commitments and attention to this topic has been largely lacklustre. More support for survivors and more specific actions in the Calls for Action in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry is required.



In 2020, The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health led to a gathering on “Culturally Informed Choice and Consent in Indigenous Women’s Health Services” in Ottawa. Further, the University of Alberta in 2022 held a summit, with the intention of storytelling, ceremony and art to create survivor-led research agendas on the reproductive control of Indigenous women.

Going beyond the forced sterilization, the Canadian state still holds significant power over Indigenous women and their families, where Indigenous women face increased scrutiny in their parenting and Indigenous children continue to be overrepresented in the child welfare system and removed from Indigenous communities.

Calls for action in the realm of the safety of Indigenous women in the health care system demands that physicians need “to create culturally safe and appropriate sexual and reproductive health care supports and services”; as well as “to address Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in health care through ongoing reconciliation efforts and activities and by respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples.” (CFP)

Violence against Women in Politics

In 2022, CFUW passed a resolution on preventing violence against women in politics.

- Read more on this topic here in the [Fall 2022 Advocacy Package](#).
- Access the Template Letter [here](#).



International Issues: Afghanistan, Iran, and Ukraine

Globally, women are experiencing the effects of war and the continued effects of oppressive regimes. CFUW will continue to monitor international issues related to gender-based violence and when possible, advocate for their safety and including women in the peace process.



AFGHANISTAN

Since the Taliban takeover in 2021, women have lost virtually all basic rights and now face extreme oppression ([Human Rights Watch, 2022](#)). Read the stories of a few Afghan women [here](#).

- CFUW's 2022-2023 International Service Project is the [Darakht-E Danesh Library](#), which is an electronic library with thousands of materials, with the goal of creating accessible educational materials for girls in Afghanistan. To learn more about the DDL, check out the work of [Canadian Women 4 Women in Afghanistan](#).

Photo by [Mohd Rasfan, Getty Images](#)

IRAN

A revolution for women's rights is ongoing in Iran, following the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's 'morality police' ([The Cut, 2022](#)). Follow what is happening in Iran with the following channels, and take action by standing in solidarity with our Iranian sisters.

- Read the statements by [UN Women](#) and [other UN experts here](#).

Photo of Mahsa Amini, [Source: The Guardian](#)



UKRAINE

Russia's attack on Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the global economy and Ukrainian women face significant challenges during this crisis. UN Women found that 90 percent of migrants from Ukraine are women and children, and women make up 60 percent of the 7.7 million internally displaced people ([UN Women, 2022](#)).

- The New York Times: [War Brings Ukraine's Women New Roles and New Dangers](#)

Photo by [Emile Dücke](#)

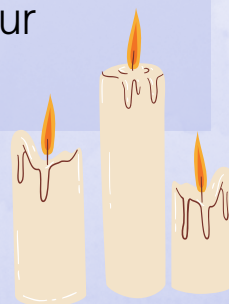
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: WHAT YOU CAN DO

- As an individual, send your MP a letter about the need for the swift implementation of the National Action Plan
- As a Club, write your Mayor or City Council to light City Hall orange or purple throughout the 16 Days. [Click here for a template letter](#)
- Write an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor about a pressing Gender-Based Violence issue and your ideas on how to address it



- Hang a poster in a high-traffic area of your community, like the library or grocery store. [Click here to download some!](#)
- [Click here to download](#) ready-made graphics & sample posts to share on social media
- Send an email to a friend or family members about what you're doing to address GBV
- Send your local newspaper a press release about what your club has planned for the 16 days. [Click here for a template!](#)

- Plan a vigil to commemorate the 14 women who were killed in the Montreal Massacre on December 6, 1989
- Reach out to Indigenous community partners about hanging red dresses in your area to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women & girls
- If planning a rally, demonstration, or vigil, make sure you have permission to gather and follow proper COVID protocols
- Wear orange or purple throughout the 16 Days to show your solidarity with survivors and victims of GBV



CONCLUSION



Together we can raise awareness about the ongoing problem of gender-based violence by supporting survivors and taking action against sexism and racism. We are thankful to CFUW members and clubs that have organized vigils to commemorate the École Polytechnique massacre, sent letters to support gun control in Canada and supported the 16 Days Campaign. We will engage in various actions and social media campaigns during the 16 Days Campaign to draw attention to the strong movement around the world working to end gender-based violence. Thank you for your dedication to campaigning against gender based violence.

CONTACT US

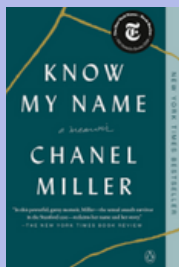
For more information, visit CFUW's website: <http://cfuw.org> or contact Paige Inglis, CFUW National Advocacy Coordinator at advocacy@cfuw-fcfd.ca

FOLLOW CFUW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

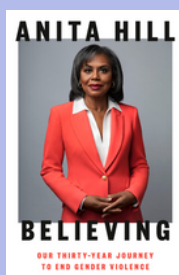


BOOKS

A few recommendations of non-fiction and fiction books by women about gender-based violence or similar subjects



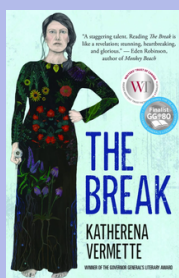
Know My Name: A Memoir
by Chanel Miller



Believing: Our thirty year journey to end gender violence by Anita Hill



For the Love of Men: From toxic to a more mindful masculinity.
by Liz Plank



The Break
by Katherena Vermette

PODCASTS



Welcome to Paradise
Anna Maria Tremonti's podcast series about her experience with Intimate Partner Violence



Man Enough Podcast
A podcast that “investigates how traditional structures and attitudes toward masculinity oppress and negatively affect men, women and humanity as a whole”



Action Against Hunger
16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence – Podcast exploring the links between Covid-19 and GBV all over the world.

TRAINING

Training on how identify and help someone at risk of or experiencing intimate partner violence

FEDERAL RESOURCES

- List of Federal Initiatives funded through the current strategy to prevent and address GBV (a new national plan is being released soon)
- Federal resources and research on GBV
- Courage to Act – Government commissioned report on GBV on post-secondary institution campuses. Watch a webinar here, or read their 2019 report.

<p>Nova Scotia <u>Transition House Association of Nova Scotia</u> Toll-free: 1-855-225-0220</p>	<p>Assaulted Women's Helpline Toll-free: 1-866-863-0511 (multilingual services available) Toll-free TTY: 1-866-863-7868 or #SAFE (#7233) on your Bell, Rogers, Fido or Telus mobile phone</p>
<p>British Columbia <u>Victim Link BC</u> Phone: 1-800-563-0808 (multilingual services available)</p>	<p>Talk4Healing (Helpline for Indigenous Women) Toll-free: 1-855-554-4325 (multilingual services available)</p>
<p><u>https://sexualassaultsupport.ca/support/</u> Find support all over Ontario for sexual assault survivors.</p>	<p>Femaide (Francophone survivors) 1-877-336-2433</p>
<p>Alberta <u>Family Violence Info Line</u> Phone: 310-1818 (multilingual services available) <u>Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence</u> Toll-free: 1-866-403-8000 Text: 1-866-403-8000 Email: <u>mailbox@aasas.ca</u></p>	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre Toll-free: 1-800-726-2743 Iris Kirby House (St. John's) Local line: (709) 753-1492 Toll-free: 1-877-753-1492 Hope Haven Local line: 944-2200 Toll-free: 1-888-332-0000</p>
<p>Manitoba <u>Domestic Violence Crisis Line, Family Violence Prevention Program</u> Toll-free: 1-877-977-0007</p>	<p>New Brunswick <u>CHIMO Helpline</u> Toll-free: 1-800-667-5005</p>

<p>Prince Edward Island <u>PEI Family Violence Prevention</u> <u>Services Inc.</u> Toll-free: 1-800-240-9894</p>	<p>Saskatchewan <u>Provincial Association of Transition</u> <u>Houses and Services of</u> <u>Saskatchewan</u> Phone: 211 Text: 211</p>
<p>Quebec <u>SOS violence conjugale</u> Toll-free: 1-800-363-9010 (bilingual services available) Text: 438-601-1211 Online chat: <u>https://www.resourceconnect</u> <u>.com/sosvc/chat</u> Email: <u>sos@sosviolenceconjugale.ca</u> <u>Sexual Violence Helpline</u> Local line: (514) 933-9007 (Montreal) (bilingual services available) Toll-free: 1-888-933-9007</p>	<p><u>www.sheltersafe.ca</u> Find a shelter near you (across Canada)</p>
<p><u>https://safepet.ca/</u> (Ontario) For foster care for a pet for someone fleeing violence</p>	<p>Ontario Victim Help Line 24/7 Toll-free: 1-888-579-2888 Greater Toronto Area: 416-314-2447 or Crisis Line - Call 211</p>