

December 6

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

2006 Organizer's Tool Kit

On December 6, 2006, Canadians will commemorate the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

To assist you in preparing activities to mark this day, Status of Women Canada (SWC) has developed this Organizer's Tool Kit. It provides information and suggestions to help you make the most of December 6.

All sections of this Organizer's Tool Kit can easily be downloaded in Adobe® (Acrobat5)*. Feel free to reproduce the kit – in whole or in part – and circulate it to your colleagues, friends and/or community.

Let's work together to end violence against women and girls.

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* The Acrobat Reader® software is available free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA
123 Slater Street – 10th floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1H9

Telephone: (613) 995-7842
T.D.D.: (613) 996-1322
Fax: (613) 943-2386

E-mail (info):
E-mail (to order material):
Web site:

communications@swc-cfc.gc.ca
publications@swc-cfc.gc.ca
<http://www.dec6.gc.ca>

Questions and Answers about the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

December 6 is the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also an opportunity for Canadians to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

WHO WERE THE 14 VICTIMS OF THE MONTREAL MASSACRE, DECEMBER 6, 1989?

- 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

WHY FOCUS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

Violence against women is a persistent and ongoing problem in Canada and throughout the world. It affects women's social and political status, physical and mental health and economic security.

The *Beijing Platform for Action*, adopted at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995, states:

Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed. (Paragraph 112)

Men's and boys' experiences of violence are different from women's and girls' in important ways. While men are more likely to be injured by strangers in a public or social venue, women are in greater danger of experiencing violence from intimate partners in their own homes. Women are also at greater risk of sexual violence. The fear of violence is more pervasive for women and can prevent them from taking part as full citizens in their communities.

Women are also more likely than men to be victims of violent crimes such as sexual assault and criminal harassment. Indeed, in 2004, there were over six times as many female victims of sexual assault as male victims. And women were over three times more likely than men to be victims of criminal harassment.

With respect to murder, while women are only about half as likely as men to be victims, they are much more likely to be murdered by someone they know intimately. The numbers speak for themselves: During the period 1961 to 2004, there were 873 spousal murder-

suicides in Canada. **Wives were the victims in 97 percent of the cases.**

The United Nations Population Fund (2005) states:

Gender-based violence is perhaps the most widespread and socially tolerated of human rights violations. It both reflects and reinforces inequities between men and women and compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims.

In addition to the negative effects on women themselves, the violence that women experience at the hands of their intimate partners can have profound effects on their children. Young people who are exposed to violence in the home suffer from emotional trauma, have poor educational outcomes and are at increased risk of using violence to solve problems (Berman et al., 2004). Women experiencing spousal violence are sometimes forced to flee their homes with their children, which can result in unstable living situations and have additional negative impacts on children.

Sources:

Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006, Commissioned by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministries responsible for the Status of Women (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2006).

Platform for Action and *Beijing Declaration* (United Nations, 1995).

Women in Canada: A Gender-Based Statistical Report, 5th edition (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2006).

IS THERE SOME PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO HELP COMMEMORATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

Yes. To assist you in preparing activities to mark this day, Status of Women Canada has developed this **Organizer's Tool Kit** (available online only and for download in Acrobat®) and a **Poster** (publication #06-G-015). You can order copies of the poster online at: www.dec6.gc.ca.

WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND MATERIAL AND RESOURCES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

The following is not an exhaustive listing but rather a starting point for further exploration and research.

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

Resources include articles, pamphlets, reports and information kits. Items may also be borrowed through interlibrary loan from the Departmental Library of Public Health Agency of Canada.

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence
Family Violence Prevention Unit
Public Health Agency of Canada
200 Eglantine Driveway
(Address Locator: 1909D1)
9th Floor, Jeanne Mance Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4
Telephone: 613-957-2938
Toll free: 1-800-267-1291 or
TTY: 1-800-561-5643 or (613) 952-6396
Fax: (613) 941-8930
E-mail: ncfc-cnivfphac-aspc.gc.ca
Web site: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/

Springtide Resources

Publications, videos, brochures, information sheets, posters and other supplies are available for purchase.

Springtide Resources
220-215 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C7
Tel: 416-968-3422
TTY: 416-968-7335
Fax: 416-968-2026
Web site: <http://www.springtideresources.org/>
E-mail: info@womanabuseprevention.com

White Ribbon Campaign

Posters, white ribbons and other supplies are available for purchase.

White Ribbon Campaign
203 - 365 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3L4
Tel: 416-920-6684
Toll free: 1-800-328-2228
Fax: 416-920-1678
E-mail: info@whiteribbon.ca
Web site: www.whiteribbon.ca

Rose Button Campaign

Rose buttons, designed by artist Joss McLennan to commemorate the 14 young women killed in the Montréal Massacre, are available for purchase.

YWCA of/du Canada
422-75 Sherbourne Street
Toronto ON M5A 2P9
Tel: 416-962-8881
Fax: 416-962-8084
E-mail: national@ywcacanada.ca
Web site: www.ywcacanada.ca

Don't forget to explore the Web sites and videos listed in the other sections of this Organizer's Tool Kit. You may also wish to check with women's organizations in your community on where to get other useful information and resources to mark this day.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED THIS YEAR TO COMMEMORATE DECEMBER 6?

A cross-country *Calendar of Activities* will be posted on the SWC Web site on November 27, 2006.

You may also wish to check your local newspaper to see what activities are planned for your community.

Some Web Sites of Interest

This section is not meant to be an exhaustive review of all Web sites related to violence against women but rather a starting point for further exploration and research.

Status of Women Canada does not accept responsibility for the content of the Web sites listed. However, we made every effort to ensure that these links were current when this Organizer's Tool Kit was prepared.

Awareness / Education / Information / Resources for Campaigns

BILINGUAL SITES

Education Wife Assault (mostly English – partly bilingual)

Web site: www.womanabuseprevention.com

Healthy Relationships - Men for Change

Web site: www.m4c.ns.ca

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence – Public Health Agency of Canada

Web site: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/

National Crime Prevention Strategy – Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Web site: www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/prg/cp/ncps-en.asp

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – Status of Women Canada – Government of Canada

Web site: www.dec6.gc.ca

Preventing Violence against Women – Ontario Women's Directorate

Web site: www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/index.html

White Ribbon Campaign (mostly English – partly bilingual)

Web site: www.whiteribbon.ca

YWCA of/du Canada: A Week without Violence (mostly English – partly bilingual)

Web site: weekwithoutviolence.ca

ENGLISH SITES

Purple Ribbon Campaign – Transition House Association of Nova Scotia

Web site: www.thans.ca/ribbon.html

The December 6 Fund of Toronto

Web site: www.dec6fund.ca

FRENCH SITES

Fédération des femmes du Québec

Web site: www.ffq.qc.ca/actions/violence-doc.html

La violence – Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux – Government of Québec

Web site: www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/violence/violence.html

Research

BILINGUAL SITES

Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence

Web site: www.uwo.ca/violence/html/alliance.htm

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

Web site: www.criaw-icref.ca

Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006 – Statistics Canada – Government of Canada

Web site: www.statcan.ca/english/research/85-570-XIE/85-570-XIE2006001.htm

Women in Canada: A Gender-Based Statistical Report (Fifth Edition) – Statistics Canada – Government of Canada

Web site: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89-503-XIE/0010589-503-XIE.pdf>

ENGLISH SITES

Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children

Web site: www.uwo.ca/violence

FREDA Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children

Web site: www.harbour.sfu.ca/freda/

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research

Web site: www.unbf.ca/arts/CFVR

Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE)

Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/resolve/

FRENCH SITE

Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes

Web site: www.vrr.ulaval.ca/bd/regroupement/fiche/136.html

United Nations Legal Instruments and Mechanisms

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Web site: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Web site: www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Web site: www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/opt_cedaw.htm

Canada and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Pamphlet: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/0662665058/200210_0662665058_e.html

Overview: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/0662320506/200210_0662320506_e.html

Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

Web site: www.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/

What can I do to commemorate the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*?

The following is a list of suggestions to help you organize an activity to mark the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*, or to increase awareness of violence against women at any time throughout the year.

To ensure the success of your event, choose an activity that suits your audience's interests and concerns. These activities can be adapted for the classroom or for community groups, etc.

YOU COULD...

Spread the word about the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* by:

- Sending an e-mail message to your colleagues and friends. Invite them to visit SWC's December 6 Web site.
- Putting a special message in your voice mail or on your fax cover sheet, your Web site, your computer screensaver or in employees' pay envelopes.
- Wearing a ribbon to show your commitment to ending violence against women.
- Reviewing the SWC Web site (www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/dec6/index_e.html) and the other sites listed in this *Organizer's Tool Kit*.
- Observing a minute of silence on December 6 – to remember those whose lives have been affected by violence and to consider what you can do to help end violence against women and girls.
- Displaying the poster produced by SWC for the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* on bulletin boards or on the walls of your school or workplace.
- Writing an article on violence against women for your organization's newsletter, school paper or local newspaper.
- Working with your local newspaper to develop a series of articles on violence against women.
- Setting up an information fair featuring local resources for women and material on violence against women.

- Holding a vigil or remembrance ceremony for the victims of gender-based violence.
- Organizing a lunch-time discussion on the issue of violence against women and girls.
- Showing a video on violence against women (*see Video Suggestions*) and holding a discussion afterwards. A special resource person could moderate the discussion.
- Requesting a resolution from your school or city council proclaiming December 6 the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.
- Organizing a conference, a round table, or a panel discussion with guest speakers on issues related to violence against women. Members of the panel could be affiliated with a sexual assault crisis centre, a women's shelter, the police department, the Crown Attorney's Office, etc. Follow up with a question-and-answer period.
- Presenting a show, a concert or a play on the theme of violence against women and donating the proceeds to a local women's shelter.
- Organizing a fundraising event for a local crisis centre or shelter for abused women.
- Creating your own anti-violence mural, poster, banner or installation and displaying it in your school or other public place.

IN THE CLASSROOM, YOU COULD...

- Ask students to work on a project about violence against women: an essay, a poem, a book report, a speech or a research paper.
- Lead a discussion on healthy relationships, male and female stereotypes and their impact on violence, date rape, violence in the media, etc.
- Discuss with students the reasons why December 6 has been declared the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*. Ask "Why are we addressing this topic?"
- Launch a photography, video, drawing, poetry or essay contest in your school on the theme "*Taking action now to end violence against women and girls.*" Perhaps a local bookstore could offer a prize.

DON'T FORGET – NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN...

- Order the poster produced by SWC for December 6 or copy this *Organizer's Tool Kit* and distribute it **free of charge** to as many people as possible.
- Visit the Calendar of Activities section of the SWC Web site to find out about activities happening across the country to commemorate the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.
- Use your creativity and come up with your own way to mark this day.
- Following December 6, complete the evaluation form or send us an e-mail, a fax or a letter telling us how you marked the day.

Video Suggestions

The following is a selection of films from the National Film Board of Canada that can be used to mark the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

Status of Women Canada does not accept responsibility for the content of the films. However, we made every effort to ensure that this information was current when this Organizer's Tool Kit was prepared.

AFTER THE MONTRÉAL MASSACRE (1990, 28 min.)

Director: Gerry Rogers

Producers: Louise Lore, Ginny Stikeman, Nicole Hubert, National Film Board of Canada, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: A MULTICULTURAL DOCUMENTARY ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

(1998, 24 min.)

Producer: Deluxe Productions Canada Ltd.

BEYOND – SURVIVING THE REALITY OF SEXUAL ABUSE (2000, 27 min.)

Producer: Klinik Producers

CHARTING NEW WATERS: RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES (1996, 38 min.)

(Also available in French under the title *Une nouvelle cartographie : comment répondre à la violence faite aux femmes handicapées*)

Producer: Justice Institute of British Columbia

DISCOVERING THE CHILD WITHIN: THE ABUSE OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN (1992, 30 min.)

Producer: Kem Murch Productions

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PARTS I AND II (1994, 74 min.)

Producers: Vancouver General Hospital, Domestic Violence Program University of British Columbia, Biomedical Communications

DOUBLE JEOPARDY (1996, 30 min.)

Producer: Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres

FINDING DAWN (2006, 73 min.)

Director: Christine Welsh

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? (1999, 24 min.)

Producers: Susan Risk and S.T.O.P.S. to Violence

IN HER OWN TIME: EMPOWERING WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE

(2005, 18 min.)

Producers: Justice Institute of British Columbia

KILLER'S PARADISE (2006, 83 min.)

Director: Giselle Portenier

Producers: Giselle Portenier, Silva Basmajian

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT (2005, 40 min.)

Directed by: Deepa Mehta

A LOVE THAT KILLS (1999, 20 min.)

(Also available in French under the title *Un amour assassin*)

Director: Annie O'Donoghue

Producers: Jack McGaw, Shelley McGaw, Svend-Erik Eriksen, George Johnson

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: HOW TO RESPOND TO CHILD WITNESSES OF WOMAN ABUSE

(1995, 22 min.)

Producer: Campbell & Co. Communications

MARKER OF CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE WOMEN'S MONUMENT (1998, 52 min.)

Producer: Hilary Jones-Farrow

NADIA'S JOURNEY (2006, 72 min.)

(Also available in French under the title *Le voyage de Nadia*)

Directors: Carmen Garcia, Nadia Zouaoui

Producers: Carmen Garcia

OUT FROM ABUSE (2000, 25 min.)

Producer: Older Women's Long-Term Survival Society

PERSONAL ALARM (1997, 46 min.)

Director: Paula Kelly

A PLACE TO START (1994, 41 min.)

(Also available in French under the title *Après l'agression*)

Director: Marc Stone

Producers: Marc Stone, Michael Collier, Yaletown Productions Inc.

PUMP UP THE VOLUME (2002, 36 min.)

Producers: Project Violence Free and BC Women in Action Association

A ROOM FULL OF MEN (1992, 48 min.)

Director: Ian Preston

Producers: Stephen Onda, Ian Preston, Darcy Mitchell, Heartland Motion Pictures Inc.

A SCORE FOR WOMEN'S VOICES (2002, 86 min.)

(Also available in French under the title *Partition pour voix de femmes*)

Director: Sophie Bissonnette

Producers: Monique Simard, Marcel Simard

YOU CAN'T BEAT A WOMAN (1997, 96 min.)

Director: Gail Singer

Producers: Joe MacDonald, Graydon McCrea, Gail Singer, Ches Yetman

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: BREAKING THE SILENCE (1995, 50 min.)

Producers: Kari Nelson, Floyd Lansing, Friday Communications Inc.

WHEN WOMEN KILL (1994, 48 min.) (Also available in French under the title *Ces femmes qui tuent*).

Director: Barbara Doran

WITHOUT FEAR (1993, 24 min.) (Also available in French under the title *Pour ne plus avoir peur*)

Director: Aerlyn Weissman

Producers: Peter Williamson, Rachel Low, Claire Welland, Bernard Léveillé, Ira Levy, Breakthrough Films and Television Inc.

WORLDS APART... COMING TOGETHER (2002, 33 min.)

Producers: Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre

WHERE CAN I RENT VIDEOS?

In addition to the **National Film Board of Canada**, the Public Health Agency of Canada's **National Clearinghouse on Family Violence** and **Vidéo Femmes** offer a selection of videos dealing with violence against women.

Many of the **NFB** films are available through your local public library as well as NFB outlets across the country. Check the NFB collection on its Web site at cmm.onf.ca/. You can also order videos directly by calling the NFB's toll-free number 1-800-267-7710 or 514-283-9900 (Montreal region only).

For a copy of the **National Clearinghouse on Family Violence** video catalogue, call toll free 1-800-267-1291 or 613-957-2938. You can also visit the online video catalogue's section on Women Abuse at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/. Items may be borrowed through interlibrary loan. Please contact your public or institutional library to make arrangements.

Vidéo Femmes offers a selection of videos on women's issues, all produced by women. Visit www.videofemmes.org/repertoire or contact Vidéo Femmes by telephone at 418-529-9188, by fax at 418-529-4891 or by e-mail at info@videofemmes.org.

Fact Sheet: Questions and Answers on Violence against Women

WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

The United Nations *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* refers to “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 private life.”

Violence against women is also a “manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women’s full advancement.”

Violence against women can take many forms. It is most commonly divided into the following categories:

- **Psychological violence** encompasses various tactics to undermine an individual’s self-confidence, such as yelling, insults, mockery, threats, abusive language, humiliation, harassment, contempt, deliberate deprivation of emotional care or isolation.
- **Physical violence** ranges from pushing and shoving to hitting,

beating, physical abuse with a weapon, torture, mutilation and murder.

- **Sexual violence** encompasses any form of non-consensual sexual activity (i.e., forced on an individual), from harassment and unwanted sexual touching to rape. This form of violence also includes incest.
- **Financial abuse (or economic abuse)** encompasses various tactics for partial or total control of an individual’s finances, inheritance or employment income. It may involve denying access to the victim’s own financial records and knowledge about personal investments, income or debt, or preventing the victim from taking employment outside the home or engaging in other activities that would lead to financial independence.
- **Spiritual abuse** works to destroy an individual’s cultural or religious beliefs through ridicule or punishment, forbidding practice of a personal religion or forcing an individual to adhere to religious practices that are not her or his own.

WHAT IS CRIMINAL HARASSMENT?

Criminal harassment, commonly referred to as “stalking,” is persistent, malicious, unwanted surveillance and invasion of privacy that is a constant threat to an individual’s personal security. The stalker may begin by telephoning and harassing a woman, her friends and family, persistently following her, spending extended periods of time watching her home or place of work, studying her movements. In August 1993, section 264 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada was amended to include a provision on “Criminal Harassment.”

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

Violence against women carries heavy consequences for victims and for society in general.

For female victims of violence:

The consequences differ from one person to another. They vary according to factors such as the nature and gravity of the violence, duration, personality of the victim, the support network and resources available.

Among the psychological consequences, are ongoing fear, distrust, anxiety, feelings of guilt and/or shame, loss of self-esteem, difficulty concentrating, depression and thoughts of suicide, reliance on drugs, alcohol and/or other medications. Physical signs of violence may include wounds, broken bones, sleeplessness, nightmares, insomnia, nausea, permanent disability, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and death.

The social impacts of violence may include isolation, stigmatization, failing grades in school or poor performance at work, absenteeism, financial difficulties, etc.

For society:

Fear of aggression is a reality in the lives of many girls and women in Canada. How many women do not dare to travel alone, go on a nature hike, stay out late or walk home alone in the evening?

Furthermore, children who witness or experience violence in the home are at high risk of becoming victims and/or abusers later in life.

In Canada, the financial costs to society in health care, social services, criminal justice and lost employment are estimated to exceed \$4.2 billion annually. Costs related to health and well-being alone exceed \$1.5 billion.

Sources:

Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence ~Achieving Equality, Final Report, The Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women (1993).

Day, T. *The Health-Related Costs of Violence Against Women in Canada – The Tip of the Iceberg* (London, Ontario: Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children) 1995.

Moisan, M. *Pour que cesse l’inacceptable : avis sur la violence faite aux femmes* (Gouvernement du Québec, Conseil du statut de la femme, 1993), pp. 19-23.

Platform for Action and Beijing Declaration. (United Nations, 1995).