

Today, on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we come together to raise awareness about intimate partner and gender-based violence in our City.

Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was established in 1991 on December 6th by the Parliament of Canada to commemorate the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at École Polytechnique de Montréal. They were killed because they were women.

Every six days a woman is killed by her partner in Canadaⁱ. Each of us can do our part to prevent this by taking a small action to support someone who may be experiencing abuse.

It may be hard to know when to intervene, but small actions can have a huge impact on the lives of people experiencing abuse. Many abuse survivors have shared that simple actions such as saying hi to a person on the street, offering to take them for coffee to let them know you are concerned and you are there for them can provide support. Doing these things once or twice or repeatedly also helps a person experiencing abuse know someone cares about them and that they are not alone.

Other small actions include attending a community eventⁱⁱ, sharing resources about crisis lines and local sheltersⁱⁱⁱ or taking time to learn about the issue through websites such as Toronto For All^{iv}, which provides tips on how to intervene as a bystander in addition to other resources.

Addressing intimate partner violence is everyone's responsibility. Friends, family members and co-workers all play an integral role by taking action now to end intimate partner violence and all forms of gender-based violence.

It's time for everyone to do their part.

Signed:

Assaulted Women's Helpline
Attiya Khan
Christine McCaw, Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
Family Service Toronto
Heather McGregor, CEO YWCA Toronto
Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH)
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)
Toronto Public Health
White Ribbon
Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WomanACT)
Womenatthecentre

ⁱ Statistics Canada. (2011). *Homicide in Canada, 2011*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11738-eng.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Toronto For All. (December 2018). *Days of Significance Related to Intimate Partner Violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.torontoforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Days-of-Significance-Community-Events-Accessible-2.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Toronto For All. (December 2018). *Resources for People Experiencing Abuse*. Retrieved from <http://www.torontoforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Resources-for-People-Experiencing-Abuse-Accessible-2.pdf>

^{iv} Toronto For All. (December 2018). *Toronto For All: Intimate Partner Violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.torontoforall.ca/intimatepartnerviolence/>