TAKE ACTION TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

TOOLKIT FOR THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN
NOVEMBER 25TH - DECEMBER 10TH 2019
Introduction

From November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, International Human Rights Day, let’s help put an end to violence against women and girls. CFUW clubs and members can be trailblazers in their communities and across the country, contributing positively to end gender-based violence (GBV).

Unequal power relations, biased social norms and practices, and discriminatory legal dispositions 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.

CFUW has created a toolkit to help members get involved in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. This toolkit aims to increase awareness and advise club members of practical actions to help end GBV.
What is it? Who does it affect?

GBV comes in many forms and degrees of severity, and affects women around the world. In Canada, GBV disproportionately impacts women, girls, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI2+ and gender non-binary individuals, people living in northern, rural, and remote communities, people with disabilities, newcomers, children and youth, and seniors.

The term violence often refers to physical acts but GBV includes not only physical abuse but words, actions, or attempts to degrade, control, humiliate, intimidate, coerce, deprive, threaten, or harm another person.

Commemorate the Special UN Dates to Support the 16 Days Campaign

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

03| Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
What can you do?
We celebrate international dates designated by the UN General Assembly to mobilize action for social justice. By participating the 16 Days Campaign you are taking a stand to advance gender equality.

We Recommend:

● Send a press release to your local Media outlet to mark International Day to End Violence against Women and highlight your club and CFUW’s involvement on the issue.

● Wear orange during the 16 Days Campaign to raise public awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls and support UN Women’s campaign for the 16 Days of Activism.

● Share your photos, messages and videos showing how you are participating in the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using #OrangeTheWorld and #GenerationEquality.

04| Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
December 6, 2019 marks the 30th 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 – the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – we remember that GBV effects women and girls nationally and internationally.

The École Polytechnique massacre is an example of antifeminism and violence against women. Positive steps are being taken for the 30th Anniversary to address problematic messaging and affirm that women were specifically targeted. In commemoration of the 30th Anniversary, the City of Montreal is replacing the sign at the Place du 6-Décembre-1989 memorial with a new one that condemns all forms of violence against women and states that the École Polytechnique massacre was motivated by antifeminism.

**What can you do?**

It is vital to take a stand against antifeminism and gender based violence. Many CFUW clubs have demonstrated leadership by organizing vigils to commemorate December 6, 1989.

05 | Take Action To End Gender-based Violence

**We Recommend:**

- Help plan or attend a vigil in your community on December 6th. Delve deeper into feminist research on the Polytechnique
massacre. Melissa Blais book “I Hate Feminists! December 6, 1989 and Its Aftermath" outlines problematic media responses to the massacre and how important it is to commemorate the tragedy as an example of antifeminism.

- Send an op-ed or press release to the editors of your local media outlet to reflect on Polytechnique massacre.

- Subscribe to a massive open online course offered by the University of Strathclyde Glasgow “Understanding Violence against Women: Myths and Realities.” The course is offered to anyone interested in challenging Violence against Women, no prior experience of the subject is needed. Click here to subscribe.

- Donate to Women’s Shelters Canada to support their work in maintaining an accessible database of women’s shelters, as well as coordinating with shelters for best practices.

06 | Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
Addressing GBV for Indigenous Women and Girls

“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.

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. Gender-based violence is only one of the many pressing issues that Indigenous women and girls face today. Acting against gender-based violence means embracing Indigenous women and girls and supporting their economic, social, and cultural rights.

The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has highlighted the dire conditions surrounding these women’s lives. It emphasized Canada’s failure to address violence against women in Indigenous communities. The Inquiry found that there was a genocide committed against Indigenous women and girls. Canadian laws, policies, and practices that are both racist and sexist have contributed to the creation of a framework of violence that affects Indigenous women and girls. This framework unfairly denies Indigenous women and girls their fundamental rights, endangers them, and limits their meaningful participation in not only their communities but in life itself.

07| Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
What can you do?

To help Indigenous women and girls is to be aware of their situation and to support them in their battle for equality and betterment of life. It is important that we stand with Indigenous advocates and help spread awareness of issues like gender-based violence facing Indigenous girls and women.

We Recommend:

- Educate Yourself: Take initiative, ask questions, research, and raise discussions surrounding issues like gender-based violence and its effects on Indigenous women and girls.

- Spread Awareness Online and In-person: Support indigenous women and girls by standing with them and challenging negative comments or harmful perceptions.

- Support Indigenous Advocates like Autumn Peltier
  [https://www.facebook.com/Waterwarrior1/](https://www.facebook.com/Waterwarrior1/)

- Participate in a KAIROS Blanket Exercise to learn more about Indigenous people’s history in Canada.

- Host Indigenous guest speakers at club functions.

- Familiarise yourself with literature about Indigenous peoples and culture. Checkout some of the books on this list compiled by the CBC for some possible titles: [https://www.cbc.ca/books/14-books-to-readfor-indigenous-history-month-1.5164877](https://www.cbc.ca/books/14-books-to-readfor-indigenous-history-month-1.5164877)

08| Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
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. The implementation of Bill C-71 means more frequent and in-depth checks on who can purchase, borrow, or transport a firearm, a process that improves women’s safety overall. However, more action is needed to ensure the safety of women and girls.

Gun violence in Canada disproportionately impacts women and girls. Stringent gun control, including prohibiting citizen ownership of military assault weapons, will help make the lives of all women and girls in Canada safer.

A ban on assault rifles and firearms could prevent the tragic deaths of many women throughout Canada. Leading up to December 6th, the 30th anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre, where fourteen women were murdered, we must remember the impact of gender-based gun violence.

**What Can You Do?**

To help prevent GBV, it is important to continue to support the ban on assault rifles and other firearms in Canada.
We Recommend:

- Stand with and support Doctors for Protection from Guns: http://www.doctorsforprotectionfromguns.ca/
- When online, 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. Check out social media resources at https://www.triggerchange.ca/

Ending GBV on University 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 sexual assaults happen to women.

We must continue to prioritize ending GBV on Canadian campuses. 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 a safe post-secondary campus environment for all.

10| Take Action To End Gender-based Violence
What Can You Do?

Support the end of GBV in post-secondary communities and campuses throughout Canada providing a safe environment to learn and grow for all.

We Recommend:

- Spread awareness online and in-person: Support the end of gender based violence on campus challenging negative comments or harmful perceptions.
- 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.
- 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 banners for the 16 Days Campaign, posting the picture to social media, and tagging us in your post.
- Stand with other organizations that aim to end GBV in post-secondary institutions like OUSA’s Courage To Act Campaign and Students for Consent Culture.
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 honour past winners of CFUW’s Violence Against Women Award on social media during the 16 Days Campaign to draw attention to our organization’s advocacy. Thank you for your dedication to campaigning against gender based violence.

Contact Us
For more information visit CFUW’s website http://cfuw.org/ Checkout our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/cfuw.fcfdu/
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