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### GENDERED VIOLENCE

CFUW stands firmly against all forms of gendered violence. We recognize that certain groups are particularly vulnerable to violence, including: Aboriginal women, women living in poverty, young women, and those who identify as LGBTTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Two-spirited, Queer). In accordance with the right to personal security, guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Human Rights, CFUW stands in solidarity with these groups.

Over the years, CFUW has urged all levels of government to take legislative, social, and educational steps to prevent violence based on gender and sexual orientation in all its forms. We further encourage our government to actively support [United Nations Conventions and Commissions](#), particularly the [Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#).

- [Letter to the Minister of Status of Women and Minister of Health calling for the implementation of the WHO's Multi-country Study on Domestic Violence](#) - December 6, 2013
- [Press release: Canada Needs a National Action Plan on Violence against Women](#) - December 6, 2013
- [Letter to the Minister of Justice and Minister of Status of Women re: Bill C-13, Bullying, Cyberbullying and Gender-Based Violence](#)
- [Take Action During the 16 Days Activism against Gender Violence](#) - November 25, 2013
- [CFUW calls for Canada's leadership to ensure strong Agreed Conclusions at UN CSW 57 on the priority theme of "the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women"](#) - February 2012
- [CFUW issues a written statement on CSW 57's priority theme, "the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls."](#) - 2012
- [Letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Baird about UN resolution on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women](#) - November 2012
- [December 6th Coalition calls for Federal Leadership to End Violence against Women](#) - December 2012
- [CFUW Commemorates 23rd Annual National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women](#) - December 2012
- [CFUW joins Women's Shelters, Survivors of Violence and other Allies in Calling for a National Action Plan to End violence Against Women and Girls](#) - October 2012
- [Press Release: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women 2011](#)
- [Women in Action Violence Against Women, December 2008](#)
- [Women in Action Violence Against Women in the Workplace, November 2008](#)

### Intimate Partner Violence

CFUW recognizes the prevalence of gender-based violence within relationships and families and continues to call for adequate resources to address intimate partner violence through:

- enforcing legislation;
- research into the incidence, causes, nature and effects of violence;
- supports that address the social conditions that lead to violence;
- awareness campaigns through the media and educational programs;
- education for peaceful resolution of conflict in all levels of school curricula;
- long and short term shelters, as well as transition housing;
- improved access to family resource centres and safe home networks in rural areas.

CFUW members have also taken a lead role in the ongoing concerns surrounding the polygamous community in Bountiful, British Columbia and have called for the enforcement of Section 153 of the Criminal Code which criminalizes the sexual exploitation of girls in polygamous communities.

## Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women

Aboriginal women and girls experience four times the amount of violence that non-Aboriginal women experience. The Native Women's Association of Canada states that there are over 600 cases of missing and murdered women, and that 55 percent of those women and girls have been murdered or gone missing since 2000. In 43 percent of the cases of murdered women, no one has been charged, and the cases have not otherwise been cleared. In 2008 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) called on Canada to report within one year on its progress in implementing their recommendation to "examine the reasons for the failure to investigate the cases of missing or murdered aboriginal women and to take the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies in the system."

- Initiate a full public inquiry into the root causes of racialized and sexualized violence against aboriginal women and girls;
- Set out clear timelines for stated objectives to ensure timely responses for Aboriginal women;
- Allocate funding to the Native Women's Association to continue the "Sisters in Spirit Initiative"; and
- Develop a coordinated federal response to violence against Aboriginal women, led by Aboriginal communities and organizations, with sustained and sufficient multi-year funding.

See some of our letters & actions:

- [Letter to Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia regarding Missing Women Commission of Inquiry](#)
- [Letter to Rona Ambrose on Sisters in Spirit Funding - Nov. 4, 2010](#)
- [Letter to Rob Nicholson on Violence Against Aboriginal Women, June 2009](#)

## Public Awareness and Education

We believe in the need to increase public awareness about gender-based violence, as such we call on all levels of Government to:

- Work with relevant professions (social workers, police, healthcare providers, etc.), the media, and community groups to promote strong and consistent violence-prevention education.
- Take effective action to counter all forms of violence (i.e. bullying, sexual assault) in Canadian educational institutions and provide increased safety mechanisms on university and college campuses, as well
- Coordinate efforts between equity offices, student unions, women's committees, feminist research centres, and university administrations, to address and prevent violence.

## International Issues

CFUW recognizes the need for concerted action to address gender-based violence across the globe and it urges the Government of Canada to work with all governments to develop and enforce legislation to protect women and children. For example, CFUW has advocated for an end to:

- Female genital mutilation;
- Rape as a weapon of war, among others.

See some of our letters & actions:

- [Letter to John Baird re: Human rights and the violent treatment of women and girls in the Republic of Maldives - April 2013](#)
- [Letter to Lawrence Cannon on Sexual Violence in Haiti, January 2011](#)
- [Letter to Lawrence Cannon on Sexual Violence in the Congo, November 2008](#)
- [Letter to David Emmerson about Sexual Assault in Afghanistan, June 2008](#)
- [Letter to Prime Minister Harper on Support for Peace and Women in Darfur, January 2008](#)

## Human Trafficking and Enforced Prostitution

CFUW has long advocated for research, legislative reform, and effective programs/services to address and abolish the trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation/enforced prostitution.

OXFAM estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year. Eighty per cent of those trafficked are women and girls and most end up trapped in the commercial sex trade.

CFUW has called on all levels of government:

- To identify and support appropriate international measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including

implementing the UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime, and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2003);

- For domestic legislation to be guided by respect for the human rights of trafficked persons – and that trafficked persons should not be penalized or criminalized; and for
  - Immediate protection and access to supportive services for trafficked persons.
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