



**A Breakfast to Celebrate
Activism Against
Gender Violence in Vancouver**

Thursday, December 8, 2011
Segal School of Business
500 Granville
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Program



Welcome Message from the Chair Dr. Catherine Murray

As Chair of Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at SFU, I am pleased to welcome such a large cross-section of caring groups and people within our community to celebrate grassroots activism against gender violence in Vancouver. Thank you for stepping up to the challenge every day—and I do say “challenge” because it is not easy to change the status quo. Today we will mark the international campaign of *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence*, the *National Day of*

Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada (December 6th) and *International Human Rights Day* (December 10th). We will pay tribute to the incredibly wide variety of initiatives already underway, and hopefully, in our discussions this morning, identify new ones that may emerge.

I am proud to announce that Jen Sookfong Lee, CBC book correspondent and author of *A Better Mother* is our keynote speaker this morning. Jen will be sharing her thoughts about the role of violence in her fiction, in that of her literary influences and what it may say to us in our constant struggles against gender violence. We will also hear from Dr. Dana Mohammed Olwan, Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair, about the pressing need for *Demystifying Gender Violence in Muslim Communities*. Other presenters will be Dr. Jen Marchbank, SFU Surrey, on *Greenbelts and Preventing Violence Against Gender Variant Children*, as well as our very own GSWS lecturer, Natasha Patterson who argues for *Putting Men Back into the Picture: postfeminist narratives of gender violence in celebrity culture*.

As you leave today, I hope, despite the pain of some of these thoughts, you will ring out a resounding “Yes!” Let us raise the public policy profile of efforts to combat gender violence in our neighbourhoods, schools, cities and province. We need to fight the tendency of the right to narrow the field to criminal cases, and refute arguments that sexual violence is decreasing in society or the problem has gone away. We need to widen the scope of the issue beyond women and refuse to think only of children. We need to extend our arms beyond the traditional families, and include transgendered, gay and lesbian rights to live in a world without gender violence. We need, collectively, to make companies less averse to the philanthropic challenge in supporting the cause, since gender violence affects us all, even in the workplace. Let us create a new reality for Vancouver in this lifetime. Let's push the yardstick enough to make Vancouver safe from gender violence for all.

I would like to thank Ruth Wynn Woodward, the Status of Women Canada and the hundreds of women over 25 years ago who foresaw the need for a publicly supported place where thought leadership and community dialogue in the study of gender, sexuality and women's studies could thrive. We are deeply indebted to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowment for being able to provide this gathering.

~~ Catherine Murray

Table of Contents

Welcome Message from the Chair, Dr. Catherine Murray	2
Program	4
Community Partners for Red Shoes, Green Belts, White Ribbons	5
Atira Women’s Resource Society	6
Battered Women’s Support Services	7
British Columbia Teachers’ Federation	8
Canadian Women’s Foundation	9
Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre	10
Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA)	11
Feminist Research Education Development Action (FREDA)	12
Out in Schools	13
Out on Campus	14
Philippine Women Centre of BC Kalayaan Centre (PWC)	15
Pivot Legal Society	16
Progressive Intercultural Community Services	17
SFU Women’s Centre	18
South Fraser Women’s Services Society	19
Vancouver Status of Women	20
Vancouver Women’s Health Collective	21
WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre	22
We Can BC	23
West Coast LEAF	24
WISH Drop-in Centre Society	25
YWCA Programs and Services	26
GSWS Backgrounder: Gender Violence in Canada	27
Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair Background	32

Program provided by:

Layout and design Esther Harrison

Special Thanks Roberta Neilson

Printer SFU Document Solutions

Program

- 7:00 a.m. Registration
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
Opening Remarks
Dr. Catherine Murray
Chair, Department of Gender, Sexuality,
and Women's Studies at SFU
- 8:00 a.m. *Storytelling the Journey: Personal Narratives
and Understanding Violence*
Jen Sookfong Lee, Keynote Speaker
Author of *A Better Mother* and CBC
book correspondent
- Demystifying Gender Violence in Muslim Communities*
Dana Mohammed Olwan
Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair
- Fighting Back in the 'Burbs':
Youth Activism in Surrey*
Dr. Jen Marchbank
- Putting Men Back into the Picture:
Exploring postfeminist narratives
of gender violence in celebrity culture*
Natasha Patterson
Lecturer at SFU GSWS
- Walk a Mile, BC Style* Film Premiere
Dr. Jacqueline Levitin, Graham Talbot,
Nelson Talbot, Alexandra Caulfield
- 8:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Networking/Wrap-up



Community Partners for Red Shoes, Green Belts, White Ribbons

We are very glad to have such wonderful groups partner with us for the *Red Shoes, Green Belts, White Ribbons* breakfast. We look forward to mutually raising awareness of the difficult issue of gender violence.

Following are the pages containing all the Community partners. They have provided their information indicating their contribution to this morning's breakfast event. Contact information is provided so that anyone may donate time or money in combatting violence in our communities.

Remember this festive season to encourage friends and family to donate to the food bank and one of these stellar local groups to make our communities safe.



Atira Women's Resource Society

Atira helps end violence against women and children. The Painter Sisters provides women affected by violence and who face barriers to employment with a skill that allows them to regain entry to full-time employment (where employment opportunities are flexible and in high demand) and to attain financial independence.

The *Yayem Digital Storytelling Project* provides youth and mentors diverse in age, race/ethnicity, religion, class, ability, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation with the support, skills, and equipment they need to create original digital stories. The stories are part of a storytelling tradition that lives at the heart of human experience—a gripping form of personal communication as ancient as language itself. Since the beginnings of humankind, we have shared through stories the events, beliefs, and values held dear by our families, communities, and cultures.

Donate by visiting our website:

<http://www.atira.bc.ca/>

Battered Women's Support Services



Any woman who has experienced abuse in an intimate relationship, childhood sexual abuse or adult sexual assault may access our services. Abuse takes many different forms and BWSS recognizes all types of abuse.

Every woman has the right to be safe and free from violence. BWSS provides a secure environment in which women and young women are free to express themselves without being judged or threatened.

BWSS programs and services include:

- ◇ Crisis Line
- ◇ Counselling & Advocacy
- ◇ Support Groups
- ◇ Aboriginal Women's Program
- ◇ Legal Advocacy
- ◇ Victims Assistance Program
- ◇ Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention
- ◇ Education & Training
- ◇ My Sister's Closet – Social Enterprise of Battered Women's Support Services

Learn more about programs and services:

<http://www.bwss.org/>

Donation Details:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/DonationDetails.aspx?cookieCheck=true>



**British Columbia
Teachers' Federation**

British Columbia Teachers' Federation

BCTF is holding an event for their staff on Dec 6th and encouraging all teachers to hold such events. We have sent out *16 Days of Action* posters and action sheets for teachers to all the schools in the province. We have distributed book marks to all schools in the province about violence against women.

Be sure and stop by our table for samples of brochures, buttons, flyers and postcards!

BCTF has developed a new workshop called *Resisting Normalized Sexual Violence* against youth for teacher training. It offers teachers strategies for supporting students who have experienced dating and relationship violence or to prevent it from happening. As well, it gives teachers lesson plans and teaching support to raise the issue in their classroom and provide students with resources they may need.

Visit <http://bctf.ca/>

Canadian Women's Foundation



Shelter from the Storm is the Canadian Women's Foundation campaign to stop violence against women. It is Canada's largest annual national fundraising and awareness campaign on domestic violence. Every April, supporters, friends and our partners join together to raise funds to help fund community programs that help women rebuild their lives after abuse; that teach young people about healthy relationships; and that counsel children who have witnessed violence, to help them heal and prevent them from becoming victims or abusers themselves.

Be sure and stop by our table for brochures, newsletters and other information about our foundation.

We are pleased to accept your donation by the following means:
Toll-free number: 1-866-293-4483 (Please have credit card ready)
E-mail: lnaturkach@canadianwomen.org
General inquiries email: info@canadianwomen.org
Website: www.canadianwomen.org.



Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

The victim services program provides support and assistance to women that have been victims of crime. This includes reporting crime, providing emotional support, accompanying women to court and referring women to other programs and services.

In recent years, crimes against women have become more frequent and more serious. However, reporting violent crime has decreased, in part because of the reporting process—women are often threatened by abusers and other community members, and changes in government policy has resulted in less access to resources, compensation and support.

The task of supporting women has become the responsibility of front-line workers. Staff work one-on-one with women to increase their safety and decrease their vulnerability to injury during the reporting process.

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre holds its annual march which reminds us all of the need for a safe environment in which to live.

For more information please call: Phone 604-681-8480 x 226

Email: funddevelopment@dewc.ca

Donate through CanadaHelps: http://dewc.ca/?page_id=33



Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA)

Be More Than a Bystander is a groundbreaking partnership between EVA BC and the BC Lions aimed at substantially increasing awareness and understanding about the impact of men’s violence against women. This 2-year initiative will see sports icons from the BC Lions use their status and public profile to create awareness about violence against women in BC and urge everyone to “Break the Silence on Violence Against Women.” In addition to the public awareness component, training will be delivered to students in a number of BC schools about how their individual choices and actions can be part of creating positive social change and to coaches of amateur football teams on how to talk to youth about violence, respectful relationships and speaking up.

To find out more, go to www.endingviolence.org and click on the *Be More Than a Bystander* link.

To donate:

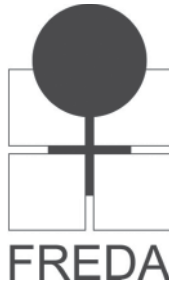
Visit our home page at www.endingviolence.org

Click on the “To Donate” box

This will navigate to a new page where you may choose to donate to one or several funds. Please specify:

- ◇ The Violence Prevention Legacy Fund
- ◇ The Melissa Chatham Memorial Fund
- ◇ The EVA BC Fund

For assistance or more information, please call (604) 633-2506.



Feminist Research Education Development Action

The FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children is a joint collaboration between academics at Simon Fraser University and community and women's organizations working at the grass-roots level.

The FREDA Centre is committed to participatory action research, focused specifically on violence against women and children, and works in the interests of the community to end this violence.

FREDA held an event December 5, 2011 – The release of the research report: 'Domestic violence prevention and reduction in British Columbia (2000–2010)', prepared by Katherine R. Rossiter, Associate Director of the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children (School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University) for the Centre for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence (Justice Institute of British Columbia). Research presentation held from 9:00–9:30 am in the JIBC Theatre (715 McBride Boulevard, New Westminster).

To donate visit our FREDA website: www.fredacentre.com

Out in Schools



Homophobia and bullying are serious issues facing today's youth, particularly queer youth. By bringing queer films to local high schools to facilitate discussion with youth on bullying, homophobia and stereotypes, we give youth a safe space to explore these issues. We aim to increase understanding through education to combat the issues threatening the safety of our classrooms for all students.

Out in Schools began as a pilot project in 2004 presented by the Out On Screen Film + Video Society. Since our inception we have seen an increase in support and interest in our program and have developed strong connections with local Gay Straight Alliances, educators and the Vancouver School Board. We have collaborated with a variety of arts festivals and outreach and social groups.

The future of Out in Schools is shaped by the feedback we receive from students which has been overwhelmingly supportive for both the films and the facilitation discussion afterwards. From the early days of working with GSAs we have grown to incorporate presentations to entire Planning 10 classes and auditorium presentations. We feel our success is largely due to providing students with positive gay role models and our commitment to education.

If you are interested in having a screening at your school please contact Ross Johnstone, Out in Schools' Director of Education.

Out in Schools is about smashing stereotypes and making schools safer for all students. During the 2010–2011 school year Out in Schools reached more than 8,000 youth with more than 80 workshop presentations. With projects such as the Anti-Homophobia Student PSA competition and the No Hate Youth Filmmaking Bootcamp, the impact of Out in Schools is immeasurable!

Make schools in BC safer, donate today!
Leslie Thompson, Director of Individual Giving
604.844.1615 or leslie@outonscreen.com



Out on Campus

Out on Campus is students, staff, faculty, allies, and alumni working together to reduce discrimination and increase awareness about lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people on campus and in society. We are committed to resisting all forms of discriminations and oppressions, and recognize that LGBTQ+ people represent a wide diversity of communities.

Drop in to study or show up to a party, we'll do our best to make you feel welcome. We also offer a great library of resources. We are a volunteer-run organization but you don't have to volunteer to hang out!

Transphobia and homophobia affect everyone. Therefore, no matter what your gender identity or sexual orientation, everyone is welcome at OOC. We welcome our non-queer friends and allies to join us in fighting for the right to love who and how we want.

We are a department of the Simon Fraser Student Society and a volunteer-run organization.

Phone: 778-782-5933

Email: oc2@sfss.ca

**Philippine Women Centre of BC
Kalayaan Centre
(PWC)**



PWC is made up of members who recognize the need to study, organize, and act on the issue and deepen the understanding of women's struggles in the Philippines, Canada, and the world. Through the efforts of six Filipino women, the PWC was conceptualized in 1986 and was formally launched in February 1990. Our members take a look at our experiences as a community that is brought into Canada under racist and anti women programs like the *Live-in Caregiver* program, our experiences with the lack of universal child and health care programs, our experiences with finding affordable housing, our experiences with family separation and reunification, and the list goes on.

PWC aims to empower Filipino women to understand the roots of their challenges as migrants, immigrants, women of colour and low-income earners, and to collectively assert their struggle for their rights, welfare, and a just and genuine settlement and integration.

Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance/Ugnayan ng Kabataang Pilipino sa Canada (one of our affiliated organizations under the Kalayaan Center) is celebrating their 16th year anniversary on December 9th @ 6pm at Rhizome Cafe. Entrance is sliding scale \$5-10 but no one is turned away. Come celebrate the 16 years of educating organizing and mobilizing!

Information about where to make a donation:

Phone (604) 215-1103

Email: pwc@kalayaancentre.net

PIVOT

equality lifts everyone

Pivot Legal Society

Pivot’s social change campaigns focus on breaking down systemic barriers to the full realization of human rights. At the core of all our work is a deep commitment to challenging laws and policies that undermine the dignity of those most on the margins or that intensify poverty and social exclusion. We take a bottom-up approach to law reform, working collaboratively with people impacted by poverty and marginalization to develop a vision for change that will make a meaningful difference in their lives. Whether mounting a challenge to a municipal bylaw or to a section of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, we focus our energy on cases with the greatest potential to make lasting systemic change.

Pivot’s mandate is to use the law to address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion. Our name is metaphor for our approach to social change — by making the most tangible violations of human rights the focal point of our efforts, we exert maximum pressure in order to shift society toward greater equality and inclusivity.

Contributions to Pivot ensure that dignity, fairness, and compassion are values that are not lost in the legal system. Your contribution allows us to work collaboratively with people impacted by poverty and marginalization to develop a vision for change that will make a meaningful difference in their lives. You don’t have to be a high roller to make change happen — each contribution goes a long way.

For donation arrangements, visit:

<http://www.pivotlegal.org/get-involved/donate>

Progressive Intercultural Community Services

A group of volunteers came together to form PICS in 1985, to meet the needs of the growing South Asian community in Surrey-Delta. For many years, the organization was steered by the Board, operated out of small rented quarters, and had no paid staff. However, over the past years the society has gone through significant changes in the structure, staff, facilities and programs.



PICS is a registered non-profit charity organization and a United Way member agency. We have strong relationships with funders and related organizations, and have successfully developed joint projects and sponsored new organizations.

Revenues now come from private, individuals, organizations, Government, diverse foundations, BC Gaming Branch and United Way of the Lower Mainland. The federal government alone funds eight different programs, which are expanding because they have successful outcomes and have exceeded their targets.

To remain effective and dynamic, PICS continues to build on its strengths in partnership with the South Asian community. We have grown to offer a wide range of employment programs, English Language Services for Adults (ELSA), seniors housing, and we currently serve 50 people daily in the Surrey head office and 35 people daily in the Vancouver office. PICS currently has a staff of over 100, and 15 active volunteers.

Would you like to become involved? Please visit our website:
<http://www.pics.bc.ca/>

SFU Women's Centre

SFU Women's Centre

SFU Women's Centre's 5 point Mandate:

- ◇ Pro-feminist
- ◇ Sex-Positive
- ◇ Pro-choice
- ◇ Trans and Intersex Inclusive
- ◇ Anti-Racist

The Women's Centre is committed to building a campus community that is safe for people of all genders, races, religions, abilities, and sexual orientations. This is accomplished by organizing numerous events and ongoing programs.

The SFU Women's Centre is run by a collective of volunteers and staff. The collective is run through consensus based decision making. This means that ALL members of the collective must agree on a decision or action before it is passed. This kind of decision making aims to encourage discussion and the participation of all collective members.

If you are interested in getting involved with a women's centre event feel free to contact us or fill out our volunteer form. We always welcome volunteers of both genders.

Please visit:

<http://www.sfuwomenctr.ca/volunteer.html>

South Fraser Women's Services Society



Since 1978, South Fraser Women's Services, a registered charity, has provided free resources, support and counselling for women. For many women and their families our drop-in centre is the initial contact for women coping with violence and/or poverty issues.

We offer a safe and confidential environment in which to connect with other women and access direct services, crisis peer support, professional counselling, legal information and advocacy, professional referrals and resources, facilitated support groups and educational opportunities.

Support for South Fraser Women's Services is derived from memberships, donations, fundraising, service clubs, government funding, Gaming and the United Way of Lower Mainland.

South Fraser Women's Services Society partners with the community to provide resources, programs and support to improve the lives of women and their families.

South Fraser Women's Services Society:

- ◇ Values belonging and sense of community
- ◇ Celebrates diversity and honours our differences
- ◇ Believes in empowerment for women and their families
- ◇ Commits to leading by being voices for change

Make a donation via CanadaHelps linked from our homepage:

<http://www.sfwomensservices.com/>



Vancouver Status of Women

During the 16 Days, VSW is hosting a psychodrama workshop on Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 12:30 to 4:00 pm at Kiwassa Neighbourhood House. The workshop is for any self-identified single mothers, with the purpose of creating healing from violence through creative expression and the arts.

Vancouver Status of Women is a forty-year old non-profit organization, whose mission is freedom and self-determination for all women through responsible, socially just, healthy and joyful communities both locally and globally. We provide drop-in and referral services for women experiencing violence—whether it be physical or emotional, or the violence of poverty, racism and isolation. We also publish resource guides, such as the newly updated “Single Mothers’ Resource Guide,” which connects women and their families to resources throughout the Lower Mainland. Most recently, Vancouver Status of Women helped to coordinate the Single and Low-Income Mother’s Day Liberation Rally, celebrating the triumphs and struggles of marginalized women, while demanding social justice for families.

Our organization has recently faced extensive funding cuts. Donations are appreciated and can be made through Canada Helps, on our website: www.vsw.ca/donations&memberships.htm



Vancouver Women's Health Collective

Vancouver Women's Health Collective

Donate to the VWHC and help the Vancouver Women's Health Collective continue to advocate for appropriate, quality health care for all women.

We are currently looking for Gloves, Socks and Bras for the upcoming winter, however any women clothing is helpful. Please drop off clothing at 29 West Hasting Street. Thanks for all your support!

Visit our website: <http://www.womenshealthcollective.ca/donate.html>



WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre

For December 6th WAVAW will be out on the North side of the Art Gallery facing Georgia Street from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. WAVAW will be engaging with the public and distributing material about December 6th and stopping violence against women. WAVAW will be joining the Honouring Ceremony for Metis Women at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre at 1607 East Hastings from 2:00-5:00pm. One of our staff members will be performing in the *Metis Women: Strong and Beautiful Project* launch.

Donations can be made via:

Phone (604) 255-6228

Email: fundraising@wavaw.ca

Visit our website: <https://www.canadahelps.org/DonationDetails.aspx?cookieCheck=true>

We Can BC



This year We Can BC is partnering with SFU Woodward's Cultural Unit to present the Ghosts of Violence Ballet by Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada. This unique multimedia production brings the issue of domestic violence to the centre stage:

December 1 & 2 (two nights!)
7:30 pm at Fei & Milton Wong Experimental Theatre
Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
149 West Hasting St., Vancouver, BC.

We Can End All Violence Against Women is an ongoing campaign in British Columbia that focuses on public education and action to end gender-based violence. Through our partners we work with diverse communities and groups bringing awareness and recruiting individuals as *Change Makers*. Our latest action was supporting a provincial youth program that empowers young men and women to become *Change Makers* in their communities.

Where to make a donation:
www.WeCanBC.ca



West Coast LEAF

The West Coast LEAF Women's Legal Education and Action Fund is a non-profit organization who works to make Canada an equal place for all women.

West Coast LEAF is committed to achieving substantive equality for women, which includes the right to be free from violence. We address violence against women issues in many aspects of our work, including the following: we run an educational program in schools (called *No Means No*) which teaches youth about sexual consent and their rights in relationships; we assess how well BC is measuring up to international standards on preventing and addressing violence against women in our annual CEDAW report card; we are in the process of producing a research report on the impact of psychological assessments of parents in custody and access determinations, with a particular focus on family violence; we campaign for greater access to legal aid in family law, a key issue for women leaving violent relationships; and we are closely monitoring the *Missing Women Inquiry*, although we were denied funding to participate directly. Every aspect of our work recognizes that women cannot realize their right to equality without realizing their right to security of the person within and outside relationships.

Please feel free to download two reports found on our website:
<http://westcoastleaf.org/index.php?pageID=137&parentid=29#rights>

Our donation information is found on at:
<http://westcoastleaf.org/index.php?pageID=61&parentid=30>

Or contact West Coast LEAF at info@westcoastleaf.org
Phone: (604) 684-8772

WISH Drop-in Centre Society

Operated by women for the exclusive use of female survival sex workers, the WISH Drop-In Centre Society is a registered non-profit society that furnishes a variety of services within a nurturing and non-judgemental environment. For more information about our organization, brochures are available at the WISH table.



In addition to meeting essential needs by serving nutritious, hot meals, providing showering facilities, dispensing make-up, hygiene items, and clothing, WISH offers on-site nursing care, referrals to detoxification centres, rehabilitation houses, and shelters for upwards of 120 women per night. Our programs, including Literacy and a Learning Centre have been hugely successful in providing opportunities to participants to engage in positive, empowering activities in a safe place.

Donate through CanadaHelps.org:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s53433>

Wish Drop-inCentre Society

515–119 W. Pender Street

Vancouver, BC, Canada

V6B 1S5

Tel: 604-669-WISH (9474)

Fax: 604-669-9479

E-mail: wishdropincentre@telus.net

Drop-In Centre: 604-681-9244

Media contact: 604-669-9474

website: www.wish-vancouver.net



YWCA Programs and Services

Munroe House is a second-stage transition house for women and their children who have left abusive relationships.

The Children Who Witness Abuse program is offered at Munroe House and uses one-to-one counselling, workshops and art/play therapy to help children identify their feelings and express them in a healthy way.

The Violence Outreach Program at YWCA Crabtree Corner, located in the Downtown Eastside, provides support for women who experience violence in their relationships.

The Legal Education Program offers one-to-one legal support, education on a wide range of legal topics and provides specific resources and referrals.

Week Without Violence is a nationwide violence prevention initiative organized by YWCA Canada to unite Canadians against the violence that exists in our communities.

YWCA Program Centre
535 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2E8
Phone 604 895 5800
Fax 604 684 9171
Website: www.ywcavan.org

GSWS Backgrounder: Gender Violence in Canada

Domestic Violence Globally

International studies show that approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence during their childhood. According to a study conducted by World Health Organization (2011)¹,

- ◇ On average, between 30-60% women surveyed experienced some form of intimate partner or sexual violence. This figure ranges from 15% in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia.
- ◇ Many of the women's first sexual experience were forced: Peru 24%, Tanzania 28%, Bangladesh 30%, and South Africa 40%.
- ◇ In South Africa, 2 in 5 youth (ages 13-23) reported being a victim of physical dating violence.



www.sfu.ca/gsws

So called "Honour" killing and human trafficking have also been identified as prominent international issues. According to OXFAM (2011), every year,

- ◇ Thousands of young women are murdered in so-called "honour killings."
- ◇ Eighty percent of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across international borders are women and girls, many of whom will ultimately be forced into the sex trade.

Domestic Violence in Canada

Statistics Canada published the following statistics on intimate partner violence for the year of 2009:

- ◇ 25 to 34 year olds were more likely to report being a victim of spousal violence than those aged 45 and older.
- ◇ Spousal violence against those 45 and older tends to be lower than the rate of adults aged 25-34.
- ◇ Women were more likely than men to seek informal supports (80% vs. 56%; e.g. family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances) and formal services (38% vs. 18%; e.g. crisis hotlines, counselling, victim services programs and shelters).
- ◇ Of child victims of domestic violence, Most were likely to be assaulted by their parents (60%).
- ◇ Although there were no gender differences in physical assaults, girls were 4 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than boys.

Sexual Violence in Canada

Police reported 21,000 sexual assaults in 2009. 98% of these were classified as level 1, which is the least serious form of the three levels of sexual assault. The rate of police-reported sexual assaults has been in a steady decline since 1993, including a 4% decrease in 2009.

¹ The study focused on domestic violence against women (aged 15-49 years) in 10 countries, the majority of which were developing nations.

It is very important to note, however, that the number of sexual assaults reported to the police is likely an undercount of the actual number of these offences. According to the self-reported data from the General Social Survey (GSS), less than one in ten sexual assaults were reported to the police in 2008. Many reasons were given for not reporting an incident to the police, including the belief that the occurrence was not important enough or that it was dealt with in some other way (Brennan and Taylor-Butts, 2008).

Police also reported about 2,600 sex offences against children, including the offences of sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation and luring a child via a computer.

- ◇ Just under 1,600 incidents of child pornography were reported by police in 2009.
- ◇ This is a 13% increase from 2008.
- ◇ These figures likely under-estimate the actual number of sex offences involving children.

Measuring sexual assault continues to be a challenge, since a majority of these crimes continue to be unreported (91% in 2008).

- ◇ According to the 2004 GSS on Victimization, approximately 512,200 Canadians ages 15 and older were the victims of a sexual assault in the 12 months preceding the survey (StatsCan 2008).
- ◇ 39% of Canadian adult women reported having had at least one experience of sexual assault since the age of 16 (StatsCan 2006).

Violence against Aboriginal women in Canada

In 2009, Statistics Canada found that,

- ◇ In the last 12 months, 67,000 Aboriginal women reported being the victim of violence.
- ◇ Aboriginal women are 3 times more likely to be victimized than other Canadian women.

Violence related to sexual orientation in Canada

In 2009, police services covering 87% of the population of Canada reported 1,473 hate crimes. The number of hate crimes in Canada increased by 437 incidents or 42% from 2008 (Dauvergne & Brennan 2009).

In British Columbia, police reported 219 incidents of hate crimes in 2009, which is a 14.7% increase from the previous year. (Dauvergne & Brennan 2009).

According to Statistics Canada (2009), of hate crimes motivated by the sexual orientation of the victim,

- ◇ 56% of these attacks led to physical violence resulting in injury. A significantly higher outcome than both race/ethnicity (38%) and religion (26%) based crimes.
- ◇ This type of violence is being increasingly more common (doubling in 2008, and increasing 18% in 2009).

As Egale Canada (2011) has found, orientation violence is predominately a youth phenomenon:

- ◇ Over 50% of victims and perpetrators are aged 12 to 22.
- ◇ Perpetrators are typically between the ages 17 and 18.
- ◇ Schools are one of the top sites of these offences.

Homicide in Canada

According to Statistics Canada's *Homicide Survey* (1991–2009), while men are twice more likely to be the victim of homicide, especially by family members (63%) strangers (83%) and acquaintances (91%), women are most likely to be killed by a current spouse (71%), former spouse (88%) and other intimate partners (78%) (Hotton Mahony 2009).

Trends in homicide are changing. We have seen consistent declines in the overall homicide rate since 1979. However, on average, 178 females were killed every year between 1994 and 2008. In 2008, there were 146 female victims of homicide in Canada. Of these, 45 were victims of spousal homicide and young women are particularly vulnerable. Between 1997 and 2006, young women (aged 15 to 24) were killed at a rate nearly three times higher than for all female victims of spousal homicide. During the same period, the rate of sexual assault for girls (under age 18) by family members was four times higher than for boys (2009) (SWC 2010).

The status of women's shelters in Canada

We are seeing a steady rise in the number of shelters and transition homes. In 2010, there were 593 women's shelters (up 4% from 2008) operating in Canada with almost 11,500 available beds (up 7%)². While the number of shelters went up, the need also increased. These services were also accessed more than 64,500 times (up 5%). 7 in 10 women sought services due to abuse, and 3 in 10 had previously accessed the shelter. The majority of shelters (64%) offered specific services for Aboriginal clients.

The province of British Columbia has reported a total number of 101 Women-only facilities. The number of beds totaling in the province is 1,370 with an occupancy rate of 63% (Burczycka & Cotter 2010).

The Transition Home Survey (THS) has collected a very limited amount of information about the admission of adult males to shelters. Among the 593 shelters (Nation-wide) that offered services to abused women in 2009/2010, 47 or 8% also admitted adult men, usually to emergency shelters or safe home networks. Among the males admitted, 3% were admitted due to spousal violence and another 4% sought shelters because of another type of abuse. Information provided by shelters indicates that some of these situations involved elderly or disabled men who had experienced abuse by a caretaker or family member (Burczycka & Cotter 2010).

LOCAL Services Available for Victims of Violence

- ◇ The Crisis Center: 604-872-3311
- ◇ BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors: 604-437-1940
- ◇ Kid's Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- ◇ Mental Health Emergency Services: 604-874-7307
- ◇ Ministry of Children and Family Development After Hours: 604-660-4927

² Most of the increases were noted in the number of second-stage housing facilities (up 11% or 11 shelters) and transition homes (up 8% or 22 facilities). Most of the increase has happened in the province of Nova Scotia. The availability of emergency shelters has remained stable.

- ◇ Multicultural Family Support Services Society: 604-436-1025
- ◇ Provincial Gay and Lesbian Helpline: 1-800-566-1170
- ◇ Re:ACT Adult Abuse and Neglect Response Resource: 604-984-5958
- ◇ Adult Protection Domestic Violence Social Worker VGH: 604-875-5458

Anti-violence support for Vancouver and surrounding areas

DTES Women's Center (302 Columbia St., Vancouver BC. 604-681-8480)

- ◇ "We provide practical support to over 300 women, children and seniors, every day. As well as providing a refuge and shelter from conditions of poverty and violence" (2011).

Surrey Women's Center (Crisis Line: 604-583-1295)

- ◇ "For every person who receives Counseling at the Centre, three more are on a waiting list to get in" (2011).

North Shore Women's Center (131 East 2nd Street, North Vancouver BC. 604-984-6009)

- ◇ "To improve the social, economic and political status of women, and to encourage and support self-empowerment by acting as a resource and a catalyst for change, from a Feminist perspective" (2011).

WAVAW Rape Crisis Center (Crisis Line: 604-225-6344; 1-877-392-7583)

- ◇ "The government cuts over the years have made it harder and harder for Women's Centers to sustain their programs and services. In March 2004, 100% of the 1.7 million dollars that was used to fund the 37 BC Women's Centers was cut. Just this year, multiple women's centers in BC were forced to close due to lack of funding. Unfortunately the demand for our services is still very high, last year alone we provided over 6000 direct services" (2011).

SFU Women's Center (778-782-3670)

- ◇ "To provide a safe space for all self-identified women to celebrate our different experiences. To demand and work for the full participation of all women in society. To struggle against all forms of oppression and demand justice. To ensure self-identified women have access to women-centered, women-positive resources" (2011).

South Fraser Women's Services Society (604 536 9611)

- ◇ "South Fraser Women's Services Society partners with the community to provide resources, programs and support to improve the lives of women and their families."

Women's Resource Society of Fraser Valley (Abbotsford: 604-855-3363; Mission: 604-820-8455)

- ◇ "We are a feminist organization working with women for the advancement of women. Our work is a sustained and organized effort to address the historic inequality between women and men. We recognize the systemic nature of oppression and power imbalances in all of their forms including class, white-privilege, language, culture, sexual orientation, age, ability, geography, position, and others" (2011).

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Compiled by Olena Guseva and Jennifer Marchbank

Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair Background



In 1984, with a grant from Secretary of State and matching funds from private donations, an endowed chairship in Women's Studies was established. Private donors included Mrs. Mary Twigg White and Mrs. Elizabeth Russ, daughters of Ruth Wynn Woodward; the Vancouver Foundation; and many other individuals and groups. The Canadian government, through the Office of the Secretary of State, established five regional chairs across the country in women's studies with an endowment fund at Mt. St Vincent University, Laval University, Ottawa-Carleton Universities (joint chair), University of Manitoba-Winnipeg (joint chair) and Simon Fraser University.

The chairship was named for Ruth Wynn Woodward, one of British Columbia's outstanding pioneer women. Through a lifetime of public service and personal accomplishment, she demonstrated the importance of the work of women to Canadian society. As well as raising three children, she was director and vice-president of Woodward's Stores Ltd., owner/operator of Woodwynn Farm, a founding director of the Junior League of Vancouver, and president of the Women's Auxiliary of Vancouver General Hospital.

Ruth Wynn Woodward was BC's Chatelaine from 1941–1946, her husband William Culham Woodward was BC's Lieutenant Governor.

Some Recent Ruth Wynn Woodward Chairs

- ◇ Dr. Dana Mohammed Olwan, *Demystifying Gender Violence in Muslim Communities*, 2011–2012
- ◇ Dr. Thea Cacchioni, *The Medicalization of Sex*, 2010–2011
- ◇ Dana Claxton, *Unpacking the Indigenous Female Body*, 2009–2010
- ◇ Dr. Afua Cooper, *Knowledge Production and the Black Experience*, 2008–2009
- ◇ Dr. Susan Stryker, *Transsomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Transgender Embodiment*, 2007–2008
- ◇ Kate Braid, *Women in Trades*, 2006–2007

Please visit sfu.ca/gsws for more information about the Ruth Wynn Woodward program at SFU-GSWS. Donations are most welcome by the Ruth Wynn Woodward program or GSWS Graduate students. Please visit <http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/Donate/index.html>