

SFU



DEPARTMENT OF
**GENDER, SEXUALITY,
AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

RED SHOES, GREEN BELTS, WHITE RIBBONS

A Breakfast to Celebrate Activism Against Gender Violence in Vancouver

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Place: Segal School of Business, 500 Granville St., Vancouver

Time: 7:00 am to 9:00 am (Program starts 7:30 am)

Tickets: \$100 (Tax receipt for \$50 issued)

Violence against women, girls and gender variant people is the most pervasive form of human rights violation in our society. Yet, it is barely on the radar when it comes to public awareness, political attention and civic philanthropy. What can we do to make it as much of a motherhood issue and inspiration for activism as breast cancer, stroke or heart disease?

The incident of victimization from gender-related violence is far higher than from society's most common diseases. Yet challenging gender violence is a constant struggle in all communities. During the Stanley Cup riot, Vancouver was associated recently with a culture of masculinity that values toughness and loutish behavior directed at property and people.

We allow intolerable levels of unease for gender variant people and women moving through the Granville Entertainment District and other public spaces throughout the Metro Area. The city has the highest incidence of homophobic crimes in all Canadian cities according to Statistics Canada*, and wears an international badge of *dis-honour* over the disappearance of women in the downtown Eastside. Myriad grassroots community groups are working to challenge attitudes that condone gender violence. They increasingly garner awareness and need broad-based public support in communities, schools and other sites in Metro Vancouver.

Join SFU's Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies as we mark the international campaign of **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**, and especially the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada* (December 6) and December 10th, International Human Rights Day. Pay tribute to Jack Layton's legacy in the White Ribbon Campaign, affirming gender partnership in action against violence and hip new campaigns like **Walk a Mile in her Shoes** (Calgary) and **Be More than a Bystander** (led by EVA BC, with the BC Lions, Vancouver).

Jen Sookfong Lee, author of *A Better Mother* and CBC book correspondent, will be the keynote speaker at this breakfast event. Hear from Dana M. Olwan, Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair, about demystifying gender violence in Muslim communities. Other presenters will be Dr. Jen Marchbank, SFU Surrey, on Greenbelts and Preventing Violence against Gender Variant Children and students on research about celebrity culture's condoning of gender violence.

Learn about the success stories in education, community mobilization, capacity building and media and public awareness campaigns as various as Get Pumped!, *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* (White Ribbon.ca and Calgary YWCA), *Shelter from the Storm* (Canadian Women's Foundation), *WeCan*, (the partnership to end all violence against women), *Out in Schools*, and the *Don't be that Guy* campaign directed at highschools with the The Vancouver Police Department, in partnership with BarWatch, [Battered Women's Support Services](#) (BWSS), [Women Against Violence Against Women](#) (WAVAW), and the [BC Women's Hospital Sexual Assault Service](#).

This event is brought to you courtesy of the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowment on Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at SFU, and the generosity of volunteers and donors. All proceeds of this event go to the graduate student scholarship in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies.

For more information call: Roberta Neilson, 778-782-3593 or consult www.sfu.ca/gsws/ for a backgrounder on the issue.

* Over all in 2008, Metro Vancouver police forces reported 34 hate-crime cases motivated by sexual orientation, the highest per-capita frequency of such attacks in the country. They contributed to a disturbing trend across Canada that saw hate crimes against gays and lesbians more than double, from 71 in 2007 to 159 a year later. The numbers, reported last month by Statistics Canada, have prompted some to label Vancouver "the gay-bashing capital of Canada." See <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/pride-and-prejudice/article1658076/>