

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR RACIALIZED WOMEN AT RISK OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



A TOOLKIT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ADVOCATES

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ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

This Toolkit was developed as part of our project titled *Covid-19 Pandemic Guidelines for Mental Health Support of Racialized Women at Risk of Gender-Based Violence*. The toolkit provides information to service providers, advocacy groups and activists serving gender-based violence survivors. We hope information in the Toolkit is of help in support of the efforts of community members and service providers to better address the needs of racialized women.

Disclaimer

This toolkit was developed as a public service resource for service providers and community advocates who support gender-based violence survivors. It is based on resources found through our review of literature, website searches, and input from community partners. The resource materials provided in this toolkit are for general information purposes only. The information in this toolkit is not meant to be used as health or mental health advice.

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CONTENT

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What is the problem? | 4 |
| What is gender-based violence (GBV)?..... | 5 |
| Why do women of all ages face violence?..... | 6 |
| Who is most vulnerable to gender-based violence? | 8 |
| Gender-based violence during the COVID-10 pandemic..... | 9 |
| Recommendations: | |
| Inclusion and individualized support | 10 |
| Prioritize protection and safety..... | 11 |
| Trauma and violence informed approach..... | 12 |
| Media safeguards and advocacy..... | 13 |
| Key Resources to support gender-based violence survivors: | |
| Women..... | 14 |
| Indigenous women and girls..... | 19 |
| Immigrant, refugees and women without status..... | 21 |
| Youth..... | 23 |
| LGBTQ youth..... | 27 |
| Youth with disabilities..... | 29 |
| Selected list of references..... | 30 |

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Statistics around the globe show a drastic increase in incidences of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Violence against women is rooted in gender inequities that harm women from girlhood to old age. Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence against people based on their gender identity, gender expression, or perceived gender.¹ The United Nations has referred to this social issue as the “shadow pandemic.”² Violence against women has profound effects on the survivors. It has life-long impacts which, at times, span generations.³ Related mental health and psychological distress include anxiety disorder, depression, and substance use disorders.^{4,5} Violence against women also contributes to high levels of morbidity and mortality.⁶ Women who have experienced violence have higher rates of past suicide attempts,⁶ and experience increased isolation and social exclusion.⁵

In this toolkit we present findings from the project titled *COVID-19 pandemic guidelines for mental health support of racialized women at risk of gender-based violence*. The goal of this toolkit is to advance trauma-informed mental health care for racialized women at risk of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic’s response and recovery phases. Growing evidence indicates that racialized women at risk of GBV are a priority group to focus on for immediate mental health support and care during the pandemic.^{7,8,9}

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WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)?

GBV IS VIOLENCE THAT IS PERPETRATED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, OR PERCEIVED GENDER¹⁰

Women across the lifespan and around the world are experiencing violence. There is urgency in addressing gender-based violence because:

In the world

1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives¹¹

Almost **6 out of every 10 women** who have been intentionally killed worldwide were murdered by an intimate partner or other family¹¹

In Canada

Every six days, approximately, **a woman is killed** by her intimate partner¹²

8 in 10 victims of intimate partner violence are women¹³

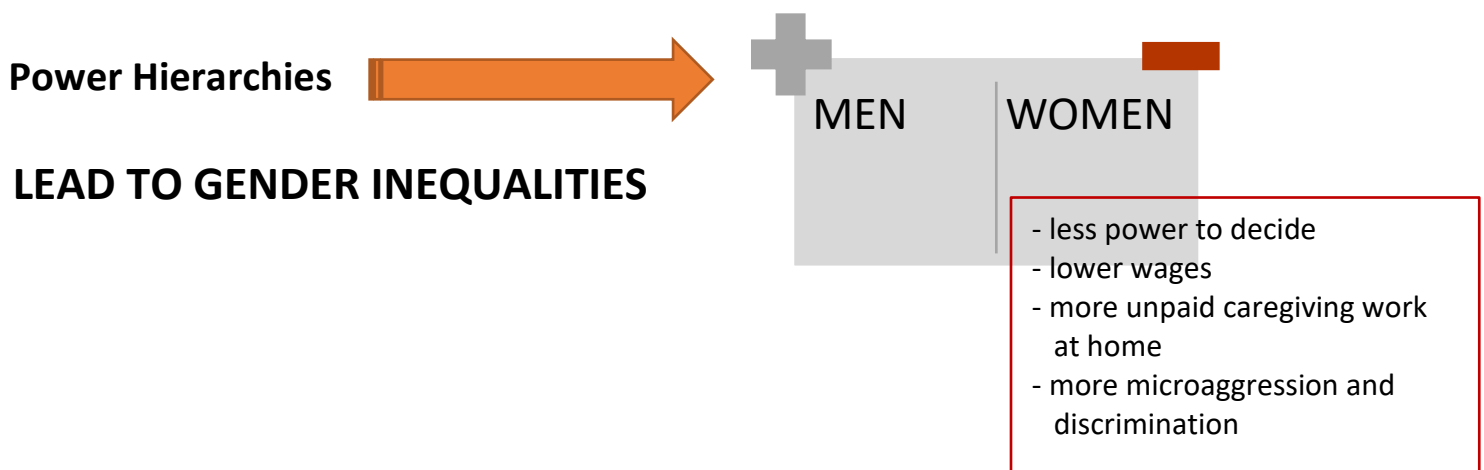
Women with disabilities, Indigenous women, girls and young women, lesbian and bisexual women, and gay and bisexual men **are more at risk** of experiencing violence¹⁴

Indigenous women are killed at **6 times** the rate of non-Indigenous women¹²

WHY DO WOMEN OF ALL AGES FACE VIOLENCE?

Gender Inequalities

In most societies **inequalities** between women and men exist in the type of responsibilities assigned to them, the activities undertaken, and in access to and control over allocation of resources (e.g. financial, land), as well as in relation to decision-making opportunities. Power imbalances between men and women lead to inequalities that negatively impact on the health, mental health and wellbeing of women.



Patterns to violence against women are associated with gender inequalities as stated in the following quote:

“patterns of violence are shaped by **gender roles, behaviours, and norms** that contribute to patterns wherein men are significantly more likely to be physically violent toward women than the reverse”¹⁵

Factors contributing to violence against women include:¹⁶

- Social acceptance of violence as a way to resolve conflicts
- The production and reproduction of the concept of manhood linked to violence and aggression (e.g. toxic masculinity)
- Gender roles that promote male dominance

There are systemic roots of violence that PRODUCE and REPRODUCE norms and stereotypes, and practices that are harmful for WOMEN and put them at a DISADVANTAGE

Colonialism- political control and economic and cultural domination over peoples



Since colonial times, Indigenous women and gender diverse Indigenous people “have been devalued not only because they are Indigenous people, but also because they are women or gender diverse”¹⁷

Harmful stereotypical norms and behaviours based on patriarchal ideas have a direct link with violence against women, some examples include notions of masculinity:



Patriarchy- power system that is organized around male authority and male privilege¹⁵

- ✓ Men as “invulnerable”
- ✓ Men being seen masculine, aggressive and violent
- ✓ Men as only strong

Sexism- attitudes, statements, acts... that lead to the discrimination, marginalization, or oppression of individuals or groups based on their sex¹⁸



Misogyny, for example, is a form of sexism against women, it implies the notion that women are inferior to men

“Black, Indigenous and racialized women and LGBTQIA people are often seen as more ‘deserving’ of violence and less deserving of support”²⁰



Racism- the hostile or negative feelings of one group toward another and the actions resulting from such attitudes.¹⁹ It is expressed through stereotypes, unfair treatment, and discrimination.

WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

There are certain populations who experience **HIGHER LEVELS OF VIOLENCE** including:

- + Women
- + Young women and teenage girls
- + Indigenous women and girls
- + LGBTQ2 (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Two-Spirit, and non-binary peoples)
- + Women living in Northern, rural, and remote communities
- + Women living with disabilities (including physical, developmental/intellectual)
- + Refugees and Immigrants

GBV is universal and is not limited to specific cultures or ethnic groups. There are certain risk factors or societal and structural conditions of oppression that create more vulnerabilities for some groups.

Intersectionality is an approach to understanding GBV; it allows us to see how a woman's experience is influenced by social identities that are impacted by power/lessness, marginalization, and structural inequities:

- + Race- Black, non- White...
- + Ethnicity- Latino, Asian...
- + Class – income...
- + Age – youth, elder
- + Sexual orientation – LGBTQ+...
- + (dis)ability – physical...
- + Faith- Muslim, Catholic, Protestant...
- + Geographic location- rural, urban...
- + Migration status – permanent residents, without legal status, refugee...

How women cope with violence, the **resources they have**, the **barriers** they face to access the services they need, the **resiliency** they have to cope with adversity, all of this and more is based on this set of factors

These are overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination, oppression, or disadvantage for certain groups within our society (e.g., Indigenous women, Black women, racialized women)

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: “THE SHADOW PANDEMIC”

There has been a drastic increase in violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers and advocates attribute this to multiple structural and systemic factors such as:²¹

1. **Household stress** related to poverty, precarious work, and [under]unemployment, financial uncertainty and constraints, and increased burdens, are directly connected to higher levels of violence against women and children, as well as high rates of exploitative and transactional sex among girls.
2. **Social isolation** has been identified as a key driver of violence during social distancing and lockdown as a public health measure to mitigate the spread of the virus. However, staying at home in close proximity with an abuser can risk the safety of women and girls. Furthermore, other measures related to movement restrictions, or the lack of supports and services for victims of violence, further impact on women and girls who want to escape violence. Women and girls may have limited access to networks of family and friends (due to social distancing measures) who might otherwise provide them with support and protection from violence.
3. **Reduced or closure of services** for women victims of violence are important risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic. As in the case of previous emergencies around the world, there have been diversion and reduction of funding for gender-based violence services. Reduced availability and access to services for survivors – legal, social, mental health supports – have a negative impact on the wellbeing of women facing violence. The following figure illustrate risk factors associated to violence against women during the pandemic:



Source: N Khanlou, A Ssawe, S Zahraei, JA Connolly, S Pashang, Y Bohr, and LM Vazquez (2020). Gender-Based Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Risk Factors and Systemic Challenges. CIHR Knowledge Synthesis Project. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/KHANLOU-information-sheet-2020-07-22.pdf>

RECOMMENDATIONS: Inclusion and Individualized Support



Include the voices of women and girls in programs that aim to address their needs

It is recommended that programs that serve women promote the meaningful participation of women and girls in program design, implementation, and monitoring to address the increase in violence during COVID-19.²² It is recommended:

- ✓ That the *inclusion* of the diversity of voices and lived experiences from the communities and groups that your organization serves be promoted, in the process of designing interventions to address women and girls' needs
- ✓ That organizations and agencies serving marginalized and racialized communities *trust and value* the expertise of the members of these communities, so that they might contribute and develop ownership over strategies to address violence

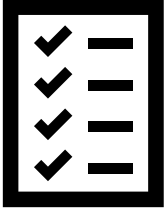
One-size-DOES NOT-fit-all



It is recommended that programs that serve women:

- ✓ Recognize that Indigenous women, Black women, racialized women and members of diverse ethnic communities, refugees and immigrants with precarious status, 2SLGBTQ+, women with disabilities, and teenagers, face a range of specific risks and have *unique needs*. Therefore, GBV COVID-19 related programming needs to consider the intersections of violence with other dimensions related to race, ethnicity, sexual identities, socioeconomic status, migration status, among others, to better address the survivors' needs
- ✓ Adopt long term strategies to address gender-based violence that take into consideration *individuals' skills and key roles* that they and their communities may have to contribute to the crisis response

RECOMMENDATION: Prioritize Protection and Safety



Apply guiding principles for data collection²³

It is recommended that:

- ✓ The *protection and support of women and girls who experience violence should be the priority* in crisis situations. DO NOT proceed with data collection if women and girls' safety are at risk of violence and distress
- ✓ Inclusive data collection strategies be promoted to include adolescent girls, older women, women and girls with disabilities, refugee women, female migrant workers, and racial and ethnic minorities

United Nations' Guiding Principles for Data Collection²³

"Doing no harm should be the highest priority"²³

Protect and Support Women and Girls

- Data gathering is important, however the priority during emergencies like COVID-19, should be focused on channeling resources and supports for survivors

Apply existing data to inform covid-19 responses

- Use secondary sources to collect data, during emergencies the use of this type of data should be maximized and used effectively to inform interventions

Apply ethical and safety principles

- Ethics refers to "a system or code of moral values that provides rules and standards of conduct" to data collection²⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS: Trauma & Violence Informed Approach

Trauma and violence informed approach to data gathering

In the process of gathering data researchers and service providers should promote the **mental health of racialized women by:**

- ✓ RECOGNIZING **the profound impact** that trauma and violence have on women's lives²⁵
- ✓ UNDERSTANDING the multiple ways in which trauma may **affect women's lives, their capacities, their abilities, and the coping strategies**²⁶
- ✓ APPLYING the set of **principles that guide a trauma and violence informed approach** including respect, dignity, inclusiveness, empowerment and hope²⁶

Online and Mobile Phone Data Collection and Assessing RISKS²³

During the COVID-19 pandemic, with social distancing restrictions, mobile phone or web platforms have become important tools to facilitate data gathering on GBV. However, preventive measures should be in place when collecting GBV related data. Failure to do so may result in:

- **Increased violence against women and girls**
- **Violation of women's and girls' rights related to privacy, security, and confidentiality**²³



RECOMMENDATIONS: Media Safeguards and Advocacy

Media Safeguards



Recommendations for service providers when they provide online GBV services include safety mechanisms to protect survivors. For example, survivors should be able to access services and their electronic communications so they do not leave a trace that can be accessed by their abusers.²³ Other measures include:

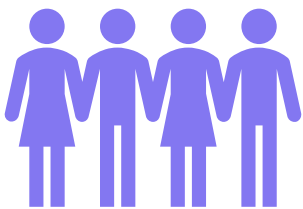
- ✓ Implementing and communicating technology safeguards to protect survivor's security (e.g. browser history clearance)
- ✓ Providing tips and information on safe ways to use technology
- ✓ Providing support to create a personalized technology safety plan for survivors
- ✓ Providing guidance to deal with technology abuse

Strengthen Awareness, Sensitization and Advocacy



- ✓ Awareness-raising campaigns are suggested to prevent and address violence against women, girls and children. These campaigns should focus on questioning negative and pervasive gender stereotypes.²²

Community Engagement



Social networks, including neighbours, families, coworkers, and friends are identified as key actors to address GBV. Efforts should include engagement with:

- ✓ Community “gatekeepers”²⁷ (e.g. postal service workers, pharmacists, neighbours) who may play an active role looking out for women and girls who may be at risk of experiencing violence with the permission from potential victims
- ✓ Community members may also be a medium to offer support and information on available resources
- ✓ Important allies in community engagement may be religious, faith-based and indigenous spiritual leaders, local women and youth leaders

KEY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT GBV SURVIVORS

WOMEN

| AWARNESS AND EDUCATION | | | | |
|--|---------------|---|---|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| World Health Organization | Booklet | Caring for women subjected to violence: A WHO curriculum for training health-care providers | Provides health-care providers a knowledge and information for responding to domestic/ intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women. Seeks to build skills on how to provide women-centred clinical care, including identifying women experiencing violence, and providing first-line support. | https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/caring-for-women-subject-to-violence/en/ |
| World Health Organization | Brief | Violence against women. Intimate partner and sexual violence against women | Presents key facts about violence against women, analysis on the scope of the problem and impacts. | https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329889/WHO-RHR-19.16-eng.pdf?ua=1 |
| Women and Gender Equality Canada | Report | 2018-2019 It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence | Reports about initiatives and investments, to prevent and address GBV. | https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/violence/strategy-strategie/report-rapport2019-en.pdf |
| Western University - Center for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children-Learning Network | Infographic | Sexual Violence & COVID-19 | Highlights the precipitating factors that lead to the increase in sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being mindful of these factors will help in deterring such occurrences and identifying those who may be experiencing sexual violence. | http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/covidsexualviolence/Sexual-Violence-COVID-19-PDF1.pdf |
| Western University - Center for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children-Learning Network | Infographic | Intimate Partner Violence in a Pandemic: COVID-19-Related Controlling Behaviours | Outlines methods perpetrators may implement during the COVID-19 pandemic to manipulate and further abuse their partners. | http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/covid19controllingbehaviours/LN-COVID-19-Related-Controlling-Behaviours-PDF-1.pdf |

| Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter | Infographic | Supporting Victims of Family Violence and Abuse during COVID-19 | Outlines how create a supportive environment, staying connected and responding to someone who discloses violence and abuse. | https://www.calgarywomensshelter.com/images/CWES_COVIDsupport_Final_April_2020.pdf |
|---|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Government of Alberta | Website | Workplace harassment and violence | Provides education and key resources to understand and address harassment and violence as workplace hazards. | https://www.alberta.ca/workplace-harassment-violence.aspx#toc-4 |
| Center for Disease Control and Prevention | Video | What is Intimate Partner Violence? | Provides information and strategies to address intimate partner violence. | https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/videos/IPV-definition-low.mp4 |
| Canadian Women's Foundation | Fact sheet | Fact Sheet About Sexual Assault and Harassment | Presents data about sexual assault and harassment. | https://canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Facts-About-Sexual-Assault-and-Harassment.pdf |
| Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, British Columbia. | Framework | Domestic Violence Response A Community Framework for Maximizing Women's Safety | Presents eight principles and key questions to help communities develop or enhance their coordinated response to domestic violence | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/vs-info-for-professionals/info-resources/domestic-violence-response.pdf |
| EARLY WARNINGS ASSESSEMENT TOOLS | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Family Service Toronto | Quiz/ infographic | Early Warning Signs | Provides a quiz to help in determining if one is in an abusive relationship. It also includes further information on the different types of abuse, setting up a safety plan and what to do. | https://familyservicetoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EarlyWarningSignsOfAbuse.pdf |
| Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses | Worksheet | Tree Tracker Worksheet | A metaphorical tree is used in this worksheet to help clients and service providers assess the root causes and impact related to the trauma they have gone through. Completing this worksheet will aid the understanding of nourishing supports, activities, relationships and signs of wellness. | https://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/pdfs/FINAL%20AWV%20Tree%20Tracker%20Worksheet%20-%20EN.pdf |
| Ending Violence Association of BC | Pamphlet | Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors | Identifies what constitutes as sexual assault. It outlines what a victim can do and who can help them navigate the next steps after a sexual assault. | https://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/MPSSG-Summary-of-Domestic-Violence-Risk-Factors.pdf |
| YWCA Canada | Quiz/infographic | Is your relationship healthy? | Helps individuals determine whether their relationship is healthy or not. It provides information on what a healthy relationship looks like. Tips are provided on safely navigating out of an unhealthy relationship. | https://ywcacanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Healthy-Relationship_EN_Web.pdf |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|---|---|
| Canadian Women's Foundation | Tip Sheet | Tips for Teens Learning to Recognize an Unhealthy Online Relationships | Identifies signs of unhealth online relationship, and it is complementary with the parent's tip sheet. The tip sheet provides signs to look out for in addition on steps to take if a teen finds themselves in an unfortunate circumstance. | https://www.mwag.ca/CWF-Avon-TeenTipSheet2015-EN-web-Oct6_0.pdf |
| Government of British Columbia | Infographic | Is someone you know being abused? | Helps individuals that have a loved on that is possibly being abused. It outlines signs that the perpetrator and victim may depict that are warning signs of abuse. There are additional steps provided on what to do when abuse has been determined. The infographic also gives insight as to why the victim may stay in abusive relationship which helps readers conceptualize the dynamic. | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/bc-criminal-justice-system/if-victim/publications/help-hope-healing-someone-being-abused.pdf |
| Western University – Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children | Infographic | 3 Considerations for Supporting Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Outlines perspectives on how to support those experiencing intimate partner violence during COVID-19. One must consider that safety and how abuse manifest will appear different amongst individuals. Additional strategies need to be considered as COVID-19 and health measures in place may implicate providing support. | http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/covid19safety/LN-Safety-COVID-19-PDF-1.pdf |
| Government of Ontario | Website | Human trafficking | Provides information about human trafficking, how to learn and recognized signs that someone may be being trafficked, resources for survivors and information about prevention and education programs. | https://www.ontario.ca/page/human-trafficking |
| Government of Ontario | Website | Sexual violence | Provides information about sexual violence, how to learn and recognized signs that someone may be experiencing sexual violence, resources for survivors and information about prevention and education programs. | https://www.ontario.ca/page/sexual-violence |
| Government of Ontario | Website | Domestic violence | Provides information about domestic violence, how to learn and recognized signs that someone may be experiencing domestic violence, resources for survivors and information about prevention and education programs. | https://www.ontario.ca/page/domestic-violence |

SAFETY PLAN STRATEGIES

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| Luke's Place | Website | Safety planning strategies | Ideas/strategies for survivors to do a safety plan | https://familycourtandbeyond.ca/keep-safe/strategies/ |
| Family Service Toronto | Quiz | Early Warning Signs | A quiz to help in determining if a person is in an abusive relationship. It also includes further information on the different types of abuse, setting up a safety plan and what to do. | https://familyservicetoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/EarlyWarningSignsofAbuse.pdf |
| Canadian Women's Foundation | Tip sheet | How to help someone living with violence | Outlines steps for those with close ones experiencing violence at home and how to navigate providing support for the victim. It provides additional resources that can help finding a safe place for victims. | https://canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-Avon-TipSheet-EN-web-Oct27.pdf |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|--|---|
| Canadian Domestic homicide prevention initiative | Brief | Domestic Violence Risk Assessment: Informing Safety Planning & Risk Management. Domestic Homicide Brief (2). | Identifies domestic violence risk assessments and how they inform risk management with the offenders and safety planning with victims. Readers are informed on the goal of conducting risk assessments, tools, best practices and conducting risk assessments with populations that have increased vulnerability to domestic homicide. It includes a list of commonly used tools in domestic violence risk assessment. | https://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Risk-Assessment-Brief.pdf |
| Canadian Women's Foundation | Video | Signal For Help | This video exemplifies how to use the "signal for help" when victims/survivors are communication with loved ones. This notifies that they are in an abusive situation at home and they require support and help. | https://youtu.be/AFLZEQFlm7k More context: https://canadianwomen.org/signal-for-help/?gclid=CiwKCAjwp-X0BRAFEiwAheRui-N7zWjTRGo8pr4kKYrqK3J4StlOy6zQ89e0q_uo0U2gg-iH2Q6fQxoC_F8QAvD_BwE |
| Government of Canada | Website | How to plan for your safety if you are in an abusive relationship | Outlines steps to take when in an abusive relationship. | https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/stop-family-violence/plan-your-safety.html |
| Alberta Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General | Guide | Strategies for safety. Considerations for individuals experiencing family violence | Provides information and templates for safety planning checklist, considerations for legal matters, for people with disabilities, for newcomers, among others. | https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/79189049-0cfe-484d-9db9-b23a654a46bf/resource/5d86a959-ef81-4b97-9e3a-f9a2f8349a68/download/strategies-for-safety.pdf |
| Alberta Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General | Quick Guide | Quick reference to be given to clients | Provides information, tips and strategies about online safety, safety planning, protection orders, and other key resources. | https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/79189049-0cfe-484d-9db9-b23a654a46bf/resource/d7abd945-b3ae-4834-8234-2e86a058cf8e/download/strategies-for-safety-quick-guide.pdf |
| Ending Violence Association of BC | Tip Sheet | Responding to Sexual assault disclosure: Practice tips for Nurses | This tip sheet outlines the experience of sexual assault for nurses and how to proceed with a sexual assault disclosure. There is synopsis on the pattern of sexual assault, the steps that entail if the individual decides to report it and tips on how to respond to the individuals as the speak about this traumatic experience. | https://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/EVA_PracticeTips_Nurses_vF.pdf |

| INTERNET SECURITY | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic | Pamphlet | Internet security | Instructions on how to protect the internet security of survivors e.g. how to clear browser history | https://schliferclinic.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Internet-Security.pdf |
| Luke's Place | Toolkit | Tech safety planning principles for service providers supporting survivors | Information for survivors on how to deal with tech abuse – for example, the use of technology by an abusive partner or ex-partner to harass and intimidate a woman | https://lukesplace.ca/tech-safety-planning-principles-for-service-providers-supporting-survivors/ |
| COPING STRATEGIES | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Bethesda House | Checklist | The Control Checklist | A check list for women to identify the different ways a person use their power to intimidate/control | http://bethesdahouse.ca/about-abuse/the-control-checklist/ |
| World Health Organization | Tips | Tips for coping with stress at home and actions to take if you or your family members are experiencing violence: | Tips for coping with stress at home and actions to take if women or their family members are experiencing violence: | https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/emergencies/COVID-19-VAW-full-text.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1qx0iRa2hVudIWFS7gX-OeSiPrn4FmnlxL6Gw6J54tfNkrQsyOfnNrc8 |
| World Health Organization | Website | Q&A: Violence against women during COVID-19 | Provide recommendations to victims about what to do in they face violence, to health care providers on what to do to help victims, and to policy makers on how to address violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. | https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/violence-against-women-during-covid-19 |

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

| AWARNESS AND EDUCATION | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Ending Violence Association of BC | Tip sheet | Responding to a sexual assault disclosure: Practice tips for indigenous services | An outline of sexual assault amongst Indigenous populations, the structural factors that have contributed to it and the rates/patterns. Includes a synopsis of the difficulty of disclosure. In addition, tips on the steps to take when you receive disclosure and reporting options. This is specific to the Indigenous populations as there an incorporation of Elder, medicine person or someone she trusts with her for support when working with the victim. | https://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/EVA_PracticeTips_IndigenousServices_vF.pdf |
| Native Women's Association of Canada. | Toolkit | You are not alone: A toolkit for Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people escaping domestic violence. | Provides information about domestic violence, safety tips, a sample of a community safety plan, and self care. | https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-Yana-Handbook-English-Final.pdf |
| National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health | Fact Sheet | Family violence as a social determinant of first nations, Inuit and Métis health | Presents analysis about the health and social impacts of family violence in Indigenous communities, the barriers to address violence, and strategies to address it. Provides a list of key health promotion and violence prevention resources. | https://www.nccih.ca/docs/determinants/FS-Family-Violence-SDOH-FNMI-2019-EN.pdf |
| Paqtnkek Health Centre and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association | Toolkit | Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Toolkit on Sexual Violence. A workbook to address sexual violence to Mi'kmaq communities and community members | Provides community based and community-led solutions to address sexual violence (including supporting materials), and a list of supports and services. | http://awrcsasa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL-Mikmaw-Community-Engagement-Toolkit-Fillable.pdf |
| YWCA Agvvik Nunavut | Manual | Nunavut legal information manual for violence support services | Equips community support workers who work with women in situations of family violence with information about the legal instruments that their clients can utilize when dealing with family violence | https://ywcacanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Nunavut-Legal-Information-Manual-2014.pdf |
| The Steering Committee | Document | Working with First Nations, Inuit and | Practices of working with First Nation, Inuit and Metis families who have experienced family violence. | https://bit.ly/2K0BEah |

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| | | Metis Families who have Experienced Family Violence: A Practice Guide for Child Welfare Professionals | | |
| Government of Canada, Department of Justice | Document | Victimization of Indigenous Women and Girls | Prevalence rates of victimization against Indigenous women and girls | https://bit.ly/3pjAPJK |
| McGill University, Faculty of Law | Document | Falling Through the Cracks: Canadian Indigenous Children with Disabilities | Discusses Indigenous children with disabilities in Canada and examines their experiences with federal and provincial jurisdictional and funding disputes. | https://bit.ly/35iODfr |

IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND WOMEN WITHOUT STATUS

| AWARNESS AND EDUCATION | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants | Booklet | Resources and Supports for Survivors. #4ImmigrantWomen | Raises awareness about sexual violence, provides information about barriers face by immigrant and refugee women, and resources to get support. | https://ocasi.org/sites/default/files/vaw-booklet-english_0.pdf |
| Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants | Toolkit | A Future without Gender-Based Violence: Building Newcomers' Resilience through Community Education. A Toolkit For Service Providers | Supports service providers in providing community-based education to newcomers about gender-based violence. It provides tools and resources. | https://ocasi.org/sites/default/files/ocasi-gbv-toolkit-english-online.pdf |
| Canadian Pediatric Society | Website | A mindful approach: Assessing child maltreatment in a multicultural setting | Discusses the role of culture in child maltreatment | https://bit.ly/35lnzG |
| Canadian Pediatric Society | Website | Immigrant adolescent health, Part 2: Guidance for clinicians | Details how to promote positive development in immigrant adolescents, including sexual health and conflict and violence | https://bit.ly/3lor0HQ |
| Ending Violence Association of BC | Website | End Forced Marriage | A website for understanding forced marriage, and information and resources for individuals and service providers on forced marriage in Canada. | http://www.endforcedmarriages.ca/ |
| Canadian Institute of Child Health, University of Ottawa, and Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health | Presentation | Health Profile on Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth in Canada. Section 4: Immigrant Children and Youth – Cultural Discordance | Speaks to cultural acculturation and discordance, and peer bullying and aggression and its effects | https://bit.ly/3knNoA2 |

EARLY WARNINGS ASSESSEMENT TOOLS

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| Love is Respect | Quiz | Is your relationship healthy? | A quiz to know if a youth's romantic relationship is healthy | https://www.loveisrespect.org/quiz/is-your-relationship-healthy/?%3E |
| Love is Respect | Website | Warning signs of abuse | A list of warning signs of an abusive romantic relationship | https://www.loveisrespect.org/about-dating/warning-signs-of-abuse/ |
| Love is Respect | Website | Types of abuse | A list of different types of abuse in romantic relationships and their definitions and examples | https://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/types-of-abuse/ |
| Love is Respect | Diagram | The Relationship Spectrum | A diagram of the spectrum differentiating healthy relationships, unhealthy relationships, and abusive relationships | https://www.loveisrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/media/sites/3/2020/09/Relationship-Spectrum-final-1.pdf |
| Love is Respect | Guide | Healthy Relationship High School Educators Toolkit | A guide covering topics of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships, warning signs of abusive relationships, dating abuse, conflict resolution, and how to help a student in an unhealthy or abusive relationship | http://www.loveisrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/highschool-educators-toolkit.pdf |
| Teen Talk | Website | Relationships | Website covers information including healthy and unhealthy relationships, gender roles, healthy boundaries, healthy breakups, and answers to questions about relationships | http://teentalk.ca/learn-about/relationships/ |
| Domestic Violence Roundtable | Website | Teen Dating Violence | Website lists warning signs of an abusive relationship, signs that indicate a youth might be in an abusive relationship, what to do if the youth wants to leave, and tips for supporting the youth | https://www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org/teendating |
| Melrose Alliance Against Violence | Website | Teen Dating Abuse | About teen dating abuse, signs of an abusive relationship, how to break up safely, how to cope after the break up, and early warning signs for parents that a youth is a victim of teen dating violence, teaching youth about healthy relationships | https://www.maav.org/learn-more/teen-dating-abuse/ |

YOUTH

| SAFETY PLAN STRATEGIES | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women | Guide | Know More – Guide for Parents and Guardians. Talking to Teens about relationships, sex and consent | Provides information for parents to navigating conversations with their teens pertaining to relationships, sex, consent, and sexual assault. | https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ca962d57fdcb87536680538/t/5e7643c7b5d46a0200ec19c2/1584808916618/kNOw-more-EN-noflip.pdf |
| YMCA Canada | Guide | A guide for trusted adults. Practical tips and tools for supporting girls and young women navigating life online | Educates and provides tips and strategies to address online harassment and abuse experienced by girls and young women. | http://projectshift.ca/wp-content/uploads/YWCA-Guide-for-Trusted-Adults-Jan.-18_FormattedV4.pdf |
| ONLINE SAFETY | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Love is Respect | Website | Considering your digital boundaries | A list of ways to create boundaries with technology and social media between those in a romantic relationship | https://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/digital-boundaries/ |
| Disrespect Nobody | Website | Frequently asked questions about sexting | Questions and answers about sexting and sending and asking for photos online | https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/sexting/advice/ |
| Disrespect Nobody | Website | Signs you're being pressured to sext | Lists of ways a person is pressured to sext or send photos of themselves | https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/sexting/signs-to-spot/ |
| Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network | Website | Online Dating and Dating App Safety Tips | A list of online dating safety tips | https://bit.ly/36IVcgx |
| Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network | Website | Social Media Safety | A list of ways to be safe on social media | https://www.rainn.org/safe-media |
| Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Website | Bullying and Cyberbullying | Discusses the definitions, impacts, signs of cyberbullying, the laws of bullying, and what to do if you are a victim | https://bit.ly/38rOZT7 |
| HELPLINES AND DIRECTORIES | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Sexual Health Ontario | Live chat and phone number | Have a question? | Can choose between live chatting or calling the number provided to ask a question about sexual health, including STIs | https://sexualhealthontario.ca/en/chat |

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| Teen Health Source | Text, Call, Email | Contact Us | Can text, call or email a question about sexual health. A trained youth will answer | http://teenhealthsource.com/contact/ |
| Good2Talk | Helpline | Good2Talk | Helpline for post-secondary students | https://good2talk.ca/ |
| Kids Help Phone | Text, phone, live messenger | Kids Help Phone | 24/7 support service that offers professional counselling, information and referrals and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people in both English and French | https://kidshelpphone.ca/ |
| YouthLine | Phone, text, chat | Youth Line | Offers peer support through telephone, text and chat services for LGBTQ youth | https://www.youthline.ca/ |
| Childhelp | Helpline | The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline | A hotline that offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources | https://www.childhelp.org/hotline/ |
| The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline | Directory | Referral Directory | A resource to connect victims and survivors to emergency, transitional, and long-term services in communities across Canada. Can filter results to find resources specifically for minors in a particular region | https://bit.ly/3ePeApW |
| The Trevor Project | Helpline | Trevor Lifeline | Can call, chat, or text a trained support person. Is a helpline for LGBTQ youth | https://www.thetrevorproject.org/ |
| My Plan Canada | Mobile App | Empowering decisions for a safe path forward | A free app to help with safety and well-being if you have experienced abuse from current or past spouse, partner, boy/girlfriend | https://myplanapp.ca/en/ |

SEXUAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Scarleteen | Website | Scarleteen sex ed for the real world | Includes information about relationships, pregnancy, sexual health, parenting, abuse, and a message board to post questions | https://www.scarleteen.com/ |
| Scarleteen | Website | Text Scarleteen | A phone number is provided where teens can text their sex education questions | https://www.scarleteen.com/text_scarleteen |
| Native Youth Sexual Health Network | Document | Sexual Health Toolkit Part 1 | A toolkit for native youth about sexual health. Describes various kinds of STIs | http://www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com/sexualhealthpartone.pdf |
| Native Youth Sexual Health Network | Document | Sexual Health Toolkit Part 2 | A toolkit for native youth about healthy relationships, sexual abuse & drug facilitated sexual assault, body image and sexual health, sexual health and traditional views on sexual health | http://www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com/sexualhealthparttwo.pdf |
| Teen Health Source | Website | Definitions | A list of sexual health words and their definitions | http://teenhealthsource.com/definitions/ |
| Teen Health Source | Website | STIs | A list of articles about STIs | http://teenhealthsource.com/topics/stisetc/ |
| Teen Health Source | Website | Birth Control | A list of articles about birth control | http://teenhealthsource.com/topics/birthcontrol/ |

| CONSENT | | | | |
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| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Teen Talk | Website | Consent and Sexual Assault | Website that covers consent, age of consent, when to ask for consent | http://teentalk.ca/learn-about/consent-2/ |
| Teaching sexualhealth.ca | Website | Consent | Website covers information about consent, teaching consent to children and teens, legality of consent | https://bit.ly/3l9XipT |
| VIOLENCE AND DATING VIOLENCE | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Website | Preventing Teen Dating Violence | Website covers what is teen dating violence, prevalence statistics, the consequences of it, and how to prevent it | https://bit.ly/32r2773 |
| Melrose Alliance Against Violence | Website | Teen Dating Abuse | About teen dating abuse, signs of an abusive relationship, how to break up safely, how to cope after the break up, and early warning signs for parents that a youth is a victim of teen dating violence, teaching youth about healthy relationships | https://www.maav.org/learn-more/teen-dating-abuse/ |
| The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) | Fact sheet | Preventing teen dating violence | Describes what teen dating is, how big the problem is, what the consequences are and how to stop it before it starts. | https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/tdv-factsheet.pdf |
| Centre for Addiction and Mental Health | Document | CAMH Policy Statement: A Balanced Approach to Youth Violence | Includes predictors of youth violence and successful interventions | https://bit.ly/2Uknzpl |
| SEXUAL EXPLOITATION and HUMAN TRAFFICKING | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| MCIS Language Solutions | Website | Welcome to the online training initiative to address human trafficking | A free online training program, resources, tips and tools to assist service providers working with survivors of human trafficking | http://helpingtraffickedpersons.org/ |
| Government of Ontario | Website | Human trafficking | Provides information on what is human trafficking, signs a person is trafficked, resources for help for survivors, who is at risk, how traffickers lure their victims, and types of trafficking | https://www.ontario.ca/page/human-trafficking |
| Government of Ontario | Website | The Trap: human trafficking digital education tool | A tool to raise awareness about sex trafficking among youth in middle and high school teaching them what the dangers are, how to avoid them and where to get help. The Trap is | https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/htapp/ |

| | | | designed to be used as part of a facilitated discussion led by an adult. | |
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| Children of the Street Society | Document | Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Youth in Canada, A Prevention and Early Intervention Toolkit for Parents | A comprehensive layperson report on what is sexual exploitation, who is vulnerable, signs of being trafficked, how and where sexual exploitation occurs, the impact of technology on sexual exploitation, and why sexual exploitation happens | https://bit.ly/2UgzNQo |
| SEXUAL ASSAULT | | | | |
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| Ending Violence Association of BC | Document | Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosure: Practice Tips for High School Students | Discusses what is sexual assault, statistics about sexual assault, the impact of sexual assault, common responses by survivors, what to do when a student/youth discloses that they have been sexually assaulted, and reporting options | https://bit.ly/38w6UrS |
| Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) | Website | Staying Safe on Campus | List of ways to stay safe on college campuses and decrease the likelihood of experiencing sexual violence | https://www.rainn.org/articles/staying-safe-campus |
| Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) | Website | Warning Signs for Teens | Signs that a teen may have been sexually assaulted or is in an abusive relationship | https://bit.ly/2UfKKBC |

LGBTQ YOUTH

AWARNESS AND EDUCATION

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|--|-------------------|--|---|---|
| The Family Acceptance Project | Document | Supportive Families, Healthy Children Helping Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Children | A PDF document for helping families accept their child/youth who identifies as LGBTQ | https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/FAP_English%20Booklet_pst.pdf |
| OK2BME | Website | WHAT DOES LGBTQ+ MEAN? | A list of LGBTQ acronyms and their definitions | https://ok2bme.ca/resources/kids-teens/what-does-lgbtq-mean/ |
| Comparitech | Website | LGBTQ cyberbullying: A guide for parents and educators | Provides information on the prevalence and effects of LGBT and cyberbullying, what the bullying looks like, how to protect oneself online, and how to support victims | https://bit.ly/2InRJWw |
| LGBT National Helpline Center | Online talk group | LGBTQ Teens Online Talk Group | A weekly moderated group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth ages 19 and younger to talk in a safe space | https://www.glbthotline.org/lgbtqteens.html |
| Canadian Civil Liberties Association Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust | Website | Information Guide 2014 LGBT Rights in Schools | Describes rights under Canadian law for LGBT youth in schools | https://bit.ly/36oENlj |

HELPLINES AND DIRECTORIES

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| LGBT National Helpline Center | Online talk group | Trans Teens Online Talk Group | A weekly moderated online chat group for trans and gender expansive youth 19 and younger, to talk in a safe space | https://www.glbthotline.org/transteens.html |
| Q Chat Space | Website, Online Discussion | Q Chat Space | Online discussion groups for LGBTQ+ teens ages 13 to 19. It is live and chat based. | https://www.qchatspace.org/ |

SAFETY AND INCLUSIVENESS

| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
|--------------------|---------------|---|--|---|
| Stomp Out Bullying | Website | LGBTQ+ Bullying Making Schools Safe for LGBTQ+ Community | Prevalence of LGBTQ youth victims of bullying at school, provides ways to make school more inclusive and safer | https://www.stompoutbullying.org/lgbtq-bullying |

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| Advocates for Youth | Document | Creating Safe Space for GLBTQ Youth: A Toolkit | Provides strategies for creating a safe space for LGBTQ youth | https://bit.ly/3lmo0M7 |
| Government of Ontario, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services | Website | LGBT2SQ Children and Youth and the Child Welfare System: Risks and Challenges | Healthcare, violence and harassment and homelessness of LGBT2SQ children and youth in child welfare system | https://bit.ly/3ph52s0 |

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

| AWARNESS AND EDUCATION | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Organization | Resource Type | Title | Description | URL link to resource |
| National Domestic Violence Hotline | Website | Abuse in Disability Communities | Forms of abuse against individuals with physical disabilities. | https://bit.ly/3eRcA0p |
| Child Fund International, Women's Refugee Commission | Document | Gender-Based Violence Against Children and Youth With Disabilities: A Toolkit for Child Protection Actors | Ways to include children and youth with disabilities in society, how to include children and youth in gender-based violence programming, a training model to support staff who work with these individuals, a self-assessment tool to examine staff's knowledge and inclusion of children and youth with disabilities | https://bit.ly/3n8F6xA |
| Administration for Community Living | Website | Teens with Disabilities Have the Right to Healthy Relationships | Includes the prevalence of youth with disabilities who are victims of violence and makes suggestions of how to get youth with disabilities involved in prevention programs against dating violence. | https://bit.ly/3pIEsik |
| Canadian Pediatric Society | Website | The sexual abuse of young people with a disability or chronic health condition | Discusses factors that increase abuse, how to recognize abuse, and how to prevent abuse. | https://bit.ly/36up6PE |

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