

WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Developing Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

March 2021

Key Messages

Different forms of gender-based violence are often left out of prevention education and response strategies, including cyber violence, financial abuse, violence against older women, coercive control, sexual violence and rape in relationships.



The pandemic has restricted survivors from accessing in-person support services and some survivors may not have access to technology or cannot use technology for safety reasons.



Immigrant, refugee and non-status women face significant barriers to information, housing, legal aid and support services. Targeted messages and information for immigrant women are needed in communities and workplaces.



A lack of affordable housing in the community is a key barrier for survivors establishing safety and independence and leads to bottlenecks in shelters for survivors. Shelters should be short-term and not the first or only option for survivors.

Opportunities

Increase public awareness of gender-based violence through public education campaigns outside of the social service sector and in new spaces such as television, childcare centres, grocery stores, hospitals, workplace and other public spaces.



Prioritize and move on the MMIWG National Action Plan to ensure recommendations and actions are implemented and accounted for.



Address and adapt public policies to ensure women's equitable access to economic security, including removing discrimination in employment, immigration and income security policies.



Fund the development of multi-agency hubs where survivors can access services and supports in one place, including a dedicated advocate to help them navigate the system.

