

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

This is a one-pager of talking points that may assist when you are advocating on the issue of men's violence against women and the importance of maintaining a gendered analysis of this issue.

Statistics that point to the prevalence of violence perpetrated by men against women in intimate relationships:

- One out of every 3 women will experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime (Taylor, 2016).
- Women experience intimate partner victimization at a rate more than 3 times higher than men (World Health Organization, 2012).
- In Canada in 2014, 57,835 girls and women were victims of family violence, accounting for 7 out of every 10 reported cases (Taylor, 2016).
- Every 4 days a woman is killed by a family member in Canada (Taylor, 2016).
- Women are more likely to be a victim of a violent crime committed by a family member than by someone outside their family. Men are more likely to be a victim of a violent crime by someone outside their family than by a family member (Statistics Canada, 2014).
- 80% of women are the victims of police-reported intimate partner violence compared to 20% of men (Statistics Canada, 2013).

What about research that suggests that women are 'just as violent' as men in intimate relationships?

- There are problems with the methodology that these kinds of studies have used. They use a survey tool called a Conflict Tactics Scale.
- As the name suggests, it is designed to focus on 'conflict' (disagreement) rather than 'control' which underpins the power dynamic of much violence against women.
- Therefore, the Conflict Tactics Scale does not take account of initiation, intention, prior history, or patterns of violence. It does not include the significant harm from psychological, emotional and economic abuse, social isolation, intimidation, stalking and manipulation involving children (Kimmel 2002).
- When women do use violence in intimate relationships, it is more likely to be in self-defence or through 'fighting back'. Furthermore, they sustain more injuries and those injuries are more severe than those sustained by men (Johnson 2006).

The need for more funding and services to respond to this chronic social and public health issue:

- In just one day in 2012, 71 women in British Columbia were turned away from Transition Houses (BCSTH, 2012). 73% of potential new residents in Transition Houses across Canada could not be accommodated during the 24-hour survey period in 2014 (Shelter Voices, 2015).
- These numbers represent only a fraction of those experiencing violence in intimate relationships. Statistics Canada (2014) found that only 36% of victims of 'spousal violence' contacted or used formal victim services, crisis lines, shelters and transition houses, counsellors or social workers.

References

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