



## INDIGENOUS & VIOLENCE WOMEN



### RATES OF VIOLENCE

First Nation, Métis and Inuit women in Ontario experience domestic violence, assault, homicide and sexual exploitation at significantly greater rates than other women in the province. Indigenous women and girls are three times more likely than non-Indigenous women to report having been a victim of violent crime; this higher rate of victimization was seen in stranger, acquaintance, and intimate partner violence. "Ontario is one of the major hubs for sex trafficking in Canada. This type of sexual exploitation affects vulnerable people everywhere. Those most at risk are young women, many of them Indigenous women and girls."

### ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

Deep-seated colonial attitudes perpetuate racism and discrimination. These factors are compounded by the misogyny and sexism feeding violence against women across Ontario. Colonialism is more than attitudes. It results in laws, regulation and policy that has existed in different iterations now and into the future.

Colonialism imposed patriarchal attitudes on traditional societies. These views disrupted Indigenous cultures that had long honoured and respected women in their balanced roles with men.

Attempted assimilation included "the abuses of the residential school system. These schools operated in Ontario for more than 150 years. This system cut generations of youth off from their cultures, values, families and communities. The lingering impact continues to affect families and communities to this day."

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN, HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

### LINKS BETWEEN VIOLENCE & HOMELESSNESS

Violence is the leading cause of women's homelessness in Canada. Indigenous women are almost three times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be violently victimized (sexual and physical assault, and robbery with a weapon or threat of violence), regardless of whether it occurred by strangers or acquaintances, or within a marital/common-law relationship.<sup>25</sup> Abuse in the home has pushed 61% of young females who are homeless onto the streets.

Precarious housing not only increases Indigenous women's risk of experiencing violence, it also contributes to the risk of being trafficked and the high numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Aboriginal women often migrate to urban centres to escape violence and poverty and become victims of Canada's race, class and sex discrimination.

Systemic barriers to advancing education, gaining employment, fleeing violence, and caring for physical, mental, and cultural health all contribute to poverty and lack of affordable and safe housing for Indigenous women. Poverty and homelessness place Aboriginal women and their children in unsafe situations.<sup>30</sup> The status of being homeless puts children at risk of apprehension from child welfare authorities. To avoid child apprehension, Aboriginal women will often deal with physical or sexual abuse to keep their children safely in their care

Source: Learning Network, Issue 25

Phone: 905-352-3708

Toll Free: 1-800-388-5171

Text: 905-376-6342

Webchat: [www.akgshelter.ca](http://www.akgshelter.ca)

The Crisis/Support Line is available 24/7 to Women, Men and Youth who are seeking information or support for themselves, friends, family or neighbors. All calls are confidential.



## TIPS TO STAY SAFE ONLINE



1. Be wise about friend requests:
2. Only accept requests from people that you know in real life.
2. Protect your privacy and personal information.

3. Be careful about the posts and photos you share.

4. Words Matter!

Think about the comments you write to others.

5. Block anyone who makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



## Resources

Talk 4 Healing	1-855-554-HEAL
Telecare Peterborough	1-705-745-2273
Hope for Wellness Help Line	1-855-242-3310
Red Cedar Shelter	1- 800-672-9515
Anduhyaun Shelter	1-416-920-1492
Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services	1-519-445-4324
Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre	1-705-775-0387
Nijikiwendidaa Anishnaabekwewag Services Circle	1-705-741-0900



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