

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014 IMPORTANT DATES

World AIDS Day

December 1st

World AIDS Day is held on December 1, each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

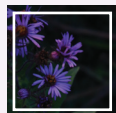
December 2nd

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is annually observed on December 2, to remind people that modern slavery works against human rights. This holiday is not to be confused with the UN's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3rd

United Nations' (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities is annually held in December, to focus on issues that affect persons with disabilities worldwide, and to celebrate their contributions to societies across the world.



National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 6th

December 6th, is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women.

Human Rights Day

December 10th

The United Nations' (UN) Human Rights Day is annually observed on December 10, to mark the anniversary of the presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

December 6, 2014, marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, a tragic act of gender-based violence that left 14 young women dead on the campus of l'École Polytechnique Montreal. This day provides Canadians with an annual platform to have continued discussions about gender-based violence.

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)?

The European Institute for Gender Equality defines Gender-based violence (GBV) as violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender. It constitutes a breach of the fundamental right to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality amongst genders, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity. Gender-based violence can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other practices
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

The Ontario Human Rights Code (the Code) defines sexual harassment as "engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought to be known to be unwelcome." In some cases, one incident could be serious enough to be sexual harassment.

Gender-based harassment is one type of sexual harassment. As Elizabeth J. Meyer writes in her article "Gendered Harassment in Secondary Schools: Understanding Teachers' (Non) Interventions" in the November 2008 journal *Gender and Education*, Gender-based harassment is "any behaviour that polices and reinforces traditional heterosexual gender norms." It is often used to get people to follow traditional sex stereotypes (dominant males, subservient females). It is also used as a bullying tactic, often between members of the same sex.

Sexual harassment is against the law.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & INTERSECTIONALITY

Though any person can be a survivor or perpetrator of gender-based violence, statistics have shown that there are communities/groups of people who are more vulnerable to GBV including

- o Youth/Young women aged 15 - 24 years
- o Aboriginal and racialized women
- o Seniors
- o Persons with a disabilities

Factors such as the system of racism and poverty must be included when addressing gender-based violence.

SOURCES

European Institute for Gender Equality - <http://eige.europa.eu/content/what-is-gender-based-violence>

Integrated Regional Information Networks - <http://www.irinnews.org/indepthmain.aspx?InDepthIdâ20&ReportIdâ62847>

Ontario Human Rights Commission - <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-sexual-and-gender-based-harassment-0>

Did you know...



President Mamdouh Shoukri released a video message recognizing the National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women.

WATCH IT HERE

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELmevRd4-i8&feature=youtu.be>)

LISA'S COLUMN



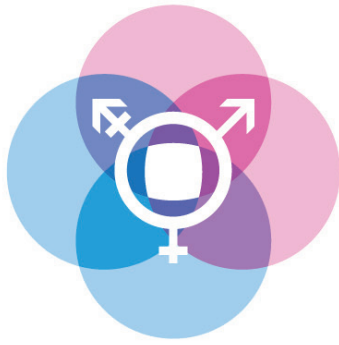
The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25th marked the start of a yearly international campaign called 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which continues until International Human Rights Day on December 10th. The purpose is for people to take the time to raise awareness, take action, and break the silence around gender-based violence. Even if you have not experienced violence personally, based on the infographic attached, there is a very high chance that someone you know has experienced it. This campaign highlights the pervasiveness of gender-based violence which is an international issue that affects everybody.

Yet, the problem is often framed as a 'women's issue'. As has been covered in the media lately, women are often the ones who are seen as responsible for creating change and are encouraged to come forward to help break the silence. Although it is important for people to speak out in order to reduce stigma, this inadvertently places a burden on people to disclose personal information about themselves in order to educate and inform others. Unfortunately, before substantial changes are made at the cultural, social, and political levels to create safer spaces, people who speak out about their experiences bear the risk that comes with it.

Jackson Katz is an educator, author, and activist who speaks about violence and how masculinity is portrayed in the media. In Katz's TED Talk he advocates for men to get involved in providing support against gender-based violence. In line with these ideas, the Men's Team at the CHR is a group of self-identified men at York University who are concerned about the spread of gender-based violence and work to challenge and explore how masculinity is socially constructed and internalized. The purpose is to create dialogue about how men understand their gender and identity and to think about ways to end gender-based violence. If you are interested and want more information, check out the following link: <http://rights.info.yorku.ca/the-mens-team/>

Thank you for taking the time to read my column for this month. Hope to see you at the Underground Restaurant on December 4th between 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for CHR's event to recognize National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women!

(Source for infographic: <http://www.canadianwomen.org/facts-about-violence#1>)



NOVEMBER 20th TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



Centre for
Human Rights
Centre des droits
de la personne

November 20th is the annual Trans* Day of Remembrance, held in remembrance of those who have died as a result of violence towards transgender, transsexual, Two-Spirit and gender-non-conforming people. The Centre for Human Rights emphasizes that all people have a right to inclusion, safety, respect and belonging at York University, regardless of their gender, gender identity or gender expression.

Trans* is a term that includes, but is not limited to, people who identify as transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, genderfluid, genderqueer, non-gendered or multi/bi-gendered.

For more information, please contact the
Centre for Human Rights

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York University, 4700 Keele St. Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Telephone: 416-736-5682 | Fax: 416-650-4823 | TTY: 416-650-8023

RESPECT | EQUITY | DIVERSITY | INCLUSION



DECEMBER 4TH 11:30AM - 12:30PM UNDERGROUND RESTAURANT
in the Student Centre

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Gender Based Violence & its Impact on Aboriginal Communities

Commemorative blankets & candles
will be given away (limited quantity)

Hot chocolate will be served

For more information please
contact Jodie Glean, jglean@yorku.ca

Opening Ceremony
Laureen Waters
Aboriginal Elder

Keynote Speaker
Victoria Pezzo
Executive Director, Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto

Remarks

Representative
from SASSL

Dr. Rhonda Lenton
Vice President Academic and Provost



Guest Performer
THE REAL SUN
Singer, Community Activist, York Alumna

