

Reporting on **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:**

A Guide for Journalists



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ABOUT EQUAL PRESS

Equal Press is a three-year initiative based in Vancouver, British Columbia that seeks to address how local news media represents gender and gender-based violence. The project applies an intersectional lens which takes into account the diversity of class, race, and sexuality in the community, and endeavours to help journalists integrate a trauma-informed approach into their work.

Equal Press was created in response to two key issues:

1. Women and gender-diverse people are currently underrepresented in news media;
2. Gender-based violence is often underreported or poorly reported in news media.

The project aims to promote gender equality and diversity in news media content; enhance news media capacity to appropriately and responsibly address gender-based violence; and increase the representation of women and gender-diverse people as experts and leaders in news media.

In addition to developing this guide for news media outlets, journalists, and journalism students on trauma-informed reporting of gender-based violence, we have also created an online database of diverse media-trained experts on gender and gender-based violence for journalists to access for consultation, guidance, and comment.

Equal Press is a project of MOSAIC.



MOSAIC was founded in 1976 to provide services to newcomers settling in Canada. Over the years, services have evolved to include innovative projects that serve client needs, as well as inform government and community about best practices and necessary change to improve policy for immigrants, refugees, and visible minorities. Several educational and awareness projects have been successfully delivered to people in diverse communities and to front-line service providers to enhance their capacity to better serve multi-barriered, culturally diverse individuals. All the services utilize an integrated model of service delivery encompassing a culturally sensitive approach.

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INTRODUCTION

Recent years have seen a notable surge in worldwide news media coverage of gender-based violence, from high-profile cases involving public figures, to frequent media releases from police regarding unsolved incidents of sexual assault, and all too often, domestic violence which ends in homicide. While increased media attention has spurred a growing public discourse on this issue in all its forms, the nature of media reporting on the subject has unfortunately often been problematic in several regards. Sensationalism, inaccurate and inappropriate vocabulary, victim-blaming language, coverage that is not representative of diverse populations as well as a failure to contextualize gender-based violence as a wider societal issue rather than a string of isolated incidents — these are some of the more common issues that arise in news reporting on the issue.

In response to both this surge in coverage, as well as the often-problematic nature of the wording, tone, and focus of these articles, Equal Press has joined a movement of projects that have focused on developing resources in hopes of promoting more accurate and responsible reporting on this important issue. Through education, it is hoped that the way the media covers these events can begin to be reframed.

This guide seeks to provide context and guidance with focused tip sheets for journalists engaging with four marginalized communities: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, Two-Spirit, and more (LGBTQIA2+), people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and migrants.

USING A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH¹

It is important for journalists to know about trauma and its effects because the people they are interviewing may still be in the process of recovery and healing from a traumatic event. Journalists have a responsibility to tell stories well, and this is especially true in stories of traumatic events. Not only does understanding trauma aid journalists to write better pieces, it

A **traumatic event** involves a **single** experience, or **enduring, repeated, or multiple** experiences that completely overwhelm the individual's ability to cope or integrate the ideas and emotions involved in that experience.

also protects the subjects of the pieces. Also, extended exposure to stories of trauma, even if not directly experienced, could result in journalists experiencing **secondary stress, burnout, compassion fatigue, or vicarious trauma.**

Traumatizing events can take a **serious emotional toll** on those involved, even if the event did not cause physical damage. This can have a profound **impact** on the individual's identity, resulting in negative effects in **mind, body, soul and spirit.**

Using a trauma-informed approach means integrating an understanding of trauma into your interactions with victims/survivors, and taking steps to avoid re-traumatization or minimizing the individual's experiences of trauma.

¹ Adapted from Clinic Community Health Centre, *Trauma-Informed: The Trauma Toolkit*.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A TRAUMA RESPONSE

- Sweating
- Change in breathing
- Difficulty relaxing, muscle stiffness
- Flood of strong emotions
- Rapid heartrate
- Startle response, flinching
- Shaking
- Staring into the distance
- Becoming disconnected from present conversation, losing focus
- Inability to concentrate or respond to instructions
- Inability to speak
- May have gaps in memory

INTERVIEWING SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- **Ask** how they want to be **identified** (survivor, victim, person who experienced violence? Name, pseudonym, anonymous?).
- Allow a person of their choice to be present for **support**.
- Discuss with the interviewee ahead of time about what kinds of **questions** you will be asking. Whenever possible, provide a list of questions in advance.

- **Explain** why you are doing something before you do it. Work through **details** together.
- Recognize that survivors may have **complex responses**.
- Be as transparent, consistent, and predictable as possible. Give opportunities for **choice** and **collaboration**.
- Use statements that make choice and collaboration **explicit**:
 - *“You can choose to pass on any question.”*
 - *“Please let me know at any time if you would like a break or if something feels uncomfortable for you.”*
- Ensure that they know they can **stop** the interview at any time, whether for a break or permanently.
- Ask about the **strengths** they used to survive the experience (e.g. coping strategies, community connections, spirituality, etc.).
- Acknowledge and **take responsibility** for miscommunication.
- **Keep checking in** to see if the interviewee is okay to continue.
- Have **support** and **crisis line numbers** available.
- Offer **translation** services, if needed/relevant.
- Emphasize **resiliency** and **hope** in the story.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Frame your story in the **broader context** of gender-based violence — including systems of oppression, attitudes, and root causes of violence.

- Take into account the unique ways that **marginalized** communities are more vulnerable to gender-based violence, and the **barriers** that may prevent them from accessing support and services² (see the [Equal Press Tip Sheets](#)).
- Convey that gender-based violence is a **serious** and **prevalent crime**.
- Include space for **survivors**, **advocates**, and **experts** to speak about the issue.
- Use appropriate **language** and **terminology** (see our [Language and Terminology Guide](#) on page 13).
- Focus on the **harm** done to the survivor (financial, social, physical, spiritual, emotional, etc.).³
- Keep in mind the **safety** and **dignity** of survivors.
- Focus on the **perpetrator** and their actions, but make sure not to include details that might suggest that they are innocent.
- Recognize the **unique life experience** of each survivor and include details of personal and communal strength.⁴

THINGS TO AVOID

- **Don't** use sources that do not have significant information about the incident or those involved, or sources emotionally connected to the perpetrator.⁵

² Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

³ Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

⁴ Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

⁵ WSCADV, *Covering Domestic Violence*.

- **Don't** sensationalize what happened or add salacious details — leave out irrelevant and unnecessary details about the victim/survivor's clothing, addictions, employment status, marital status, sexuality, past relationships, involvement in the sex industry, etc.
- **Don't** suggest or imply that there are “good” or “bad” survivors of gender-based violence.⁶
- **Don't** use a survivor or perpetrator's social location (ethnic background, culture, religion, etc.) as a rationale for what happened.⁷
- **Don't** focus on the impact to the perpetrator or reputation of the community.⁸
- **Don't** sympathize with or dismiss the actions of the perpetrator by focusing on facts that may lead to assumptions of them being ‘unlikely’ to commit violence (e.g. “upstanding citizen”, “star athlete”, “devoted father”, etc.).⁹

6 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

7 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

8 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

9 Sonke Gender Justice, *Reporting on Gender-Based Violence*.

FURTHER READING

equalpress.ca/trauma-informed 

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

CONTEXT

News media is an influential voice in our society, and has the power to shape discourse around important topics — one of which is gender-based violence (GBV). GBV occurs in every region of the world, including our own communities, and it is crucial that we use language that accurately reflects the gravity of these acts. Unfortunately, language used to describe GBV is often inaccurate, overly sensational, or directs partial or full responsibility for the violence towards survivors. By using the appropriate language and terminology when discussing GBV, we can avoid perpetuating harmful misconceptions, and help to steer the dialogue around GBV in a constructive direction. Using accurate and appropriate language to talk about GBV can be the difference between a news story that is harmful, and one that is helpful. Our words matter.

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-based violence is violence perpetrated against someone based on their gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender¹. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, psychological, economic, cultural, or structural. Violence against women and girls is often the most visible form of GBV in mainstream media, but GBV also has a significant impact on LGBTQIA2S+ and gender non-conforming people.

There are many different types of GBV which can occur in the home, within the general community, or even be perpetrated or condoned by systems and governments.

¹ Women and Gender Equality Canada, *About Gender-Based Violence*.

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY TIPS

*This is by no means an exhaustive list, but a useful place to begin thinking about how language shapes our understandings of GBV.

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
Non-consensual sex; forced sex; sexual activity; intercourse	Rape; sexual assault	Sexual violence (such as rape or sexual assault) is NOT sex. Using words like “sex” or “intercourse” as euphemisms for rape blurs the line between consensual acts and crimes, and diminishes the seriousness of sexual assault. Use words that make it clear you are referring to violence rather than sex.
Unharmful	Language that accurately conveys the seriousness of GBV	Although this is often used to indicate that they were not physically injured, it can downplay the seriousness of the violence, as well as the harm caused by it. Violence can also cause harm that is emotional, spiritual, psychological, etc. The ‘severity’ of the response does not determine the impacts of trauma.

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
Sex scandal; controversy	Rape; sexual assault; sexual abuse	Using sensationalistic language like “sex scandal” diminishes crimes and blurs the distinction between consensual acts and violence. Use language that accurately describes the nature of the events.
Victim (as a default)	Survivor; person who experienced gender-based violence	Don’t automatically use the term “victim” – many people feel that this term denies a person agency, and has negative connotations. Always ask the interviewee what terminology they prefer to use to describe themselves, and respect their choice.
“A rape occurred,” “she got herself raped,” or other passive language to describe a sexual assault	Language that places accountability for the violence on the perpetrator	Use of the passive tense makes the perpetrator invisible, and fails to make explicit that there was a person responsible for the violence.

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
Alleged; claims	Said; according to; reports (and attribute words to a specific speaker — e.g. “police say...”) ²	<p>Overuse or unnecessary use of the term “alleged” or “claims” can imply disbelief of the survivor,³ or disbelief that a crime actually occurred. Using a more neutral term can help to avoid this. Alternatively, if criminal charges have been laid, you can use wording such as “[name], who has been charged with the sexual assault of [name].”⁴</p> <p>* Important note: In specific contexts, it is legally required to use the term “alleged” — please seek legal advice if you are unsure.</p>
Affair (when referring to situations involving a minor)	Pattern of abuse; ongoing abuse	Any sexual activity with someone under the age of consent is sexual violence and is against the law. Avoid sensationalizing situations where this has occurred.

2 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

3 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

4 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
<p>Engaged in/performed</p> <p>(e.g. “[perpetrator] was arrested for engaging in oral sex with a 14 year old”)</p>	<p>Language that clearly frames sexual assault, non-consensual</p> <p>(e.g. “forced oral and genital contact”)</p>	<p>These terms shift exclusive responsibility away from the perpetrator, and implies that the survivor/victim was an active participant who was causally involved in making the crime happen.</p>
<p>Admits; confesses</p>	<p>Shares; says; tells;⁵ reports; discloses</p>	<p>Using phrases like “[survivor] admits/confesses...” implies responsibility and/or shame on behalf of the survivor, and can also frame a sexual assault as a salacious encounter.⁶ Using neutral language is a better practice, and less sensational.</p>

5 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

6 Femifesto, *Use the Right Words*.

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
<p>Domestic dispute; volatile relationship/ troubled marriage</p>	<p>Domestic violence/ abuse; intimate partner violence/ abuse</p>	<p>These phrases inaccurately frame the abuse/violence as an issue between two people with equal power, obscuring the fact that the perpetrator bears the responsibility for the violence. It can also imply that it is an isolated incident, when in reality, intimate partner violence is a serious cyclical pattern of abuse and unhealthy behavior meant to control an individual.</p>
<p>“Monster,” “animal,” or similar terms to describe perpetrators of gender- based violence</p>	<p>Realistic, non- sensational terms to describe perpetrators</p>	<p>Sensational terms are unhelpful labels that contribute to the idea that “normal” people do not commit acts of gender-based violence. The unfortunate reality is that perpetrators of gender-based violence are real, everyday people.</p>

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
<p>Superfluous details about survivors of gender-based violence (e.g. how they were dressed, previous experiences, personal choices)</p>	<p>Details and facts that are relevant to the story</p>	<p>Details like these often do not contribute to the story, and may perpetuate the idea that the survivor/victim somehow “asked for it” or brought it on herself. It may also unintentionally diminish the violence against her and take the responsibility away from the perpetrator(s).</p>
<p>Fondled; groped; stroked</p>	<p>Forcibly touched; Forcible physical or manual contact on survivor’s intimate body part.</p>	<p>Using soft language or euphemisms to describe assault conveys the idea that the attack was gentle or welcome, and may imply consensuality.</p>

Instead of...	Try using...	Because...
Honour Violence; honour killing	Instead of using this term, focus on the violence committed rather than the perceived motive for it	The terms “honour violence” and “honour killing” are extremely problematic, given that they reinforce the notion that the person targeted has brought shame or dishonour to their family and/or community. Best practice is to refrain from using these terms.
Prostitute; hooker	Sex worker	The term “sex worker” recognizes that sex work is work. Prostitution, on the other hand, has connotations of criminality and immorality. Many people who sell sexual services prefer the term “sex worker” and find “prostitute” demeaning and stigmatizing, which contributes to their exclusion from health, legal, and social services.

GBV AND LGBTQIA2+ FOLKS

CONTEXT

Homophobic and transphobic violence constitute a form of gender-based violence (GBV), driven by intentional or unintentional harmful behaviours targeting those seen as defying gender norms.¹ Intimate partner violence (IPV) can also occur in LGBTQIA2+ relationships.

LGBTQIA2+ refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, Two-Spirit, and other marginalized genders and sexual identities.

There is limited research on the prevalence of IPV amongst LGBTQIA2+ individuals. However, the available data suggest that IPV occurs in LGBTQIA2+ relationships at rates equal to or higher than in cis-heterosexual relationships, with bisexual and transgender folks at especially high risk.² GBV, including IPV, may be physical, psychological, financial, or spiritual.

FORMS OF GBV COMMON TO THE LGBTQIA2+ COMMUNITY

- Disclosing (or threatening to disclose) someone's sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) to people to whom the individual is not 'out'.

1 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity*.

2 OHCHR, *Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity*.

- Persistent use of wrong/old pronouns or names for a person.
- Denying or ridiculing a person's SOGIE and/or telling them they are 'confused' or it is 'just a phase'.
- Making fun of, belittling, or name-calling someone based on their SOGIE.
- Persistently using terms that are not aligned with a person's gender identity to refer to their body parts.
- Preventing a partner from accessing necessary and gender affirming medical and mental health care, or shaming them for doing so.
- Isolating one's partner socially, culturally, or spiritually.
- Forcing a partner to perform sexual activities that are not aligned with their gender identity and/or sexuality.
- Threatening to disclose a partner's HIV status.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT

- LGBTQIA2+ survivors of violence who are also members of other marginalized or oppressed groups may face discrimination and stigma on the basis of their SOGIE within their own cultural communities.
- LGBTQIA2+ survivors sometimes experience racism and xenophobia within the LGBTQIA2+ community.
- Due to overlapping forms of oppression, LGBTQIA2+ survivors may be forced to make difficult decisions about their safety, "often trading one kind of safety for another."³

³ OHCHR, *Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity*.

- Fear and/or distrust of law enforcement and/or healthcare providers.
- Not having safe, accessible or affirmative services available in their local community.
- Harmful stereotypes pertaining to SOGIE and racial minorities (e.g. lesbian relationships are assumed to be safe; people of colour are not believed to be queer).

BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERVIEWING/WRITING ABOUT LGBTQIA2+ FOLKS

- Acknowledge any stereotypes or prejudices you may have intentionally or unintentionally learned.
- When writing about transgender folks, always use the person's chosen name.
- Ask people what pronouns they would like you to use for them (please see [language tips](#)).
- Never put quotations around a transgender person's chosen name or pronoun.
- Try to avoid using gendered language when discussing the past or history of a trans person's life — if gendered language is necessary when discussing the past, use the pronouns that correspond to their present gender identity.

LANGUAGE TIPS

Don't say...	Instead, say...
Homosexual	gay, gay man, or lesbian; gay person/people
Sexual preference	Sexual orientation, or orientation
Special rights	Equal rights, equal protection
Preferred pronoun	Pronoun (it is not a preference, it is an identity. For example, ask “what pronouns do you use?” or “what are your pronouns?” rather than, “what are your preferred pronouns?”)
Admitted homosexual, avowed homosexual	Openly lesbian, openly gay, openly bisexual
Transgenders, transgendered; a transgender (as a noun)	Transgender people; a transgender person/man/woman; trans person/man/woman; trans community.
Transvestite, transsexual, tranny, fag, crossdresser	These are outdated and offensive terms that can only be used/ reclaimed by folks who identify as such.

Don't say...	Instead, say...
Sex change, pre-operative, post-operative	Transition Transition-related surgeries, gender-affirming surgeries, or gender-confirming surgeries (use plural where possible)
Biologically male or female	If this information is specifically relevant to the story, use AFAB or AMAB (assigned female at birth or assigned male at birth).

LOCAL LGBTQIA2+ ORGANIZATIONS & PROGRAMS

Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre

<https://cwhwc.com/>

I Belong

<https://www.mosaicbc.org/services/settlement/lgbtq/>

Love Intersections

<https://loveintersections.com/>

Out In Schools

<https://outinschools.com/>

QMUNITY

<https://qmunity.ca/>

Rainbow Refugee

<https://www.rainbowrefugee.com/>

Safe Choices

<http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/safe-choices-program/>

Sher Vancouver

<http://www.shervancouver.com>

Trans Care BC

<http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/>

Developed in consultation with Kate Rossiter and Nazanin Moghadami, Safe Choices LGBT2SQ Support and Education Program, Ending Violence Association of BC.

FURTHER READING

equalpress.ca/LGBTQIA2+ 

GBV AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

CONTEXT¹

There is a pattern of sexual violence among Indigenous women in Canada, which stems from a history of colonization, racism, and sexism. Indigenous women are more likely to experience multiple forms of violence including but not limited to sexual violence, physical injury, and homicide.

Every 8 days, an indigenous woman or girl goes missing in Canada.

- Indigenous women are 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women in Canada.
- 54% of Indigenous women reported severe forms of family violence, such as being beaten, being choked, having had a gun or knife used against them, or being sexually assaulted.
- Homicide rates for Indigenous women are almost 7 times higher than those of non-Indigenous women and are more likely to go unsolved (only 53% of murder cases in NWAC's Sisters in Spirit database have been solved, compared to 84% of all murder cases across Canada).
- Approximately 75% of survivors of sexual assault in Indigenous communities are girls under 18 years of age; 50% of the girls are under the age of 14; 25% are under the age of 7.

1 Adapted from Native Women's Association of Canada, *Fact Sheet: Violence against Aboriginal Women; Newfoundland Labrador, Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fact Sheet*.

- Indigenous women in Canada between the ages of 25-44 are 5 times more likely than all other Canadian women in the same age group to die as a result of violence.

There are thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada with a high rate of unsolved cases. *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls* (June 2019) examines the connection between colonial violence, genocide, gender-based violence, social injustices, systemic racism, etc. – all of which have contributed and are still contributing to this national tragedy.

Impacts of Colonization

Prior to the creation of Canada in 1867, over 80% of Indigenous communities were matriarchal. With the creation of Canada and enforcement of European values and governance (i.e. patriarchal) and the creation of the Indian Act in 1876, Indigenous women have been subject to colonial-based and gender-based violence. Violence experienced by Indigenous women is directly linked to the colonial violence that was created and perpetuated by the creation of Canada and the federal policies that govern every aspect of Indigenous Peoples life (i.e. the Indian Act).

90% of federally sentenced Indigenous women have reported physical and sexual abuse.

The Indian Act

The Indian Act was created by the government of Canada with a goal to control and assimilate Indigenous peoples into Canadian culture.

Essentially, it is a set of legislative decisions and policies that govern every aspect of Indigenous people's lives (i.e. health, education, land, governance, etc.).

The Indian Act is the only Act in Canada that governs every aspect of an ethnically-segregated group of people's lives. In its nature it is discriminatory, and woven into the very fabric and systems of Canada, resulting in ongoing systemic racism.

Many legislative policies within the Indian Act are targeted at displacing Indigenous women from their inherent and rightful roles as matriarchs. It is estimated that approximately 2 million Indigenous women across Canada have been displaced since the Indian Act was created. For more in-depth information, visit equalpress.ca/indigenous-peoples/.

Residential Schools

Approximately 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend residential schools over a 100+ year period in Canada. Attendance was enforced by the Canadian government and the RCMP, and parents could face criminal charges and jail time if they did not send their children to residential schools. The mandate of the residential schools was to “kill the Indian in the child” and to “get rid of the Indian problem”.² Indigenous children were abused sexually, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and thousands of Indigenous children never returned home, perishing in residential schools. In addition to residential schools, 200,000 Indigenous children attended

2 Facing History, *Stolen Lives: The Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools*, “Chapter 3: Killing the Indian in the Child”.

Indian Day schools and experienced similar treatment to those who attended residential schools.

As residential schools and day-schools started to close in Canada, the increase in apprehension of Indigenous children by the Ministry of Children and Family – both federally and provincially – began, and has been viewed as the agent of forced assimilation by some. At the beginning of the 1960s, less than 1% of children in care were Indigenous, and by the end of the decade, 30-40% of children in care were Indigenous.

Indigenous children that attended residential schools reported the following: 90% cultural loss; 84% loss of language; 64% sexual abuse; 93% physical abuse.

“The legacies of colonization such as the **residential schools** and the **60s scoop**, socio-economic conditions like **poverty**, and **sexism, racism** and **discrimination** have all played major roles in the **breakdown** of healthy families and communities for Indigenous peoples. This is especially noticeable in the **high rates of violence** experienced by Indigenous women, who face life-threatening, gender-based violence, and experience more violent crimes than non-Indigenous women.”³

The context outlined here is in no way meant to be a fulsome account of the creation of Canada through an Indigenous Lens. Please see equalpress.ca/indigenous-peoples for further readings and training opportunities.

3 Native Women's Association of Canada, *You are not Alone: A Toolkit for Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people escaping domestic violence*.

FORMS OF GBV COMMON TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Sexual violence
- Physical violence
- Murder/Homicide
- Colonial Violence — Indian Act Legislation
- Marginalization
- Systemic Racism/Discrimination
- Forced sterilization

84% of homeless Indigenous girls have been sexually abused.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT

- Language barrier/Communication barrier
- Oral culture vs. Written culture
- Limited transportation options
- Fear of losing children due to high Indigenous child apprehension
- Colonial hierarchical structures/authority

WHEN INTERVIEWING/WRITING ABOUT INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE, REMEMBER TO⁴

Prior to the interview or community visit:

- Research the Indigenous community that you are visiting

4 Adapted from The Media Hub, *Violence against Indigenous women — reporter tip sheet*.

— what have been the recent events in the news? Where are they located? What are their languages, culture, traditions?

- Research the correct pronunciation of the community's name.
- Read the community's website and familiarize yourself with community leadership — elected (and/or hereditary) and staff.
- Reflect on your knowledge (or lack thereof) and biases — if your knowledge level is low on Indigenous Peoples in Canada, commit to a learning journey — read books by Indigenous authors, attend trainings (in-person or online), attend Indigenous community events that are open to the public, watch Indigenous documentaries, etc.
- Research and read:
 - The Indian Act as it pertains to Indigenous women and communities
 - Truth and Reconciliation — Final Report / Executive Summary / 94 Calls to Action
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Reclaiming Power & Place, the Final Report on the National Inquiry for Indigenous Women and Girls (2SLGBTQQIA)

During Interview:

- Ask your sources how they wish to be identified, including their name, gender pronoun, which Nation they are from, proper titles, correct spelling, and how they would like their

community to be referred too (Band, Nation, Traditional Territory, Tribal Council, Community, etc.)

- Frame the story within the larger context of colonization and ensure that you emphasize that addressing violence against Indigenous women and gender diverse people is everyone's responsibility, not just the Indigenous community's responsibility.
- Emphasize that Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people are not to blame for the violence they experience — this can be done by providing the larger picture/context of colonial history/violence and its perpetuation of violence towards Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.
- Prioritize the voices of Indigenous women and make them visible in your story (include photos, tell their stories). Government and police should not be central voices in reporting on violence against Indigenous people.
- Practice active listening skills and being fully present with your interviewee. Do not cut off, interrupt, change the subject, tune out, be on your smart phone, etc.
- Provide options for how the interview can roll out — by giving a thorough overview of the story you are co-creating with your interviewee, highlighting the topics you would like to cover, and saying how would you like to go about this — “I can ask you questions, or you can share with me what you like.”
- Allow for silence and don't feel the need to fill the silence. Allow ample time before responding to a comment or question.

Post Interview

- Question the role of institutions in Canada in perpetuating violence against Indigenous women and gender diverse people. Many have been complicit and active in systemic violence against Indigenous people — research and read the numerous academic articles that have been written by Indigenous Authors/Academics or in partnership with Indigenous Authors/Academics.
- Leave out any sources that stereotype Indigenous people or in any way support systemic racism.
- Avoid portraying Indigenous people as a problem and make sure to not insinuate that they are to blame for the violence they face.
- Include Indigenous expert voices that can speak to the consequences of violence in their community.
- Highlight the strength and resiliency of Indigenous people. Do not portray them as disempowered victims, but instead recognize them as strong nations of people who have sustained themselves and this land since time immemorial who have sophisticated traditional governance systems, culture, language, and sustainability principles. Recognize the many activists and organizations that fight against systems of oppression.
- Follow up after stories are done — this will be seen as respectful by communities that value reciprocity.
- Check Indigenous news websites for under-reported story ideas.⁵

5 Angela Sterritt, *Reporting in Indigenous communities: 5 tips to get it right*, CBC News.

- Find a balance between “bad” and “good” news stories about Indigenous peoples and communities.⁶
- Commit to shifting the dominant colonial narrative about Indigenous Peoples in Canada by broadening stories that are written about Indigenous peoples in the media — focus on the strength and resiliency of Indigenous Peoples, Nations, communities, knowledge, ways of being and knowing

LANGUAGE TIPS

- The politically correct term right now to refer to the First Peoples of Canada is Indigenous.
 - There are other out-dated terms that have been used over the years: Indian, Native, Aboriginal, First Nations, half-breed, Eskimo, etc.
 - Indigenous is a word in Canada that is inclusive of: First Nations, Metis, and Inuit.
 - If you are unsure, ask the interviewee how they would like to be referred to in your article — not everyone identifies with the word Indigenous — they may prefer to be referred to from their nation or community or another term.
- Minimize use of jargon, industry terminology, acronyms, and academic terminology.
- Be mindful of how you refer to the colonial history and legacy in Canada.

6 Angela Sterritt, *Reporting in Indigenous communities: 5 tips to get it right*, CBC News.

LOCAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Pacific Association of First Nations Women

<https://pafnw.wordpress.com>

Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of British Columbia

<https://nccabc.ca>

Urban Native Youth Association

<https://unya.bc.ca>

Aboriginal Mother Centre

<http://www.aboriginalmothercentre.ca>

Vancouver Friendship Centre

<http://www.vafcs.org>

First Nations Health Authority

<http://www.fnha.ca>

Developed in consultation with Chastity Davis, [Chastity Davis Consulting](#)

FURTHER READING

equalpress.ca/indigenous-peoples 

GBV AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CONTEXT

People with disabilities may experience both gender-based and disability-based violence, which puts them at a very high risk of violence.

Intimate partner violence is more prevalent amongst persons with a disability.

Women with physical and cognitive disabilities experience violence two to three times more often than women living without disabilities.¹

60% of women with a disability experience some form of violence.¹

FORMS OF GBV COMMON TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Violations of privacy
- Strip searches
- Restraints
- Solitary confinement
- Forced abortion
- Forced sterilization
- Abuse by institutional caretakers and/or other residents
- Destruction of equipment and devices

¹ Disabled Women's Network of Canada, *Factsheet: Women with Disabilities and Violence*, (2014).

- Denial or withholding of services, equipment, or medications
- Threats of being institutionalized

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT

- Lack of access to information about services
- Difficulty making contact with services
- Difficulty accessing transportation
- Difficulty with communication
- Being prevented from using a necessary assistive device (e.g. cane or wheelchair)
- Fear of institutionalization
- Fear of losing benefits (housing, welfare, etc.)
- Fear of leaving their abuser (emotional, financial, or physical dependence)
- Fear of losing custody of children

WHEN INTERVIEWING/WRITING ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, REMEMBER TO

- Acknowledge any stereotypes or prejudices you may have intentionally or unintentionally learned.
- Treat the individual as you would any other person. Avoid patronizing terms.
- Ensure that people with developmental/intellectual disabilities can understand the information and questions. Avoid jargon, technical language, or idioms.

- Provide alternative formats in interviewing. If the person has communication disabilities, make sure to accommodate them.
- Offer interpreters for people who are deaf.
- Ask the individual if they have access needs — don't assume anything.
- Allow extra time for interviews.

LANGUAGE TIPS²

Type of Disability	Don't say	Instead, say, "a person..."
Visual Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The blind ▪ The visually impaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ who is blind ▪ with vision loss
Hearing Loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The deaf ▪ The hearing impaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ who is deaf ▪ who is deafened ▪ who is hard of hearing
Deaf-Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deaf and dumb ▪ Deaf mute ▪ The deaf-blind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ who is deaf-blind

² Disability Alliance of BC, *Right to be safe*, (2016).

Type of Disability	Don't say	Instead, say, "a person..."
Physical Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cripple ▪ Crippled ▪ Lame ▪ Physically challenged ▪ Confined to a wheelchair ▪ Wheelchair bound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ with a disability ▪ with a physical disability ▪ with arthritis ▪ who uses a wheelchair (or a walker or a scooter)
Speech or Language Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stutterer ▪ Mute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ who stutters ▪ who is non-speaking ▪ with a communication disability

Type of Disability	Don't say	Instead, say, "a person..."
Mental Health or Psychosocial Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crazy ▪ Insane ▪ Lunatic ▪ Psycho ▪ Mental ▪ Mental patient ▪ Maniac ▪ Neurotic ▪ Psychotic ▪ Unsound mind ▪ Schizophrenic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ with a mental illness ▪ with a mental disability ▪ with a mood disorder (for example, a person with bipolar disorder) ▪ with a personality disorder (for example, a person with an antisocial personality disorder) ▪ with an anxiety disorder (for example, a person with obsessive-compulsive disorder) ▪ with schizophrenia

Type of Disability	Don't say	Instead, say, "a person..."
Learning Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The learning disabled ▪ The learning disordered ▪ The dyslexic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ with a learning disability or people with learning disabilities ▪ with dyslexia
Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentally retarded ▪ Idiot ▪ Simple ▪ Retarded ▪ Feeble-minded ▪ Imbecile ▪ Mongoloid ▪ Mongolism ▪ Downs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ with an intellectual disability ▪ with a developmental disability ▪ with Down Syndrome

LOCAL DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

Disability Alliance of BC

<http://disabilityalliancebc.org/>

Inclusion BC

<https://inclusionbc.org/>

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

<https://cnib.ca>

Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

<https://www.widhh.com>

Developed in consultation with Karen Martin, [Disability Alliance BC](#)

FURTHER READING

equalpress.ca/people-with-disabilities 

GBV AND MIGRANTS¹

CONTEXT

Gender-based violence knows no borders, and occurs in every society and culture. However, immigrants, refugees, and other migrants may experience increased vulnerability to gender-based violence due to factors related to their migration status.

Women (including cis women and trans women) and non-binary immigrants and refugees face unique barriers to accessing support for violence or abuse.²

HOW IMMIGRATION STATUS CAN AFFECT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING GBV³

- Those already in Canada who are sponsored by a spouse may be threatened that their spouse will withdraw the sponsorship if they “cause trouble.” This form of control is often used by abusive spouses to make the other spouse stay in the relationship.
- If a refugee claimant is being abused by their spouse or partner during the refugee process, they often do not know that they have the right to separate their refugee claim from their partner’s. Some claimants believe that they will only be granted refugee status if they stay with their

1 According to the United Nations, an international migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status.

2 OCASI, *Initiative to End Gender-Based Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities*.

3 Canadian Council for Refugees, *How immigration status can affect women in situations of violence or abuse*.

abuser, particularly if their claims are based on similar circumstances.

- Non-status migrants are particularly vulnerable when experiencing violence because they have no legal status. This often makes them too afraid to call the police when an incident of gender-based violence occurs, due to fear that police involvement will lead to deportation. Also, many people are afraid to access any social services because they fear that their lack of status could become known.
- Immigrants with status may be manipulated or controlled by their partner in various ways that are unique to the newcomer experience. For example, their partner may prohibit them from learning English/French or from working, keep them isolated in the home, threaten to take custody of the children, or threaten to alienate them from their cultural community by telling people they are a bad parent/partner.
- People working in Canada through the Temporary Foreign Worker and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programs may experience heightened vulnerability to GBV (in particular, sexual assault, due to the power imbalance between workers and employers, and the fact that their work permits are tied to a specific employer).

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT

Language Barriers

- Immigrant and refugee folks often cannot access information and services in the languages they speak, and language interpretation is not always available.

Social Isolation

- There are often not enough community-based resources for immigrant and refugee folks in general, particularly for those experiencing violence — many people may not meet narrow qualifications to be eligible to access support services.
- Immigrant and refugee folks may not know what resources are available to them.
- They may not have access to information about Canadian law.
- They may encounter shelters that are full (though this is a concern for all survivors), or that do not accommodate them and their children, and do not respect their cultural beliefs and practices.

Fear of Law Enforcement & Deportation

- They may have been detained during their immigration process to Canada, which may make them hesitant or afraid to interact with police/authorities.
- They may not call the police in an emergency because they fear the police may share their status with Canadian Border Services.
- They may be sponsored by an abusing partner or have their refugee claims tied to the claim of an abuser.⁴
- Abusive partners or families may withhold immigration documents and threaten to separate the person from any children they have in common.⁵

4 Immigrant and Refugee Communities — Neighbours, Friends, & Families (IRC/NFF), *Violence Against Women*.

5 IRC/NFF, *Violence Against Women*.

Economic Exclusion

- Lack of access to sufficient income can create economic dependence on a perpetrator of violence, and make it more difficult to leave.
- They may not be able to afford the cost of transportation to services they require.
- They may not be able to afford to pay rent and live on their own.

Racism and Xenophobia

- Immigrants and refugees are sometimes denied services or face stereotyping and harmful remarks due to discrimination from front-line services.⁶
- Many immigrant and refugee folks report having their culture and religion blamed for the violence they survived.⁷

WHEN INTERVIEWING/WRITING ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, REMEMBER TO

- Consider their whole story. Be careful not to contribute to stereotypes.
- Check in from time to time. Talking about their life experiences can cause emotional stress from past traumas.
- Let them know in advance what topics you want to cover.
- Explain to them why you are asking certain questions.

6 IRCNFF, *Violence Against Women*.

7 IRCNFF, *Violence Against Women*.

- Offer interpreters for people who speak English as a second language.
- Do your research before the interview on their country of origin and culture.
- Be very clear about how you are going to use their interview and offer to show them the final piece before it is published.

LOCAL MULTICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES

MOSAIC Multicultural Victim Service

<https://www.mosaicbc.org/services/counselling/multicultural-victim-services/>

MOSAIC Stopping the Violence Counselling

<https://www.mosaicbc.org/services/counselling/stopping-the-violence/>

Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services

<https://www.vlmfss.ca/>

DIVERSEcity (Surrey)

<https://www.dcrs.ca/>

Developed in consultation with Ninu Kang, MOSAIC

FURTHER READING

equalpress.ca/migrants 

GLOSSARY

CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage is a formal marriage or an informal union entered into by an individual before reaching a certain age, specified by several global organizations as minors under age 18. Child marriage violates the rights of children; it affects both boys and girls, but it is more common among girls. In Canada, the Criminal Code states that it is an offence to participate in a marriage rite where one of the people being married is under the age of 16, regardless of whether that person is doing so voluntarily.

CONSENT

Consent is defined in Canada's Criminal Code as the voluntary agreement to engage in the sexual activity in question. The law focuses on what the person was actually thinking and feeling at the time of the sexual activity. Sexual activity is only legal when both parties consent, either through words or conduct. Silence or passivity does not equal consent.

DEADNAMING

Referring to a transgender person by the name they used before they transitioned — this is also often described as referring to someone by their “birth name” or their “given name.” This can be done inadvertently, but when done deliberately, is harmful and discriminatory, and constitutes a form of violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is often used interchangeably with intimate partner violence (see [IPV definition](#)). In addition to IPV, it can also include violence/abuse against children, parents, or elderly family members.

ECONOMIC ABUSE

When intimate partner A has control over intimate partner B's access to economic resources (to which partner B is entitled under law or requires out of necessity) resulting in partner B being financially dependent on partner A. When this is used by partner A as a means to control partner B, this is economic abuse.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

A pattern of degrading or humiliating behaviour towards another. This can include verbal abuse, threats to cause emotional pain, manipulation and intimidation, and repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness or jealousy. This is often present in intimate partner violence or domestic violence.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is most often carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. These procedures have no health benefits for girls and women, and can cause severe and lasting health complications. FGM constitutes an extreme form of discrimination, and is a violation of human rights.

FEMICIDE

Generally understood to involve intentional killing of women or girls because they are women or girls, but broader definitions include any killings of women or girls. Under the Criminal Code, an offence found to be motivated by bias or hate based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression is considered an aggravating factor which could result in a more serious sentence.

FORCED MARRIAGE

Forced marriage is a criminal offence. It occurs when a marriage takes place without the free consent of the individuals getting married, or where pressure or abuse is used to force one or both people to marry against their will. Forced marriages are a form of violence. A forced marriage can happen to anyone, of any gender, and of any age but disproportionately affects young women and girls.

FORCED/COERCED STERILIZATION

Forced sterilization is the process of permanently ending someone's ability to reproduce without their free and informed consent, or by coercing them to "consent" through pressure or force. In Canada, this practice has disproportionately affected Indigenous people — as recently as 2017, a number of Canadian Indigenous women were not permitted to see their newborn babies unless they agreed to sterilization.

GROOMING

A deliberate process through which a person gains the trust of someone — most often a minor — for the purpose of manipulating, exploiting, or abusing them. This may result in a survivor not

understanding that a crime has occurred, and/or being reluctant to disclose the incident(s) to others.

HARASSMENT

This covers a wide range of behaviours of an offensive nature, including name-calling, displaying pictures that embarrass someone, unwanted touching, or unwanted sexual contact. Broadly, it refers to engaging in a pattern of conduct that induces fear of harm, and/or upsets or disturbs another. Certain forms of harassment, such as unwanted sexual touching, stalking, threatening and/or intimidation are serious Criminal Code offences (see [Stalking](#) and [Sexual Assault](#) definitions). Harassment based on a personal characteristic such as gender or race is a form of discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code. Such behavior may also fall under Worksafe BC policies and legislation which require employees who witness harassment in the workplace to report it to their employers, who must respond and ensure that harassment is prevented or minimized in the future.

HATE CRIME

Criminal incidents that are found to have been motivated by hatred toward an identifiable group. Under the Criminal Code, such groups are distinguishable by race, colour, national or ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. In other words, any criminal act has the potential to be a hate crime if hate motivation can be proven. If a crime is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on these group characteristics, courts will impose a more serious sentence.

HOMOPHOBIA

Fear, hatred, discomfort with, or mistrust of people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

HONOUR KILLING/HONOUR VIOLENCE

These terms have been used to refer to violence that is perpetrated against a person due to the belief that they have brought shame or dishonour upon their family or community. Both terms are extremely problematic, given that they reinforce these harmful beliefs. Best practice is to refrain from using these terms, and focus on the violence committed, rather than the perceived reason for it.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a complex issue with a diverse range of survivors/victims and circumstances. Broadly, it is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker and/or others. It can be international or domestic in nature, and need not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another. Although people of all genders are affected by this form of violence, women and children are often targeted. In Canada, Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to human trafficking. Human trafficking is prohibited under the Criminal Code, which provides that it is an offence to recruit, transport, or deal with persons for the purposes of exploiting them. The definition of exploitation includes compelling a person to provide labour or services in situations where they fear for their safety or the safety of someone they know.

- Note: Human trafficking is not the same as human smuggling, which involves a person voluntarily requesting or hiring another individual to covertly transport them across an international border. People who request to be smuggled to another country are considered trafficked if they are kept captive or exploited on their arrival.
- Note: Human trafficking is not the same as sex work. Sex work is a consensual transaction between adults, where the act of selling or buying sexual services is not a violation of human rights. Conflating sex work with trafficking is misinformed and can pose a harm to sex workers.

INTERSECTIONALITY

The overlap of different social identities related to systems of privilege or oppression, that, when intersecting, create a whole with multiple social identities, privileges and experiences of oppression, that is more complicated than each of the individual identities. These social identities can include, but are not limited to, gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and disability. Intersectionality recognizes that survivors of GBV are impacted differently based on varied and overlapping experiences of oppression and their social location.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship. Many of these different forms of violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship. Some examples of these types of behaviours are: physical violence, such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating;

sexual violence, including forced sexual activity and other forms of sexual coercion; emotional and/or psychological abuse, such as insults, belittling, constant humiliation, intimidation, threats of harm, threats to take away children; and controlling behaviours, like isolating a person from loved ones; monitoring their movements; and restricting access to financial resources, employment, education, or medical care.

MISANDRY

Hatred of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against men and/or boys.

MISOGYNY

Hatred of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women and/or girls.

PATRIARCHY

Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power and privilege within families, communities, society, and government, and women are largely excluded from this power. Historically, patriarchy has manifested in social, political, religious, economic, and legal organizations across a range of cultures.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Any act or threatened act of physical violence towards another causing injury or trauma, including but not limited to, hitting, slapping, kicking, punching, or pushing. The term abuse is often used in the context of child protection cases. Under BC's Child, Family, and Community Service Act, anyone must report to child

welfare authorities if they believe a child is in need of protection as a result of physical or sexual abuse or emotional harm. This is often present in intimate partner violence or domestic violence.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Subjecting or exposing another person to behaviour that may result in psychological harm or trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder. It is often associated with situations of power imbalance in abusive relationships.

RAPE

Rape is non-consensual penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis, any other body part, or object. Under the Criminal Code, rape is considered to be a form of sexual assault.

- Note: this includes non-consensual penetration between intimate partners — consent is still required regardless of whether people are in an intimate relationship.

REPRODUCTIVE COERCION

Reproductive coercion consists of threats or acts of violence against a woman/girl's reproductive health or reproductive decision-making, and is a collection of behaviors intended to force, pressure, or coerce a woman/girl into initiating, keeping, or terminating a pregnancy.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Under the Criminal Code, sexual assault is an assault which violates the sexual integrity of the survivor/victim. It is unwanted contact in sexual circumstances of person A by person B without person

As consent. This offence becomes more serious (in terms of legal repercussions) if it involves weapons, threats to a third party, bodily harm or disfigurement or endangering a survivor/victim's life.

Canada has a broad definition of sexual assault, which includes all unwanted sexual activity, such as unwanted sexual grabbing and kissing, as well as rape.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks, including verbal and non-verbal conduct. Examples include, but are not limited to unwanted touching, unwelcome jokes, whistling, rude gestures, unwanted questions about your sex life, requests for sex, staring at your body in an offensive way, or promising rewards in exchange for sexual favours. Sexual harassment is a type of discrimination under BC's Human Rights Code. Certain forms of sexual harassment, such as unwanted sexual touching, stalking, intimidation and/or threatening are serious Criminal Code offences (see Stalking definition). Such behavior may also fall under Worksafe BC policies and legislation which require employees who witness harassment in the workplace to report it to their employers, who must respond and ensure that harassment is prevented or minimized in the future.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE/ABUSE

A broad category that includes various forms of sexual violence, including, but not limited to, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment (see also Physical Abuse definition).

SEX WORK

The voluntary exchange of sexual services, performances, or products between consenting adults for material compensation. This term emphasizes the labour and economic implications of this type of work. This term is preferred over “prostitution” or other terms, because it acknowledges the agency of the sellers of these services.

STALKING

Conduct directed toward a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear (even if the actor does not intend to cause fear). Stalking behaviours may include, but are not limited to following, spying, unwanted phone calls, text messages, letters or gifts, waiting at places for the person, monitoring their computer use. A stalker may be someone who is known or unknown to the survivor/victim. Legally, this falls under ‘harassment’ in the Criminal Code.

SURVIVOR/VICTIM

A person who has experienced gender-based violence. While the terms “victim” and “survivor” are often used interchangeably, many have a strong preference towards one or the other. Please refer to the language tips for further information on these terms, and always use the terminology that the person who has experienced the violence prefers.

TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GBV

Actions that harm others based on their gender or sexual identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms, which are carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology. Such actions may include stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech, and exploitation.

TRANSPHOBIA

Fear, hatred, discomfort with, or mistrust of people who are transgender, genderqueer, or don't follow traditional gender norms.

VERBAL ABUSE

A form of emotional abuse that may include constant criticism, repeated insults and name-calling. Depending on the circumstances, such behavior may constitute a criminal offence or a human rights or workplace safety violation. This is often present in intimate partner violence or domestic violence.

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Western Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children Learning Network *Issue 26: Intimate Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Refugee Women* (2018). http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-26/index.html

WITNESS *Interviewing Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*. <https://library.witness.org/product/guide-to-interviewing-survivors-of-sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>

Women and Gender Equality Canada *About Gender-Based Violence*. <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/violence/knowledge-connaissance/about-apropos-en.html>

Women and Gender Equality Canada *Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre*. <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/violence/knowledge-connaissance/index-en.html>

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS/RESOURCES

Ending Violence Association of BC

<http://endingviolence.org/>

Battered Women's Support Services

<https://www.bwss.org/>

WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre

<https://www.wavaw.ca/>

Atira Women's Resource Society

<https://atira.bc.ca/>

BC Society of Transition Houses

<https://bcsth.ca/>

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

<http://dewc.ca/>

Dixon Transition Society

<https://dixonsociety.ca/>

This is not an exhaustive list. For organizations serving specific marginalized communities, please see the Equal Press Tip Sheets.



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