

**Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Community Statement: 5 Women Murdered in 6 days, ON Canada**

Over last 6 days in Ontario 5 women have been murdered by men closest to them: Husband(s), Ex-Boyfriend, and Son-in-Law. There have been children harmed and exposed to violence. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Ontario has surpassed the national average of a women being murdered every 6 days as a result of intimate partner violence, in just 1 week.

On average in Ontario, there is a woman murdered by her current/former spouse or another family member every 13 days<sup>1</sup>. Since 1990 there have been media reports of 712 women murdered by their husbands/ex-husband, boyfriend/ex-boyfriend or other male identified person known to them. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, we have another 6 women to add to the Annual OAITH Femicide List.

Intimate Partner Violence remains a pervasive issue for so many women and their children in Ontario. Indigenous Women, LGBTQ People, Older Women, Immigrant and Refugee Women and Women Living with Disabilities are at increased risk of experiencing violence in their home and communities because of systemic barriers. This is a public issue, requiring a public response.

*Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses expresses our heartfelt condolences to the children, families and communities of the women who lost their lives to gender-based violence this week:*

Holly Hamilton, 29, Hamilton ON

Baljit Thandi, 32, Brampton ON

Avtar Kaur, 60, Brampton ON

Elaine Bellevue, 61, Mississauga ON

Jan Singh, 70, Oakville ON

As families and communities are left with the devastating impact of loss and trauma from the 718 women's lives taken since 1990, there is much more work to do. Changing this reality requires action and engagement at all levels of government, ensuring our systems are accountable, access to effective and properly resourced prevention programs, and creating workplaces and organizations that can effectively support survivors and responding to those perpetrating violence against them. These murders are preventable and a future without this heinous violence is possible.

Marlene Ham, Provincial Coordinator



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses



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<sup>i</sup> 1990-2017 Media Reported Femicides. Annual Femicide Lists. Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses. This list is only partial.