

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 18, 2022

RE: Femicide in Mississauga

Embrave: Agency to End Violence is outraged and deeply saddened to share the news that a woman was murdered on August 16th in Mississauga by her male partner. Embrave sends our condolences to her family and friends.

“This is the third femicide that has occurred in our community this year, following the femicide of a 23-year old woman in January and the femicide of a 29-year old woman in June. We know that gender-based violence and femicide is an ongoing issue in our community that we must continue to draw attention to and take action against. Each femicide that tragically takes place is the result of systemic inequities, gaps and injustices that create a culture where gender-based violence is normalized.” Rebecca Rogers, Director of Advocacy, Communications & Programs

On average, there are three (3.37) femicides occurring every month in Ontario. The most common perpetrators are Cisgendered men, who are either the victim’s current or former intimate partner, a family member, or someone known to them.

According to the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), there was a 53% increase of femicides last year when compared to the previous year.

Additionally, from November 25, 2022 to now, OAITH tracked 27 femicides in Ontario that have been reported by the media. Yesterday that number had risen to 28.

We believe that every femicide is preventable.

WE COUNT FEMICIDE BECAUSE:

- Indigenous, Black and 2SLGBTQ+ women, girls, gender-diverse individuals and women with disabilities are at increased risk and experience disproportionate levels of gender-based violence.
- Every life lost to femicide tears a hole in the fabric of our communities. We honour their lives and commit to making change to prevent future femicides.
- Naming men’s violence as the problem is part of the change we need to make as a society. We can’t change it if we can’t name it.
- For every femicide, there are more survivors who are not safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. We can do more to reach out and support them. We can engage their intimate partners, family members, friends, coworkers and acquaintances to end the violence.

WE CAN CHANGE THE OUTCOMES

For 20 years domestic homicide death reviews have provided recommendations that can move us toward prevention. It is time to review our progress and invest in the evidence to

*Femicide describes the intentional killing of women, girls and other gender-diverse individuals, by men.

see stronger social returns. We demand action and accountability. There are survivors, experts and advocates in every community that must be listened to.

WE MUST DO BETTER

Most murders are preventable. **We Count Femicide Because...** is intended to mark the tragic loss of each life, to raise a public alarm and to engage everyone in working together toward prevention. It is a call to action to prevent future deaths.

“We all have a responsibility to work towards ending gender-based violence, and that starts with educating ourselves on things like the warning signs of violence and how to respond safely and supportively to survivors,” said Rebecca Pacheco, the Coordinator of the Peel Committee Against Women Abuser (PCAWA). “PCAWA has training opportunities available on the Enhanced Gender Based Violence Protocol for the Region of Peel. Please contact me at rebeccap@embrave.ca to schedule the training.”

Take action and join us in advocacy! PCAWA is hosting Take Back the Night (TBTN) in Peel Region this fall on Thursday September 29th 2022 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM in Ken Whillans Square (2 Wellington St. W., Downtown Brampton). TBTN is an annual anti-violence rally and march that is held to increase awareness and support of women and gender diverse person's right to live without the fear of violence, focusing on ending sexual violence.

If you are a survivor of violence in need of support, please contact Embrace: Agency to End Violence's 24-hour Crisis Line at 905-403-0864 or 1-855-676-8515. You can also seek support from any of the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse member agencies. Visit their website at www.pcawa.net for more information.

Remember that you are not alone. We are here if you need us.

You can find a link to a related media article here:

<https://www.cp24.com/news/friends-neighbours-shocked-after-mississauga-couple-found-dead-in-streetsville-home-1.6029041>

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sharon Floyd

CEO, Embrace: Agency to End Violence

sharon@embrave.ca