



**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Statement**

### **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses is a 40-year-old association representing women's shelters, transitional housing and community-based programs. We call on all Ontarians to recognize, remember, learn about and take action on Transgender Day of Remembrance in communities across Ontario. November 20<sup>th</sup> of each year in Ontario marks [Trans Day of Remembrance](#).

We believe that Trans Day of Remembrance in Ontario is necessary given the backdrop of harmful myths that exist about trans and gender diverse people. Trans identities are real without question. As we work to advance human rights, safety and non-violence, we include Trans women, gender-diverse people and 2 Spirited Peoples, in our efforts.

20 years ago, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998, Rita Hester was brutally murdered a week before she turned 35, and it was this act of anti-trans violence which inspired the first Transgender Day of Remembrance the following year. It is a day of remembering our dead and committing to fight for our living, a day of publicly mourning and honouring the lives of those we have lost by raising awareness as we join our voices to call out for change.

We know transgender and non-gender conforming people experience extremely high rates of depression, unemployment, poverty, violence, and discrimination compared to their cis-gendered counterparts. Transgender women are almost twice as likely to report experiencing intimate partner violence than cis identified women and are less likely to report violence to police. <sup>i</sup>



Today is a day when we recognize the staggering effects of transphobia and trans violence; with 45% of trans women in Ontario having attempted suicide, and 77% seriously considering ending their lives.<sup>ii</sup> It is estimated 61% of trans women in Ontario are experiencing symptoms of clinical depression, compared to less than 6% of their cis gendered counterparts.<sup>iii</sup>

Overall, 20% of Ontario transgender and gender diverse people report experiencing sexual or physical assaults due to their gender identity<sup>iv</sup> and the majority are forced to confront a daily onslaught of discrimination in a variety of forms both interpersonal and systemic, both obvious and carefully, insidiously, hidden.

Today we recognize the nearly 3000 cases of reported killings of trans and diverse people in 65 countries worldwide over the last decade, the 369 lives taken from us this past year, and the murder of Sisi Thibeut here in Canada in 2017<sup>v</sup>. We will continue to work towards meaningful change with our members, stakeholders, and communities to end violence against trans and gender diverse women.

OAITH remains committed to our work in identifying barriers and building the capacity of our members through advocacy, education, training and public awareness to work towards the full inclusion of Trans Communities.

Marlene Ham, Executive Director

Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

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<sup>i</sup> Wathen, C. N., MacGregor, J. C. D., MacQuarrie, B. J. with the Canadian Labour Congress. (2014). Can Work be Safe, When Home Isn't? Initial Findings of a Pan-Canadian Survey on Domestic Violence and the Workplace. London, ON: Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children

<sup>ii</sup> TransPULSE Project. Trans PULSE E-Bulletin, Volume 1, Issue 2, November 2010.

<sup>iii</sup> Bauer GR, Pyne J, Francino MC, Hammond R. La suicidabilité parmi les personnes trans en Ontario: Implications en travail social et en justice sociale // Suicidality among trans people in Ontario: implications for social work and

social justice. *Revue Service Social* 2013;59(1):35–62. Available at <http://www.erudit.org/revue/ss/2013/v59/n1/1017478ar.html?vue=resume>

<sup>iv</sup> Bauer GR, Pyne J, et al. Intervenable factors associated with suicide risk in transgender persons: a respondent drive sampling study in Ontario, Canada. *BMC Public Health*, 2015. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-015-1867-2>

<sup>v</sup> Trans Murder Monitoring. 2018 Update. Available at <https://transrespect.org/en/tmm-update-trans-day-of-remembrance-2018/>