

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On Sunday December 6th 2015, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH) will remember the 14 women who were killed 26 years ago at l'École Polytechnique, simply because they were women.

We urge community members, organizations, institutions and all levels of government to remember and support a call to action to end violence against women everywhere. December 6th Vigils offered across Ontario provide opportunities for remembrance and critical dialogue about the young women killed 26 years ago at l'École Polytechnique and the women who continue to be killed annually in Ontario as a result of gender-based violence. In 2015, there have been 35 women and children killed in Ontario as a result of gender-based violence. Disturbingly, since 1990 there have been approximately 700 women killed in Ontario.

26 years have passed, yet we are still left with sexism and misogyny as the structural connection to violence against women. Far too many women and girls live with violence as an outcome of their gender, that becomes further compounded by, classism, racism, heterosexism, ableism and ageism. This reality has permeated all facets of our society; our homes, our communities, our streets, our workplaces, our institutions and our schools. We require structural change to create a society that will free all women from all forms of violence. We call on all levels of government, institutions, our systems and organizations working with women, to not only create effective responses, but furthermore, we require resources, strategies and commitments to prevent it in the first place.

The Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses is made up of provincial emergency shelters and second-stage housing for abused women with or without children. Our member organizations offer confidential support and safe spaces that are integral to achieve our common goal of ending all forms of gender-based violence. Through this, our members offer women choice and agency to live life that is free and autonomous.

We Remember...

Geneviève Bergeron

Hélène Colgan

Nathalie Croteau

Barbara Daigneault

Anne-Marie Edward

Maud Haviernick

Maryse Laganière

Maryse Leclair

Anne-Marie Lemay

Sonia Pelletier

Michèle Richard

Annie St-Arneault

Annie Turcotte

Barbara Klucznik-
Widajewicz.