

## **Guidelines for Collection of Resources for the OAITH Online Library**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of the OAITH online Resource Centre is to create a simple, one-stop location for finding resources relevant to OAITH's membership, partners, and other organizations who deliver services to women who have experienced violence and those who work to end violence against women.

The online Resource Centre strives to collate resources that fulfill the organizational mandate to support diversity and inclusivity. This means that resources will contribute to broadening understanding of the realities of Ontario's diverse population and will help to advance understanding of an intersectional feminist approach to responding to Violence Against Women. This includes striving to ensure there are resources that recognize the different experiences of women, including considerations of racism, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, location (urban, rural, remote communities), economic status, physical and mental abilities, substance use, mental and physical health, and Aboriginal women.

### **2. Target Audience (s)**

The main audience for the OAITH online Resource Centre is VAW sector workers in Ontario.

Secondary audiences include:

- People working in the field in other provinces
- Partner organizations that work in sectors that connect with VAW support services – eg: housing support, family counselling services, immigration and settlement services, victim services, etc.
- Students who are interested in learning more about VAW issues and practices
- Institutional and community educators who are seeking resources and information to use in their teaching
- Researchers
- Advocates working to end Violence Against Women.

### **3. The Collection**

#### **A. Topics**

The main topics that are covered in the online Resource Centre are those that support VAW sector workers in understanding policies, legislation, practices, and issues that intersect with the work done in the VAW sector in Ontario. This will

include topics relevant to the 2015 Shelter Standards, as well as those that arise in the course of VAW sector work.

Main themes are:

- Documents that provide and/or analyse statistics, case studies, and incidents of Violence Against Women in Ontario
- Studies, reports, and analyses of critical issues that intersect with women's experiences of violence such as:
  - housing
  - poverty and economic security
  - racism and discrimination
  - Harm Reduction
  - mental and physical health
  - risk assessment and safety planning
  - policy and legal frameworks
  - child and youth welfare
  - sexual and reproductive rights
  - criminalization
  - disabilities
  - sexual orientation and gender identity
- Counselling techniques and strategies for working with all women who have experienced violence.

## **B. Types of Documents**

Resources will reflect the different learning and information needs of the shelter and extended communities. This includes:

- All OAITH public documentation – submissions to government bodies, reports, position statements, etc.
- Reports from governmental, non-governmental and research organizations that give deeper or new understandings of particular issues, impact of legislation or policies, research and case studies.
- Tools, manuals, and other practical resources that give direction on ways to apply theoretical and conceptual understanding to everyday practice.
- System navigation tools and strategies.
- Advocacy documents, such as submissions to government or campaigning materials that support understanding of issues in new ways and are in line with OAITH's principles and policies.
- Statistics, fact sheets, and other information-based resources.
- Government publications that are relevant to the context of VAW work in Ontario.

- Policy development materials, including sample policies from different organizations that can support anti-racist / anti-oppression policy and procedure development for member and other organizations.

### **C. Other Criteria**

In order to select documents for inclusion in the resource centre, some additional criteria are:

- Currency – how recent is the document and does it continue to hold relevance for the intended audience(s). Documents older than 5 years should be reviewed to see if they still reflect information about the issue. Where possible, these should be replaced with new documents that provide the most current information and thinking.
- Relevance – there are many resources that can be considered relevant when using an intersectional lens. To keep the resource centre manageable for both administration and for user searches, the relationship of the resource must be clearly tied to issues VAW work, with implications for shelter and related services, policies, and advocacy work.
- Freely Accessible – we only post content that is available freely on the internet, copyright of OAITH, or for which we have express permission to include in our online Resource Centre from the copyright owner.