



Statement on December 6 - National Day of Action Against Violence Against Women

On December 6, APUS will join members of the University of Toronto and broader community in honouring the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. December 6 marks the anniversary of the 1989 l'École Polytechnique massacre of fourteen women, as well as the ongoing reality that women are still not safe on our campuses and in our communities.

Gender-based violence is the most widespread and persistent human rights violation in the world. In Canada, half of all women experience physical or sexual violence at one point in their lives and 25% of women undergraduate students experience some form of sexual assault in a given year.¹ Rates of gender-based violence are higher for women from marginalized communities, including women with disabilities, racialized, Indigenous, immigrant, queer, trans and low income women. Indigenous women and girls are 2.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, and 60% of women with a disability experience some form of violence throughout their lifetime.²

We must also recognize the intersectional manifestations of violence against women on our campuses and in our communities. We all need to challenge our heteropatriarchal society. We all need to work towards the end of all forms of oppression and discrimination and build safer campuses and communities.

We have a collective responsibility to end rape culture, sexism, gender-based violence and misogyny. We invite members of the campus community to attend vigils on campus and in the community to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:

UofT Student Life December 6 Vigil ³
December 6, 2017 | 11:45 am - 2:00 pm
The Great Hall, Hart House
University of Toronto

Women Won't Forget December 6 Vigil ⁴
December 6, 2017 | 6 pm
Philosopher's Walk
University of Toronto

1. <http://www.canadianwomen.org/facts-about-violence>
2. Ibid.
3. <http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca/dec6/>
4. <http://www.womenwontforget.org/>