

From Commitment to Action: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

National Council of Women of Canada | November 25, 2026, #ncwcACTION

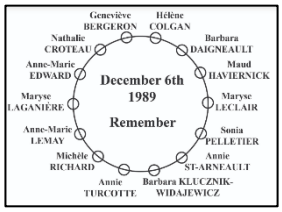
Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) joins communities across Canada and around the world in marking the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which run through Human Rights Day on December 10. We honour the women and girls whose lives have been taken and mourn with their loved ones. We stand with survivors and thank the people and organizations who help women find safety and rebuild their lives.

The November 17 United Nations vote:

On November 17, the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee approved a draft resolution to strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on gender-related killings, including femicide. Canada was among the 175 countries that voted in favour. Somalia voted against, and six countries abstained: Argentina, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Russia, and the United States of America. NCWC welcomes Canada's support and urges it to carry that commitment forward when the full General Assembly considers the draft resolution. To read the transcript click: transcripts.un

Turning commitment into Action in Canada

The UN vote speaks directly to NCWC's longstanding call to recognize femicide in Canada's Criminal Code. The Protecting Victims Act, which received Royal Assent in June 2026, explicitly names certain murders of women and girls as femicide. Among the solved cases it studied from 2009 to 2022, Statistics Canada identified 1,399 women and girls killed in gender-related homicides. Naming femicide helps us see patterns of violence that might otherwise be treated as isolated tragedies. The test of legal reform is what changes when a woman reaches out for help: whether the danger is recognized, whether she has somewhere safe to go, and whether she can access justice. To review our policy click: ncwcanada



On December 6, Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we will remember the 14 women murdered at Polytechnique Montréal in 1989. We hold in our thoughts those who survived, the families and friends who grieve, and all whose lives were changed. Remembrance calls us to act. Building on our advocacy for stronger firearms safeguards, NCWC is calling on the federal government to make the prevention of gender-based violence central to its efforts to end gun violence. That means strengthening firearms laws and ensuring firearms can be removed promptly when intimate partner violence, stalking, or coercive control puts someone at risk. (Please note that we are currently working on a letter in partnership with other concerned organizations related to gun laws in Canada- details to follow.)

In our May 2026 pre-budget submission, NCWC called for sustained funding for prevention, shelters, transitional housing, and survivor services. We renew that call today and urge governments to support Indigenous-led services and act on the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

One action every Council, Member and Canadian can take

During these 16 Days, we invite every Council and member organization to choose one practical action: share a trusted local crisis line, ask a frontline organization what support it needs, or write to an elected representative with a specific request. For example, ask your MP what the federal government is doing to ensure firearms are removed promptly when intimate partner violence puts someone at risk. The campaign ends on December 10, but our responsibility to prevent violence and support survivors continues year-round.

Canadian resources to use and share

If you or someone you know needs help

If you are in immediate danger, **call 911 where available**, or contact your local emergency services. The Government of Canada's Get Help Now page lists crisis lines by province and territory.

- **ShelterSafe**: Find a nearby shelter or transition house. You can call a shelter for support or help with safety planning even if you do not plan to stay there.
- **Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada**: Find sexual assault centres, crisis lines, and other survivor support services across Canada.
- **Hope for Wellness Helpline**: Indigenous people across Canada can access 24/7 support by calling **1-855-242-3310** or using the online chat.
- **Tech Safety Canada**: Find practical guidance on online harassment, stalking, and abuse through technology, including safety planning if someone may be monitoring your device.

Remembrance, education, and research

- **16 Days of Activism: Awareness and education toolkit**: Find ready-to-use ideas for community conversations, classrooms, and local events.
- **December 6 at Polytechnique Montréal**: Learn about the women whose lives were taken and find ways to take part in commemorative activities. The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women page names each of the 14 women.
- **Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability**: Explore Canadian reports on femicide and trends in the violent deaths of women and girls. The figure in this statement comes from Statistics Canada's study of gender-related homicides.
- **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**: Read the final report and Calls for Justice to inform advocacy on the safety and rights of Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.

Advocacy to prevent gun violence

- **PolySeSouvient / PolyRemembers**: Follow firearms policy and advocacy from survivors, witnesses, families, and others connected to the Polytechnique tragedy.
- **National Association of Women and the Law: Firearms and the femicide crisis**: Read the joint call from women's organizations and victims' families for stronger firearms safeguards in situations of domestic and gender-based violence.
- **Public Safety Canada: Preventing firearm-related harm or misuse**: Learn about federal measures and how to report concerns when someone's access to a firearm puts another person at risk.
- **NCWC policy and advocacy**: Draw on NCWC's 2024 policy on femicide and the parliamentary brief on firearms safeguards endorsed by NCWC when writing to elected representatives.[ncwcanada]