



CANADIAN RESOURCE CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME
Ensuring the equitable treatment of crime victims in Canada

EMPOWER

A publication of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

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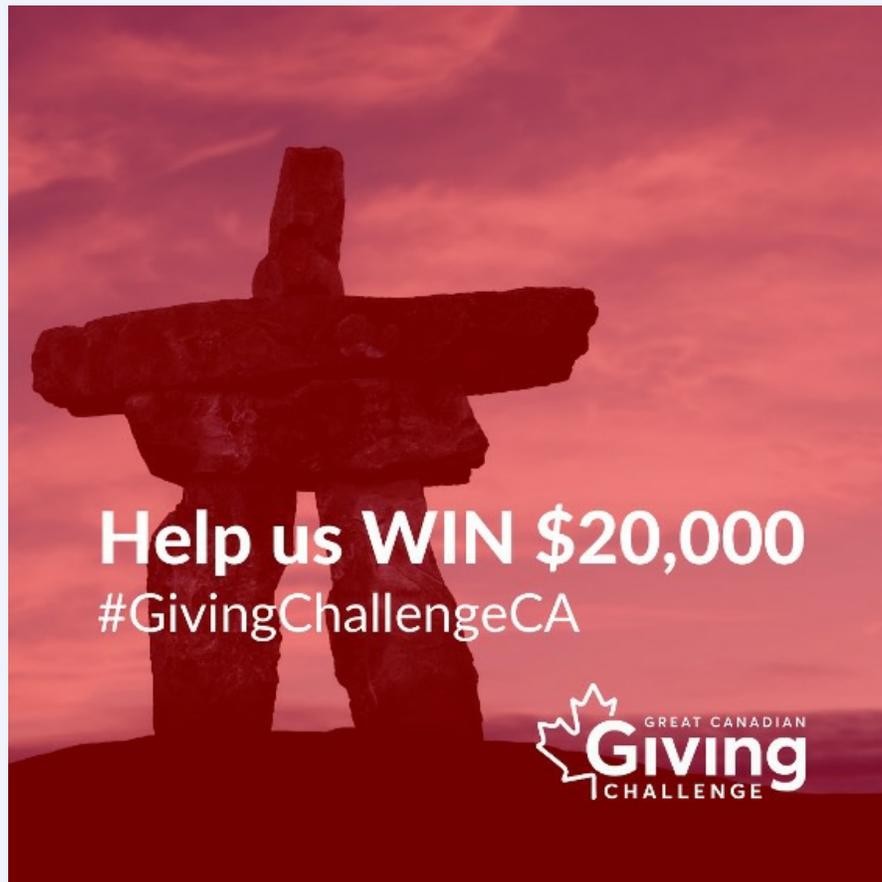
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You can support Canadian crime victims by [clicking here to donate](#).



The Great Canadian Giving Challenge starts on June 1st!

In June, every donation you make to support victims of crime could help the CRCVC win \$20,000, providing almost 800 hours of free support for

our clients.

Donate [here](#) in the month of June!

#GivingChallengeCA

CRCVC named to Mass Casualty Commission to examine mass killing in Nova Scotia.

The Mass Casualty Commission has named the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime to participate in the proceedings of the April 2020 mass killing in Nova Scotia.

The inquiry will investigate how police and federal and provincial agencies responded, and how victims, their families, and citizens were informed and supported. It will also examine issues such as gender-based violence, access to firearms, the disposal of surplus police equipment, the shooter's previous interactions with police, other police actions, communications with the public and between police forces, and police policies and training.

"We are honoured to be part of this commission," says Aline Vlasceanu, Executive Director at CRCVC. "We look forward to helping the survivors of this crime and doing what we can to discover answers to help victims of any future tragedies."

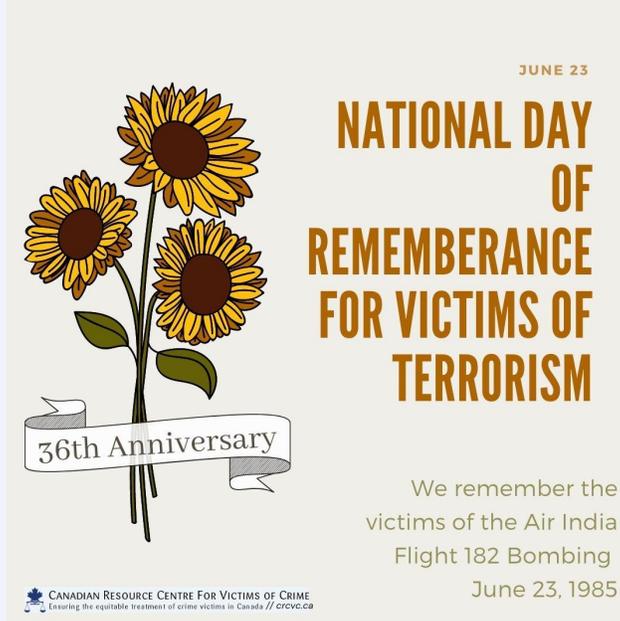
All of the families of the victims except for that of RCMP const. Heidi Stevenson, who was killed in the rampage, has asked to participate. The shooter's common-law spouse, Lisa Banfield, has also applied to be a part of the process.

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime will work alongside health-related organizations, firearm organizations, justice organizations, gender-based organizations, and police-related organizations during the enquiry which will report its findings in 2022.

According to [this CBC news article](#), National Police Federation president Brian Sauvé said:

"Properly executed, the Commission will determine what happened and, most importantly, what factors led to this tragic event. Only then can we collectively and meaningfully address what needs to be fixed and begin to move from hurt to healing."

June 23, 2021, is the 36th anniversary of the 1985 Air India Flight 182 Bombing which resulted in the murder of 280 Canadian citizens.



CRCVC chair Susheel Gupta lost his mother, Ramwati, on that flight. [You can read more about Susheel's story and why he donates his time to CRCVC by clicking here.](#)

On June 23, we will remember every victim, and we honour each family member and loved one.

The CRCVC decided to do more to help communities prepare and mitigate terrorist attacks by creating [TerrorVictimResponse.ca](#).

The website is a tool to help communities develop a comprehensive response plan to help victims, survivors, and communities in the event of a terrorist incident on Canadian soil.

The site also provides practical information to emergency response officials that can be implemented to help after a terrorist event.

The "Checklist for Communities" outlines the needs of victims and survivors at each stage of the response and recovery efforts by sharing first-hand experiences of victims and survivors, as well as lessons learned by communities and responders who have experienced a terrorist event.

TerrorVictimResponse.ca is the only national web-based resource for emergency management, law enforcement, and government officials who may be required to deliver tangible support to persons harmed.

Victims of Crime in Racialized Communities say they Need More Support

On June 23, 2001, Audette Shephard's 19-year-old son Justin was shot and killed. Audette was left alone with her grief and had nowhere to turn for emotional and mental support, and at one point she contemplated suicide. She also added that the Toronto police offered little in the way of emotional support. Shephard, an advocate for justice and support for victims of crime, went on to co-found United Mothers Opposing Violence Everywhere (UNMOVE), an organization that looks for solutions to end youth violence.

She was one of the many Black, Indigenous people and persons of colour (BIPOC) to speak about their experiences after losing a loved one to homicide at the University of Toronto

forum.

The forum was organized by Tanya Sharpe, an associate professor at the University of Toronto as part of the Survivors of Homicide Victims and Mental Health Research Project – a partnership between the Centre for Research and Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Tanya Sharpe [says](#), "culturally responsive support for families and friends of homicide victims is urgently needed". The project will help develop recommendations for service providers, police, and policymakers to recognize systemic issues regarding homicide, violence, mental health, and survivor support, and ultimately develop policy options for governments at all levels.

She also highlights that research has previously focused on perpetrators and victims of homicide – neglecting to examine the post-homicide experiences of survivors, resulting in a large gap in mental health support.

"Due to this gap in post-homicide research, policymakers and practitioners have little data to develop evidence-based interventions because the impact on surviving family members and community was not understood," she says.

For instance, Sharpe says 2019 was the first time homicide statistics were modified to reflect information on whether victims were members of racialized groups. One-third of homicide victims in Canada are visible minorities (44 percent of this group identified as Black). In Ontario, she says racialized populations accounted for 75 percent of homicide victims.

Tazio Clarke, a manager with Ontario's Victim/Witness Assistance Program, says that the victims are often blamed when members of BIPOC communities are killed. "The narrative could be portrayed as the community's almost at fault for the violence and what happens is it becomes a reciprocal effect when going through the justice system so the treatment within the justice system carries on that same narrative."

Peel Regional Police Deputy Chief Marc Andrews [said](#) that police and the justice system are led by practices that are not always appropriate when it comes to dealing with the family of a homicide victim. "Traditional policing has a very narrow focus. We tend to focus on process and practice and not always on people," he said. He suggested police need to be more flexible. For example, police will keep the family of a homicide victim away from the crime scene for investigative reasons, which means loved ones may not get closure.

The forum also raised that BIPOC people have a more difficult time receiving access to support for mental health issues and financial hardship after a loved one is killed.

Have you lost someone to violence? We can help.

CRCVC offers a monthly virtual "Loss to Violence" support group on the last Thursday of the month for family members, friends, and close loved ones of homicide victims. Please RSVP by phone at [613-233-7614](tel:613-233-7614) or via email at crcvc@crcvc.ca.

Permanent Residency Program for Families of Victims from the UIA Flight 752 Excludes International Students

The wife of a University of Waterloo international student killed in a plane shot down in Iran in January 2020 [says](#), "Canada's program that allows family members of victims to obtain

permanent residency isn't inclusive enough".

About 176 passengers, including 55 Canadians, 30 permanent residents, and many others with ties to Canada died in the crash.

Following this tragedy, Ottawa said they would shortly enter into negotiations with Iran on reparations for impacted families. Federal officials have [said](#) they are also seeking "full accountability" from Iranian officials.

Iran has admitted its forces shot down the plane, claiming it was an accident caused by human error. An Iranian investigation indicated the plane was misidentified as a hostile target.

Meanwhile, Canada is allowing family members of individuals who died in the disaster to obtain permanent residency. Those who qualify must be related to a victim who was a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or foreign national who had a positive decision on their permanent residence application.

Hanieh Dehghan said her husband was an international student with a visa at the time of his death. She stated, "I am happy for the families that the program includes. But unfortunately, this program is not for me and other families like me... so we cannot use this privilege". She also added, "in my opinion, since we are all equal, we all need this support of the Canadian government, but unfortunately, the Canadian government has not paid any attention to us".

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino has [said](#) this new program is a demonstration of compassion that will allow relatives to permanently reunite with family in Canada. Yet, the program excluded family members of victims who were international students in Canada and those not currently in the country [said](#) Dehghan.

Dehghan hopes the government will reconsider that rule. "Giving the families permanent residency gives us security from the Iranian government without any fear".

A spokesperson with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada did not directly respond to a question from CBC about why families of victims who were international students were excluded from the program. Instead, he stated, "We encourage families who are not eligible under this public policy, but who want to remain or come to Canada, to apply through regular streams for which they are eligible".

Eligible applicants have until May 11, 2022, to obtain permanent residency through the program.

Instagram stories on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women awareness vanish on Red Dress Day

On May 5, people across Canada wore red and hung red dresses and ribbons for Red Dress Day, which coincides with the National Day of Awareness of [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#) in the United States. Red Dress Day is inspired by an art project by Jamie Black, a Metis woman, who used empty red dresses to evoke the missing women and girls.

To commemorate the day and bring awareness to the widespread issue, supporters posted pictures and stories on Instagram to convey messages not always shared in mainstream media.

Women in Canada who are connected to the missing and murdered Indigenous women and

girls movement are questioning why their [social media posts disappeared](#) on a day meant to raise awareness for the issue.

The issue appeared beyond Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls posting as users from several countries reported that stories had vanished on causes as [#SOSColombia](#) and [#BlackLivesMatter](#).

If you or someone you know needs immediate emotional assistance, contact the support line for those affected by missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls at 1-844-413-6649.

BC Reports Seven Gang-Related Shootings during Broad Daylight in Three Weeks

A [shooting](#) took place at Vancouver International Airport on Sunday, May 8th, prompting a large police response. The 28-year-old victim was known to the police, and despite several major highways and three Canada Line stations being shut down, the shooters still managed to get away.

This incident was followed by another [shooting](#) on May 13th, where 23-year-old Jaskeerat Kalkat was shot and killed at a shopping complex in South Burnaby. Kalkat was known to police and affiliated with a gang. Jang stated that two injured victims – a man and a woman in their 20s – were targeted. Both are in the hospital with serious injuries but are expected to survive.

Kalkat's death is the seventh gang-related killing in three weeks to take place during daylight hours in a busy public setting.

"Although the victims may have been known to police," says CRCVC Executive Director, Aline Vlasceanu. "They are still victims and leave behind family and friends who loved them. There are survivors to each of these tragedies and we will offer unconditional support to anyone who needs us."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says MPs from all Parties Must do Better to Support Assault Victims

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau believes his Liberal MPs and politicians from all parties must do better to create safer spaces for victims of sexual assault and harassment when they are invited to share their experiences with parliamentary committees.

Sexual violence survivors and advocates say they were treated rudely and, in some cases, felt-re-victimized when they testified at committees where MPs lacked compassionate listening.

According to [this National Post article](#), Trudeau "believes it's important for everyone to take a more trauma-informed approach to deal with victims and those who work with them on the front lines."

Numerous committees have been inviting survivors of sexual assault, exploitation, and trauma to share their experiences and recommendations for change, including the status of women and national defence committees, which are both looking into sexual misconduct allegations in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Some of the women who testified have expressed anger at the way they were treated during their hearings, particularly over being cut off for a time while speaking or not given resources

to feel supported in opening up about painful past experiences.

When Trudeau was asked if he believes changes are needed to the strict procedural policies that govern Parliament, he said he “believes all institutions, both public and private, must do better to create more supportive environments for victims.”

He added that he is confident his Liberal committee and MPs of all parties want to make improvements that would provide better support for those invited to share their experiences.

Moreover, at one meeting of the ethics committee last month, advocates speaking on behalf of sex workers said they were talked over by MPs while they engaged in partisan procedural shenanigans, which resulted in shutting down the meeting and cutting their appearance short.

This led to a growing number of calls by victim advocates for the House of Commons and political parties to acquire a more trauma-informed approach to dealing with vulnerable witnesses.

Liberal, Conservative, and NDP MPs and committee chairs voiced support for the notion of specialized training in talking to witnesses about sensitive issues and possible recommendations to the House of Commons to provide better physical and mental health support for witnesses in the future.

The CRCVC works with crime victims every day and applauds the remarks of the Prime Minister. However, words must be put into action immediately to address the way victims are treated when they take the time to share their stories with government leaders, the very people who are there to protect them.

In Their Words: Victimology Students Intern at CRCVC

Katherine

Hello! My name is Katherine, and I am a student in the Victimology Graduate Certificate program at Algonquin College. I also have an honours degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a Concentration in Law from Carleton University. I recently completed a student placement with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, which was an incredibly rewarding experience. During my time at the CRCVC, I had the chance to contribute to several interesting projects, such as a gender-based violence project, research on scams, and our monthly newsletter. I'm very thankful for the connections that I made during my placement and am grateful to have worked with such a supportive, dedicated team of colleagues. Upon graduating from the Victimology program, I hope to transition into a meaningful role in which I can continue to empower victims and survivors of crime and advocate for meaningful change in the victim services and criminal justice sectors.

Jordan

Hello! My name is Jordan, and I completed a student placement through the Victimology Graduate Certificate at Algonquin College with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime in April. I am a registered social worker with a Bachelor of Sociology specializing in Health Studies from Trent University and a Bachelor of Social Work from Lakehead University.

Through my placement with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, I learned about ways to support victims of crime, different types of victimization such as identity theft, and the victimization of seniors. I also identified the resources available for victims in the

greater Ottawa community and across Canada. I hope to take what I've learned during my placement at the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime and apply it to my work with people experiencing homelessness, violence against women, and mental health supports.

Thank You For Reading This Far.

You must have a deep interest in the challenges faced by Canadian victims of crime. We share your concern.

If you can, please consider a donation. We will continue to support victims at no cost to them. Ever. To do that we rely on support from people like you.

This month, until June 30, your donation will increase our chances to win \$20,000 in the Great Canadian Giving Challenge.

Every new donation increases our chances.

[Please click here and support victims today.](#)

Spotlight on Research

Resilience and Victims of Violence: Understanding Strengths to Enhance Victim Assistance Training.

The CRCVC is proud to announce another partnership with the Victimology Research Centre on a project that was recently granted funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in the Spring of 2020.

Over the next three years, this mixed methods research project will focus on victim service providers and identify various patterns and systemic barriers. This research will explore service provider wellness and overall vicarious resilience while evaluating a wide range of different sectors of victim services across Canada,

In the first phase of this research project, Algonquin College led and collaborated with the CRCVC in completing a three-year mixed methods investigation on resilience and violence. The findings from this research, entitled *Resilience, and Victims of Violence: Understanding Strengths to Enhance Victim Assistance Training* can be viewed [here](#).

Police report a record high number of human trafficking incidents in Canada in 2019



Over the past decade, the annual number of human trafficking incidents reported by Canadian police trended upward.

The Juristat Bulletin - Quick Fact "Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2019" is now available. Using data from the [Uniform Crime Reporting](#) survey, this article profiles police-reported human trafficking incidents in Canada.

The article examines incident, victim, and accused characteristics and the areas within Canada where these incidents have been reported. The article also examines court outcomes of human trafficking offences using data from the [Integrated Criminal Court Survey](#).

Bow Valley Victim Services Association: Victims'

Needs

The Bow Valley Victim Services Association completed a study on the needs of victims of crime and trauma in Alberta.



The key outcomes of this study were to:

- increase the understanding of victims' needs (from the literature and their perspective);
- identify the strengths and gaps in current service provision; and
- formulate recommendations based on this information, to ensure victims' needs are met.

To achieve these outcomes, an extensive literature review related to the needs of victims of crime was conducted as well as a survey for those identifying as victims of crime and trauma, who had accessed help from a police-based services program.

Read the full report [here](#).

Violence in Homes During Covid-19

The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention has completed a [report](#) on the prevention of violence in the home during and after lockdowns that provides a better understanding of the increased risk of family violence during COVID-19, highlights the potential long-term effects of violence, and identifies approaches and programs that can help prevent violence in homes.

The report discusses the impacts of the pandemic that can increase violence against women and children.

The report also includes recommendations for preventing violence against women and children in the home during COVID-19, including the implementation of diverse programs and strategies for addressing violence, assessing local needs to ensure that programs and services can meet the community's immediate needs and incorporating strategies to address gender-based violence.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the increased levels of stress people are experiencing as a result of the restrictions and uncertainty surrounding it, the need for effective approaches to prevent family violence has never been higher. Read the full report [here](#).

Statistics Canada report reveals that 6 in 10 Indigenous women experience physical or sexual abuse

Recent [data](#) from Statistics Canada reveals that more than six in 10 Indigenous women report having been physically or sexually assaulted at some point during their lifetime, compared to more than four in 10 in non-Indigenous women.

Delaney Campbell, sexual assault and domestic violence counsellor at Noojmowin Teg Health Centre on Manitoulin Island, believes many factors contribute to these high numbers. "Violence, power, control, these are very structural issues. They're connected to even larger structural issues. So, I think, oftentimes, we're tempted to say we need more services – which we do, it's certainly an issue, gaps in services, people not being able or comfortable to reach out and ask for help from health care or other social services. That's one issue, but I think there are larger structural problems that come from other social inequities, income inequities, lack of opportunity, lack of availability, lack of access to resources, all of these things compound."

Snapshots

A new law on continuing education for judges will enhance sexual assault survivors' confidence in the criminal justice system

As of May 6th, 2021, candidates must agree to take training on sexual assault law and social context to be eligible for appointment to a provincial superior court. This new requirement is now a part of the [Judges Act](#).

Additionally, The amendments to the Criminal Code mean that judges are required to provide written reasons or enter reasons into the record when deciding sexual assault matters. This will increase transparency in these cases.

Read more [here](#).



The Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime Worries Federal Benefit for Parents of Missing or Murdered Children is going Unused

The federal ombudsman for victims of crime [says](#) she remains concerned that financial aid for parents of murdered or missing children remains largely unused despite new and proposed changes to the program.

The Liberals overhauled the program following a critical review of the benefit by Illingworth's predecessor, Sue O'Sullivan, in 2018 that showed administrative costs far outstripped the amounts paid to parents.

Additional changes to ease and expand access to the program, and to double the leave time available to parents under the Canada Labour Code, are contained in the government's budget bill currently before the House of Commons.

The ombudsman's review from 2018 mentioned strict eligibility rules that excluded families from qualifying among other issues as to why spending was a fraction of the overall budget. The review noted that only 0.5 percent of \$33 million budgeted for grants between 2013 and 2016 went to eligible parents, while administrative costs were 14 times more than the \$170,520 in paid grants. The liberals raised the maximum grant over 35 weeks during the two years following the incident and raised the age eligibility of the child to 25 years old.

The final accounting on government spending for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, showed only \$277,020 in benefits from the 9.5 million budget.

Illingworth [said](#) her office is looking for more data from the government to determine whether more families who need the aid have qualified under the new set of rules. "I hope that access to it has increased, but I'm still worried that a lot of people don't know about this". Illingworth said.

Quick Links

One dead, three others seriously wounded in the west-end Toronto shooting. Read the full

article [here](#).

Vancouver police have released the names and photos of six known gangsters they believe pose a significant risk to residents as the Lower Mainland gang war continues to claim victims. Read the full article [here](#).

Fraud investigation finds victims as far away as California, West Vancouver police say. Read the full article [here](#).

Less than six weeks after Philip Toner finished serving a five-year sentence for raping a 15-year-old girl, he has been charged with killing his girlfriend. Read the full article [here](#).

A 27-year-old man from Gatineau, Quebec., is [facing multiple charges of sexual assault](#) with a weapon and production and distribution of child pornography after six victims have filed complaints.

Upcoming Events



CRCVC's Monthly Drop-In Support Group for "Loss to Violence"

The drop-in support group is for family members, friends, and close loved ones of homicide victims in Canada, and is intended to offer peer support to those dealing with violent loss.

Last Thursday of every month.

To RSVP please email us at crcvc@crcvc.ca

"Avenue Zero" Documentary Screening

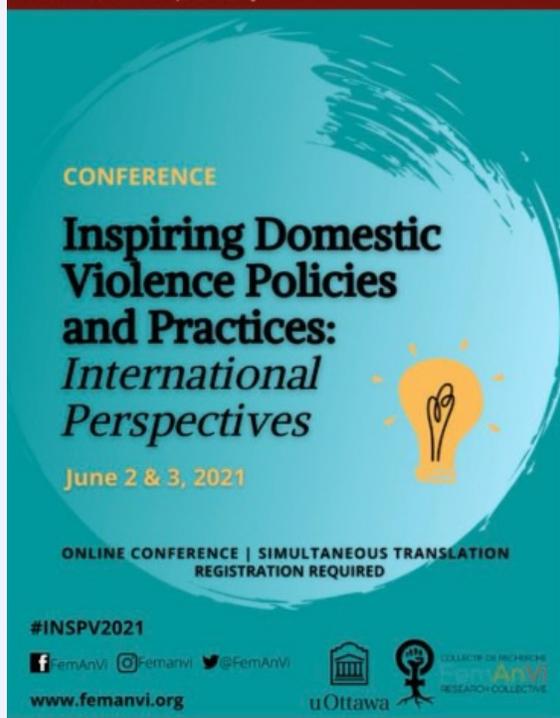
Ottawa Coalition to End Human Trafficking is hosting a virtual film screening of the documentary "Avenue Zero", followed by a live Q&A with their volunteer and committee members.

"Avenue Zero" is a Canadian documentary that explores the existence of different types of trafficking taking place in Canada. For more information on "Avenue Zero" and to watch the trailer, visit: <https://www.cinemapolitica.org/film/avenue-zero>

Date: Friday, June 4, 2021

Time: 7 PM EDT – 9 PM EDT

Access Link: <https://bit.ly/34CNLBr>



Online conference – Inspiring Domestic Violence Policies and Practices: International Perspectives

FemAnVi Research Collective is hosting its 4th international conference “Inspiring Policies and Practices in Domestic Violence: International Perspectives”.

Recently, the problem of domestic violence has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent waves of femicides in Quebec. Faced with these issues, policymakers and stakeholders are tasked with determining the best tactics to put in place, to ensure the security of victims, to hold violent partners accountable, and overall, to prevent domestic violence.

The conference's organizing committee is hoping to illustrate inspiring policies and practices occurring both within Canada and across the world, to encourage the further development of new policies and practices in this area.

Date: June 2 & 3, 2021.
Register [here](#).

Uphold Victims' Rights and Uproot Systemic Racism



Uphold Victims' Rights and Uproot Systemic Racism

Racism is not a relic of the past, but an ever-present feature of Canadian society.

It is woven into public policy and embedded within our systems and institutions, like the criminal justice system, which replicates racial inequality.

Panelists will discuss experiences of oppression, challenge white privilege, and propose solutions & actions to strengthen victims' rights.

Date: Wednesday, June 9th, 2021
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM EST
Register [here](#).

PART TWO: Peaceful Homes: Preventing Violence in the Home During and After Lockdowns.

Join the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention for PART TWO of the webinar on Peaceful Homes: Preventing Violence in the Home During and After Lockdowns. The webinar will focus on the local implementation of initiatives to prevent violence in the home, particularly in the context of COVID-19. In addition to presentations, there will be an opportunity for discussion among participants regarding local needs related to implementation in communities.

Date: Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021

Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM EDT

Register [here](#).

