

CRCVC Public Statement: Declare Femicide an Epidemic in Canada
Ottawa, July 17, 2025

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) is calling on all levels of government to urgently declare femicide an epidemic in Canada. This call follows a concerning increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) and femicide, both in Ottawa and across the country.

Behind every statistic is a name, a face, a family shattered. These women were daughters, sisters, mothers, friends. Their deaths were not random—they were the result of escalating violence, often reported, often documented, and too often ignored.

In the first half of 2025, Ottawa Police reported a 9% increase in intimate partner violence (IPV). Across Ontario, the OPP recorded an 18.1% increase in IPV cases in 2024, with over 6,200 victims. These numbers reflect a national crisis:

- 78% of IPV victims in Canada are women and girls.
- 44% of Canadian women and girls who have ever been in an intimate relationship—6.2 million people—have experienced psychological, physical, or sexual abuse from a partner.
- From 2018 to 2023, IPV rates rose 13%, while overall violent crime increased by 20%.
- In British Columbia, shelters are turning away hundreds of women and children due to lack of space.
- In Alberta, IPV-related calls continue to rise, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities.

We are calling for urgent, systemic change:

- Declare femicide an epidemic—a public health crisis that demands coordinated, national action.
- Fund shelters, counselling, and victim supports to meet the growing demand.
- Implement the 86 recommendations from the Renfrew County Inquest, including better risk assessment, offender monitoring, and survivor safety planning.
- Reform bail and sentencing policies to prioritize victim safety over offender convenience.

We owe it to every woman who has been silenced by violence. We owe it to those still living in fear. And we owe it to the next generation to build a country where safety is not a privilege, but a right.

Sincerely,
Sarah Crawford



Executive Director