

City Clerks Office

City of London, Ontario

Canada

2 April 2019

Dear Cathy Saunders,

Letter in support of the City Strategy recommendations of Anova and LAWC:

Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls.

I am writing in support of the City Strategy recommendations of Anova and LAWC to establish a stand-alone, specific strategic area focus: Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls with the overall aim of decreasing male violence against women and girls.

I feel it is of crucial importance that we ensure male violence is in the forefront, rather than included in another strategic area, so that all issues that affect the lives of women and girls will not be lost.

I am very grateful and proud of the work of London Abused Women's Centre on naming and recognising in their services, the specific crime of non-State torture (NST) that is mainly men's violence against women and girls.

As a survivor of non-State torture and trafficking in childhood and adulthood by a group of men, I feel it is vital to provide specific services including safer housing, and community awareness of such violence that validates, protects, cares and supports women and girls so NST harmed.

It is important to recognise that women and girls are subjected to abuse and non-State torture in their homes, via trafficking, and in domestic relationships and to provide torture and trauma informed care and support that understands the specific issues for women and girls who have endured such violence.

I encourage the signing of the Global Every Woman Treaty as mentioned in the Strategy.

Yours Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gordon

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