

Appreciation to council, Cheryl, Lynn

Women with lived experience are recommending that Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls be a stand-alone strategic area of focus

The evidence supports the need for this

LAWC

- We serve women and girls as young as 12 and into their 90's and provide specialized groups for youth and seniors
- We acknowledging how different forms of discrimination (for example race, gender, class, ability, language, sexual orientation) intersect with and amplify gender-based discrimination and we use that lens as we develop programming and policies so all women will reap the benefits of women's rights
- Over Last two years, LAWC has seen a 108% increase in service demands (no waitlist)

Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability

- 2018 – 148 women and girls killed by violence in Canada
- Every 2.5 days one woman or girl is killed – a four-decade trend
- Indigenous women and girls are overrepresented as victims (36% of those killed but only 4.7% of population)
- Women and girls aged 25-34 years are overrepresented as victims (27% of those killed but only 14% of population)
- Most common method used to kill was shooting (34%) followed by stabbing (28%) and beating (24%)
- Where an accused has been identified, 91% are male

- Since 1961, at least 10,495 women and girls have been killed by violence when official data began to be collected
- Murders of countless other women and girls in Canada have gone unrecorded because many remain missing or they have been killed but deaths have not been recorded

- These numbers provide the knowledge that most women and girls experience violence perpetrated primarily by men because they ARE women and girls
- Between 2015 and 2017, London dropped from 6th to 12th place in the best and worst places to be a woman in Canada (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)

When we enhance the safety of women and girls, we make our city one where everyone is counted and the safety of all is enhanced

London will be a groundbreaking leader in adopting this area of focus and in doing so will increase economic development opportunities by making London a place women want to move to.