

Support Letter | July 19th, 2023

Agenda Item 2023. CC8. 2 – Declaring Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic in the City of Toronto.

On behalf of the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WomanACT), I would like to extend our support and express our gratitude for Mayor Olivia Chow's recent appeal to City Council to declare gender-based and intimate-partner violence an epidemic in Toronto. The recognition of these critical issues is a testament to the unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of all residents, particularly women, and girls. By addressing these pressing concerns head-on, This motion demonstrates the City's profound understanding of the systemic challenges faced by survivors and the determination to create a safer and more inclusive Toronto for all.

At WomanACT, we have long been advocates for ending gender-based violence and promoting healthy relationships. Since our inception in 1991, we have operated as a community-based coalition, working collaboratively with organizations and individuals to eradicate violence against women through community mobilization, research, policy, and education. WomanACT strives to promote knowledge sharing, build capacity, and generate discussion.

We firmly believe that Mayor Olivia Chow's declaration will catalyze change, raise awareness, mobilize resources, and drive community engagement. Her leadership will undoubtedly inspire other municipalities to follow suit and prioritize eradicating gender-based violence as a fundamental issue.

We greatly look forward to collaborating with the City of Toronto in tackling these challenges and creating a city where everyone can thrive free from violence and discrimination.

WomanACT stands ready to offer its expertise, support, and partnership in any way possible. Together, we can create lasting change, foster a culture of respect, and ensure survivors receive the support and justice they deserve.

With warm regards,

Harmy Mendoza
Executive Director
WomanACT