

June 18, 2021

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Support of Homeless Women and Families

The YWCA Niagara Region supports Councillor Diana Huson's motion regarding the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign, running from November 25 through December 10 that calls on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Gender-Based Violence is a real and ongoing issues happening right here in Niagara as we have witnessed through our work in the community.

Studies show that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. In Niagara, we have seen relationship breakdown due to intimate partner and family violence play a leading role in homelessness for women and children. The pandemic and resulting measures enforced by Public Health have decrease women's shelter space and access to resources for survivors of gender-based violence.

We ask that the Niagara Region address gender-based violence this fall during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by:

- Flying a campaign flag in the International Plaza from November 25 to December 10, 2021
- Developing a communication strategy to increase awareness of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign
- Circulating a copy of this motion to the local area municipalities.

Gender-Based Violence requires awareness, advocacy, and action to ensure women and girl survivors of violence to stay safe and free of violence. Living free from violence, gender-based or otherwise, is a human right.