



CANADIAN CENTRE
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

Date: April 27, 2022

For Immediate Release

Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) supports Bill C -233 (Keira's Law) and stresses the importance of addressing Economic Abuse and Post Separation Abuse

OTTAWA, ON (April 29, 2022) – On the occasion of its second reading in the House of Commons, the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) fully supports Member of Parliament Anju Dhillon's Private Member Bill C-233 which demands continuing education for judges on matters related to intimate partner violence and coercive control. Also known as "Keira's Law", the Bill is named after 4-year-old Keira Kagan, who was killed by her father following court protection requests and numerous warnings by Keira's mother about the father's violent and controlling behavior.

CCFWE recognizes that there is generally a lack of awareness about non-physical and hidden forms and signs of domestic violence such as emotional and Economic Abuse. CCFWE therefore believes that it is crucial to provide education and training to the judicial system about the different patterns of abuse that perpetrators use to control a victim of domestic violence even after separation.

Economic Abuse is recognized as part of coercive behavior aimed to gain complete control over a victim's finances by impeding the ability of the victim to obtain, use, and maintain economic resources. Examples include taking away any sort of income, limiting access to and information on household finances, interfering with employment, and accumulating debt on joint bank accounts. Unlike physical forms of abuse, Economic Abuse and other forms of coercive control can continue long after victims leave abusive relationships as abusers maintain or adapt their tactics post-separation.

CCFWE welcomes the recent amendments to the Divorce Act to include financial abuse as a form of family violence to be considered when assessing the child's best interest. However, in order to effectively save and protect women and children in the future, continuous education for judges on Economic Abuse, coercive control and other forms of domestic violence is essential.

CCFWE stands in solidarity with Women's Shelters Canada and many other shelters and gender-based violence organizations in Canada demanding Members of Parliament to vote in favor of this important legislation.



**CANADIAN CENTRE
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT**

**CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES**

About Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)

CCFWE is the only Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to ending Economic Abuse through education, policy change, mentorship, and economic empowerment. Based in Ottawa, CCFWE's goal is to create national awareness about the impact of Economic Abuse by empowering survivors to improve their financial knowledge and educating policymakers, private stakeholders, essential services providers and financial institutions to support survivors in regaining their financial independence. For more information visit ccfwe.org and follow @CCFWE on social media.

Contact:

Meseret Haileyesus
Executive Director
The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment
Email: mesi.haileyesus@ccfwe.org