

Statement by the Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

2022 Economic Abuse Awareness Day

Published: November 26, 2022

Today, we mark the National Day for Economic Abuse. The second day of International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Economic Abuse Awareness Day is held annually and dedicated to awareness creation, support, and advocacy toward the Ending of Economic Abuse in Canada.

Launched in 2019, Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment responded to a call from the Canadian government to recognize Economic Abuse in developing the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. This year's campaign is supported by organizations from the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, South Africa, and New Zealand.

CCFWE believes it is vital to acknowledge the many women who have survived intimate partner violence and recognize their courage, strength, and acts of resistance and resilience.

We recently published its national study on Economic Abuse. The report has made me realize that there is still so much to do to ensure that marginalized survivors have full access to economic resources and fair access to the justice system.

There are substantial efforts the Federal government has made to accelerate the National Action plan for Gender-based Violence. I hope we continue to grow and develop in the coming days, such as with the Financial Equity Code of Conduct, and inclusive policy, which incorporates appropriate treatment for victims. Our work is to create an ecosystem and to build resources for survivors, creating a national task for changing existing policy and advocating for the passage of new and survivor-centered policies.

Understanding Economic Abuse's nature is critical for developing policies, programs, and practices to promote women's safety and advance economic security. Now more than ever, policymakers and the private sector must act now to remove barriers affecting a survivor's economic security. Intersectoral action is essential to address the structural determinants of inequities and the critical policy gaps preventing survivors from recovering and becoming economically secure and independent.

We are proud that over 125 organizations have pledged to take action to end Economic Abuse. The 16 days of activism and campaign to end violence against starts on November 25 and will conclude on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

We must focus on the National Action Plan of Gender-Based Violence recommendations to fulfill national needs by spreading awareness of economic abuse.

I encourage the Government, Canadian financial institutions, and private service providers to strengthen its multi-sectoral, survivor-centered, and transformative approach to responding to Economic Abuse.

I call on the public to join this year's awareness campaign by joining individuals and organizations in protecting and advancing the fundamental economic rights of women.

Let us recognize Economic Abuse during the 16 Days of Activism.

Together, we can ensure that women can live without fear or consequences of economic abuse and violence.

Every word matters!
With appreciation,

Meseret Haileyesus
Founder and Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment