



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

Economic Abuse Awareness Day - November 26, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hon. Minister Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada, urges the Nation to Stand with Survivors and End Domestic Economic Abuse.

Ottawa, Wednesday, November 23rd 2023

Honorable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, issues a compelling call to action to the nation, urging citizens to stand united in the fight against Domestic Economic Abuse. In her impassioned plea, Minister Ien highlights the pressing need to address this often overlooked aspect of domestic violence that disproportionately impacts women, immigrants, refugees, indigenous, and gender-diverse individuals. Economic abuse, experienced by almost all survivors of Gender-Based Violence, has far-reaching consequences on victims' ability to break free from cycles of abuse.

Minister Ien emphasizes the role of collective action in creating a supportive environment for survivors. She calls on communities and stakeholders to join hands in implementing effective measures to eradicate Domestic Economic Abuse.

What is Economic Abuse: Economic Abuse, an insidious yet often overlooked form of domestic violence, is disproportionately affecting women, immigrants, refugees, indigenous, and gender-diverse individuals. Shockingly, almost all survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) endure economic abuse at rates ranging from 94% to 99%. The confluence of factors, including the rising inflation that intensifies the cost of living, a scarcity of affordable housing options, soaring food prices, and strained assistance programs, creates a perilous environment for victims. This predicament often traps them in a vicious cycle of abuse, leaving them hesitant to break free.

Systemic barriers, such as racism and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, pose significant hurdles to accessing economic resources, the justice system, custody battles, housing, banking, and employment. For many Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, these obstacles become overwhelming, compelling some to return to their abuser for lack of viable alternatives.



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

Economic Abuse Awareness Day, initiated by CCFWE in 2019, has gained [recognition internationally](#), with participation from Canada, England, Israel, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. The day aims to raise awareness about the compounding costs of [Economic Abuse](#) on survivors and advocates for systemic change. In collaboration with global partners, CCFWE has submitted recommendations to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The recommendations address the pervasive issue of economic abuse globally, emphasizing the need for collective action to protect fundamental human rights and dignity.

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is gearing up to observe [Economic Abuse Awareness Day](#) on November 26, 2023. This year's theme, "Counting the Cost," sheds light on the enduring impact of Economic Abuse on survivors. National Economic Abuse Awareness Day is an opportunity for a collective effort, uniting victims, survivors, advocates, financial institutions, law enforcement, supporters, and political leaders in the mission to eradicate domestic Economic Abuse. The day emphasizes the influence each person holds in creating a positive impact. We emphasize the need for collaborative action from communities, policymakers, and stakeholders to implement effective measures that eradicate Economic Abuse. As part of our commitment to ending this pervasive issue, CCFWE calls for increased awareness, education, and policy reforms to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for survivors. By addressing Economic Abuse, we strive to build a future where everyone, regardless of their background, can live free from the shackles of abuse and economic exploitation.

"The acknowledgment of Economic Abuse Day is imperative. The lack of awareness and policies concerning economic abuse and injustice poses a substantial barrier for our financial institutions, legal entities, and social support systems. These challenges are compounded by a shortage of resources and coordinated services, hindering our ability to identify victims and assist them in rebuilding their lives. Recognizing the intersectionality of Economic Abuse and injustice with other forms of oppression is crucial for comprehensively addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by survivors." Executive Director Meseret Haileyesus.

Honorable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada, Insert full name speech is available. (Note this speech will be available in public on Nov 26) Please don't share

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/vfah49s5a9igk21in3xju/Economic-Abuse-Awareness.mov?rlkey=pzhtz3mjhzxkxamxcokmp2zuep&dl=0>

About CCFWE

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is the only national non-profit organization dedicated to addressing Economic Abuse through system change, education and



**CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT**

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

awareness, mentorship, economic empowerment, and groundbreaking evidence informed by lived experience. Learn more: <https://ccfwe.org/>.

Sign our petition <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Sign/e-4660>

Meseret Haileyesus
Executive Director
Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment
mesi.haileyesus@ccfwe.org