

For Immediate Release  
November 18, 2005

## Media Advisory

### Women's Advocates Speak Out on Sexual Violence in our High Schools

What: Anti-violence experts address sexual assault racism & among youth  
Where : City Hall, Committee room 2  
When: 10:30 a.m. Monday November 21

Anti-violence activists will hold a media conference to address the multiple issues involved in the current investigation into the sexual assault of a Toronto high school student.

The sexual harassment and sexual assault of young women is a problem in high schools across our city, province and country.

According to Stats Canada, 1 in 4 women experience a sexual assault in their lives, primarily between the ages of 15 and 25. Ninety percent of those women do not report the crime, citing fear of the police investigation and the legal system. As a result of this case, and primarily through media accounts, a message has been sent to other young women in this situation that if they report, they too will be subject to denial and disbelief.

Speakers will discuss:

- Board of Education and police policies and protocols in dealing with sexual violence and crime.
- The necessity to direct government funding towards relevant and informed sex education as well as course content in sexism and racism

Speakers will include:

Zanana Akande	YWCA Board of Directors/Urban Alliance on Race Relations/Former School Principle
Beverley Bain	Anti-Violence & Policing Educator (Moderator)
Andrea Bruner	Youth Worker, YWCA Girl's Council
Peggy-Gail Dehal-Ramson	Community Legal Worker, Parkdale Community Legal Clinic
Beth Jordan	Adobe Consulting/ Former Director Assaulted Women's Helpline

For further information please contact:

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