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YWCA Toronto responds to Federal Government's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Last week, the Federal Government announced the first-ever national action plan to address gender-based violence (GBV) in Canada. The action plan comes after decades of advocacy from women's organizations, survivors and feminists who have recognized the need for a coordinated and equitable national plan to address GBV.

While we are pleased to see the government recognize the importance of having a national strategy to address GBV, we are disheartened by the lack of tangible actions and commitments within it to address the violence faced by women, girls and gender diverse people across the country. We fear that outlining "opportunities for action" and entering negotiations with provinces and territories to determine an individualized plan does not address the need for a coordinated and consistent national plan with concrete deliverables.

YWCA Canada was involved in creating the blueprint brought forward by Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) offering [a report to guide the implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence against Women and GBV](#). The report identifies 100 recommendations and provides a roadmap to begin the process of instituting a national plan to address violence against women and GBV.

As recently as March, YWCA Toronto made a submission to The House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women which included calling for the implementation of the recommendations put forward in the aforementioned WSC report. Notably, we expressed how crucial it is to have these plans shaped by community input and guidance from GBV subject matter experts and to consider the disparate experiences of violence encountered by Indigenous, Black, racialized and LGBTQ+ women and gender diverse people and those living with disabilities.

In its current state, we fear the proposed National Action Plan falls short of meaningfully addressing GBV across the country. Nonetheless, we remain committed to working alongside all levels of government, feminist organizations and allies in our pursuit to achieve a Canada free from violence.

MEDIA

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