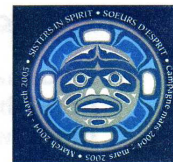


Violence against Aboriginal Women in Canada



Over the past 20 years, approximately 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in communities across Canada. Yet government, the media, and Canadian society continue to remain silent.

Sisters in Spirit Campaign
www.sistersinspirit.ca

Violence against women and children within Indigenous families and communities is widely understood to be part of a broader spectrum of social stress and turmoil that has resulted from government policies imposed on Indigenous peoples without their consent.

Amnesty International Canada
Stolen Sisters Report:

A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence against Indigenous Women in Canada
10/04/04

Some Facts to Consider:

- **The mortality rate of Aboriginal women as a result of violence is three times the rate experienced by all other Canadian women. Aboriginal women aged 25 - 44 are five times more likely to die from acts of violence.** (Health Canada: Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, 2002)
- **Aboriginal women in British Columbia suffer a higher percentage of lifetime sexual assault by non-partners than non-Aboriginal women (31.1% versus 15.6%).** (Women's Health Surveillance Report, 1999.)
- **Eight in ten Aboriginal women in Ontario reported having personally experienced violence.** (Ontario Native Women's Association 1989, 7.)
- **Aboriginal women are five times more likely to use a shelter than non-Aboriginal women.** (Profile of Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan, 1999.)
- **42.5% of Aboriginal women experienced partner violence (physical, sexual, financial or emotional) compared to 20.6% of non-Aboriginal women.** (Women's Health Surveillance Report, 1999.)
- **Rates of spousal homicide among Aboriginal women are more than eight times higher than for non-Aboriginal women.** (Statistics Canada, 2001.)

Violence Takes Many Forms in Canada:

In Canada, 42.7% of Aboriginal women live in poverty, double the percentage of non-Aboriginal women and significantly more than the number of Aboriginal men. (*Women, Income, and Health in Manitoba: An Overview and Ideas for Action. Revised January 2002*).

29% of female inmates in federal prisons are Aboriginal, although Aboriginal women make up only 3% of Canadian female population. (*Human Rights and Indigenous Issues: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, 2004.*)

Aboriginal women represent a higher percentage of cases of HIV/AIDS than non-Aboriginal women (15.9% vs 7.0%). Within female Aboriginal AIDS cases, 50% are attributed to IV drug use, in comparison to 17% of all female cases. (*Health Canada: Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, 2002.*)

Where to go for more information:

Aboriginal Women on the Move - <http://www.aboriginalwomenonthemove.org/>

Amnesty International - <http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters/index.php>

FREDA Centre - <http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/freda/reports/repindex.htm>

Health Canada: Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis - http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_aborig.htm

Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against women and Girls - <http://www.metrac.org/programs/safe/why.htm>

National Aboriginal Circle against Family Violence - <http://www.nacafv.ca/home.html>

Ontario Women's Justice Network- <http://www.nacafv.ca/home.html>

Sisters in Spirit - <http://www.sistersinspirit.ca/>

Status of Women Canada - http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/resources/gba_e.html

Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter - <http://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/herstory/awfraser.html>



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