



On December 6, APUS will join members of the University of Toronto and broader community observing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This day marks the anniversary of the 1989 l'École Polytechnique massacre of fourteen women in Montreal. Today also serves as a reminder to all of us that gender-based violence is an ongoing and persistent global human rights violation.

Women and girls from diverse populations and communities are still not safe on our campuses or in the broader society. Rates of gender-based violence remain higher for those from marginalized communities, including women and girls who are racialized, immigrants and refugees, queer, transgender and/or low income. Indigenous women and girls are 2.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, and 60% of women with a disability experience some form of violence throughout their lifetime¹. We have a collective responsibility to end all forms of oppression and that includes ending the rape culture, sexism, racism, transphobia and colonialism that enables this continued crisis.

In Canada, a woman is murdered nearly every other day. In 2018 alone, 50% of women killed between January and August resided in Ontario². Within higher education, 25% of undergraduate students who identify as women experience some form of sexual violence³. As we head toward the holiday season and a new year, it is important we continue to do the work of eradicating gender-based violence. By working together, it is always possible to change the conditions of the present and future.

We invite members of the APUS community to attend the following vigils on campus:

[U of T's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)

December 6th, 12-2pm
Great Hall, Hart House

Victoria College Vigil
December 6th, 2-2:45pm
Wendy Cecil Atrium

[December 6th Vigil](#)

Philosopher's Walk, 6-7pm

Additional events taking place during the United Nations global campaign 16 Days of Action to End Gender-Based Violence can be found [here](#).

In solidarity,

APUS Executive Committee

¹ <https://www.canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>

² <https://femicideinCanada.ca/sites/default/files/2018-09/CFOJA%20FINAL%20REPORT%20ENG%20V3.pdf>

³ <https://cfsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Factsheet-SexualAssault.pdf>