



Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association

204 Kirk Place, 219 Main Street
Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2C1
tel: 902- 863-6221 fax: 902- 867-1144
www.awrcsasa.ca

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services extends our heartfelt sympathy to the survivors, as well as the families, friends, colleagues and community members of those who lost their lives to the violence of April 18th-19th. We are also thinking of the first responders who continue to struggle with the aftermath of such trauma. In addition, we recognize that for many survivors of violence these events have been deeply re-traumatizing. We are holding you all in our hearts and minds as we grieve and work to support one another through this tragedy. As a community-based organization that provides support in times of crisis and to survivors of violence, we want to let our communities know that we are here for you.

As Nova Scotians show their strength and resiliency in coming together to support one another, may we also find the strength to recognize and address some of the underlying issues that provide the context for such heinous acts of violence. We stand in solidarity with feminist and anti-violence organizations in recognizing this as an act of male violence which included domestic violence. Let us come together to call out and work to end such misogyny and the violence against women and children that it fuels. Let us continue to work to end white male entitlement and privilege. We are committed to a cultural shift away from violent masculinity, where men and boys value kindness and care more than control and authority. Let us use this moment to build on the best of who we are as communities - reaching out and taking care of one another. May we commit to using this moment to prevent such terrible acts of violence in the future.

We will continue to advocate for policies and actions that prevent violence such as the ban on military-style assault rifles announced last week. We hope that we can continue to go farther, as survivors and families of victims have been calling for. We agree that they "deserve more than thoughts and prayers."

We also welcome further investigation of the individual and systemic causes of the Nova Scotia shootings as well as the decision-making of senior officials. And finally, we call for more action from governments, community leaders, organizations and individuals that will help us create a more just, peaceful and safe society for everyone.

We recognize that this is an incredibly challenging time, and that the aftermath of these events will continue to reverberate for months and years to come. We know that it can be especially difficult for those in rural communities but we want you to know there are services and supports available to you. Please reach out.

Wyanne Sandler, Executive Director