



Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association

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The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association recognizes the systemic and structural harm and violence perpetuated against racialized people and communities of all genders, as evidenced in the recent killings of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and here in Canada, Regis Korchinski-Paquet and Eishia Hudson.

We share in mourning with those impacted by these acts of fatal, racialized violence and express our sadness and anger as we join in solidarity with those calling for the independent investigations of these killings, recognizing that there are a great many others who have fallen victim.

We also know that we have work to do when it comes to racial justice. As a feminist organization, we challenge and are challenged by understanding and acting on the interlocking, reinforcing, and deep oppressions that impact women, Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary folks, and their families, friends, and communities. Ideally, when we advance gender equality we are also advancing racial equality.

Yet, we acknowledge and take responsibility for our own complicity and reliance on the very policing and justice systems and structures that have been constructed to perpetuate harm and violence to racialized people and communities, particularly those who are of African descent and Indigenous, for which the examples of Brady Francis, Colten Boushie, and Tina Fontaine demonstrate.

This truth has been made even more apparent to us during the COVID-19 pandemic; as we witness our systems and structures of policing, justice, health, education, work, and borders, explicitly and purposefully, ignorantly and ubiquitously, oppress black, brown, and yellow bodies. We remind and are reminded that people and communities are not high risk in of themselves, rather that the conditions of our society's systems and structures are of high risk to them.

As an organization, we commit to do better in how we are structured and educated on racial diversity, equity, and inclusion, and how we are accessed by and make ourselves accessible to the racialized people and communities in our region. We demand this of ourselves and of those within our systems and structures to do the same and commit to the work of racial justice.