

“Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic.”

- Globally, at least one out of every three women has been beaten, forced into sex or otherwise abused in her life-time.
- Every year, millions of women are raped by partners, relatives, friends and strangers, by employers and colleagues, soldiers and members of armed groups.
- The World Health Organization has reported that up to 70% of female murder victims are killed by their male partners.

Violence against women cuts across boundaries of wealth, nation, race and culture. In their homes and their communities, during war or peace times, women are beaten, raped, mutilated and killed—often with impunity.

“...the right of women to be free from violence is integral to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As long as this violence continues, the promise of the Universal Declaration to humanity cannot be fulfilled.”

Amnesty International

http://www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/svaw_overview.php



Other resources:

The Damaris Project

<http://damarisproject.org/>

*A place for conversations about spirituality
exploration of the big questions in life through eyes
of women and their stories.*

Women of Courage

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/rights-and-trade/women-of-courage/>

*Women and people's summit of the Americas
against militarization*

Our Whole Lives

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html>

*Sexuality education program
United Church of Christ*

Ontario women's directorate

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/>

Dawn Ontario

http://dawn.thot.net/violence_wvd.html
Family Violence against women with disabilities

Settlement.org

Immigrant women and domestic violence



Male Spirituality Circle: Finding the Hero Within

Www.fiveoaks.on.ca or 519-442-3212
*“Five Oaks offers this ... event for courageous
men of spirit to explore relationships, spiritual
issues and ... themselves.”*
Feb 7-10 or Feb 15-18
5 Oaks Centre, Paris, ON

Toward Daring Discipleship



January 2011 Gender Justice



**There is no longer
Jew or Greek,
there is no longer
slave or free,
there is no longer
male and female;
for all of you are one
in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:28



all of you are one in Christ Jesus

Sisters in the Spirit

<http://www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/rights/sis>

Over the past 20 years, approximately 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in Canada. Government, the media, and Canadian society have been largely silent. These women were daughters of God with their own families, hopes, loves, gifts and dreams. In Canada, Aboriginal women continue to be targeted with hatred and violence based on gender and race. They continue to be objectified, disrespected, dismissed and murdered, often with impunity.

Sisters in Spirit is a campaign to honour our sisters who are missing or murdered, and to take concrete steps to ensure that the lives of Aboriginal women in Canada are no longer treated as dispensable. Goals of the campaign include: identifying the number of Aboriginal women missing or killed in Canada, awareness education of underlying causes of violence against Aboriginal women, a hotline to report missing women and a registry for statistics.

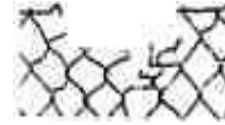
***Set aside time** for prayer and reflection. See the United Church's "From Lament to Response" for worship ideas.

***Use** the United Church *From Lament to Response* congregational kit to educate yourself about the root causes of violence against Aboriginal women. Invite a speaker to address these issues for your church, women's group, or community.

***Find out about missing Aboriginal women in your area.** Contact Native Women's Association of Canada regional groups or your local Native Friendship Centre for information and ideas about how to support the families of missing women.

***Educate yourself** about the root causes of violence against Aboriginal women. Invite a speaker to address these issues for your church, women's group, or community.

Gender inequality = violence



"Gender inequality is rooted deep in societies all over the world – and Canada is no exception. It is woven into all of our systems" ... "Changing attitudes is important. But equality isn't just about attitudes. It's also about the reality of where and how we live our day-to-day lives and whether we can make the choices we think are best for us."

"The [United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) says that violence against women is "a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women" that is caused by "historically unequal power relations between men and women". In other words, women's rights are human rights. Those rights include the right to be free from violence.

For many women, however, inequality and power imbalance with men is only part of the picture. Their choices and freedoms are also limited by overlapping forms of inequity stemming from unequal power.

Because violence against women is caused by women's inequality in all of its forms, then ending the conditions that keep women from being equal is needed to end violence against women."

<http://www.stepitupontario.ca/10-steps/step-1.html> by **Step it up! End violence against women:**

United Church Resources on Transgender and Gender Diversity

<http://www.united-church.ca/exploring/trans/resources>

"November 2008 a motion was received and approved by the General Council Executive, instructing staff in the General Council Office to develop resources to encourage the participation and ministry of transgender people in the life of the church and to prepare individuals and churches to receive such participation and ministry.

This work is just beginning with the establishment of the Trans/Gender Diversity Task Group."

Available on-line resources include:

[A Change of Body, Mind and Soul](#)

[Creative Differences in the Image of God](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Gender and Sex](#)

[On Being Christian](#)

[We Are Different But Not Unequal](#)

[Where Openness Is Everything](#)

