

ON JANUARY 19, WE MARCH AGAIN

Saturday, January 19, 2019



Today, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters around the world who are marching to end violence against women everywhere. What began as a protest march in Washington two years ago has quickly evolved into a global movement to empower and celebrate the lives of women and girls in all their diversity. The theme for the 2019 Women's Marches around the world is ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. The World Health Organization reports that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual violence in their lifetime – and that is only those who are able to report.

We are heartened that here at home, Canadian march organizers specifically acknowledge missing and murdered and Indigenous women and girls with a simple, yet powerful message: You are Not Forgotten. It remains an unacceptable reality that Indigenous women and girls are the most vulnerable people in Canada, and are 12 times more likely to be subjected to violence than non-Indigenous women.

This crippling level of violence is true worldwide. Statistics on violence committed against Indigenous women remain unreliable and incomplete, yet data that does exist is believed to vastly underestimate the true number of murders and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls in Canada, and around the world. Indigenous women are disproportionately affected by violence and discrimination because of underlying factors including poverty, historic marginalization, racism, and the damaging and ongoing legacies of colonialism.

The January 19 marches being held around the world are inspiring. They bring together millions of people from all backgrounds — women and men and 2SLGBTQQIA people, of all ages and abilities, on all seven continents.

Women's March Canada recognizes that "there is no true peace, freedom, or inclusion without equity for all." This movement brings us hope.

We encourage all Canadians to connect with their local march organizers and walk together.

Kinana'skomitinnow-ow

Marion Buller
Chief Commissioner

Tshinashkumitnau

Michèle Audette
Commissioner

Chi-meegwetch

Brian Eyolfson
Commissioner

Nakurmiik

Qajaq Robinson
Commissioner