



NATIONAL ADVOCACY.
COMMUNITY ACTION.



Mayor Chow Responds to Community Calls to Action to Declare Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

This morning, [Toronto City Council released their agenda](#) for their next meeting on July 19th. On that agenda is a recommendation from Mayor Olivia Chow to declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic in Toronto.

This recommendation comes after advocacy led by violence against women organizations, advocates and survivors across the city, province and country. Moreover, this call to action is derived from the first of [86 recommendations from the 2022 Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam \(CKW\) inquest](#) in Renfrew County.

Two weeks ago, following the [provincial government's rejection of the CKW inquest recommendation](#) to declare IPV an epidemic, we called on Mayor Chow to make the declaration here in Toronto and urged the province to reconsider. Earlier this week, members of our YWCA Toronto team had the great fortune of [meeting with Mayor Olivia Chow](#) wherein we discussed the urgency of making this declaration a reality. We also joined the strong and urgent call to action led by our colleagues at Aura Freedom and Women's Habitat of Etobicoke and are so grateful for them and the countless other organizations and activists who have urged action to address this epidemic of violence.

While we know that this declaration will be merely a first step to addressing and eradicating gender-based violence in all its forms, we are encouraged by the recommendations proposed by Mayor Olivia Chow and are committed to working with both her and the City of Toronto to advance our collective efforts to see a city, province and world free of violence. As civic partners, we are ready and willing to support efforts to eradicate gender-based violence in all its forms.

Read more about the CKW Inquest, Mayor Olivia Chow's motion and community calls to action through the following links:

CKW Inquest Recommendations: https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CKW-Inquest-Verdict-Recommendations-SIGNED_Redacted.pdf

Mayor Olivia Chow's motion: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC8.2>

Calls to Action: https://www.ywcatoronto.org/Assets/YWCA/Documents/Advocacy/Statements/YWCA%20Toronto%20Responds%20to%20Ontario%E2%80%99s%20denial%20that%20Intimate%20Partner%20Violence%20Is%20an%20Epidemic_Rev.pdf

<https://aurafreedom.org/toronto-ipv-epidemic/>

MEDIA

Sami Pritchard, Interim Director of Advocacy and Communications
437.286.9627 | spritchard@ywcatoronto.org