

BELIEF STATEMENTS

The following beliefs and aims, which are consistent with those adopted by the Quinte Coordinating Committee Against Violence, have been endorsed by the signatory partners to this Protocol.

We believe that:

1. All persons have the right to live free from the presence and threat of violence.
2. All persons have the right to be treated with equality in a sensitive and respectful manner, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation/preference, religion, ability/disability or age.
3. All persons found guilty of sexually intrusive, abusive and/or violent offences must be held accountable for their actions through the criminal, civil and/or family court systems and in accordance with the Criminal Code of Canada and/or other relevant laws or legislation.¹⁷
4. All interventions, programs and services shall hold perpetrators/assailants accountable for their violent and abusive behaviour.
5. Professional agencies, institutions, organizations and coordinating committees involved in the development, delivery, coordination and/or monitoring of services for victims of sexual violence must be accountable to the victims and survivors of such violence.
6. Organizations, service delivery sites and meeting locales must be fully accessible in accordance with best practices pertaining to barrier-free design.
7. Victims and survivors have the right to prompt, effective, responsible intervention, service and support, delivered in a manner which minimizes the likelihood and/or experience of re-victimization during disclosure, reporting, investigation, prosecution and recovery.
8. Victims and survivors have the right and ability to make informed decisions and choices with respect to the type and duration of support, counselling and/or treatment they receive throughout the disclosure, reporting, investigation, prosecution and recovery processes. These decisions and choices will be respected within the parameters of the law.

¹⁷In those instances when allegations of physical and/or sexual violence involving current or ex-dating, common-law or married partners are made, this statement presumes that a comprehensive assessment of power imbalances between partners has been completed by law enforcement, child welfare and/or justice personnel prior to the identification and charging of the perpetrator(s), in accordance with the directive from the Solicitor General and with attention to “dominant aggressor dynamics.”

9. The prevalence, complexity and severity of sexual and domestic violence demand a comprehensive, coordinated community response which is inclusive of victims and survivors.

In accordance with these beliefs, we aim to:

- Promote awareness, understanding and a commitment to action in relation to the issues of sexual and domestic violence/partner abuse in our community/communities.
- Promote and provide community education and professional development pertaining to sexual and domestic violence/partner abuse.
- Encourage and support effective, non-violent social action designed to eradicate violence against women and children; responsible prevention initiatives; and the development and delivery of effective services to victims and survivors of sexual violence and partner abuse.
- Encourage and support legal, judicial and professional interventions which hold perpetrators and assailants accountable for their actions through the criminal, civil and family court systems, and/or in accordance with relevant legislation such as the Human Rights Act or provincial Human Rights Code.
- Promote and provide fully accessible services to victims, survivors, family members and perpetrators/assailants within our community.
- Provide leadership and support for a coordinated, collaborative community response to sexual violence and partner abuse with particular attention to the development of complementary and effective therapeutic and advocacy services for victims, survivors and supportive family members.
- Develop and demonstrate understanding of and mutual respect for the various roles and responsibilities of the different professionals and agencies involved with victims and survivors of sexual violence and partner abuse, their children, supportive family members, and/or perpetrators and assailants.