

# 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The annual campaign runs from November 25 to December 10

## The Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international event designated and led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) that occurs annually from November 25 to December 10. The Alberta government and community partners lead awareness activities and events each year to recognize the campaign and to call for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.

### Key Campaign Dates:

- **November 25:** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- **December 6:** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- **December 10:** International Human Rights Day

## Commemoration of December 6

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This date was designated to commemorate the deaths of 14 young women in an act of gender-based violence at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989.

The Alberta government hosts an annual commemorative event and vigil on December 6.

## Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is violence that is committed against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. It can include, but is not limited to, family violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and female genital mutilation. Gender inequality is consistently recognized as a root cause of all forms of gender-based violence.

### Key Facts:

- Some Albertans have an increased risk of experiencing gender-based violence, including women and girls aged 15-24, Indigenous women and girls, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ2S+ people.
- While women and girls have an increased risk of experiencing gender-based violence, men and boys can also experience gender-based violence. For example, two in three females and one in three males in Alberta have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Alberta ranks third among provinces for rates of police-reported family violence and intimate partner violence.
- Alberta has the fourth highest rate of police-reported sexual assault among all provinces; however, 95% of survivors do not report their assaults to the police, making sexual violence the most underreported crime in Canada.

To learn more about ending gender-based violence, see: <https://www.alberta.ca/violence-against-women.aspx>

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