



FACT SHEET SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

At the Canadian Women's Foundation, our vision is for all women in Canada to live free from violence.

Sexual assault and harassment are persistent forms of violence against women that are rooted in gender inequality. In fact, sexual assault is the only violent crime in Canada that is not declining. Its impact goes far beyond survivors; dealing with the aftermath of sexual assault costs Canadians billions of dollars every year.

Since the vast majority of sexual assault isn't reported to police, both police-reported data and self-reported data from social surveys help to establish its scope.

This fact sheet answers some frequently asked questions about sexual assault and harassment in Canada. For more information about domestic violence and violence against women in general, please visit the Canadian Women's Foundation website, canadianwomen.org.

HERE ARE SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

1. Is sexual assault really as common as some people say?

- Women self-reported 553,000 sexual assaults in 2014, according to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey on Victimization.¹
- Women were 10 times more likely than men to be the victim of a police-reported sexual assault in 2008.²
- Although both men and women experience sexual assault, women accounted for 92% of victims of police-reported sexual assaults in 2008.³
- Sexual assault is the only violent crime in Canada that is not declining. Since 1999, rates of sexual assault have remained relatively unchanged.⁴ This is one of the reasons that women's risk of violent victimization was about 20% higher than men's in 2014, according to self-reported data from the General Social Survey on Victimization. While the rate of sexual assault has remained stable, rates of robbery and physical assault have gone down, and men are more likely to be the victims of those crimes.⁵
- Between 2009 and 2013, the rates of police-reported sexual assault of women by intimate partners rose by 17%.⁶



- The impact of sexual assault goes far beyond direct victims. Each year, sexual assault costs Canadian society billions of dollars. In 2009, dealing with sexual assault and related offenses cost the Canadian economy an estimated \$4.8 billion.⁷
- **Certain groups of women face a higher risk of sexual assault:**
 - Young Canadians are more likely to experience sexual assault. The rate of sexual assault for Canadians age 15 to 24 is 18 times higher than that of Canadians age 55 and older.⁸
 - 82% of all victims of sexual assault under the age of 18 are female, and girls under age 18 report a rate of sexual violence almost five times higher than boys under 18.⁹
 - Girls are four times more likely than boys to be sexually abused by a family member.¹⁰
 - Women with disabilities and those who are institutionalized, Aboriginal women, single women, and women who are unemployed or have low-incomes are at heightened risk of sexual assault.¹¹
 - Sexual assaults account for about 33% of all crimes committed against Aboriginal women, and 10% of all crimes committed against non-Aboriginal women.¹²
 - Disabled women experience sexual violence at about three times the rate of non-disabled women.¹³
 - Out of the total number of seniors who are sexually assaulted by a family member, 96% are women.¹⁴

2. But aren't most sexual assaults very minor?

There are three levels of sexual assault in Canada:¹⁵

- **Level one** sexual assaults cause little or no physical injury
 - **Level two** sexual assaults involve a weapon, threat, or bodily harm
 - **Level three** sexual assaults involve physical wounds, disfigurement, or threaten the life of the survivor
- While most sexual assaults fall into the level one category, any type of sexual assault can have long-term impacts on a survivor's psychological well-being.¹⁶ Many women who are sexually assaulted experience high rates of depression, anxiety disorders, sleep disorders, suicidal behaviours, self-harm, eating disorders, and substance abuse issues.¹⁷
 - Women who have experienced sexual assault are more likely to attempt suicide.¹⁸



- Sexual assaults can lead to health issues such as unwanted pregnancy, gynecological complications, and sexually transmitted diseases.¹⁹
- Sexual violence also has financial consequences for survivors. It's estimated that each year in Canada, the collective financial impact for women who experience sexual assault is \$3.4 billion in medical costs, lost productivity, and intangible costs like pain and suffering.²⁰

3. To avoid sexual assault, shouldn't women take responsibility for their own safety and avoid drinking too much or meeting up with strangers?

- Only one party is responsible for sexually assaulting or harassing another person: the perpetrator. Holding a survivor accountable for the violence she experiences is called victim-blaming and it is not only unfair, it's also dangerous. Victim-blaming leads many women to believe abuse is their fault and makes them less likely to come forward and report sexual offenses.²¹
- There is a myth that sexual assault is usually committed by strangers, but in about 80% of cases, the sexual assault survivor knows the offender.²²
- There is research linking alcohol to sexual assault, but "the fact that alcohol consumption and sexual assault frequently co-occur does not demonstrate that alcohol causes sexual assault."²³ There is also a double standard: while alcohol consumption is sometimes used to excuse the abuser's behaviour, it is also often used as a reason to blame the victim for the abuse.

4. Why would someone sexually assault or harass a woman?

- Like other forms of violence against women, sexual assault is rooted in gender inequality.²⁴ It's driven by the idea that the needs, feelings, or beliefs of one person/group are more correct or important than those of another person/group. Those who commit sexual assault perceive the victim as unequal. This creates a rationale for control, humiliation, intimidation and abuse.
- In our society, gender inequality is present in many areas²⁵, including politics, religion, media, cultural norms, and the workplace. Both men and women receive many messages – both overt and covert – that it is natural for men to have more social power than women.
- The false belief that men have a right to control women, even violently, is common. This is not only wrong, it's against the law.²⁶
- Hyper-masculinity—the notion that masculinity is determined by strength and power—is damaging for men, women and everyone in between. It promotes violence and entitlement and devalues feeling and emotions.



- Men who demonstrate hostile and hyper-masculine attitudes are more likely to self-report sexual aggression against women.²⁷
- In addition to sexism, there are many other forms of social inequality that can compound abuse and violence, including racism, homophobia, classism, ageism, ableism, and religious persecution.²⁸
- The social tendency toward victim-blaming reinforces the notion that abuse and assault are acceptable, and allows the perpetrator to defend and continue their actions.

5. How do you know if someone is consenting to sexual activity?

- Understanding consent plays a key role in understanding what constitutes sexual assault. Without consent, any sexual contact is sexual assault. Consent needs to be enthusiastic and ongoing. It is given with a clear “yes”, affirmative words, and positive body language.
- People can change their minds and withdraw consent at any time, so it is important for partners to communicate clearly and pay attention to each other’s body language.
- Based on the Canadian legal definition of consent, it cannot be given in a situation that involves an abuse of trust, power or authority. Anyone who is unconscious cannot legally give consent.²⁹ Anyone who is under the age of consent cannot give consent.³⁰
- Despite the importance of consent, a 2015 study by the Canadian Women’s Foundation indicated that is not well understood. Almost all Canadians (96%) believe all sexual activities should be consensual, but only 1 in 3 Canadians understand what it means to give consent.³¹
- There is also a blurred understanding of consent when it comes to online and offline activity: 1 in 5 Canadians between the ages of 18 to 34 believe that if a woman sends an explicit photo through email or text, this always means she is giving consent to a sexual activity.³²
- Some Canadians think there’s no need for consent in long-term relationships. The Canadian Women’s Foundation found that 1 in 10 Canadians believe consent to sexual activity is not needed between long-term partners and spouses.³³

6. What’s the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment?

- While sexual assault refers to unwanted sexual activity, including touching and attacks, sexual harassment can encompass discriminatory comments and behaviour, as well as touching. Sexual harassment may take the form of jokes, threats, comments about sex, or discriminatory remarks about someone’s gender.³⁴



- According to a 2014 poll, 43% of women have been sexually harassed in their workplace. Women were also more than twice as likely as men to say they had experienced unwanted sexual contact while at work (20% compared to 9%).³⁵
- One highly publicized example of sexual harassment of women at work is the “FHRITP” phenomenon. Women journalists across the country have reported that male passers-by shout this obscene phrase at them while they attempt to broadcast news segments.³⁶
- The Internet has led to incredible advancements, but it has also provided a platform for new forms of harassment. Young women (18-24) are most likely to experience online harassment in its most severe forms, including stalking, sexual harassment, and physical threats.³⁷

7. If someone is being sexually assaulted or harassed, why don't they just speak up?

- While most of us are familiar with “fight or flight” responses, “freezing” is another uncontrollable reaction to fear and stress. When freezing occurs during a trauma like sexual assault, a person becomes physically incapable of resisting or speaking up.³⁸
- Most sexual assaults are committed in someone’s home,³⁹ by someone known to the survivor. In this context, the shock of such unexpected danger can paralyze the person being assaulted or harassed. “Preparatory kinds of feelings and thoughts are totally submerged because they should not be needed,” says Charlene Senn, a social psychologist at the University of Windsor.⁴⁰
- From a young age, girls are socialized to “be nice” and to behave passively in response to conflict. Experts and survivors say the pressure to be polite is so ingrained that it can make speaking up about assault or harassment very difficult.⁴¹
- 80% of sexual assault is committed by someone the survivor knows.⁴² Survivors often struggle to comprehend how someone they know could hurt them, and they may not want to get that person in trouble.
- Another reason women might not speak up about sexual assault or harassment is because the abuser is in a position of authority in their workplace, school, sports team, family, or community. Women may be afraid they won’t be believed and that the voices of men with status will be believed over theirs. Many fear that speaking up will jeopardize their goals, career or reputation.⁴³
- Our culture has become accustomed to blaming victims for abuse rather than the perpetrators. When women internalize victim-blaming, they might experience psychological responses to trauma including:
 - Denial: telling themselves that they are overreacting or the assault wasn’t a big deal



- Guilt/Shame: questioning their own actions and behaviour
- Embarrassment: blaming themselves for the abuse or feeling like they didn't do enough to resist it.⁴⁴

8. Why would someone stay in touch with an abuser after being sexually assaulted?

- Survivors can respond to harassment and assault in many ways. There is no correct way to react⁴⁵ and many people find themselves reaching out to or staying in touch with an abuser.
- “Women who have been assaulted by people they know act in ways that are often counterintuitive,” says University of Ottawa law professor Elizabeth Sheehy.⁴⁶
- According to Dr. Patricia Janssen from the University of British Columbia School of Population and Public Health, some survivors might not recognize sexual harassment or assault “as part of a pattern of behaviour.”⁴⁷
- Survivors might minimize an isolated event or deny that it happened because of a desire to feel loved by the abuser or to avoid the stigma of being a victim.⁴⁸
- “Some people may immediately break off ties, but others may seek to continue and possibly “normalize” the relationship, hoping that it will not happen again,” says criminal lawyer David Butt. “At first there is often a sense of confusion, a sense of denial ... it is not unusual for the relationship to continue.”⁴⁹
- “Many survivors struggle to break off contact with their abuser because the nature of abuse includes undermining their self-esteem and confidence. They may feel controlled by their abuser ... in some instances, those in an abusive relationship go through periods of calm, nurturing and love between the incidents of violence. An abuser may swear that it will never happen again,” says Keetha Mercer, Manager of Violence Prevention at the Canadian Women's Foundation.⁵⁰

9. Why are so few sexual assaults reported to police?

- Even though the rate of self-reported sexual assaults has remained relatively stable, the percentage of offenses that were reported to the police dropped from about 12% in 2009⁵¹ to 5% in 2014.⁵²
- It is estimated that less than 1% of sexual assaults experienced by women lead to an offender being convicted. The estimate is based on a 2012 analysis of self-reported sexual assault data and court statistics.⁵³ The majority of offenders walk free.⁵⁴



- After a sexual assault, a woman might experience a range of psychological responses that affect her ability to report an incident, including denial, shock, guilt, shame, embarrassment, grief, anger, and fear.⁵⁵
- In a Global/Ipsos Reid poll, the most common reason women gave for not reporting a sexual assault to the police was feeling young and powerless (56%). Forty per cent of respondents said they stayed silent because of the shame they felt and 29% said they blamed themselves for the assault.⁵⁶ Others worried that reporting would bring dishonour to their families, feared retaliation from their attacker, or said they didn't have faith in the criminal justice system.⁵⁷
- Of the survivors in the Global/Ipsos Reid poll who did report a sexual assault to police, 71% said the experience was negative.⁵⁸
- Some women begin to feel re-victimized when they report sexual assault and go through the legal process: "Women often suffer secondary victimization when they turn to the police, social services, friends, or family if, as can happen, they are not believed, blamed or made to feel responsible for the violence, or subjected to callous or insensitive treatment, when police fail to take evidence, or when their cases are dropped arbitrarily."⁵⁹
- Sexual assault and harassment can be traumatic for survivors; many people experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the process of reporting and incident can be re-traumatizing.⁶⁰
- Immigrant women who arrive in Canada traumatized by war or oppressive governments may be less likely to report physical or sexual violence to the authorities for fear of further victimization or even deportation.⁶¹
- Studies suggest that when women of colour report violence, particularly rape, their experiences are often taken less seriously within the criminal justice system.⁶²
- There is a belief that it is common for women to falsely report sexual assault. But a review of international research on false reporting of sexual assault suggests that false reporting happens in 2% to 8% of cases.⁶³

10. How can sexual assault be stopped?

- One of the ways to prevent sexual assault is by understanding consent and raising awareness about its importance. For more information about consent, go to getconsent.ca, watch and share the video.
- Research shows that high-school violence prevention programs are highly effective. The Canadian Women's Foundation supports teen healthy relationship programs across the country that teach participants how to recognize abusive relationships and how to develop healthy relationships. Even



years after attending one of our funded programs, students experienced long-term benefits such as better dating relationships, the ability to recognize and leave an unhealthy relationship, and increased self-confidence, assertiveness, and leadership.

- Recognize and challenge victim-blaming, and let survivors and victims know that sexual assault is not their fault.
- Hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. If we don't, we reinforce the notion that abuse and assault are acceptable. It allows abusers to defend and continue their actions.
- Address systemic barriers in the legal system to allow for better access to justice for those who experience sexual assault and harassment.
- Challenge gender inequality wherever you see it. Identify and challenge the idea that the needs, feelings, or beliefs of one person/group are more correct or important than those of another person/group.

MEDIA INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Stacey Rodas, Coordinator, Social Media and Public Relations
Canadian Women's Foundation
504-133 Richmond St. W, Toronto, ON, M5H 2L3
416.365.1444 extension 240
srodas@canadianwomen.org

ENDNOTES

¹ Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014, Table 4, Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241/tbl/tbl04-eng.htm>

² Gender Differences in Police-Reported Violent Crime in Canada, 2008, Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2010024-eng.pdf>, page 5.

³ Gender Differences in Police-Reported Violent Crime in Canada, 2008, Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2010024-eng.pdf>, page 10.

⁴ Criminal Victimization in Canada, Statistics Canada, 2014, Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.pdf>, page 5.

⁵ Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.htm - a8>

⁶ Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2013, Statistics Canada, p. 31. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>

⁷ An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Violent Victimization in Canada, 2009, Department of Justice Canada. Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr14_01/conc.html



- ⁸ The Nature of Sexual Offences, 2010, Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/2008019/findings-resultats/nature-eng.htm>
- ⁹ Child and Youth Victims of Police-reported Crime, 2008, Statistics Canada, page 12. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2010023-eng.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Family Violence in Canada, A Statistical Profile, 2013, Statistics Canada, p. 5, available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>
- ¹¹ Bill C-46: Records Applications Post-Mills, A Caselaw Review, Statistics on Sexual Assault, Government of Canada, Department of Justice, 2002, Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/ccs-ajc/rr06_vic2/p3_4.html
- ¹² Issue Brief: Sexual Violence Against Women in Canada, 2015, p. 17, Available at: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/svawc-vcsfc/issue-brief-en.pdf>
- ¹³ Sexual Assault in Canada: Law, Legal Practice and Activism, 2012, Sexual Assault and Disabled Women, by Fran Odette, p. 186, Available at: http://www.ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/19876/12/Sexual_Assault_in_Canada.pdf
- ¹⁴ Family Violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2013, p. 61, Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114-eng.pdf>
- ¹⁵ Sexual Assault in Canada, Shannon Brennan and Shannon Taylor-Butts, Department of Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2008. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2008019-eng.htm>
- ¹⁶ Health Impacts of Violent Victimization on Women and Their Children, Department of Justice, Canada, 2012, Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_12/rr12_12.pdf
- ¹⁷ Health Impacts of Violent Victimization on Women and Their Children, Department of Justice, Canada, 2012, Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_12/rr12_12.pdf
- ¹⁸ Sexual Assault History and Suicidal Behaviour in a National Sample of Women, Suicide and Life-Threatening Behaviour, 2002, p. 117, Available at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1521/suli.32.2.117.24398/epdf?r3_referer=wol&tracking_action=preview_click&show_checkout=1&purchase_referrer=scholar.google.ca&purchase_site_license=LICENSE_DENIED_NO_CUST_OMER
- ¹⁹ Health Impacts of Violent Victimization on Women and Their Children, Department of Justice, Canada, 2012, Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_12/rr12_12.pdf
- ²⁰ An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Violent Victimization, Statistics Canada, 2009. Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rr14_01/conc.html
- ²¹ Victim Blaming, The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, p.6., 2009, Available at: https://crcvc.ca/docs/victim_blaming.pdf
- ²² Statistics on Sexual Assault, Department of Justice Canada. Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/ccs-ajc/rr06_vic2/p3_4.html
- ²³ Abbey, A. (2002). Alcohol-Related Sexual Assault: A Common Problem among College Students. Journal of Studies on Alcohol. Supplement, (14), 118–128. Available: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4484270/>
- ²⁴ Understanding and Addressing Violence Against Women: Sexual Violence, World Health Organization. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77434/1/WHO_RHR_12.37_eng.pdf



- ²⁵ Progress on Women's Rights: Missing in Action, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2014. Available at: <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/progress-women%E2%80%99s-rights-missing-action>
- ²⁶ Consolidation Criminal Code R.S.C., 1985, Government of Canada, 1985, ch. C-46. Available: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-46.pdf>
- ²⁷ A Social Constructivist approach to Understanding the Relationship Between Masculinity and Sexual Aggression, Psychology of Men & Masculinity, Murnen, Sarah K, 2015, Available at: <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/men/16/4/370/>
- ²⁸ Violence Against Women Information, Amnesty International. Available at: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/violence-against-women-information>
- ²⁹ Department of Justice, A Definition of Consent to Sexual Activity, 2015. <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/victims-victimes/def.html>
- ³⁰ Age of Consent to Sexual Activity, Department of Justice Canada, 2015. Available at: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/clp/faq.html>
- ³¹ "Only 1 in 3 Canadians Know What Sexual Consent Means." Canadian Women's Foundation survey and press release, May 2015. Available: <http://canadianwomen.org/press-consent>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ Defining Sexual Harassment, Ontario Human Rights Commission. Available at: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/sexual-harassment-employment-fact-sheet>
- ³⁵ Canadian Public Opinion Poll on Sexual Harassment at Work, Angus Reid Institute, 2014, Available at: <http://angusreid.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014.12.05-Sexual-Harassment-at-work.pdf>
- ³⁶ FHRITP phenomenon: CBC journalists share 'mortifying' experiences, 2015, Available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/fhritp-phenomenon-cbc-journalists-share-mortifying-experiences-1.3072191>
- ³⁷ Online Harassment: Summary of findings, Pew Research Centre, 2014, Available at: <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/22/online-harassment/>
- ³⁸ Tonic Immobility as an evolved predator defense, Implications for sexual assault survivors, Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice, 2008, Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2850.2008.00112.x/abstract?userIsAuthenticated=false&deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=>
- ³⁹ Experts say socialization can affect how women deal with sexual assault, The Canadian Press, 2016, Available at: <http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/experts-say-socialization-can-affect-how-women-deal-with-sexual-assault-1.2773507>
- ⁴⁰ Experts say socialization can affect how women deal with sexual assault, The Canadian Press, 2016, Available at: <http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/experts-say-socialization-can-affect-how-women-deal-with-sexual-assault-1.2773507>
- ⁴¹ How politeness conditioning can lead to confusion about sexual assault, The Globe and Mail, 2016 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/relationships/how-politeness-conditioning-can-lead-to-confusion-about-sexual-assaults/article29294471/>
- ⁴² Bill C-46: Records Applications Post-Mills, A Caselaw Review, Statistics on Sexual Assault, Government of Canada, Department of Justice, 2002, Available at: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/ccs-ajc/rr06_vic2/p3_4.html



⁴³ Some examples: External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces, National Defense and the Canadian Armed Forces, 2015, Available at: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services/external-review-sexual-mh-2015/summary.page>.

Canadian Public Opinion Poll on Sexual Harassment at Work, Angus Reid Institute, 2014, Available at: <http://angusreid.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014.12.05-Sexual-Harassment-at-work.pdf>

⁴⁴ Victim Responses, Best Practices for Investigating and Prosecuting Sexual Assault, Alberta Government, p. 113-116, Available at: https://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/criminal_pros/Documents/SexualAssaultHandbook-PoliceCrown.pdf

⁴⁵ If accusers kept in touch with Ghomeshi, does it matter? CTV News, by Angela Mulholland, 2016, Available at: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/if-accusers-kept-in-touch-with-ghomeshi-does-it-matter-1.2772178>

⁴⁶ Jian Ghomeshi case shines spotlight on 'post-incident contact,' The Toronto Star, by Kevin Donovan, 2016, Available at: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/04/24/jian-ghomeshi-case-shines-spotlight-on-post-incident-contact.html>

⁴⁷ Why would someone stay with their abuser? Global News, by Tania Kohut, 2016, Available at: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2501243/the-complicated-reasons-women-stay-with-their-abusers/>

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Jian Ghomeshi case shines spotlight on 'post-incident contact,' The Toronto Star, by Kevin Donovan, 2016, Available at: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/04/24/jian-ghomeshi-case-shines-spotlight-on-post-incident-contact.html>

⁵⁰ Why would an assault survivor reach out to her abuser? Chatelaine, by Sarah Boesveld, 2016, Available at: <http://www.chatelaine.com/news/why-would-an-assault-survivor-reach-out-to-her-abuser/>

⁵¹ Self-reported victimizations reported to police, 1999, 2004 and 2009, Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009, Samuel Perreault and Shannon Brennan, Statistics Canada, 2010. Available: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010002/article/11340-eng.htm#a18>

⁵² Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014, Statistics Canada, p.3. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14241-eng.pdf>

⁵³ Limits of Criminal Justice Response: Trends in Police and Court Processing of Sexual Assault by Holly Johnson, Sexual Assault in Canada: Law, Legal Practice and Women's Activism, pg. 613, Available at: http://www.ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/19876/12/Sexual_Assault_in_Canada.pdf

⁵⁴ Limits of Criminal Justice Response: Trends in Police and Court Processing of Sexual Assault by Holly Johnson, Sexual Assault in Canada: Law, Legal Practice and Women's Activism, pg. 613, Available at: http://www.ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/19876/12/Sexual_Assault_in_Canada.pdf

⁵⁵ Victim Responses, Best Practices for Investigating and Prosecuting Sexual Assault, Alberta Government, p. 113-116, Available at: https://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/criminal_pros/Documents/SexualAssaultHandbook-PoliceCrown.pdf

⁵⁶ Why don't women report rape? Because most get no justice when they do. Global News, February 23, 2015, Available at: <http://globalnews.ca/news/1845136/why-dont-women-report-rape-because-most-get-no-justice-when-they-do/>

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.



⁵⁹ Fact Sheet: Violence Against Women, 2013, CRIAW-ICREF, p.13. Available: http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/VAW_ENG_longFinal.pdf

⁶⁰ Sexual Harassment and PTSD: Is Sexual Harassment a Diagnosable Trauma?, Journal of Traumatic Stress, 2002, Available at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A:1014387429057>

⁶¹ Migrant Mothers Project, Policy Report, 2014, p. 34. Available at: <http://www.migrantmothersproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/MMP-Policy-Report-Final-Nov-14-2014.pdf>

⁶² All That Glitters is not Gold: The False Promise of Victim Impact Statements by Rakhi Ruparelia; Sexual Assault in Canada: Law, Legal Practice and Women's Activism, p. 683, Available: http://www.ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/19876/12/Sexual_Assault_in_Canada.pdf

⁶³ False Reports: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault, The National Centre for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women, 2009. Available at: http://ndaa.org/pdf/the_voice_vol_3_no_1_2009.pdf