



Newsletter

Commemorating Dec. 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

On December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered at the l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal because of their gender.

This tragedy focused attention on violence against women and girls, and its causes.

In order to help raise Canadians' consciousness about violence against women and girls, in 1991 the federal government designated December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Beyond commemorating the loss of these fourteen young lives, this day represents a time to pause and reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society.

It is also a time to think about all the women and girls who live daily with the threat of violence or who have died as a result of deliberate acts of gender-based aggression.

Finally, it is a day when workers and their unions can reflect on concrete actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

This year there are two initiatives that HEU members can participate in.

The first is to wear the union's sticker - a call to end violence against women and girls - to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

A limited quantity of the stickers has been mailed to locals to distribute to members to wear in

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the workplace leading up to, and on December 6.

The second is to plan on participating in a Canadian Labour Congress-led campaign focusing on women's economic security that will run from December 6, 2005 to March 8, 2006.

The CLC campaign, endorsed by the BC Federation of Labour, will focus on:

- core funding for women's services and organizations, (remember that the BC Liberal government cut funding to BC's women's centres during its first term);
- pay equity; and
- child care.

Watch for more information about the CLC campaign, and a sample of the postcard supporting it in December.

November 28, 2005