

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a supportive gesture, with fingers pointing towards the center. The hands are positioned in the upper and lower portions of the frame, framing a central purple banner.

# DAWN Canada

**Ticking a box, or building a movement?**

Bonnie L. Brayton

**Building an Inclusive Canada: A National Disability Summit**

**Ottawa**

**May 9, 2019**



## • ABOUT DAWN CANADA - Mission •

- Our mission is to end the poverty, isolation, discrimination and violence experienced by Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.
- For nearly 35 years, DAWN Canada has worked towards the advancement and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women by creating change at a systemic level. This includes building strategic partnerships, developing curriculum and educational tools, and addressing policy change.



DAWN Canada - DisAbled Women's Network Canada



## • ABOUT DAWN CANADA – How we work •

- Grounded in the lived experiences of women with disabilities and Deaf women, and using an evidence-based approach, DAWN Canada works to create change at a systemic level in order to directly improve the quality of life for women with disabilities.
- We amplify the voice of women with disabilities and Deaf women by ensuring that they are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter most, including violence prevention, health equity, and access to justice.
- We work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities to support their leadership in articulating their needs.



DAWN Canada - DisAbled Women's Network Canada



## • OUR APPROACH •

### FOUR PILLARS

#### RESEARCH

We work with community-based researchers and academic partners to shift the discussion around how research and community development can and should be done using an intersectional approach.

#### EDUCATION

We work with partners, sharing research in order to develop curriculum and tools to deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of intersectionality and inclusion to a range of stakeholders.

#### POLICY

We continue to challenge and engage policy-makers in the review and development of policies so that they are informed by community-defined needs.

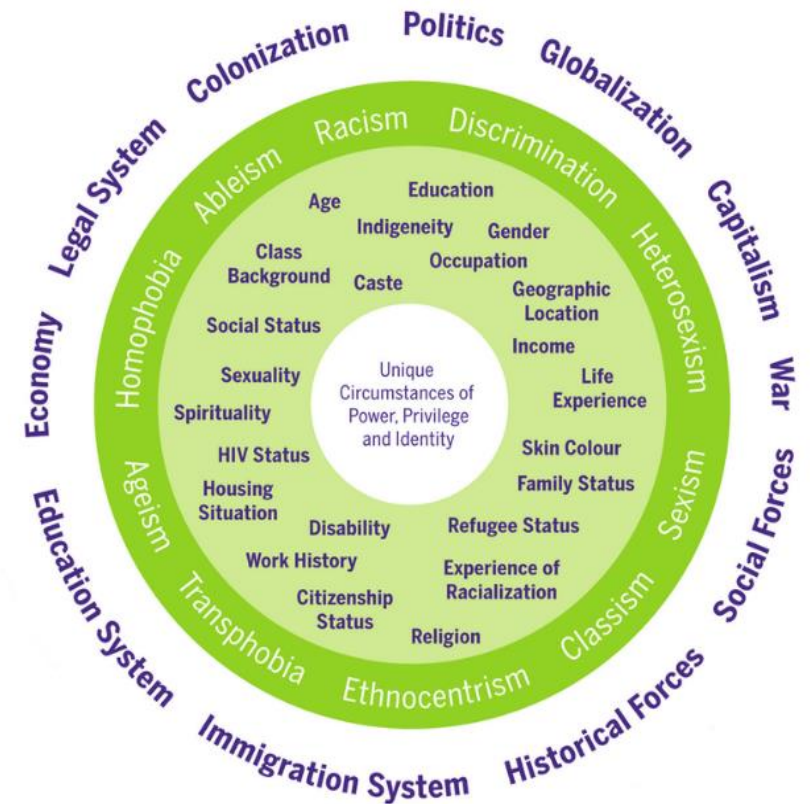
#### ADVOCACY

We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most. **NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

# The need for an intersectional lens

## Intersectionality

- **Intersectionality** takes into account how different kinds of discrimination work together.
- First used by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, the principles of intersectionality have been present in Black feminist thought for decades, as a way of understanding the complexities of Black women's lives.
- Indigenous understandings of connectedness and 'all my relations' share many links with intersectionality.



**Innermost Circle:** unique circumstances

**Second Circle:** aspects of identity

**Third Circle:** types of discrimination impacting identity

**Outermost Circle:** larger forces and structures reinforcing exclusion

**Note:** it is impossible to name every discrimination, identity or structure. These are just examples to help give you a sense of what Intersectionality is.

Graphic adapted from CRIAW/ICREF's Intersectionality Wheel Diagram published in *Everyone Belongs: A Toolkit for Applying Intersectionality* (2009, p. 6)

Source FACT SHEET 2: INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND PRECARITY  
<http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FS%202%20FINAL.pdf>

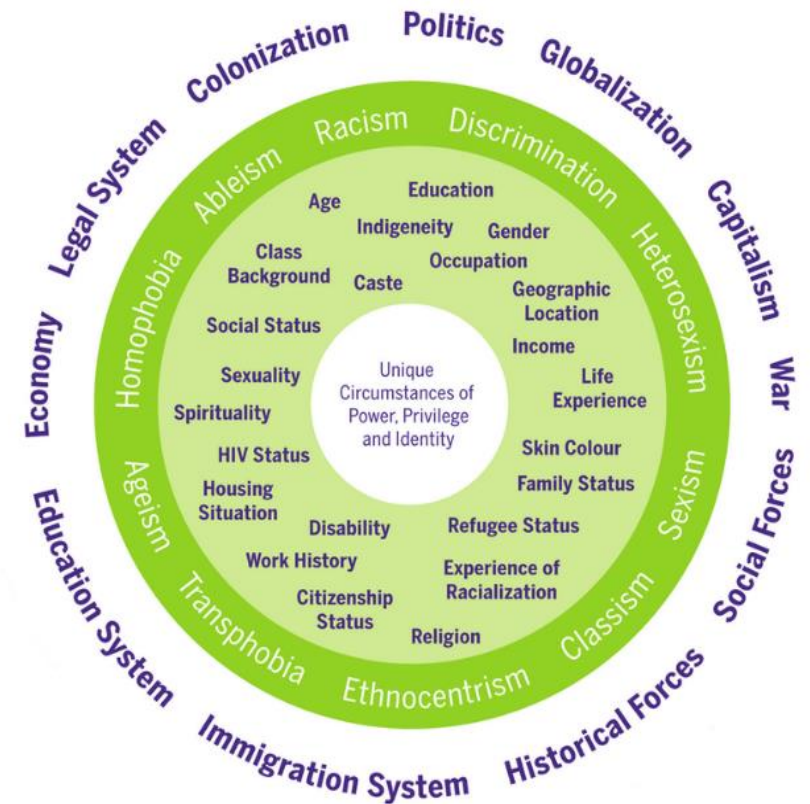




# The need for an intersectional lens

## Intersectionality

- This diagram provides a way to think about intersectionality, with the innermost circle representing a person's unique circumstances.
- The next circle represents aspects of identity. The third represents different types of discrimination/isms/attitudes that impact identity.
- The outermost circle represents larger forces and structures that work together to reinforce exclusion.
- Note: It is impossible to name every discrimination, identity or structure. These are just examples to help give a sense of what intersectionality is.



**Innermost Circle:** unique circumstances

**Second Circle:** aspects of identity

**Third Circle:** types of discrimination impacting identity

**Outermost Circle:** larger forces and structures reinforcing exclusion

**Note:** it is impossible to name every discrimination, identity or structure. These are just examples to help give you a sense of what Intersectionality is.

Graphic adapted from CRIAW/ICREF's Intersectionality Wheel Diagram published in *Everyone Belongs. A Toolkit for Applying Intersectionality* (2009, p. 6)

Source FACT SHEET 2: INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND PRECARIITY  
<http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FS%202%20FINAL.pdf>



# The need for an intersectional lens

## The need for an intersectional lens

Women with disabilities who experience violence as children are almost two times as likely as those who had not experienced physical abuse to be victimized in the last 12 months.

In general, women with disabilities who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual experience 2.3 times higher rates of violence than among heterosexual women with disabilities.

Women who experience mental health related disabilities and those with cognitive disabilities experience disproportionately high rates of sexual assault.

Aboriginal women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and thus bigger targets for sexual predators.

Indigenous children with disabilities remain one of the most oppressed groups in Canada

Where refugees are concerned, women and girls remain exposed to sexual violence due to long processing times and a lack of laws to protect them from human trafficking.



“Indigenous women living with a disability face barriers and discriminatory

## actions on **three fronts:**

being a woman;  
being Indigenous and  
living with a disability.”



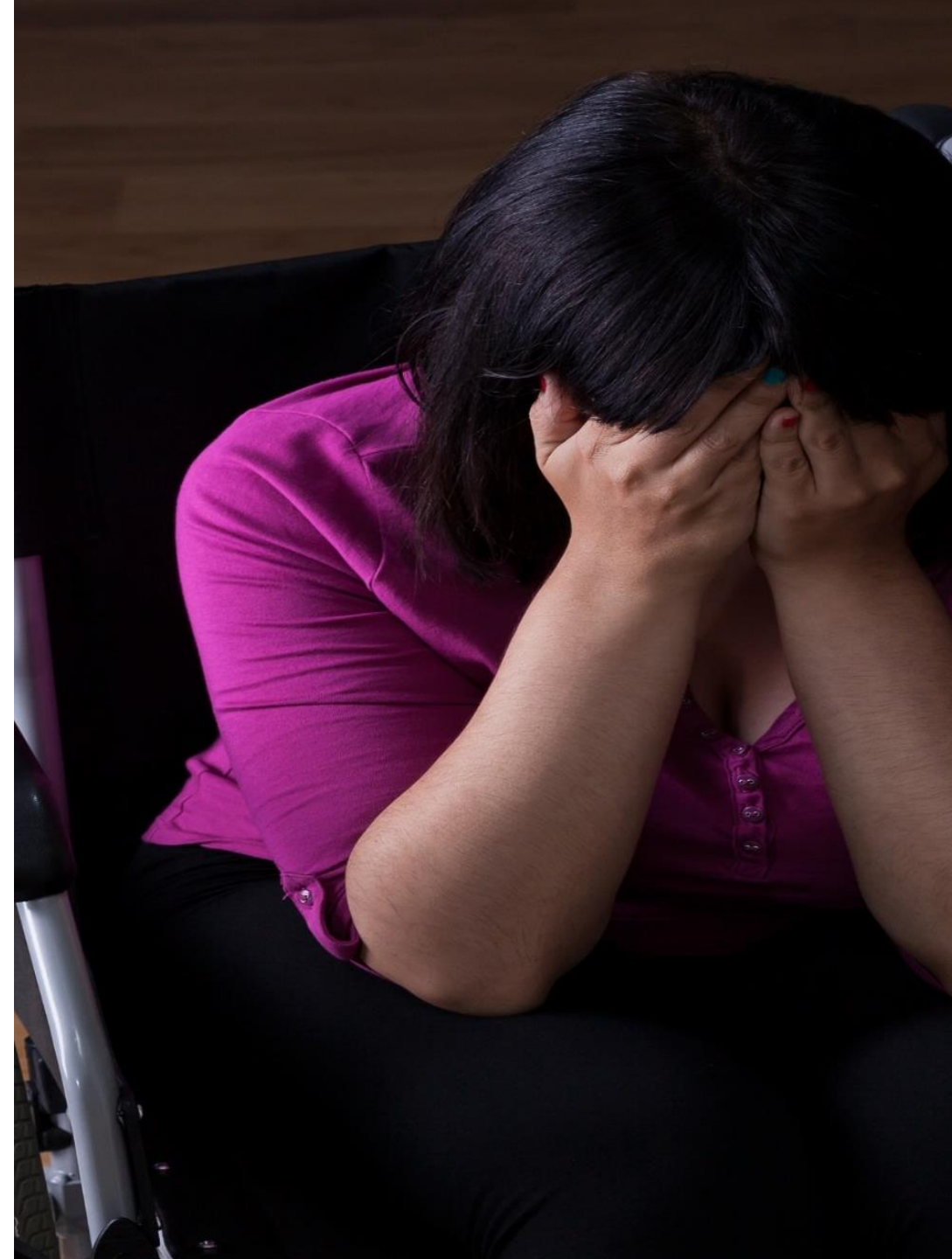
Neil Belanger  
Executive Director

British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, June 2016



CENTRE FOR  
GENDER.  
DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION  
STATISTICS

“Indigenous women aged 25 to 54 were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous women to report having disabilities (21.3% versus 9.1%, respectively).”





**More than half of all**  
discrimination complaints in Canada are about  
disability.

Canadians with disabilities face  
disproportionately high levels of discrimination  
in employment and when receiving services.

Canadian Human Rights Commission:

<http://www.chrc->

[ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/chrc\\_un\\_crpd\\_report\\_eng.pdf](http://ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/chrc_un_crpd_report_eng.pdf)



CENTRE FOR  
GENDER.  
DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION  
STATISTICS

According to the Canadian Survey on  
Disability released in 2018 by  
Statistics Canada, **24% of**  
**women in Canada live**  
**with a disability.**



# CANADIAN WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND ACCESS TO SHELTERS & TRANSITION HOUSES



DisAbled Women's Network of Canada/  
Réseau d'action des femmes  
handicapées Canada

## Parliamentary Brief

- Disability is the one intersection that all women in Canada may experience at some point in their lives, regardless of any other factor and it goes beyond race, class, sexual orientation or geography.

### **Women with Disabilities and Access to Shelters and Transition Houses**

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on the Status of Women in  
Canada (FEWO) for their

Study of the System of Shelters and Transition Houses in Canada

Researcher: Sonia Alimi

Editing and content development - Sandhya Singh and Bonnie Brayton

November 14, 2018

<https://buff.ly/2BuoxHa>

# CANADIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING



DisAbled Women's Network of Canada  
Réseau d'action des femmes  
handicapées Canada

- Collect disaggregated data on all forms of human trafficking
- Use an intersectional approach in the analysis of human trafficking

## Parliamentary Brief

### Canadian Women and Girls with Disabilities and Human Trafficking

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights for their study on Human Trafficking in Canada

Researchers: Sonia Alimi and Mikayla Celine Aguié

Editor: Sandhya Singh

June 15, 2018

<https://buff.ly/2qdgh8s>

## HEALTH ISSUES FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



DisAbled Women's Network of Canada/  
Réseau d'action des femmes  
handicapées Canada

### Parliamentary Brief

- Disability and LGBTQ issues are often treated as separate. But people with disabilities can also be members of the LGBTQ community.
- In examining the healthcare needs of members of the LGBTQ community, disability (as well as age, ethnicity, gender, etc.) must also be considered.

Health Issues for LGBTQ2 People with Disabilities

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on Health (HESO) for

their study on LGBTQ2 Health in Canada

Researchers: Sonia Alimi and Jihan Abbas

May 2, 2019

## GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)



- The Government of Canada has committed to using GBA+ in the development of policies, programs and legislation across all departments.
- In reality, this is still a work in progress, as not all departments routinely apply this analysis to their work.



## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE



### What do women with disabilities and Deaf women in Rural Canada need?

Application of the Intersectional lens (GBA+) to policies and programs that impact women with disabilities and Deaf women at each level of Government (Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal) with a particular attention to Municipal services in the rural context;

- \* Access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, suicide prevention services and rehabilitation services;
- \* Peer support and access to frontline VAW resources;
- \* Access to employment and income supports;
- \* Culturally sensitive services for Indigenous women;
- \* Accessible housing and infrastructure, including accessible transportation;

### What can you do?

Join us in supporting rural women with disabilities and Deaf women in Canada.

Subscribe to our CALL TO ACTION mailing list by sending an email to [morethanafootnote@dawnCanada.net](mailto:morethanafootnote@dawnCanada.net)

#MoreThanAFootnoteWWD

DisAbleD Women's Network (DAWN) Canada  
Toll free: 1-866-396-0074  
[www.dawnCanada.net](http://www.dawnCanada.net)  
facebook.com/DAWNRAFHCanada  
twitter.com/DAWNRAFHCanada



Women with disabilities and Deaf women are the largest poorest minority group in the world with the highest rates of physical, systemic, financial, psychological and interpersonal/family violence.



Women with disabilities and Deaf women in Canada experience rates of violence nearly 3x higher than that of non-disabled women.



Most policies and programs related to gender-based violence will name "vulnerable groups" in the preamble and then describe them in a footnote. Women with disabilities and Deaf women are referred to as people with disabilities or as a vulnerable group.



This separation has left women with disabilities and Deaf women as a footnote in the minds of policy makers and absent from programs and services.

### GAPS IN CURRENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS



Violence Against Women policies do not mention women with disabilities or Deaf women.



Accessibility policies do not address violence or women specifically.

This ungendering of women with disabilities shows how deeply rooted ableist attitudes are negatively affecting women with disabilities and Deaf women.



The result is that there are no programs, funding, or services focused specifically on women with disabilities.



Join our call to action to ensure that women with disabilities and Deaf women are more than a footnote in anti-violence strategies, policies, programs and services!

Icons from the Human Project: Female by April, man and woman by Gan Khoun Lay, leg injury by Gan Khoun Lay, Autism awareness by Andrew, Assistance Dog by Sam Gentes, DeafBlindness by Jarrett T. J. Search by Takao Uehara, documents by Robin Conquest, wheelchair by Sarah Minton, Intersection by Simon Toner

DisAbleD Women's Network (DAWN) Canada  
Toll free: 1-866-396-0074  
[www.dawnCanada.net](http://www.dawnCanada.net)  
facebook.com/DAWNRAFHCanada  
twitter.com/DAWNRAFHCanada  
#MoreThanAFootnoteWWD





## CONTACT US

Web: [www.dawncanada.net](http://www.dawncanada.net)

Twitter: [@dawnrafhcanada](https://twitter.com/dawnrafhcanada)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dawnrafhcanada](https://www.facebook.com/dawnrafhcanada)

Email: [admin@dawncanada.net](mailto:admin@dawncanada.net)

Tel: 514-396-0009

