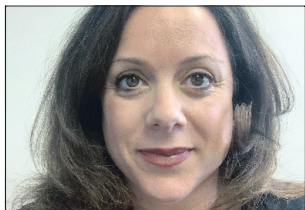


# DO YOUR PART TO HELP END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PLENTY OF WAYS TO SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED, WRITES LAURIE HEPBURN



LAURIE HEPBURN  
Column

At Halton Women's Place we know domestic violence has no boundaries and can happen to anyone regardless of age, race, economic status, sexual orientation or education.

Intimate partner violence, also called domestic violence, continues to be an issue affecting individuals and families across the globe, and right here in our

community. Halton Regional Police Services respond to an average of 10 calls a day related to intimate partner violence.

Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, economic or include psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

This includes a pattern of behaviours that are meant to frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone.

Statistics tell us at least half of all women in Canada have experienced one or more incidents of physical or sexual violence since turning 16 years of age, and on average, every six days a woman is killed by her intimate partner.

More than 6,000 women and children are sleeping in Canadian shelters on any given night because

they are not safe at home. These numbers represent our co-workers, friends, family and neighbours.

There is not a single community across our country that is free of domestic violence.

November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month. Halton Women's Place (HWP), along with shelters across the province, will be participating in the Wrapped in Courage campaign to shine the light on the issue of violence against women.

We invite the community to light it up purple, wear purple and engage in meaningful conversations to raise awareness about domestic violence, and show women who have experienced abuse that they have our support, that we see this epidemic.

The colour purple signifies courage, and we know the courage of the woman

is not enough — it takes the strength of an entire community to end violence against women.

Help us wrap the Halton community in purple to collectively demonstrate that abuse against women and children is never acceptable and that they are not alone. To effect change for women across Halton impacted by violence, we need the community to recognize the beginning stages of violence.

Commit to taking a workshop, and gain tools and knowledge about how you can help someone you care about if you suspect they are experiencing domestic violence. Reach out to our public education team if you are interested in hosting a workshop at [haltonwomensplace.com/neighbours-friends-families-campaign](http://haltonwomensplace.com/neighbours-friends-families-campaign) — and partner with us to help stop violence before it starts.

This month's events and campaigns for Woman Abuse Prevention Month are as follows:

- All month until they sell out, purchase HWP purple merchandise — scarves, socks, dog bandanas and beaded bracelets. Contact [kmckenna@haltonwomensplace.com](mailto:kmckenna@haltonwomensplace.com) for more info.

- Nov. 10 — From Wallet to Wealth Virtual Gala. Buy your tickets at [trelis.org/from-wallet-to-wealth-2022](http://trelis.org/from-wallet-to-wealth-2022).

- Nov. 15 — Wear Purple Day and tag us and #shinethelight.

- Nov. 25 — The United Nations has designated Nov. 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) as the first of 16 days of action to eliminate violence against women across the world.

Halton Women's Place is the only women's shelter in the Halton region, providing emergency safe shelter and community outreach services to wom-

en and children experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

To learn more about how you can help in addressing the issue of domestic violence, please visit [haltonwomensplace.com](http://haltonwomensplace.com).

If you or someone you know is in need of support, call our 24-7 crisis, intervention, and support lines at 905-332-7892 or 905-878-8555 or reach out through our online chat tool at [haltonwomensplace.com/chat](http://haltonwomensplace.com/chat). For a list of local organizations across Canada working address domestic violence, please visit [sheltersafe.ca](http://sheltersafe.ca) to see how you can help.

Domestic Violence affects us all. If you or anyone you know needs help, please reach out. You are not alone.

*Laurie Hepburn is the executive director at Halton Women's Place. She can be reached at [Lhepburn@haltonwomensplace.com](mailto:Lhepburn@haltonwomensplace.com).*



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