



Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis

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Marianne's Place
24-hour Crisis Line
Sexual Assault Centre
Volunteer Program
Anti- Human Trafficking
Support Program

Rural Women's
Support Program
Transitional & Housing
Support Program
Public Education
Family Court
Support Program

November 20, 2023

Subject: Letter of Support to Declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the motion to declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic within our community. As the Executive Director of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis and Chair of the Guelph-Wellington Action Committee on Gender-Based Violence, I have had the privilege of working closely with Councillor O'Rourke and city staff to develop this motion. We firmly believe that acknowledging and addressing IPV as an epidemic is a crucial first step in combatting gender-based violence and fostering a safer, more supportive community.

The prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence is alarming, and it requires a concerted effort from all segments of our society to address this pressing issue. By officially recognizing it as an epidemic, our city sends a powerful message that our community is committed to eradicating gender-based violence and creating a safer, more inclusive space for all residents.

Thank you for your dedication to creating positive change within our city. I am confident that, with your support, we can build a community that is not only aware but actively working towards the eradication of gender-based violence.

Respectfully,

Sly Castaldi

Executive Director of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis

Chair of the Guelph-Wellington Action Committee on Gender-based Violence