

# ENDING VIOLENCE

## Association of BC

### Statement in Support of Bill C-16

The Ending Violence Association of British Columbia wishes to unequivocally voice its support for Bill C-16, a critical step towards enshrining the equal rights of transgender (trans) and gender diverse people in Canadian law. This legislation, which adds gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act and adds gender identity and gender expression to hate crimes sentencing provisions in the Canadian Criminal Code, provides trans and gender diverse individuals with stronger protections against discrimination and violence.

As a provincial umbrella organization supporting over 300 anti-violence programs and initiatives across British Columbia, the Ending Violence Association of BC is keenly aware that trans, two spirit and gender diverse people are significantly more vulnerable to physical, sexual, and intimate partner violence than the general population. Trans, two spirit and gender diverse individuals face intersecting systems of oppression that manifest in a heightened risk of harassment, discrimination, and violence at school, in the workplace, when accessing healthcare, and when applying for housing. Trans women are women, and all trans, two-spirit and gender diverse people are human beings with the same needs for support and respect afforded to all other Canadians across the country. For these reasons, Bill C-16 is integral to ensure that support services are available to all survivors of violence across Canada.

This legislation is an important step by the Canadian government towards recognizing transgender and gender diverse Canadians as worthy of dignity and respect. The Ending Violence Association of British Columbia applauds the Senate for its leadership in demonstrating its commitment to equity for all Canadians.