

ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of BC

EVA BC Trans Inclusion Statement

On Transgender Awareness Week we are called to reflect upon tragic losses of trans lives that devastate our communities each year. We are confronted with the fact that trans people face disproportionately high levels of violence and death as a result of gender-based violence.

We wish to commend the work that has been done by many of our community partners and members to promote the inclusion of trans, Two-Spirit, non-binary, queer (T2SNBQ+) individuals in their services and programming, including engaging and consulting with gender diverse communities, offering trans-specific services, developing effective policies for accommodating trans-specific needs, and making public statements outlining commitments to trans inclusion. This work shone a light on our own practices, which we know we can improve and will improve.

We have been inspired to rethink our understanding of gender-based violence and to move forward in a way that is more gender inclusive. We understand that gender-based violence refers to violence perpetrated against all those who experience gender oppression, including T2SNBQ+ folks and all people who identify as women. We know that the human rights law in both BC and Canada no longer permits discrimination against people based on their gender identity or expression. We welcomed these legal reforms which provide recognition and rights for people with diverse gender identities.

EVA BC believes that promoting visibility, inclusive programming, and trans-inclusive services is essential to the eradication of gender-based violence. We are therefore committing to:

1. Using gender inclusive language in all of our materials going forward to reflect the fundamental shift from a “violence against women” to a “gender-based violence” model while at the same time, not using a gender-neutral framework.
2. Developing a comprehensive trans-inclusion policy for EVA BC and for our member programs.
3. Offering training on trans-inclusive practices in the anti-violence sector, building on the work of the Safe Choices LGBT2SQ+ Support and Education Program in Vancouver.
4. Developing and delivering a provincial webinar through the Safe Choices program to increase access to this information and learning.
5. Advocating for trans inclusion in all of our relations and partnerships.
6. Providing access to the EVA Notes we produced in 2017 on queer-and trans-inclusive anti-violence services (available on our website).
7. Continuing the collaboration with our member programs through our toll-free member line.
8. Continuing our learning and respectfully engaging the communities we seek to include to ensure appropriate representation in our work and learning outcomes.
9. Working with our member programs to assess training needs and gaps relating to the inclusion of T2SNBQ+ folks.

EVA BC calls on our membership to engage in the fundamental rethink of gender inclusivity that is reflected in law, and to challenge any ideas and assumptions about gender that may be still present in our collective work. We thank you for joining us in our commitment to end gender-based violence and to increase the inclusion of T2SNBQ+ in the anti-violence sector in BC.