



## MEDIA ADVISORY — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday November 25, 2015

### Women In International Security (WIIS) Canada Launches A National Presentation of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Canada

(Ottawa) – For a second year, Women in International Security (WIIS) Canada, alongside Steering Committee members: the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW), the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) Canada, the Immigrant Women Services of Ottawa (IWSO), and the Sexual Assault Services Centre (SASC) of Ottawa is leading the national presentation of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence for Canada. From grassroots events engaging frontline workers and survivors of violence to some of the highest policy forums in the country, the campaign will be showcasing the work of individuals, government and non-governmental organizations across the country throughout the 16 days beginning November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

*“Sexual and gender-based violence is a societal problem - one requiring a solid and comprehensive societal commitment to address and resolve. With this year’s 16 Days of Activism, we have already prompted powerful connections across sectors to what I hope will continue to tangibly result in the education, engagement and empowerment in our community to come together and tackle the issues”* said Urooj Mian, Chief Executive Officer of WIIS Canada, highlighting the objectives of the campaign.

November 25<sup>th</sup> is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It will also mark the official launch of the 16 Days Campaign across the globe, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year. This year’s theme: ***From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All***, places a particular emphasis on children, the impact of violence and access to education. In Canada, illiteracy and lack of access to education affects young women by increasing their risk of criminality, exploitation, and experiencing violence. In a country where we still see women making \$0.71 to a man’s \$1.00, we continue to have a long way to go in increasing women’s equity.

The Steering Committee will commemorate the launch of the 16 Days Campaign by hosting a reception in Ottawa at 3:30pm at The Well- La Source (154 Somerset Street West), a drop in centre offering women fleeing violence and those in need meals, programming and support services. The afternoon will include addresses by UNHCR Canada, WIIS Canada, OCTEVAW and the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, with the keynote address to be delivered by Status of Women Minister, The Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu.

For a second year in Canada, WIIS Canada has prepared a national presentation of these events featuring activities by a diverse range of organizations. Found at [www.wiiscanada.org/16days](http://www.wiiscanada.org/16days)

*“Together we can create a world that guarantees the peace and security of all persons”* said Furio De Angelis, UNHCR Representative in Canada, one of the main implementing partners of the 2015 Canadian campaign for 16 days.

Campaign: [www.wiiscanada.org/16days](http://www.wiiscanada.org/16days)  
Attached: 16 Days 2015 Menu of Events

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