

# Rebuilding from Resilience

## Volume 1, Issue 2

## November 2009

Each year, for **16 days**, bookended by the International Day to End Violence Against Women (25 November) and Human Rights Day (1 December), groups from around the world join together to speak out against gender violence.

This year's theme is one of empowerment: **Commit. Act. Demand.** We can end gender violence.

1. *Uniting against the problem*
2. *Generating empowering conversations about the issue*
3. *Documenting successful approaches*
4. *Presenting positive images of men as role models*
5. *Using the power of popular culture to prevent couple violence*
6. *Calling attention to sexual violence as an instrument of war*
7. *Partnering with men to end violence against women*
8. *Speaking out against female genital mutilation/cutting*
9. *Addressing the needs of women in refugee camp*
10. *Highlighting the injustice of child marriage and too-early pregnancy*
11. *Partnering with others to end sexual violence against girls*
12. *Working with religious leaders to end tolerance for gender-based violence*
13. *Publicizing the issue of acid burning and other unusual forms of gender violence*
14. *Offering alternatives to 'survival sex'*
15. *Calling attention to a new form of slavery*
16. *Assisting survivors of domestic violence\*\**

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### Preventing Gender Violence

\$2 million invested to fund a new CIHR Centre for Intercultural Research on Prevention of Gender Violence

Vancouver (November 4, 2009)

The CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) is investing \$2 million in the CIHR Centre for Intercultural Research on Prevention of Gender Violence at the University of Ottawa's Institute of Population Health. **The Centre will focus on migrating minorities through a novel approach that links Aboriginal and immigrant groups in cities with their home communities.**

"Gender-based violence has significant effects on the health of women, men, girls and boys in Canada and around the world. Migrating minorities, who are the focus of the centre's work, are at an increased risk of gender-based violence," says Dr. Joy Johnson, IGH Scientific Director.

The Centre will generate proposals for intervention research with partner communities of origin and with urban groups: the Nakota Sioux in Alexis and Edmonton; the Mohawk in Akwesasne and Ottawa /Toronto, Inuit living in Ottawa and in the north, and a subgroup of the Ottawa Latin American immigrant community. Each partner will name its own researcher to train and work with the Centre, increasing their research capacity and contributing to leadership of the Centre.

"We will focus on the positive roles of parenting and cultures of origin to prevent gender violence," says Dr. Neil Andersson, executive director of CIET, a research NGO affiliated with the University of Ottawa and principal investigator at the new Centre. **"Although the pressures of moving to a city can cut people off from their culture of origin, we believe those cultures can still be protective – we have to work out how to make them more protective in relation to gender violence."**

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### **CIHR Centre for intercultural research on prevention of gender violence (CIHR-CIPREV)**

Ethnic minority and migrant status are recognized risk factors for gender-based violence and related mental health problems.

This Centre develops research, theory, methods, and proposals for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and associated mental health problems, including addictions, among **four cultural minorities in Canada, with a focus on parenting and 'resilience of origin' -- resilience rooted in the culture of origin -- as potential protective factors across the lifespan.**

The research development focuses on gendered enculturation and its influence through parenting as a turnkey if not invariably positive intervention to reduce GBV. **Key theoretical touchstones are enculturation and decolonization.**

The Centre will generate proposals for in-depth research with and for each of these partner groups, training researchers from each group to play lead roles in the future research.

The Centre will also build skills in partner groups and organizations to use the products of GBV prevention research in mental health programs with partners engaged from the outset.

A community of practice that includes policy-makers and other stakeholders will accompany the development of the major proposals generated by the Centre, contributing to an enabling environment for their future implementation.

### **RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

#### *16 Days*

*\*\* (thanks Sheila for suggesting these resources!).*

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/News/events/16days/>

Online exhibit about Ending Violence Against Women

<http://www.unfpa.org/endingviolence/>

International events and materials

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

16 Days Action Kit

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/kit09/kit.html>

Gender violence includes any type of sexual coercion, non-sexual physical violence and related forms of abuse based on gender in addition to the physical trauma caused by rape or child sexual abuse. Survivors of gender violence face significant risks, including HIV infections and other sexually transmitted diseases. Survivors may also take on high-risk behaviours, leading to their re-victimization.

***In both communities of origin and urban counterparts, the Centre will also build skills to use the research products to improve programs and policies that affect the health of women, men, girls and boys.***

Although the four partners have quite different cultures, they will share a community of practice with policy-makers and other stakeholders, developing an enabling environment for future implementation of their own interventions.

The new Centre builds on CIET research and training in Canada and abroad. The team has trained Aboriginal health researchers in Canada for 15 years, recently through *Anishinabe Kekendazone*, a CIHR-funded Network for Aboriginal Health Research and the Inuit Institute for Research and Planning. In Latin America and Africa, CIET has trained indigenous and non-indigenous health researchers for 25 years. The Centre's international dimension is prominent with CIET's ongoing research on GBV in Mexico, Pakistan, Nigeria and Southern Africa.

#### ***For further information:***

[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8673.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8673.html)

