



## IMPORTANT DATES

- FEBRUARY 14** Annual Women's Memorial March (Vancouver's Downtown Eastside)
- MARCH 8** International Women's Day
- JUNE 21** National Aboriginal Day
- JUNE 28** Anniversary of Bill C-31
- OCTOBER 4** Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil (throughout Canada)
- NOVEMBER 20** Trans Day of Remembrance
- NOVEMBER 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- DECEMBER 6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- DECEMBER 10** International Human Rights Day
- DECEMBER 17** International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

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## LIST OF ONLINE RESOURCES

### MONTREAL MASSACRE

<http://www.polytechniquefilm.com/en/themovie/>

### ROSE CAMPAIGN

<http://www.rosecampaign.ca/>

### IDLE NO MORE

<http://www.idlenomore.ca/>  
<http://mediacoop.ca/idlenomore>

### THE VIGIL (REBECCA BELMORE)

<http://www.rebeccabelmore.com/video/Vigil.html>  
<http://vimeo.com/55815728>

### REDRESS PROJECT

<http://www.theredressproject.org/>  
<http://vimeo.com/38169375>

### NWAC & FACELESS DOLLS PROJECT

<http://www.nwac.ca/programs/faceless-dolls-project>  
<http://www.nwac.ca/programs/sis-research>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg6o5WCmB-o>  
<http://www.nwac.ca/programs/community-resource-guide-what-can-i-do-help-families-missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women->

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/issues/indigenous-peoples/no-more-stolen-sisters>

### SAVE WJYABI MAPPING PROJECT

<https://missingsisters.crowdmap.com/>

### SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE OF HAMILTON AND AREA

<http://sacha.ca/>

### WOMEN'S ABUSE WORKING GROUP

<http://wawg.ca/>

### OTHER LINKS

<http://www.rememberoursisterseverywhere.com/>  
<http://www.firstpeoples.org>  
<http://www.indigenousrising.org>  
<http://dividednomore.ca/>  
<http://www.lynngehl.com/black-face-blogging>  
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/>  
<http://www.aaronpaquette.net/>

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

NATIONAL DAY

OF

Remembrance & Action on

VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN





## HISTORY OF DECEMBER 6

On Dec 6, 1989, a young man walked into L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, separated men and women and shot and murdered 14 women, injuring 14 other students, screaming that they were a "bunch of feminists", before killing himself. In the immediate aftermath, this tragedy was taken up by media as a solitary act of violence by a "madman", rather than linking it to a socio-cultural history of misogyny and gendered violence. Eventually, it was officially recognized as symptomatic of larger structural problems and in 1991, the Parliament of Canada declared Dec. 6 to be the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, a day that is still memorialized, though often forgotten by current generations.



## DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN MEMORIAL RESPONSES

Memorial responses to the massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique attempt to acknowledge that certain populations are more at risk of gender based violence; including (but not limited to): trans women, sex workers, racialized women, women with disabilities and Indigenous women.

While Indigenous women have been murdered in disproportionate numbers throughout the violent history of colonization in Canada, it is a subject that has received little attention for most of that history.

For years, Indigenous communities have pointed to the high number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a lead organizer of Sisters In Spirit Vigils, a national movement that encourage Indigenous community members and allies to gather on October 4.

There are many (often very individual) reasons to memorialize. Some vigils are solemn events where loss and remembrance are the focus. These vigils are often healing for family and community members. A vigil may also alert the public to a disturbing trend in the community that has previously been ignored or minimized. Vigils serve to educate and arouse public awareness, which is an important ingredient for making change. Memorials are not only for the dead, but also for the living who continue to grieve, to heal, to witness loss and to fight for lives worth living.



## SOME TENSIONS / QUESTIONS ACTIVISTS ASK:

- Within the context of structural inequality, how do we ensure that all women's lives are valued and grieved equally?
- When we memorialize and grieve, does that replace action?
- How do we find an appropriate balance between memorializing and taking action/ protesting?

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS?

- Do independent research and educate yourself
- Find organizations you have an affinity with and lend your support by volunteering OR
- Participate in community events such as rallies and marches
- Let people know what you're doing and why
- Encourage allies to attend events and make them feel welcome
- Write letters to politicians demanding action now
- Check out our list of online resources



**MOURN THE DEAD,  
FIGHT LIKE HELL  
FOR THE LIVING**