



A coalition of 20+ community agencies working  
to eradicate violence against women and children

Woman Abuse Working Group

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **May is..... Sexual Violence Awareness Month**

WAWG Members

### Full Members:

The AIDS Network

Catholic Family Services

Catholic Children's Aid Society  
of Hamilton

Children's Aid Society

The Elizabeth Fry Society  
Hamilton Branch

Good Shepherd Women's  
Services

Good Shepherd Youth Services

Hamilton Regional Indian  
Centre

Hamilton Urban Core

Immigrant Women's Centre

Mission Services of Hamilton -  
Inasmuch House

Interval House of Hamilton

Native Women's Centre

Phoenix Place

SACHA - Sexual Assault Centre  
- (Hamilton & Area)

Sexual Assault Domestic  
Violence Care Centre

Settlement and Integration  
Services Organization (SISO)

Women's Centre of Hamilton

YWCA Hamilton

### Resource Members:

MCSS/MCYS

Victim Witness Assistance  
Program

HAMILTON, Friday, May 6, 2011 – The Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG), a coalition of more than twenty agencies working to end violence against women, invites our community to join us in raising awareness about the serious issues of sexual violence against women and their children. Sexual violence includes sexual assault, rape, childhood sexual abuse, incest and sexual harassment.

WAWG is raising awareness by holding an “Only Yes Means Yes” Poster Competition.

We asked Hamilton teens to show us in original artwork what “consent” looks like.

WAWG is focusing their “Only Yes Means Yes” campaign at teens, especially male teens. The artwork has been submitted and the winning posters (grand prize and two runners up) will be unveiled at Delta High School on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Medora Uppal, Chair of Hamilton's Woman Abuse Working Group had this to say:

*“Sixty three percent of all sexual assaults reported to the police involve girls under the age of eighteen. It is crucial that young males are educated on what consent is and what it isn't”.*

### **We know that:**

- Fifty-one percent of all Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of sexual or physical violence.
- Of all women who are sexually assaulted, 69% are assaulted by men that they know.
- According to the Violence Against Women Survey (VAWS), 39% of Canadian women reported having being sexually assaulted since age 16.
- Of all incidents of sexual assault, 24% took place in the victim's home, 20% in the perpetrators home, 10% in someone else's home, 25% in a car, and 21% in a public place.
- Thirty-eight percent of women who have been sexually assaulted were assaulted by their husbands, common-law partners, or boyfriends.
- According to Statistics Canada, only 6% of sexual assaults are reported to the police.
- Only 1% of date rapes are reported to the police.

To see all of the WAWG events planned for May and for additional information on Sexual Violence Awareness Month, please visit [www.wawg.ca](http://www.wawg.ca).

For further information contact:

Valerie Sadler  
Chair, Public Awareness & Education  
905-529-8149 X301

Medora Uppal  
Chair, Woman Abuse Working Group  
905-523-8766 X227