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Press Release

September 15, 2020

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres to Host a Virtual Take Back the Night Event Honouring BIPOC Survivors

The Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC) has combined forces with a number of Sexual Assault Centres around the province to bring this year's Take Back the Night Event Online. With the uncertainty around Covid-19 and regulations on hosting large events we felt it was important to combine our strengths and provide an online event to honour survivors across the province.

Take Back the Night is an annual march and rally that happens globally to stand against sexual violence, especially violence against women, and as a response to the judgement and blame survivors face after an assault, which often occurs after sharing their stories. 1:3 women and 1: 6 men will experience sexual violence. And in Canada 1:2 women will experience sexual and or physical violence in their lifetime. This year marks the 42nd year of Take Back the Night Marches in Canada.

Our theme for 2020, focuses on honouring and supporting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour) Survivors in sharing their stories. We recognize that BIPOC survivors have long been silenced by systemic racism and face an increased risk of experiencing sexual and physical violence. We want to provide space for BIPOC survivors and their voices. We want to acknowledge the barriers that racism creates for BIPOC survivors when they are accessing support and we want to work towards dismantling these systems within our own communities.

In addition to hosting a live event, OCRCC is looking to create a platform to elevate the voices of our community and hear from BIPOC survivors. We are asking for written, recorded (5 minutes maximum), or photo submissions to showcase during the event. Pieces could address one's experience as a survivor, their experience of Take Back the Night, how one's BIPOC identity has affected their experience of survivorhood and healing, or a topic they believe connects the meaning of the event. Submissions or questions regarding submissions can be sent to TBTNSubmissions@sexualassaultsupport.ca. The submission deadline is September 17th, 2020. Honorariums will be provided by Black Women in Motion.

The virtual Take Back the Night Event will be taking place live on YouTube and Facebook September 24th from 5pm – 7pm. Visit www.sexualassaultsupport.ca for links to the event.

For more information please contact

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If you are looking to submit a recorded piece please send any submissions to TBTNSubmissions@sexualassaultsupport.ca