

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGAL REFORMS:
Access to Justice in Gender-Based Violence**

**Collated Reports and Recommendations by Theme
March 2020**



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Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada

Executive Summary

Background

Gender-based violence is a pervasive and pressing social and human rights issue worldwide. In Nova Scotia alone in a year on average there are more than 2400 incidents of intimate partner violence (more than three quarters of those victims were female), and over 700 incidents of sexual violence where over 80% of the victims are female (NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women). Rates for gender-based violence have remained consistent across Canada for the last 40 years (Policy Options, April 2018) and for the past 10 years for sexual violence specifically. Gender-based violence impacts us all in multiple ways but none more so than those who are female or gender non-conforming and/or members of other traditionally oppressed groups. Physical harm, long term trauma and mortality as well as perpetuating patterns of gender inequity in society are just some of the ramifications of this issue. Too many are living in constant fear with little confidence in the justice system to pursue formal avenues of support for assurance of freedom from violence. Children are at increased risk of both witnessing or being subjected to violence. African Nova Scotian women and Indigenous women and girls are three times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous, non-racialized women, and this violence results in more serious harm (and fewer supports). There are also major repercussions for our economy in the billions (7.4 annually in Canada) in associated policing, health care, security and lost productivity costs.

Canada is lagging behind many other countries (US, UK, AUS, NZ...) in the field of gender-based violence and evidence-based law policy and legal system reform. We have only begun to understand the reach and impact of gender-based violence in our communities, but there are also signs of a cultural shift in our attitudes, tolerance and understanding of this issue. There is hope for change yet.

Gender-based violent crimes are among the most underreported crimes in Canada. There are many reasons for underreporting including shame/blame, fear, retaliation and a lack of faith that the arduous and re-traumatizing legal process will amount to increased protection, accountability or healing. Nova Scotia has one of the lowest rates of charges, prosecution and conviction for sexual assaults in the country. There are also risks associated with navigating the multiple systems (criminal, family, child welfare, immigration) often needed to resolve these complex crimes, often fraught with procedural complexities, contradictory orders, delays, and generally a lack of information for those involved.

Furthermore, not all survivors of violence define justice in punitive measures. When asked, many survivors indicate an interest in different, more tailored approaches that would result in justice as they define it. More restorative responses could offer richer opportunities for healing, acknowledgement of harm done, financial compensation, and for some - reparation of relationships. We need to better understand what victims actually want and need, how they define justice and what the new and renewed opportunities are for pathways to this better justice.

Understanding the nature and root causes of gender-based violence is key to intervening appropriately and/or eradicating it completely. The justice system minimizes this issue in its incident-based approach. This failure of the legal system to acknowledge ongoing abuse as separate and distinct from a violent incident or the common tactic of perpetrators to make use legal procedures and the system itself to continue to coerce and manipulate. Gender-based violence is relational, emotional and rooted in complex, entrenched gender patterns. It is largely about power and control – not sexual desire, passion or even anger - and intersects with discriminatory factors like poverty, race, ableism, gender identity, sexuality, and education. There are innovative/feminist approaches to achieving justice emerging based on principles of a more restorative approach. These innovations in delivering justice could offer more appropriately nuanced/sophisticated approaches over the often blunt, rigid, antagonistic and inherently adversarial criminal justice system.

Recommendations

This report is a result of the work of Be the Peace Institute (and the Association of Black Social Workers) through the “Pathways to Justice” Status of Women Canada funded project to promote real change in the justice response to crimes of gender-based violence – both through mainstream and alternative channels.

At the suggestion of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society’s Equity and Access Office, Be the Peace Institute endeavoured to review major national and provincial reports on key recommendations for a better response to these crimes by the criminal justice system and to analyze the extent to which recommendations have been implemented to date and prioritize those which have not.

The criminal justice system is simply not designed to address the complexities and nuances of gender-based violence situations. Victim advocates, women serving organizations, legal access organizations, provincial /territorial governments, academics and activists have repeatedly called for reform of the mainstream criminal justice system as well as improved access to alternative forms of justice processes to more effectively meet the needs of victims and ensure better accountability and treatment for offenders. A 1995 report of the Law Reform Commission of Nova Scotia called for many of these same reformations, 24 years later and most have yet to be realized.

It is acknowledged in much of the literature that a more restorative response to this issue would promote a more unbiased, just response for victims and offenders involved in incidents of GBV. From a restorative lens, “just” outcomes would be designed to repair and heal harm; victims would be consulted about harms and what they want to see happen to best address these harms; offenders would also be consulted about the harms they committed and what they want to do to address these harms; and community could be involved in defining and addressing harms. [from Halifax Regional Municipality Restorative Justice Conversations Group, 2017]

Cultural complacency toward gender-based violence is deeply rooted in ongoing misogynistic values and beliefs. It is time to take an intersectional approach to understanding and preventing gender-based violence with an eye on the current cultural shift in the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence entirely.

We have reviewed 23 major reports, seminal literature, and interviews which have cumulatively made hundreds of recommendations on how best to respond to this issue. An exploration of the available intelligence on this topic revealed fairly consistent consensus on a number of amendments to the current system as priorities for action to create a more just response to victims of gender-based violence.

RECOMMENDED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORMS FOR BETTER RESPONSES TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENT CRIMES

The following comprises a list of priority areas identified by Be the Peace Institute for criminal justice system reform in Nova Scotia to better respond to GBV crimes based on a review of major federal, provincial recommendation reports and key literature. Additional sources include local reports, shared intelligence from those in the field including ‘first voice’ survivors of gender-based violence. The first five represent our ‘Top 5’ recommendations for legal reform and can also be referenced in the infographic provided as “Appendix A”.

March 2020

ISSUE	BACKGROUND	RECOMMENDATION	LINKS
GBV Navigator Program	<p>Lack of guidance and support for victims of IPV throughout, before and after court process. Most common complaint of those going through judicial system is that there is no central point of contact.</p> <p>GBV rates in NS are high while formal reporting is low. Provincial rates for charge, conviction, prosecution and conviction for sexual assault are very low.</p> <p>The lack of navigation is particularly challenging in SV cases where the case (not the victim) is appointed a Crown Attorney but the victim is usually without representation and only have standing during evidentiary hearings. Legal Aid is designed to provide services for those charged.</p> <p>These cases are also the most difficult to prosecute because often the only witness is the victim. There is a heavy reliance by defense to badger and discredit the victim to prove the standard of reasonable doubt has not been met.</p> <p>Access to justice issues are compounded for populations already marginalized by systemic</p>	<p>The GBV Navigator role could include provision of information, guidance and decision-making assistance across courts and sectors, accompaniment to police and Crown interviews, support for safety planning, negotiation of special risk reduction measures (peace bonds, emergency protection orders) and refer to a range of justice and community-based supports and services. This position would also be well poised to provide feedback on continuous improvement opportunities in identifying gaps and barriers to decision-makers. This opportunity would help reorient access to justice with the wellbeing and safety of women at its core.</p> <p>Implementation possibilities could include:</p> <p>Enhance Victim Services (VS) program to advocate for victims, offer information, support, accompaniment and guidance throughout and across court systems. VS currently only offered in criminal cases. Develop VS community liaisons ensuring case workers provide outreach to more vulnerable populations in NS to help them navigate the system.</p> <p>Identify and train a cadre of Legal Victim Navigators, (akin to the Cancer Care Navigators developed in the Health Care system), whose sole role is to assist survivors in: fully understanding the</p>	<p>Avalon, (2016)</p> <p>Status of Women Report, (2017)</p> <p>Department of Justice Canada, (2013)</p> <p>Kitchen Table Talks Report, Association of Black Social Workers, (2019)</p> <p>McClymont, M. (2019)</p> <p>Wilson, L. (2008)</p> <p>Mosher, J. (2015)</p>

	<p>racism and other forms of oppression and specific liaisons are needed for these communities to ensure an equitable criminal justice system.</p> <p>Major gaps between court systems where judges and other legal personnel are not required to consider or be informed on concurrent court cases. Complainants in a Family Court case do not know that they need to self-advocate for increased protection or to alert the judge to consider criminal charges against the father of their children in a custody case, for example. This lack of information sharing between court personnel as well as with complainants results in heightened risk for women and their children. While recent changes to the Canadian Divorce Act (Bill C 78) will require courts to consider existing civil protection, child protection or criminal proceedings in determining parent time, it is not yet known how this will be rolled out.</p> <p>There are also overlapping complexities involved between sectors (Immigration, Child Welfare) that many victims are forced to navigate on their own without guidance, often putting themselves, their legal case and potentially their families at further risk. Perpetrators often use the system itself to further manipulate through threat of child custody applications, withdrawal of financial support or removal of immigration sponsorship.</p> <p>Proper navigation would mitigate re-trauma and produce more satisfactory, victim-led results.</p>	<p>legal system they are about to enter; assist them in making informed choices <i>for themselves</i> about whether and how to proceed; be available to accompany them; inform them of testimonial aids and protective tools available to them and advise them to engage with other community-based services for whatever support is required, (eg., housing, finances, child care, relocation, etc). Assign one case worker throughout to ensure consistency and offer opportunity to build trust.</p> <p>Look to other safety planning models like “Circles of Support” in PEI – interagency supportive service referred through VS.</p> <p>Considerations:</p> <p>Diverse representation among navigators would ensure more vulnerable and under-served populations, like the African Nova Scotian (ANS) community, can be matched with someone who might better understand their increased barriers to accessing justice based on cultural identity and existing systemic racism. The GBV Navigator program could include position(s) for an ANS worker to liaise between family, criminal and DV court and the ANS community co-located with other services within their communities for greater access.</p> <p>This program would be well aligned with other new provincial initiatives like Independent Legal Advice for victims of sexual violence, the two specialized Crown Attorneys, Domestic Violence Court programs and would help facilitate access to these and other opportunities.</p> <p><i>This recommendation rose to the top from compiled feedback via research/reports, first voice, those working in the field... we sourced feedback from a</i></p>	
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<p>Gaps Between Court Divisions</p>	<p>There are significant gaps between criminal and family courts, this fragmentation is often cited as one of the leading causes of failure to protect adults and children in cases of GBV (DOJ, 2017).</p> <p>Many victims are embroiled in both family and criminal courts grappling with issues like custody and child protection while pursuing criminal assault charges against the parent of their children.</p> <p>Different courts have different processes and are looking for different standards of proof and timelines. This lack of alignment and communication between court systems results in inconsistent and conflicting rulings and increases risk to complainants and their children.</p> <p>Family law system currently promotes family reunification and prioritizes maximizing contact with both parents (DOJ 2017), often with unintended impacts. Changes to the Canadian Divorce Act legislate that require courts to consider existing civil protection, child protection or criminal proceedings in determining parent time and put the ‘best interests of the child’ above maximum contact. The ‘friendly parent rule’ (courts consider willingness of person seeking custody to facilitate contact with the other parent) will become a criterion for considering a child’s best interests.</p>	<p>A pilot integrated court system could be possible in rural NS. Look to other current models like Ontario for best practices. Barriers to piloting one in HRM – family court is federal and criminal court is provincial, so not the same judge. Not so in rest of NS, largely provincial court for both.</p> <p>There is a need to instill best practices across courts – ensure safety, manage risk, amplify choice and consistent timely information sharing between legal personnel and with victim.</p> <p>Family courts need to be made aware of pre-existing criminal orders while police, prosecution and judges in a criminal matter need to be aware of pre-existing family law orders before considering release of the accused.</p> <p>NEW Amendments to Canadian Divorce Act – will come into effect July 2020, though how it will be rolled out is yet to be understood. Legislated changes will help coordinate court proceedings to create a duty or the court to consider existence of any civil protection, child protection or criminal proceeding in decision making regarding parenting/contact time; an expanded understanding of family violence to include coercive/controlling behaviour (not currently recognized as a criminal offence); best interests of child criteria to inform decision-making (rather than “maximum contact” principle). There are remaining concerns about a lack of recognition that the period of time after a separation poses the greatest risk to a woman and that the continued emphasis on the ‘friendly parent</p>	<p>Croll, J., (2016)</p> <p>Department of Justice Canada, (2013).</p> <p>Department of Justice Canada, (2017).</p> <p>Strega, S., Krane, J., LaPierre, S., Richardson, C. et al. (2013)</p> <p>Toliver, Kassinda (survivor/activist)</p>

	<p>Accusations of ‘parent alienation’ (most often of mothers trying to protect their children) remain a concern.</p> <p>Families may assume there is communication between court divisions and therefore not self-advocate if court decisions may put their own or their children’s safety at risk.</p> <p>Additionally, in the confluence between family court and child protection, the systems routinely overload mothers with sole responsibility for protection of children, when they may be barely able to even protect themselves from an abusive partner/father. There are rarely requirements for abusive men to be accountable for the safety of their children, and they may manipulate the threat of losing the children to control their partner.</p> <p>There are often minimal requirements for long-term therapy, parenting assessments and drug testing for an abuser who has unsupervised access to children. And no financial aid for such programs.</p> <p>Canada, with the exceptions of BC and ON is lagging behind other countries in terms of implementing child-centred, evidence-informed family law policy and legal system reform (DOJ 2017).</p> <p><i>NOTE: “Unified Family Courts” are not fam/crim but are one stop shops for integrated multiple family law issues (divorce, child custody, property...). There are 3 sites in NS (Hfx, Sydney and Port Hawkesbury).</i></p>	<p>rule’... would often result in accusations of ‘parent alienation’ (for mothers) who reduce contact with a spouse who may be abusive.</p> <p>Family Law Act in BC requires judges to consider other charges and criminal proceedings when rendering court orders and decisions in Family Court matters.</p> <p>Integrated DV Court in Ontario provides a single judge to hear both criminal and family law cases including child protection cases for families with underlying domestic violence.</p> <p>Ensure Fam Court legal personnel have training to assess whether family violence may be present in the context of family law disputes. NEW: Universal screening tools to assess presence of IPV.</p> <p>Judges should take responsibility to know all concurrent court proceedings and charges, especially when considering terms of release for accused or unsupervised access to children.</p> <p>Align timelines and evidence rules between courts, better coordination and less duplication. Criminal court decisions MUST be made prior to custody orders. Faster court dates (gaps in time give abuser opportunity to coerce victim into dropping charges or worse). Put family and criminal court cases that involve the same people on the same docket – ensure coordination of sentencing and court orders.</p> <p>Enhance risk assessment to improve protection of victims with better screening tools across courts – assess types of violence, types of perpetrators, patterns of repeated abuse and coercion and take into consideration in court rulings, orders, terms of release, etc...</p>	
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<p>Specialized Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault Courts</p>	<p>Low reporting due to re-traumatizing experienced through the formal system. Accountability currently falls on the victim to 'prove' a crime was committed against them and that consent was not given (the only crime where this is the case), often without legal representation, navigation or even support. Crown Attorney there to protect interest of public, not victim, victims have no legal standing, generally do not have access to legal representation, and only under very</p>	<p>Consideration of various explorations and pilot projects underway across the globe on specialized courts: Quebec, New Zealand, South Africa.</p> <p>The current approach is to divert certain cases to specialized/problem solving courts (usually low-risk, guilty plea only, domestic violence only). Need to "specialize" the response in ALL cases, including those which go through criminal court trial, without changing the foundations of the law or the burden of proof but through the provision of a more</p>	<p>Avalon, (2016)</p> <p>Craig, Elaine, (2018)</p> <p>MacKay, (2016)</p> <p>Status of Women Report, (2017)</p> <p>NS Public Prosecution Service (2004).</p>

	<p>specific and limited aspects of the court process.</p> <p>Defendant not required to testify in cases of SA, can be appointed defence lawyer through Legal Aid, trial designed to protect accused from being falsely accused (despite very low rates of false accusations).</p> <p>Acceptance (even celebration) of aggressive defence tactics to erode a complainant’s believability and reliance on rape mythology which are in direct violation of protective provisions in the Criminal Code (section 276) which result in increased number of complainants recanting and creates major barriers to accessing justice itself.</p> <p>Preliminary Trial typically involves aggressive cross and has the effect of eroding victims believability in the eyes of the judge/jury and often results in victims dropping the case.</p> <p>Recent changes to criminal code, Bill C-75, will legislate dropping preliminary trial but only in certain cases of sexual assault where charge/sentencing is low-end. Result is that more serious crimes, like aggravated assaults or in cases where victim is a child – where this aspect of the process would be more traumatizing are not exempt from prelim trials.</p> <p>Victim has to repeatedly detail violating act(s), inconsistencies RE definitions of consent or understanding of the effects of trauma.</p> <p>High level of re-traumatization for these victims throughout this process.</p>	<p>appropriate response through specialized training and better support & navigation for victims. The UN has recommended creating tribunals specialized in violence against women.</p> <p>Included in this specialized response would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim-centred approach, access to a multi-disciplinary team throughout the process, access to supportive counseling throughout, emphasis on testimonial aids and access to specially trained legal personnel (defence lawyers, Crown Attorneys, judges). • All with better understanding of: sexual assault laws, rules of evidence, trauma, rape mythology, intersectionality of the victim, root causes & power dynamics of GBV, social interpretations of consent beyond the legal definition (lack of ‘hue and cry’ or fighting back doesn’t equal consent, needs to be ongoing), cultural competency. • Specific to their roles (Craig): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence Lawyers – use “courteous cross-examination” as a more humane means of obtaining better evidence and results, TI practices in cross examination of vulnerable people, adhere to founding principles of legality and respect for dignity in the courtroom, eliminate reliance on unnecessary aggression to undermine witness, refrain from use of preliminary trial as means to intimidate witness to drop case. Crown Attorneys – understand the law, rules of evidence, confidently object to unlawful admission of evidence, advocate for complainant, promote use of testimonial aids, better preparation of complainant (w/out coaching) on process including micro-ceremonies (dress, countenance, language...). Judges – zero tolerance for stereotype-infused reasoning, admonishments for the 	
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		specialized sexual assault units. (This model has been adapted by some Canadian Police Services including in Ottawa).	
Mandatory Training for Judiciary (and All Legal Professionals)	<p>Foundations in colonial patriarchy has sustained bias within the justice system and its practices (official and unofficial).</p> <p>Culture of misogyny and an inherent unconscious mistrust of women, a reliance on myths and stereotypes about victims of these crimes inform unfair proceedings, lack of adherence or enforcement of Rape Shield law(s), accepted use of “whacking” and other distracting litigation tactics to discredit victim as witness, based on outdated and sexist understanding of sex, power and consent. Courtroom practices including use of inadmissible evidence and abusive cross-examination are commonly allowed by judges in addition to a failure on part of public prosecution to object to these tactics and a celebration of this kind of litigation among defence lawyers.</p> <p>Disproportionate rates of gender-based violence against indigenous and African NS women and girls who also face the biggest barriers to reporting and accessing fair trials, are overrepresented in correctional facilities and underrepresented among legal professionals and among outreach and intervention services and supports including shelters. Women (especially African Canadian and Indigenous women) report feeling criminalized by the justice system, not supported, even when they are the victims of crime.</p> <p>Low reporting of GBV crimes (lowest</p>	<p>Fulsome mandatory training for all legal professionals, including importantly the judiciary who would submit a report on their training annually to the Minister. Training needs to be transparent and mandatory.</p> <p>Provincially – training requirements are set by the Chief Justice and at least some of this funding comes from provincial DOJ. Most SA cases in NS are heard by a judge only (no jury) – Provincial Court.</p> <p>Federally – the Liberals have tabled a revised version of Bill C-337 (Rona Ambrose’s private member bill which died in the Senate after unanimous support in the House), now as Bill C-5, which would require all new judges receive specialized training on “sexual assault law and social context” and provide reasons for decisions in sexual assault proceedings. These requirements should apply to ALL (not just new or federal – many sexual assault cases are tried in provincial court).</p> <p>Govt of Canada should provide funding to National Judicial Institute for development of comprehensive training. Need to authorize National Judicial Institute to design training for judges and have syllabus publicly available (without compromising independence of judges, just publicized content of education).</p> <p>Comprehensive mandatory training for police and RCMP, as well as mediators, Barrister’s Society, Bar Association, Criminal Lawyers Association, Public Prosecution and Legal Aid in:</p> <p>- Understanding root causes of GBV and the</p>	<p>Dept of Justice, (2016)</p> <p>Amnesty International (2014)</p> <p>Assembly of First Nations (2014)</p> <p>Department of Justice (2018)</p> <p>Department of Justice (2017)</p> <p>Avalon, (2016)</p> <p>Craig, Elaine (2018)</p> <p>Status of Women Report, (2017)</p> <p>Wilson, Larry, (2008)</p> <p>Kitchen Table Talks Report, Association of Black Social Workers, (2019)</p> <p>Access to Justice Coordinating Committee Report (2018)</p>

	<p>reported crime in Canada), distrust of system, potential for re-trauma and minimal protection. This is especially true for ANS and Indigenous women in this province. NS has historically low charge, prosecution, conviction and sentencing rates. (NS Advisory Council on Status of Women)</p>	<p>dynamics of abusive relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive understanding of sexual assault, myths, stereotypes, and an examination of their own unconscious bias. Consider requisite of an implicit bias test, like one developed at Harvard University. - Emphasis on understanding admissibility provisions in the criminal code specific to sexual assault – including requirements to apply for permission to use third-party records or any evidence related to prior sexual history. Judges have a duty to eliminate stereotype infused reasoning and inhumane, abusive cross-examination practices from the trial process. - An intersectional gender analysis of this issue – those whose identities are female-identified, trans or gender non-conforming and also intersect with other discriminatory factors such as poverty or non-dominant race, sexuality... are all more vulnerable to these crimes and have more barriers to accessing justice. Ensuring mandatory culturally competent training for all including culturally appropriate justice processes and increased funding for broader use of and training for Race & Cultural Assessments (for the African Canadian population) and Gladue Reports (for the Indigenous population). These justice tools allow opportunity to take into account the historical and oppressive contexts that affect certain populations in sentencing decisions. - Specialized training facilitated and created by those from diverse communities, including the ANS community, on Africentric Sensitivity, Unconscious Bias and micro-aggressions. 	
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<p>Pilot Use of a Restorative Approach</p>	<p>The mainstream justice system is often described as more re-traumatizing than the incident itself resulting in few conviction rates and low reporting for GBV crimes overall.</p> <p>'Justice' as victims define it is not always</p>	<p>As a leader in the practice of youth RJ, with one of the longest running RJ programs in the country, there is opportunity to apply innovative, feminist restorative practices to lesser charges of GBV as a potential alternative to the adversarial system, especially given the high rate of couples who will choose to stay together. Dalhousie hosted a 6 yr</p>	<p>Department of Justice, (2018)</p> <p>Herman, Judith L., M.D., (2005)</p> <p>Johnson, Holly, (2010)</p> <p>Randall, M., (2013)</p>

	<p>punitive. GBV is complex and relational, needs a similarly nuanced response where a range of options are available for all parties including restoration of safety, validation, and repaired relationships are among the possible outcomes.</p> <p>There is currently a moratorium on use of RJ for GBV crimes in NS. Grew from concerns expressed by victim/women’s advocates and feminist thinkers that NS Justice Dept did not have the expertise to handle this nuanced approach with such complex relational crimes. Did not want to see coercion of victims forced to face their offenders or increased risk or harm if handled badly.</p>	<p>federally funded research initiative in the theory and practice of RJ.</p> <p>Exploration of Indigenous Customary Laws and restorative practices, together with best practices from feminist law reform would inform a credible holistic pilot program. <i>However</i>, while capacity and expertise in this province has evolved since 2000, attention to risk and safety assessments, and highly skilled practitioners trained in <i>both</i> the complexities of IPV <i>and</i> expert levels of restorative justice practice, would be essential competencies we don’t currently have in abundance in the province. Funding for increased capacity, data tracking and ongoing evaluation of a program’s success including victim and offender reports and rates of reoffending would be key.</p> <p>A restorative pathway based on principles and expertise currently being developed might provide an alternative path to seeking ‘justice’ that actually would have accountability, repair of harms, safety, restoration of dignity, agency and choice, and the potential for healing at its foundation. Any approach to these kinds of crimes would have to address power imbalances between victims and offenders and include a trauma-informed and victim-focused approach.</p> <p>Justice as defined by the victim but sanctioned by the mainstream JS would be powerful resolution to these crimes and would address victims’ issues with compassion and fairness, allowing survivors of crime to be heard.</p>	<p>Bookchin, Sue & Diane Crocker, (2019)</p>
<p>Expand Specialized Training for Public Prosecution</p>	<p>While Crown Attorneys are appointed to a particular case, they are not appointed to the complainant. Their sole responsibility is to protect public interest and safety, to ensure a fair trial and to provide the</p>	<p>Assign specially trained prosecutors who understand sexual assault laws, rules of evidence, rape mythology and its influence on interpretation of law of consent. (Nova Scotia has just appointed two to oversee specialized training for other Crowns and</p>	<p>Craig, Elaine (2018) Sheehy, E. et al (2018) Kitchen Table Talks Report,</p>

<p>Service</p>	<p>complainant with general information on court room proceedings.</p> <p>There is a lack of consistent objection to the use of prohibited evidence and abusive cross-examination by the defence among public prosecutors in sexual assault trials.</p> <p>Testimonial aids are underutilized in gender-based violent crime cases. The Crown Attorney has a responsibility to promote their use.</p> <p>Increased African NS representation in the PPS to increase equitable systems and better ensure access to justice.</p>	<p>provide legal and strategic advice – need more).</p> <p>Build confidence to object to unlawful admission of evidence, have a sound understanding of their duty to protect a fair trial (*a good resource is “NS Practice Note on Sexual Offences”).</p> <p>Confidently oppose unfair defence practices more often. Need to object to anything that does not comply with section 276 as well as any questioning that relies on any form of rape mythology.</p> <p>Senate amendments to Bill C-51 that expands the legal definition of incapacity beyond unconsciousness should be accepted. Women who are intoxicated (but not unconscious) and those with mental disabilities remain vulnerable without these amendments.</p> <p>Advocate for complainant’s right to use testimonial aids.</p> <p>Need to better prepare complainants (without coaching) for the process – questioning, emotional toil, legalese, formalities (including “micro ceremony” involved in court room that has some importance in perception of complainant’s believability – dress, countenance, language...) – ALL reduces trauma and increases access to better justice.</p> <p>Have a duty to protect BOTH parties and the process itself.</p>	<p>Association of Black Social Workers, (2019)</p>
<p>Publicly Funded Legal Counsel for Victims of GBV</p>	<p>Currently no publicly funded legal representation for victims of these crimes that would have standing throughout the court process.</p> <p>A victim of sexual assault CAN hire their own</p>	<p>Victims need increased “standing” in courtroom, need access to process and developments of case that would serve their interests. A lack of appropriate information may result in victim withdrawing from proceedings or agreeing to outcomes adverse to their best interests.</p>	<p>Avalon, (2016)</p> <p>Craig, Elaine (2018)</p> <p>Department of Justice, (2018)</p>

	<p>lawyer, out of pocket but they have no “standing” in court room (can advise and consult/communicate with defense but cannot fully represent victim) except during admissibility hearings when defense applies to present certain evidence during trial.</p> <p>When there is an application by defense for “third party records” (medical, therapeutic records) via Section 278 – then victim is appointed a legal aid lawyer (and is only there to argue whether or not the application should proceed and nothing beyond).</p> <p>Federal legislation exists to provide complainants the right to legal representation for an application hearing under Section 276 of the Crim Code (Rape Shield Law) and to appear during such hearings. Very recently a new program in NS will provide free legal representation for victims of sexual assault to challenge applications (by defense/accused) to have their past sexual history considered as evidence.</p> <p>But there is a lack of sustained, continuous, free legal representation for victims of these crimes.</p> <p>Particularly concerning in cases of SV where victims are treated more as evidence than as legitimate parties. They are appointed a ‘representative of the state’, a Crown Attorney, who can provide a certain amount of info on process but, often unbeknownst to the complainant, does not represent their interests. The proceedings deprive victims of</p>	<p>Pass: Private Member’s Bill 4 “Dignity for Victims of Sexual Violence Act” (NS) which has passed its second reading and would enshrine the right of the victim to free legal representation via the Dir of Victim Services, out of the General Revenue Fund of NS, for “reasonable costs” of legal representation in the prosecution of the accused.</p> <p>Complainants need more than the current allowance of representation limited to applications for third party records or aspects of Section 276 (and beyond the new 4 hours of free independent legal advice provided by the province of NS – an important step in the right direction) and in addition to and separate from duties of the Crown.</p> <p>Complainants need to be fully informed on process, options and possible outcomes and have access to specially trained prosecutors to increase their agency in their own pursuit of justice. Ensuring legal representation for victims would change the adversarial nature of the court process.</p> <p>Independent state-funded legal rep for SA complainants would compliment duties of the Crown and not replace them by providing support and info that the Crown cannot provide. Crown also serves a specific function to protect rights of both parties and the process itself.</p> <p>Adjust eligibility for Legal Aid for victims in cases of GBV, especially where family/custody issues are involved. Could be covered through General Revenue Fund of NS via Victim Services. Also expand legal aid coverage to include more than just third-party record or Section 276 applications. OR consider a state-funded legal representation program for sexual assault complainants provided through</p>	<p>Status of Women Report, (2017)</p> <p>Wilson, Larry (2008)</p> <p>Mosher, Janet (2015)</p> <p>Access to Justice Coordinating Committee Report (2018)</p>
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	<p>any credible voice and very often continue to allow defence attorneys to use any means necessary to discredit the victim as the primary defense tactic in order to raise “reasonable doubt” or to encourage them to recant altogether to escape inhumane trial process.</p> <p>Additional issue is that offenders who are self-represented can use the opportunity to directly harass the complainant/victim in the courtroom and strategically use legal process and system itself to further coerce and manipulate (particularly if the victim does not have legal representation).</p>	<p>creation of Legal Counsel positions (rather than through legal aid certificate structure) OR the creation of a not-for-profit law firm of retired or new “clerking” lawyers.</p> <p>Ontario and British Columbia offer free legal representation for victims of sexual assault at Human Rights Tribunals (often a ‘friendlier’ option with compensation possibilities).</p> <p>New provision of Rape Shield law to include text messages – could result in increased # of applications for third party records and an increased need for victims to have legal representation with standing.</p> <p>Related recommendation for DOJ to fund a sexual assault legal advocate independent of the legal system to work collaboratively with police and Crown (to support victim, navigate and expedite through the system).</p> <p>Yukon’s “Legal Aid Act” – legislates legal aid coverage for domestic disputes involving violence.</p>	
<p>Ethical Defence Lawyers</p>	<p>Despite rigorous protectionist provisions in the criminal code designed to prevent use of evidence supported by rape myths and other stereotypes, there is a fairly consistent reliance on use of this kind of sexist evidence by defence lawyers to badger and discredit the complainant in the eyes of the law. These practices are not only tolerated but often celebrated among “bull dog” firms. There is a need for a more just, trauma-informed approach to cross examination and courtroom practices to ensure justice is served.</p> <p>Increased ANS representation among</p>	<p>Need broad recognition within defence bar that dominant practices of sexual assault law perpetuate harms and violates professional code of ethics.</p> <p>Make use of “courteous cross-examination” and trauma-informed practices in the court room to ensure a more humane experience with better results.</p> <p>Avoid temptation to remain “willfully blind” (by advising client to not tell them whole truth or it must be raised in court) to the truth in order to get a win.</p> <p>Develop a professional intolerance to use of evidence based on legally rejected stereotypes.</p>	<p>Craig, Elaine, (2018)</p> <p>Kitchen Table Talks Report, Association of Black Social Workers, (2019)</p>

	<p>defense lawyers to increase equitable systems and better ensure access to justice.</p>	<p>Use preliminary trial for what it was designed for (to determine if there is enough evidence to proceed) not for intimidation purposes. Recent changes to criminal code, Bill C-75, will legislate dropping preliminary trial but only in certain cases of sexual assault.</p>	
<p>Enhanced Capacity to Support Victims</p>	<p>All Victim Service options in NS (DOJ, RCMP, Police) report being over capacity, and yet often underutilized. Victims report they are not accessible with consistent delivery of services, especially rurally.</p> <p>Onus falls to community-based agencies who also lack adequate capacity to provide ongoing support and accompaniment throughout court proceedings.</p> <p>Lack of diverse representation among those who work in shelter, support, counselling and intervention programs and agencies. Lack of culturally appropriate and accessible information about violence and services and supports. Lack of culturally 'safe' spaces, particularly for the ANS community.</p>	<p>Could be enhanced to provide support, navigation and accompaniment across court systems and throughout process.</p> <p>Often length of court process or wait times mean victim runs out of funded counselling via VS before they have even entered the court room.</p> <p>VS cannot appear in Family Court with victim, often they are going through both systems and need navigation support across court systems. If VS not there from the beginning, on scene and in the court room, there is no trust built and therefore no request from the victim.</p> <p>Advocate for increased core funding to sustain supportive services offered to victims via community-based agencies for counseling, support, advocacy, accompaniment and navigation.</p> <p>Increased collaborative "wrap-around" opportunities that partner the justice and with social systems and the private sector to provide support and interventions that are effective and targeted.</p> <p>Creation of a "Black Mobile Crisis Team" – ANS psychologist, social worker, doctor, lawyer and community outreach member to decrease barriers to justice and increase reporting and access to supports.</p> <p>Culturally appropriate programming, resources and</p>	<p>MacDonald Laurier Institute (2016)</p> <p>Department of Justice, (2018)</p> <p>Department of Justice, (2016)</p> <p>Avalon, (2016)</p> <p>Kitchen Table Talks Report, Association of Black Social Workers, (2019)</p>

		services specific to the ANS community including ANS Addictions Counsellors, Africentric Child Care programs and Africentric Child & Family Services Agencies.	
Increased Access to Civil Proceedings or Human Rights Tribunals	<p>While Civil court could provide an alternative and perhaps more satisfying outcome for victims by providing opportunity for compensation, hold perpetrator accountable in the public eye and provide legal representation for the victim, it is very costly and inaccessible to most.</p> <p>Weight of law in civil court is balance of probabilities, not beyond reasonable doubt, which opens opportunity for the accused to acknowledge wrong-doing without a criminal charge.</p> <p>Human Rights Tribunals also offer a less formal and often faster route to possible closure for victims of SA. Rules of evidence are more lax than criminal court and cross examination is typically less rigorous. HRTs cannot award punitive damages but can compensate for damages for loss of dignity, self-worth and emotional suffering and lost income. Victims do not risk order of costs against them but also cannot recoup costs if they win.</p>	<p>Review opportunities for accessible, funded/partially funded, civil action as alternative to criminal justice system – potential for more satisfying outcomes for some victims – financial compensation and acknowledgement of wrongdoing.</p> <p>Ontario and BC offer free legal representation for victims of SA in Human Rights Tribunals.</p>	Fine, Sean. Globe & Mail, (April 3, 2018)

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGAL RESPONSES IN GBV

Recommendations from Be the Peace Institute and the Association of Black Social Workers through the “Pathways to Justice” project, funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, to promote change in the justice response to victims of gender-based violence – (GBV) through mainstream and alternative channels.



GBV Navigator

A GBV Navigator would provide a single point of contact for victims of GBV seeking justice through multiple courts, sectors and/or services. Providing consistent information, decision-making assistance, culturally proficient services and a less traumatizing experience.



Integration Between Courts

Family court personnel would be aware of GBV relevant criminal/civil court proceedings and charges to minimize contradictions in court orders & rulings, improve safety and reduce harm. Specialized training for family court personnel to understand the complexities & risks of family violence situations.



Specialized Courts for GBV (IPV/SV)

Access to specially trained legal personnel (including judges, defence lawyers, Crown Attorneys) for all criminal proceedings, assurance of specialized wrap-around services.



Training for Judges

Mandatory training for all new & current judges on the complexities of GBV, sexual assault law, evidentiary provisions, unconscious bias fuelled by myths & stereotypes, the nature of trauma and cultural competency, including use of Race & Cultural Assessments and Gladue Reports.



Restorative Responses

A restorative pathway for justice that integrates understanding the complexities of GBV with proficiency in restorative principles & practice to ensure victim safety, address accountability for harm and promote healing and recovery.

Prepared by the Pathways 2 Justice Project

BE THE PEACE INSTITUTE & ABSW

A “WAGE”-funded project

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Gender-Based Violence Navigator

Proposal prepared by Be the Peace Institute, July 2019

Executive Summary

Gender-based violence is complex and traumatizing. The system designed to respond to these crimes can be similarly so. We have heard consistently from survivors, service providers and legal professionals themselves that often the re-trauma experienced during engagement with the criminal justice system can be worse than the crime itself.

In a new #metoo era of increasing social intolerance of these crimes, the current public discourse is leading to more and more women seeking help and support. In Nova Scotia rates for gender-based violence are high,¹ however, formal reporting is still alarmingly low. As well our provincial rates for charge, conviction, prosecution, and conviction for sexual assault are also among the lowest in the country.

A specialized Gender-Based Navigator dedicated to providing consistent communication and a continuing relationship over time would improve the experience of engagement with the system for survivors as well as help build public confidence in the system over time.

Gender-based violence is complex and a survivor's experience can range from confusion, isolation, traumatization to suicidal ideation. The systems designed to provide support and resolution (including the criminal justice system) are also complex, and without consistent guidance can result in unsatisfactory resolutions, more trauma and potentially, increased risk. The period of time after a report can be the most vulnerable time for a survivor and when appropriate support could be vital. Aggressors can use the system itself to further manipulate a woman through threat of child custody applications, withdrawal of financial support or removal of immigration sponsorship. Navigating a complex system in a state of trauma, often alone, with inconsistent information exchange, a lack of legal representation or even accompaniment, can hinder decision making and autonomy throughout the process.

This position would be aligned with other new initiatives in the province designed to provide specialized responses to gender-based violence like Independent Legal Advice for victims of sexualized violence, the two specialized Crown Attorneys, Domestic Violence Courts in certain regions of the province, among others, and would help facilitate access to these opportunities as a single point of contact consistent across courts and across sectors.

A GBV Navigator would help those from populations who have higher rates of GBV while also experiencing increased barriers to accessing justice like Indigenous and African Nova Scotian women, newcomer and immigrant women, disabled women and those from the Rainbow Community. Specialized training and diverse representation among navigators would help ensure cultural competence and heighten access to justice itself.

While there are formalized responses to gender-based violence through both government and community-based supports which fulfill some needs of survivors as they navigate legal and other systems, having a consistent, specialized expert who can accompany, coordinate, provide information and support for informed decision making before, throughout and after the court process, would improve victim engagement and fluency, improve public trust in the system response, and potentially increase reporting and accountability for these crimes. .

Gender-Based Violence Navigator

Proposal prepared by Be the Peace Institute, July 2019

Introduction

In the Nova Scotia healthcare system, (and elsewhere in Canada), a position of Cancer Care Navigator exists to assist patients in navigating the myriad of emotional personal choices required in pursuing treatment for newly diagnosed cancer. The Navigator role was developed to address the complex needs of patients and families for specialized responses to their questions and concerns and guidance in informed decision-making. In the highly complex healthcare system, time constraints on health professionals often impede thorough communication with patients and families, and also with other system actors and community-based supports on the patient's behalf. The Cancer Care Navigator's primary role is one of information, liaison, coordination and support for informed decision-making with people often in a state of extreme vulnerability, anxiety and fear. Sensitively assisting patients and loved ones to successfully interface with a foreign and confusing system where 'experts' exercise inordinate control over one's well-being and life trajectory, is one aim. The other is better health outcomes as a result of that specialized support.

The same can be said for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The combination of traumatic emotional experiences, social stigma, vulnerability and fear at the juncture of a complex, confusing, alien system can create compounded trauma for survivors and families, and thwart the efforts of system actors in working effectively and efficiently to achieve just processes, safety and the best possible outcomes for all.

In health care, the Navigator role¹ includes:

- Facilitating timely and appropriate access to the cancer care system
- Guiding and supporting patients and families through the duration of the cancer journey
- Working closely with the entire health care team to coordinate care, referrals, resources and supports
- Supporting patients to make informed decisions.

Given the persistence of gender-based violence (GBV) and its potentially traumatic impacts over a lifetime, coupled with the erosion of public confidence in the justice system's ability to successfully address these crimes, it might be an opportune time to consider whether a similar specialized Navigator might positively impact both.

The Possibility

The GBV Navigator would be dedicated to meeting the needs of victims of gender-based violence: provide comprehensive, consistent guidance and support for victims of gender-based violence before, throughout, and after the court (and potentially other adjudicative) processes; subscribe to the rights-based framework outlined in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*; advocate for just processes and supports to reduce further harm and promote recovery; offer information and translation of legal language to assist with the complex decision-making faced by GBV victims; and coordinate referrals with other providers.

Why this? Why now?

There are many reasons to pursue new ways to support victims of GBV crimes, including:

- We have heard from survivors that they often experience **more burden, vulnerability and emotional harms simply by participating in legal processes as a GBV complainant**. They wish for more humane processes and just outcomes for themselves.
- **Survivors of GBV rarely find dedicated, consistent, comprehensive, ongoing navigation** assistance throughout the duration of complex legal and system processes that may span years, multiple courts, system entry points and interface with government and community-based actors. This may account for some portion of long-standing low reporting rates of GBV crimes, as well as case collapse from victims recanting, wasting valuable system resources and making it difficult to hold offenders meaningfully accountable.
- **Existing support structures for victims are limited in scope, mandate and resourcing**. DOJ Victim Services is overburdened, especially in rural areas, and can only provide limited time and accompaniment¹ and only for certain parts of the legal process, and are generalists, serving victims of all crimes, not specialists in GBV. Community-based agencies often lack capacity or mandate for comprehensive follow-up and accompaniment¹ (especially in legal proceedings) and routinely have wait lists for therapeutic support¹ as they struggle to meet the level of demand.
- **For African Nova Scotian, Indigenous and newcomer women, the barriers** of culture, social location, systemic oppression, racism or inherent bias and a relative scarcity of culturally similar or adept providers are compounded to further marginalize and thwart equitable access to justice for them.
- Our legal system does not permit victims **legal representation in court**¹ except for certain applications; the cost of legal advice is prohibitive for many, **and the legal aid eligibility threshold often too low for representation in Family Court**; and many mistakenly hold the assumption that the Crown attorney acts in the interests of the victim. While a GBV Navigator could not fulfill this function, they would provide increased support and information to strengthen a victim's decision-making and self-advocacy abilities. A Navigator could ensure they understand their rights, have access to available testimonial aids and appropriate referrals to specialized programs (ILA, specialized Crown Attorneys), etc.
- **Consistent, reliable, attentive information sharing and a point person to coordinate addressing multiple needs** is only sporadically available, so when issues arise, like access and custody of children and **manipulation by offenders** who use the legal process itself¹ to further control, manipulate or harass complainants, risk and vulnerability for women and children involved is compounded.¹
- **High incident rates for sexualized violence, coupled with low reporting, charges, prosecution and conviction rates**¹ in Nova Scotia have eroded public confidence in the legal system's ability to respond appropriately to these gender-based crimes.

The Benefits

A dedicated Navigator would: **build greater fluency for survivors** in knowing what to expect from system processes; provide improved guidance and decision-making support in navigating system constraints and requirements; be a dedicated liaison between legal and other system actors (child

protection, income assistance, community providers) and across multiple courts (criminal, family, civil). They will offer victims increased knowledge, support and agency in adjudicative processes and potentially better resolutions and a pathway for healing from harms they have suffered.

The GBV Navigator would potentially restore some trust or confidence in the justice system response to GBV in the following ways:

- We have heard consistently from service providers, government actors, researchers and diverse survivors, including via focus groups held in **African NS communities**¹, that this kind of program would be key to increased reporting¹, decreased barriers for access to justice, improved experiences with the legal system, and more comprehensible, if not satisfactory resolutions. Diverse, specially trained liaisons are needed for these communities to ensure an equitable criminal justice system response.
- A GBV Navigator would address some of the **“Calls for Justice”** in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls¹.
- This **up-front investment** might offer a substantial return in more efficient utilization of court processes within and across criminal/family courts, reduced recanting and case collapse, increased offender accountability and treatment that may lower recidivism in the same or successive relationships.
- **It would complement recent provincial initiatives to increase access to justice** for those who have experienced gender-based violence, including: DV Court Programs (Cape Breton, HRM, Bridgewater); Independent Legal Advice for sexual violence victims; Specialized SV Crown Attorneys; access to funded legal representation for victims of SV in evidence admissibility hearings about other sexual activity or access to private records; enhanced DV training opportunities and the high-risk protocol program.
- Promote **diverse representation in this role** so more vulnerable populations, like Indigenous, African Nova Scotian and Rainbow Community¹, can access someone who will understand their increased barriers to accessing justice due to cultural identity and social location similar to the “Territorial Crown Witness Coordinator”¹ program in the North West Territories, a post-charge, court-based victim support service funded by the federal government which includes staff with Indigenous backgrounds and who speak local languages.
- Demonstrate a significant commitment to investment in addressing the complex needs of GBV victims and upholding the Victims Bill of Rights without compromising fairness and justice for the accused.
- Support effective justice service delivery to vulnerable victims with long-standing **unmet needs**.

The Role of the Navigator

While not a panacea, a well-resourced GBV Navigator could support the current commitment to more nuanced and comprehensive/consistent support and services for victims of gender-based crimes, with the following functions:

- **Information, guidance and decision-making assistance-** about options and pathways through the justice system (criminal, civil, family courts), particulars of the court case (timelines, procedure, testimonial aids, eligibility for legal representation, court orders and rulings), assistance with informed decision-making, referral options and navigation, and to better facilitate access to supports like ILA program.
- **Accompaniment** - to interviews, (police, crowns, community services workers), hearings, as well as throughout the justice system proceedings. (There are precedents for this in Canadian models elsewhere¹)
- **Increasing Safety and Reducing Risk** - safety planning including getting to and from court and home safely, supporting protective measures in a victim's workplace or neighbourhood or negotiating Peace Bonds or Emergency Protection Orders.
- **Connection/ Coordination /Liaison-** with specialized community-based services including counselling, financial aid, childcare and access issues, housing assistance, etc. The Navigator, especially useful in more vulnerable communities, would serve as a liaison, referral point and coordinator with a range of justice-based and community-based supports and services.
- **On the Ground Support** - throughout justice system interactions including when victim is interacting with multiple court systems and multiple sectors (i.e. immigration or child protection). Complex cases require working within **overlapping courts and sectors** to resolve issues where heightened information sharing is essential to mitigate further risk. The navigator could provide supported liaising with other government and community-based services and aligned with the principles outlined in the *Victims Bill of Rights*.
- **Improved access to justice through system improvements-** through a formal feedback structure, the Navigator would identify barriers, gaps and issues, make recommendations to decision-makers for system-based alterations, playing a part in improving unbiased access to justice.

Promising Models exist elsewhere in Canada: Justice Assistance Program (Vancouver WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre) offers accompaniment to legal/justice proceedings including interviews with police and crown counsel; Family Court Support Worker program in Lanark County, ON provides information on court proceedings, referrals, accompaniment and safety planning; Calgary's HomeFront and Territorial Crown Witness Coordinators. *(see links below)*

Possible Implementation Pathways

There are multiple ways this opportunity might be structured as a "Made in Nova Scotia" initiative, for example:

- **Engage and train a diverse cadre of GBV Navigators** whose primary role is to assist survivors in: understanding and navigating the legal system; making informed choices for themselves about whether and how to proceed; accompanying them; promoting knowledge of and access to testimonial aids and connecting and coordinating with available community-based services to meet both immediate and also changing needs over time, (e.g. housing, finances, childcare, relocation, etc.).

- **As a special initiative or part of a renewal process of Department of Justice, Victim Services** program with enhanced training, development and an expanded role for VS GBV specialists or a Navigator Team with guiding principles, terms of reference and a collaborative structure.
- **As an expansion of the High Risk Case Coordination model** (DOJ) available for all gender-based violence cases.
- **Through a new collaborative structure among legal experts and GBV experts**, with enhanced funding/training to better serve this support/navigation/coordination function. Calgary's "HomeFront" program combines the expertise of the non-profit and the legal sector to provide information, decision-making support and referrals to victims of domestic violence through a collaborative partnership¹.
- **GBV Navigator competencies** might include:
 - Legal expertise and ability to articulate legal options and pathways in plain language
 - Knowledge of how complex cases intersect with different (sometimes contradictory) courts/sectors
 - Understanding of how offenders can use the system to further harass and coerce women
 - Expertise in the complexities of GBV (trauma, relational dynamics, power & control, gender-based intersectional analysis, mythologies),
 - Versed in cultural humility and understanding barriers to justice for victims whose social identities intersect with non-dominant race/class/ability/sexual identity and orientation
 - Relationships and connections in community to provide appropriate support and service coordination for holistic, wrap-around care.
 - Ability to build trusting relationships with survivors and key stakeholders, to actively listen and be non-judgemental. Counselling skill sets an asset.

Promising Models in Canada:

Women Against Violence Against Women, Vancouver Rape Crisis Centre - Justice Assistance Program <https://www.wavaw.ca/justice-assistance/>

Family Court Support Worker Program - Lanark County Interval House and Community Support <https://lcih.org/family-court-support-worker-program/>

Calgary HomeFront Case Manager Program - <http://homefrontcalgary.com/main/?project=about-dvirt>

Territorial Crown Witness Coordinator Program - <https://www.ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/eng/tra/tr/19.html>

Recent Recommendation Reports:

Association of Black Social Workers (2019) "Kitchen Table Talks Report" <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ausc%3A2ec550ae-c641-46f2-b5c6-c7a20206c7cc>

Avalon SANE Program Summary Evaluation Report, (2016)

<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Desktop/BTP%20Insitute/SWC/resources/2016%20Sept%2019%20Avalon%20SANE%20Final%20Summary%20Eval%20Report.PDF>

Department of Justice Canada, (2013). "Report of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence".

http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/jus/J2-385-2013-1-eng.pdf

Status of Women Report, (2017) "Taking Action to End Violence Against Young Women and Girls in Canada", Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women.

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=42&Ses=1&DocId=8823562&File=18>