

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: Embrave: Agency to End Violence releases a timely training focused on addressing systemic violence in the criminal justice and police system**

May 3, 2023 - PEEL REGION, ON - On the anniversary of the launch of Embrave's BraveSpaces Public Education Program, we are pleased to announce the first in a series of trainings addressing systemic violence in the lives of survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Forthcoming trainings slated to launch later this year will focus on psychiatry and the mental health system and systemic violence experienced by sex workers. This multi-year project is funded by Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada Women's Program.

**Developed with Feedback from Survivors of GBV**

The BraveSpaces Public Education program has prioritized amplifying the voices of survivors. "After extensive community consultations and curriculum development, Embrave will be training organizations on survivor experiences and advocacy strategies to reduce systemic barriers while navigating the criminal justice system," said Rebecca Rogers, Director of Advocacy, Communications and Programs. "Survivors have told us that they want to equip organizations with awareness on the systemic violence they experience and the knowledge necessary to be the advocates for systemic change".

**Survivors of GBV Speak Out**

- "As a survivor of GBV, I was not believed when I tried to report my experiences of violence. I was in distress and charged instead when I called for help."
- 57% of survivors consulted found the criminal justice system difficult to navigate.
- 64% of survivors consulted reported having been dual charged after reporting an incident of violence.
- When experiencing systemic violence or mistreatment from the police, survivors would like a safe way to hold the system accountable and/or the support of advocates to maintain their safety when interacting with the police.
- Survivors who are parents have reported that the mandatory reporting policy to child welfare has caused fear of persecution and removal of children which in turn prevents survivors from honestly seeking supports for GBV.

**Take Action to End GBV**

"With this training program we hope to provide foundational knowledge, firsthand information from survivors, as well as an opportunity to practice applying learnings and advocacy strategies which will reduce experiences of systemic violence among survivors of GBV in the criminal justice and police system," said Luxana Ramesh, BraveSpaces Public Education Project Coordinator.

For more information or to register to receive the training, please contact Luxana Ramesh.



## QUICK LINKS

[Funding for women and gender equality - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#)

[Embrave](#)

## ABOUT EMBRAVE AGENCY TO END VIOLENCE

Embrave: Agency to End Violence is a non-profit organization that provides shelter, counselling, and advocacy supports for women, Two-Spirit, genderqueer, trans and non-binary folks and their children impacted by gender-based violence. We amplify the voices of survivors, educate the community, and inspire systemic change to create a society free of violence.

If you are a survivor of violence in need of support, please contact Embrave: Agency to End Violence's 24-hour Crisis Line at 905-403-0864 or 1-855-676-8515. You can also seek support from any of the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse member agencies. Visit their website at [www.pcawa.net](http://www.pcawa.net) for more information.

### **For media inquiries please contact:**

Rebecca Rogers – Director, Advocacy, Communication and Programs

Phone: (905) 403-9691 Ext. 2222

Email: [rebecca@embrave.ca](mailto:rebecca@embrave.ca)

### **For inquiries about BraveSpaces Public Education Program contact:**

Luxana Ramesh – Project Coordinator

Phone: (647)545-3948

Email: [luxana@embrave.ca](mailto:luxana@embrave.ca)