

NOT OKAY

It is estimated that one in five Canadian women will experience sexual or physical intimate partner violence in her lifetime. Last year, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic assisted more than **4,700** women from underserved communities who have survived gender-based violence. Since opening in 1985, the Clinic has assisted more than **60,000** women build lives free from violence.

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic is Canada's only fully-integrated legal, counselling and interpretation clinic specialized in assisting women who have experienced violence or its aftermath. We provide multi-lingual interpretation in more than 200 languages, offer a variety of innovative counselling services, and legal representation in the areas of law most commonly requested by women: family, immigration, criminal and sexual assault.

Building on independent legal advice (ILA) piloted by the Province of Ontario at the Clinic, and working in partnership with Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre at Women's College Hospital, and Aboriginal Legal Services, **NOT OKAY** is a three-year collaborative project of the Barbra Schlifer Clinic to provide women from underserved communities who have experienced sexual assault with the services they need at familiar and frequently accessed locations.

NOT OKAY will increase individual access to justice for the most marginalized women in Toronto, including Indigenous women, women from immigrant, refugee and precarious status communities, women with physical and mental health disabilities, LBT women and those with non-binary gender identity, as well as those not able to access comparable supports. Specifically, the project will:

- Offer survivors of sexual assault information sessions co-facilitated by a counsellor and lawyer in the spaces that women are already accessing;
- Empower claimants to make informed choices by providing relevant information on: how her conduct and narrative can be used against her;
- Tackle the barriers to criminal justice for marginalized women who have experienced sexual assault, and correct misinformation about the criminal process before a woman decides to report her assault to police;
- Improve on existing public legal education materials available to claimants as well as those supporting claimants such as court support workers, agency staff, crown attorneys and members of the Bench; and
- Provide training for criminal justice professionals on a culturally-relevant, trauma-informed response to sexual assault law.

For more information on **NOT OKAY**, please email notokay@schliferclinic.com.

In partnership with



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