

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
November 5, 2025*

3. Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy

Submitted by: Councillor Bligh

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has made significant commitments to advancing gender equity and inclusion through the *Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028*,¹ adopted by Council to guide policy, service delivery, and workplace culture;
2. Thirty-four women have been killed in British Columbia since August 2024 as a result of intimate partner violence, representing a public safety crisis that disproportionately impacts women and gender-diverse people;²
3. National and provincial research continues to demonstrate that women—particularly Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, and low-income women—experience disproportionate levels of violence, housing insecurity, and economic marginalization;
4. At least 95 municipalities in Canada have declared violence against women and intimate partner violence an epidemic;
5. The City's Women's Advisory Committee plays an important role in advising Council on issues affecting women and gender-diverse people, and in ensuring that equity-related initiatives are informed by lived experience and community expertise;
6. The City's Women's Advisory Committee, on September 23rd, 2025, unanimously recommended that the City of Vancouver "Create a...gender-based violence task force that is community and survivor-centred to coordinate safety across policing, housing, and justice to address this pressing issue,"³;
7. The annual *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* campaign, observed from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day), provides an opportunity for all orders of government to raise awareness, demonstrate leadership, and take action to end gender-based violence;

¹ <https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/Women%27sEquityStrategy.pdf>

² <https://www.bwss.org/from-vigils-to-action-toward-ending-femicide-in-british-columbia/>

³ <https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/wadv20250923min.pdf>

8. The use of proclamations and other recognition, such as the City of Vancouver's proclamation for Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month on October 21st, can serve as a signal of support, but in no way substitute concrete action;
9. Cities across Canada are taking proactive measures to develop **Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategies**, often in partnership with community agencies, advocacy organizations, and law enforcement, to address the rising rates of intimate partner violence and related safety concerns; and
10. Numerous reports, recommendations, and memorandums have been written on Gender-Based Violence and Gender-Based Violence Prevention, yet little concrete action has occurred to meaningfully prevent Gender-Based Violence^{4 5}.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a **memo to Council in advance of the 2025 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** outlining:
 - a. Ongoing national, provincial, and municipal initiatives addressing gender-based violence;
 - b. Opportunities for the City of Vancouver to participate in or amplify public awareness campaigns; and
 - c. Recommended options for a **City statement or public commitment** reaffirming Council's dedication to ending gender-based violence and supporting those affected by it.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to **develop recommendations for a City of Vancouver Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy**, including but not limited to:
 - a. Establishing a **Gender-Based Violence Prevention Task Force** composed of representatives from the City, the Vancouver Police Department, community-based organizations, survivors, and subject-matter experts, and ensuring that the drafting of the Task Force's Terms of Reference be co-developed with the Women's Advisory Committee;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for collaboration with other levels of government, Indigenous leadership, and regional partners;
 - c. Reviewing best practices from other municipalities and existing provincial and federal frameworks;
 - d. Outlining potential timelines, resourcing needs, and deliverables for the development and implementation of a City-wide strategy;

⁴ [The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence](#)

⁵ [Violence Against Women and Their Children in BC: 33 Years of Recommendations](#)

- e. Reviewing previous motions, reports, and memorandums from the City of Vancouver, other levels of government, and front line service organizations that discuss Gender-Based Violence Prevention strategies and recommendations; and
 - f. Focusing on actualizing a prevention strategy oriented through specific deliverables such as community safety and wellbeing, housing, justice, and other equity-informed initiatives.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council with the budgetary requirements to complete the aforementioned recommendations.

Rationale:

This motion seeks to respond to the ongoing public safety crisis related to intimate partner violence, which has resulted in 33 deaths across British Columbia this year, and to broader concerns about gender-based violence and equity. The motion directs staff to prepare a memo to Council in advance of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*, and calls for the creation of a **Gender-Based Violence Prevention Task Force** and the development of a **City-wide strategy** to strengthen prevention, coordination, and accountability across sectors. Further, this motion follows the example set by other municipalities, such as the City of Burnaby's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan addressing gender-based discrimination and the City of Prince George's resolution at the 2025 UBCM Convention on the Gender Based and Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic.

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