

“ I value **all** the women in my community. ”

Dear Supporter,

90% of women with developmental disabilities will experience violence, with 83% being sexually assaulted, many repeatedly. At these rates, they are 4-10 times more likely to experience violence than other women.

As high as these numbers already are, we also know that only 3% of cases will be reported. This makes it almost guaranteed that women with developmental disabilities will be victims of violence and sexual assault.

As a woman, as a mother and someone who knows first-hand from women with developmental disabilities, this is my issue. This is a women's issue, this is a disability issue and this is a community issue.

The first step in dealing with violence against women with developmental disabilities is to face it and acknowledge that isolation and lack of inclusion makes women with developmental disabilities more vulnerable to violence and abuse. We need to take these women and their experience with violence and abuse out of the shadows. They need to be valued and have an important place in our communities; otherwise they will be just statistics.

At Inclusion BC we answer calls from women in need of support. We listen, we acknowledge their experiences, we provide advocacy and we walk with them on their journey. Our vision of full inclusion and human rights guides us. We take their stories to legislators and policy and decision makers so we can help build better more responsive supports.

Inclusion BC is working with government and partner organizations to include women with developmental disabilities in gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

Despite the increased risk women with developmental disabilities face, they are often excluded from prevention programs and supports for women who have experienced violence. They also experience hurdles within the legal system due to stereotypes, communication barriers and lack of materials in accessible formats.

We also raise the issues with others, like you. Please stand with us in our call to bring these issues to the forefront. **Together we can stop the cycle and help end the violence against British Columbian women with developmental disabilities.** Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.



Faith Bodnar
Executive Director, Inclusion BC

“ Women's rights is not only an abstraction, a cause; it is also a personal affair. It is not only about us; it is also about me and you. Just the two of us. ”

- *Toni Morrison*

“ Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights. ”

- *Hillary Clinton*

“ We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through. ”

- *Rosemary Brown*

What do you have to say?

Add your voice. Together we can bring attention to this very important matter.
DONATE ONLINE at InclusionBC.org/our-foundation. If you require assistance, call (604) 777-9100 ext 522