

# Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) Safe Spaces Presentation

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## **Slide 1: ONWA**

The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) is not for profit organization that was established in 1971 to empower and support Indigenous women and their families throughout the province of Ontario.

ONWA's overarching commitment is ending violence against Indigenous women and families by ensuring access to justice, education, health services, preservation of culture, languages, identity and leadership.

ONWA has published ground breaking research since the 1980's on the violence against Indigenous women. ONWA recognizes that women cannot access basic necessities of living without safe spaces. That is why this collaborative research project with Lakehead University and Carleton University is important.

- Breaking Free Report (1986)
- Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women (2007)
- Community Guide to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women (2011)
- Breaking Free Breaking Through Report (2015)
- Sex Trafficking of Indigenous Women in Ontario (2016)
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry Submission (2018)
- Journey to Safe SPACES: Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Engagement Report (2019)
- ONWA is committed to healing moving forward, link: <http://www.onwa.ca/media>
- CBC clip on the release of ONWA's Human Trafficking report, link: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-onwa-human-trafficking-1.5154946>

## **Slide 2: Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Service Delivery Framework**

The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Service Delivery called for a sustainable wraparound programs that assist survivors with the healing process. Community members and Indigenous and mainstream services providers contributed to the thinking that led to the comprehensive approach embedded in the framework.

A culture-based –gender-based trauma informed approach is at the core of the framework. To best deliver this framework in a seamless wraparound approach, it is essential to have collaboration and training among stakeholders to ensure services are provided in a culturally safe trauma informed collaborative way. Policy plays a large role to reform to the criminal justice system, health system, and other areas to assist with facilitate effective prevention and ensure supports for survivors.

### **Slide 3: Journey to Safe Spaces**

Based on extensive engagement with over 3,360 community members and the ongoing relationship with 250 self-identified human trafficking survivors who have shared their stories, ONWA has developed 14 recommendations, which we propose to implement through a six part strategy that is rooted in relationship and collaboration though SAFE SPACES #safeSPACES;

We focus on safety through;

- Survivor- centred and survivor informed services that are culture and gender based and delivered in a trauma-informed approach
- Prevention through education, training and public awareness campaigns, both in print and in person, targeting those who are most at risk and those who can respond first to the signs, namely peers, parents and educators
- Access to safe and respectful spaces at service delivery agencies that offer women only programming so women can speak openly and without fear, about their experiences
- Core supports for transitioning to a new life, including emergency funding for immediate relocation, which is delivered in an expedient and efficient manner to ensure women and girls have no wait times to safety
- Evidence-based policy and system reform informed by survivor expertise and the successful extraction of Indigenous women by ONWAs multi-partner collaborative network that works across government, disciplines and professions
- Streamlined supports offered through a barrier free simplified process.

It is key that when a victim is identified, all barriers are removed to ensure they are survivors #safeSPACES.

### **Slide 4: Recommendations**

- A culturally-based gender-based trauma-informed approach
- Prevention
- Survivor's safety
- Supports for survivors
- Transition to different life
- Agency training & collaboration
- Policy & system reform

**Slide 5:**

For more information, please contact:

Ontario Native Women's Association

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