

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011
MAY 29 to JUNE 1 - MONTRÉAL - CANADA

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Complex Realities and New Issues in a Changing World

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Deadline: August 15, 2010

THEME

The world and its social problems are changing fast. The issue of violence against women is not unaffected by political and socioeconomic trends around the world, such as globalization, recessions, North-South divide, wars and ethnic conflicts, and the increasing numbers of displaced persons and refugees.

Like many other social problems, violence against women has become more complex in recent years. In the West, researchers first turned their attention to domestic violence and sexual assault. Then, the issue broadened to include ignored forms of violence against women, such as the traffic in women, honour crimes, and violence against women in wartime. It also changed to take into account the particular realities of some groups of women living in vulnerable social situations such as immigrant women, native women, disabled women, lesbians, and so on. Women who are victims of violence have many needs, and standard social responses are not necessarily always effective.

The increasing complexity of the problem also forces us to reconsider the appropriateness of paradigms generally used to explain violence against women and come up with alternative ones. That is why the intersectional approach is increasingly seen as one the best theoretical angles for improving understanding of the issue.

Everyone working to diminish violence against women therefore faces increasingly numerous and diverse challenges, challenges that oblige us to question our ways of seeing the problem, understanding its causes and consequences, and imagining potential social responses.

Violence Against Women: Complex Realities and New Issues in a Changing World will bring together researchers, practitioners, political decision makers, and students from around the world to share knowledge and practices and to debate current issues in the field.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Scientific Committee invites researchers, students, practitioners, decision makers, and others with an interest in violence against women to submit proposals for presentations in English or French in three main categories:

1. Theoretical Models

The appropriateness of theoretical models (individual pathologies, social roles, feminism) widely used to explain violence against women or used to guide intervention are increasingly being called into question. Are they still relevant to an understanding of the processes of production and reproduction of unequal relationships, different kinds of violent situations, or protection and resistance strategies? Should they be adapted to take into account women's diverse realities and new forms of violence being studied or set aside in favour of other emerging approaches? Should we still be talking about violence against women, or rather gender-based violence? What are the implications of such questioning for research and practice?

2. Violence Against Women

Violence against women may take a number of forms and occur in a variety of settings. What are its nature, dynamics, processes, impacts, and consequences? Sample topics should be:

- Violence against women in vulnerable situations
- Institutional violence
- Domestic violence (including same-sex couples)
- Honour crimes
- Forced marriage
- Spousal and family homicide
- Sexual violence
- Parenting in a violent situation
- Intergenerational violence
- Children exposed to domestic violence

3. Social Responses to Violence Against Women

How do various social responses meet the women's needs? Should services be changed or adapted to reach cultural or sexual minorities? Do they put a stop to violence and protect women? Do they prevent violence? What are the most innovative and effective programs, formal and informal measures, and therapies for abusers, as well as for abused women and children? What do users and nonusers think about such services? Sample topics should be:

- Legislation against violence
- Government policies
- Psychosocial programs and therapy for women, men, or children
- Police, court and penal system responses
- Preventing violence
- Intersectoral dialogue and partnership
- Assessing effects and impacts of various social responses

Type of presentations

- **Oral presentation** (20 minutes)
- **Symposium** (90 minutes, including 20-minute discussion period): Several papers presenting different results of a same research or a research program in depth.
- **Workshop on innovative experiences** (75 minutes, including 15-minute discussion period): Presentation on programs, services, approaches, collaborative experiences, etc.
- **Poster**: Brief poster presentation outlining results or innovative experiences.

Proposals

- The abstract proposals for oral presentations, workshops and poster presentations must be limited to **200 words** and these for symposiums to **300 words**.
- Deadline for submissions: **August 15, 2010**.
- Anyone attending the conference, including presenters, must pay the registration fees.
- Notification of acceptance or rejection of an abstract will be sent to the principal email address indicated on the abstract from by December 15, 2010.

Abstract proposals: www.conferenceviolence.com