I would like to support BWSS to end violence against women.  

Monthly Sustaining Member  
I wish to become a Monthly Sustaining Member and make my gift of $ every month.

Payment Information  
Enclosed cheque payable to BWSS  
VISA □ MasterCard □

Card number  
Name on card  
Expiry date /  
Signature:  

Contact Information  
Name  
Address  
Phone  
Email  

We respect your privacy and will not trade or sell your name to other organizations.

I have remembered BWSS in my will  
Please contact me to discuss how I can include BWSS in my financial and estate planning.

Please send your completed form and donation to:  
By Mail   BWSS   P.O. Box 21503   1424 Commercial Dr.   Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2
By Phone   604.687.1868 ext. 315  
By Fax   604.687.1864  
Online   www.bwss.org

Thank you for your gift!  

What is sexual harassment on transit?  

Examples of sexual harassment include:  
• Comments about someone’s appearance, gender or sexual orientation  
• Sexually explicit comments e.g., “Hey! You’re hot wanna get busy with me?”  
• Vulgar gestures, leering, whistling, barking making kissing sounds  
• Following someone, flashing or exposing oneself, blocking someone’s path  
• Sexual touching or grabbing e.g., touching someone’s legs, breasts or butt  
• Public masturbation

At Battered Women’s Support Services, we contribute to the freedom and liberation of girls and women from violence and to empower our community through training and education programs. For over 35 years, we have been providing counselling and healing spaces for those who have experienced abuse. To help women build strength and resiliency, we work on systemic advocacy, law reform, in-class youth engagement programs and we operate a social enterprise called My Sister’s Closet in British Columbia. In addition, we support violence prevention by urging men to own their role in ending violence against girls and women.

If you are concerned about an abusive incident or relationship call our crisis line at 604.687.1867
Sexual harassment on public transport is an everyday occurrence for millions of girls and women living in some of the world’s biggest capitals.

According to Hollaback Vancouver, 58% of women surveyed indicate they don’t feel safe on transit. As of October 2014, sex crimes reported to Metro Vancouver Transit Police are 28 percent higher than the six year average.

For women, the freedom to move around cities comes with caveats. Every time we go out, we make a set of complex calculations to avoid sexual harassment, assault, or worse.

Bystanders to sexual harassment on public transportation give the following reasons why they don’t intervene:

- It’s not my problem
- Nobody else is doing anything
- It’s no big deal... right?
- I don’t know what to do
- I don’t want to get my butt kicked
- I can’t make a difference
- I don’t want to be late for work/school
- I don’t want to make a big deal about it
- It’s my friend who is sexual harassing

**Survivors Speak**

“I was almost as injured by the bystanders on the bus doing nothing as I was by the three men who intentionally pushed their crotches into my face as they exited the bus after calling me a slut.”

“Bystanders who have the ability to intervene doing nothing, or actually just turning their backs, putting their earphones in— they are participating in the attack.”

“What the guy did was horrible and what made it worse was everyone else on Skytrain who witnessed the assault and did nothing.”

**Bystanders Be Silent No More**

Here’s a few actions you can take will make a difference

**Rolling Solo**

- “Hey knock it off”
- “Are you ok?”
- Go stand next to the woman being targeted so they know they are not alone.
- Ask the woman, “Are they bothering you?”
- Take a picture with your phone
- Look disapprovingly at the person doing the harassing behavior
- Offer to get off at the next stop with the woman and catch the next train together.
- Don’t join in or laugh.
- Loudly say “ugh, that is so gross”

**Squad**

- Tell a transit authority worker
- Yell “Somebody do something!”
- Get a group together to intervene
- Call 911 or contact Transit Police by texting 87-77-77
- Text a friend who is on Skytrain, Seabus or bus with you and ask them to HELP!
- Make eye contact with some other bystanders and ask, “What should we do to help?”

**Stealth Moves**

- Ask for directions
- Offer the woman your seat
- Act like you know the woman and say “I’ve been looking everywhere for you — we have to hurry to meet our other friends”
- Drop your bags to create a commotion

Consider your safety when deciding when, if and/or how to intervene.

**Sources:**
- Green Dot Etcetera Strategy
- Hollaback Vancouver
- Metro Vancouver Transit Police
- Translink Harassment

#TransitTuesday

**What Should You Do When Someone Is Being Sexually Harassed on Public Transportation**

www.bwss.org
www.theviolencestopshere.ca