

Did you know...?

- One in every three women in British Columbia has experienced **violence**.
- Almost a million women are either **assaulted or sexually assaulted** in Canada each year.
- In Canada, **one in every five women** abused by a partner is assaulted during pregnancy.
- More than a million children in Canada have **witnessed violence against their mother** by their father or father figure.

For women and children who survive **violence**, the consequences can include lasting effects of emotional trauma, injury, or permanent disability.

It's time to **stop** this serious human rights violation. It's time to face up to the fact that violence against women and girls has far-reaching consequences and it **diminishes all of us in society**.

BWSS provides **support and empowerment** to women in abusive intimate relationships, survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and adult sexual assault.

How can you get involved? Volunteer Training and Service

Working from an anti-oppression, feminist perspective, BWSS offers training in crisis intervention skills, advocacy, and group facilitation in exchange for volunteering.

Volunteer possibilities include office support, crisis intervention, one-on-one counselling and group facilitation. **For more information, please call 604.687.1868.**



Please mail your contribution to:

BWSS
P.O. Box 21503
1424 Commercial Dr.
Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2



Empowering
women,
strengthening
communities

For more information
please contact:

Phone 604.687.1868
Email intake@bwss.org

Business line 604.687.1868
Intake/Crisis line 604.687.1867
TTY 604.687.6732
Fax 604.687.1864

Donations: Become a supporter
of BWSS! For information about
donating, visit our website.

www.bwss.org



Empowering women, strengthening communities



- Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) provides free and confidential services for women experiencing abuse from abusive intimate relationships, childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault.

- BWSS seeks to empower the women who access our services so that they may find safety and control in their lives.

- BWSS supports a woman—no matter the choices she makes—and works with her to resolve the issues surrounding abuse in a safe, judgement-free environment.



Who can access BWSS services?

Any woman who has experienced abuse in an intimate relationship, childhood sexual abuse or adult sexual assault may access our services. Because abuse takes many different forms, BWSS recognizes all types of abuse.

Every woman has the right to be safe and free from violence. BWSS provides a secure environment in which women are free to express themselves without being judged or threatened.

Programs and Services

- **Counselling & Advocacy**
- **Support Groups**
- **Aboriginal Women's Program**
- **Legal Advocacy**
- **Victims Assistance Program**
- **Dating Violence Education — for Young Women**
- **Education & Training**
- **Retail Program & Social Enterprise**

Crisis & Intake Line

Women seeking our services are welcome to call our Crisis & Intake line at **604.687.1867**.

Our hours are **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 10am-8pm**.

When a woman calls the Crisis & Intake Line, a trained intake worker will provide information, emotional support, and assess her needs and then refer her to the appropriate program or service.



BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Counselling & Support Groups

Working with a woman's needs, BWSS provides several counselling options including support groups and one-on-one counselling. We offer many types of support groups. These free, facilitated groups give women an opportunity to come together to share experiences in a nurturing and supportive environment. Specialized groups are available including groups for women in same-sex relationships, Spanish-speaking groups and groups for Aboriginal women.

Legal Advocacy

The BWSS legal advocate provides information to women dealing with legal issues such as separation or divorce, child custody, immigration, and more. **Call our Crisis & Intake Line 604.687.1867** for more information about this service.

Education & Training

BWSS conducts community education and awareness presentations on dating violence and violence against women. **Call 604.687.1868** for more information.

Retail Program & Social Enterprise

BWSS operates My Sister's Closet – Thrift Boutique and MSC1092, providing the community with affordable fashion forward clothing for women, men, and children. Fine house wares and home furnishings can also be found at the Outlet, located within My Sister's Closet. All proceeds are donated back to BWSS. Free clothing and household goods are available to women in transition. **Contact the BWSS Retail Program at 604.254.7471.**

strength & hope