

Solidarity Statement from THRIVE

As a coalition committed to working actively against gendered and racialized forms of violence, we are deeply distressed by the violence perpetrated by the police during the G20 summit in Toronto this past summer. The mass arrests, verbal and physical abuse, and illegal searches during the summit and the harassment and intimidation of organizers in the months prior, are a serious cause for concern. These behaviours must be condemned and require action.

Unfortunately, we know all too well, that the violence and intimidation tactics used by the police against protestors are not unlike the everyday experiences of people of colour. Systemic forms of oppression including racial profiling, the silencing of women of colour and Aboriginal women, over-medicating women with mental health concerns, and the detaining and deporting non-status women, are all too common.

Coalition members joined thousands on the streets of Toronto in June 2010. We stood then, and we all stand now, in solidarity. Demanding social and environmental justice is our right.

We condemn the actions of the police and the criminal justice system.

We call for charges to be dropped against community organizers.

We support the continued work of the Toronto Community Mobilization network.

We are committed to continuing our work, with the knowledge that the fight for social and environmental justice is more important than ever.

THRIVE: the Multicultural Women's Coalition against Violence and Oppression is a coalition of agencies and individuals working together to develop a response to the issue of violence against women of colour, Aboriginal women, and their communities.

September 2010