





Immediate Release-Press Release

June 26, 2018

Designing a Better Experience for Survivors of Sexual Violence: Engagement on the Due Justice for All Project

Toronto, ON: On Monday June 25, 2018, the Due Justice for All project held an online town hall for survivors of sexual violence, service providers, supporters and members of the public. This important session gave Canadians a chance to talk collectively about our society's responses to sexual violence.

Throughout the day, participants imagined *What if...* we, collectively, offered survivors the services and supports they need to prevent, heal from, prosecute, or respond to sexual violence. People from across the country learned from survivor stories, shared ideas and considered new responses to sexual assault.

Some ideas shared during the one-day town hall include:

- Increasing equal access for rural communities such as stand-alone community support services that are confidential, non-judgemental and private for survivors of sexual violence
- Provide comprehensive training and awareness for parents, teachers, justice system workers about the role of healthy relationships in ending sexual violence
- Better supports and clarity about options available for people who choose to disclose
- Developing healing-centred programs to support people who disclose an experience of sexual violence

Key ideas from this town hall will be incorporated into the work of the Due Justice for All project, informing discussions, design sessions and research topics throughout the project.

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Justice for All Project

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Quotes

"The Due Justice for All project is committed to hearing ideas from survivors and other community members about how to improve the systemic response to gender-based sexual violence. This exciting initiative -- a day-long, online forum – has given so many people the opportunity to share their ideas. We think this will be a great addition to the project's other community-based and academic research, all aimed at designing a different justice model for survivors of sexual violence."

- Tamar Witelson, Legal Director, METRAC

"LEAF is excited to be a partner in the Due Justice for All project, working to identify barriers to justice for sexual assault survivors and explore potential solutions, and we couldn't do it without input from those impacted by sexual violence and support workers. This town hall has provided us with an invaluable resource – the experiences, perspectives, and ideas that were shared, will inform how we will collectively make the justice system better for survivors of sexual violence and for all women."

- Karen Segal, Staff Lawyer, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

About Due Justice for All: Due Justice for All is a project funded by Status of Women Canada that aims to improve the experience of justice for survivors of gendered sexual violence. Three partner agencies are leading this initiative: WomenatthecentrE, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and METRAC Action on Violence. Due Justice for All is a collaborative project that is taking an evidence-based approach to understanding survivors' experiences, current scholarship, and international models of responding to sexual violence. We are conducting both community-based and academic research on different justice models and gathering feedback from survivors and support workers on different outcomes that affect the experience of justice for survivors. With this data, we will use a design process to develop an alternative model for survivors of sexual violence, and test it through a pilot project.

For more information on the Due Justice for All project or on the event, please contact:

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