



**PCAWA**  
PEEL COMMITTEE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: PCAWA Hosts the 2023 December 6th Vigil**

November 30, 2023, PEEL REGION – On the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) will be hosting the December 6th Vigil to acknowledge and remember those who have been killed in an act of gender-based violence. The event will be virtual and include guest speakers and performers to bring the community together in remembrance, strength and solidarity.

“It has been 34 years since the murder of 14 women at Polytechnique Montréal,” said Vaishnavi Koujalagi, Gender Based Violence Coordinator, Moyo HCS & PCAWA Advisory Committee Co-Chair. “It is incredibly important that we continue to name, honour and remember these women. Women and gender-diverse folks continue to experience rising rates of gender-based violence in our community and across our province.”

This event will honour the 14 women killed at the École Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989, the 7 women who were killed in a femicide connected to Peel Region this year, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, and all those from marginalized communities who have been killed in an act of gender-based violence but are made invisible in our society.

**When:** Wednesday December 6th, 2023

**Where:** Virtual, Zoom

**Registration Link:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6LeM4I-rQ8C9IM8L7QNSHQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6LeM4I-rQ8C9IM8L7QNSHQ)

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Co-Facilitators:**

Luxana Ramesh - Public Education Project Coordinator, Embrace: Agency to End Violence  
Vaishnavi Koujalagi - Gender Based Violence Coordinator, Moyo Health and Community Services - PCAWA Advisory Committee Co-Chair

**Speakers:**

Kelly Lavallee - Sitting Turtle Traditional Services

Marlene Ham - Executive Director, Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses



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**Performers:**

Pardis Aliakbarkhani - Spoken Word Performer

Hunyah Irfan - Spoken Word Performer

Helen Mina - Spoken Word Performer

Nadia Osman - Visual Artist

“Femicide is rising at an alarming rate in our province and right here in Peel. The number of femicides in 2023 is higher than they have been in our community in the last two years. It is incredibly important that we continue to have this vigil to make intentional space for our community to remember and mourn these individuals.” - Andrine Johnson, Embrace’s CEO & PCAWA Co-Chair

**ASL Interpreters will be provided.**

If you would like to join the PCAWA mailing list to receive newsletters and updates on events and advocacy efforts email [rebeccap@embrace.ca](mailto:rebeccap@embrace.ca)

If you are a survivor of violence in need of support, please contact Embrace: Agency to End Violence’s 24-hour Crisis Line at 905-403-0864 or 1-855-676-8515. You can also seek support from any of the PCAWA member agencies. Visit their website at [www.pcawa.net](http://www.pcawa.net) for more information. **Remember that you are not alone. We are here if you need us.**

**CONTACT**

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About PCAWA

Founded in 1984, PCAWA is a cross-sectoral community collaborative of 25 community members and organizations in Peel that have a shared goal of ending gender-based violence. For more information about PCAWA visit [www.pcawa.net](http://www.pcawa.net) or email Rebecca Pacheco at [rebeccap@embrace.ca](mailto:rebeccap@embrace.ca)