

# *Sexual Violence During COVID-19*

Presented by Dalya Israel



WAVAW  

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rape crisis centre

# *What I'm hoping to cover today*

- ❑ What we need to remember about sexual violence and harm
- ❑ What we are seeing at the moment
- ❑ How WAVAW is showing up during the pandemic
- ❑ How to be in touch



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# *WAVAW's Mission*

We are a feminist, anti-oppressive, decolonizing rape crisis centre operating on unceded Coast Salish Territories. We provide support services to survivors of sexualized violence with **shared experiences of gender oppression**: cis and trans women, and all trans, nonbinary, and Two-Spirit people. We advocate for social and systemic change through education, outreach and activism.



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**Sexualized violence is about  
power and control.**



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# *Powerlessness and Control during a Pandemic*

**This can be a breeding ground for those that are intending to cause harm or exploit others in order to meet their own needs or try to regain some semblance of power by exerting power over others.**



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## Continuum of Sexual Harm during COVID-19

- Online Harassment for explicit pictures
- "Zoom bombing" or other hacking into supportive spaces or groups with explicit content

- Forced to share space and being exposed to body parts, partially clothed or naked people without consent
- Sharing space and being exposed to unwanted flirting, advances, pressure to engage in sexual contact

- Being pressured or coerced by a partner or roommate to do sex work that you are not consenting to or comfortable with due to financial pressures

- Being exposed to other people's sex acts or masturbation without consent

**Sexual Assault**

**Sexual Harassment**

- Being exposed to images, media, material that is sexual in nature without consent
- Being exposed to rape jokes or other sexist, homophobic or transphobic remarks

- Being pressured or coerced to try different sex acts now that you're locked inside and "have time"
- Being pressured or coerced to use drugs or alcohol to facilitate lowered inhibitions for someone else's sexual needs or desires

- Forced sexual acts; someone feeling entitled to your body
- Being threatened with violence or a weapon to perform sexual acts

# *Impacts of Sexualized Violence*

*Systemic Inequality and our experiences of it will greatly impact experiences of Sexual Violence and Harm*

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Mental & psychological – exacerbated isolation
- Spiritual
- Social & relational (Self & others, inward & outward)
- Economical



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# *What we are seeing now during COVID-19*

- ❑ This virus and the fight against it will not impact all of us equally; nor will the continuation of rape culture and sexual violence
- ❑ Some Survivors are feeling safer in their homes
- ❑ Many of our clients are not able to contact us
- ❑ Increase stress, anxiety, isolation and concern




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# Amplifying Survivors Voices

Home About Events Photos Videos Pos

Like Message Like

 **WAVAW-Rape Crisis Centre** Yesterday at 4:53 PM · 🌐


If you are a survivor of sexualized violence, and you have the mental and emotional capacity to participate, we want to hear about how the COVID-19... See More




How is COVID-19 Impacting Survivors of Sexualized Violence?


DOCS.GOOGLE.COM




**How is COVID-19 Impacting Survivors of Sexualized Violence?**

We are committed to amplifying the voices of survivors during the COVID-19...

 You, Luisa Fernanda and 1 other

 Like  Comment  Share

 **WAVAW-Rape Crisis Centre** Yesterday at 1:00 PM · 🌐

# New Blogs



Home About Events Photos Videos Post

**WAVAW-Rape Crisis Centre**  
Thursday at 2:39 PM · 🌐

We are all feeling the impacts of Covid-19, and many survivors are finding themselves in uniquely challenging situations as they face further isolation in potentially unsafe homes.

Please visit our blog for our insights into what effect Covid-19 is having on survivors, a detailed explanation of our continuum of sexual harm during Covid-19, and our commitment to continue to show up for survivors, today and every day. We are here for you.  
<https://bit.ly/34614cg>

The diagram, titled "Continuum of Sexual Harm during COVID-19", shows a spectrum of experiences. On the left is "Sexual Harassment" and on the right is "Sexual Assault". A double-headed arrow spans the width of the diagram. Below the arrow, there are four columns of text describing various forms of harm, such as "Harassment in public spaces and being exposed to body parts, particularly women's genital areas without consent", "Being exposed to sexual content by a partner or acquaintance while on videochat or in a public or semi-public space", "Being exposed to sexual content while on videochat or in a public or semi-public space", and "Sexual assault while on videochat or in a public or semi-public space".

[Learn More](#)

🔍

## A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO TRANS SURVIVORS

Dear trans survivors, Over the past three weeks, our world has turned upside down. COVID-19 has forced us to stay in our homes – that is, those of us who are lucky enough to have homes. We're missing the first few nice days of the year, and missing each other. For many trans people, it's [...]

📄 Posted by WAVAW 📅 On April 8, 2020

# *WAVAW during the pandemic*

*Supporting Survivors,  
Shifting Society*

- ❑ 24-hour Crisis & Information Line
- ❑ Counselling Program – by phone
  - ❑ One-to-one
  - ❑ Support groups (on hold)
- ❑ Victim Service Program
  - ❑ Hospital – available by SAS only
  - ❑ virtual police accompaniment & support
- ❑ Indigenous Program – counselling by phone
- ❑ Trans-specific Services
- ❑ Blog and Social Media for videos and reading

*Don't forget to look after yourself too, connect with supportive people, and practice self-compassion.*

*We are all navigating rape culture and sexualized violence impacts us all.*



# Thank you

Connect with us!

[dalya@wavaw.ca](mailto:dalya@wavaw.ca)

[www.wavaw.ca](http://www.wavaw.ca)

Like our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/wavawrcc](http://www.facebook.com/wavawrcc)



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