



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday November 1st, 2022

### Purple Scarves to Mark 10 Years of Action & Awareness

This November marks both Woman Abuse Prevention Month and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ontario's Wrapped in Courage Campaign. Gender-based violence (GBV) agencies across Ontario are asking leaders and community members to wear a purple scarf to show their commitment to ending femicide and all forms of gender-based violence.

The Denise House is concerned about the high rates of femicide and other forms of gender-based violence across Ontario, with over 40 femicides reported by the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses since November 2021. Last year in Ontario, on average every 8 days a woman or child was killed by a man known to them. These femicides are preventable tragedies which devastate communities and families.

The purple scarf is a symbol of the courage needed by communities in supporting survivors of violence, the commitment to turn awareness into accountability and action and to ultimately end gender-based violence.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the first day of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a Wrapped in Courage flag will be raised in our community at the **Oshawa City Hall, 50 Centre St South at 9:30am** and a Proclamation will be declared by Mayor, Dan Carter. This Proclamation and flag raising signals a commitment to ending gender-based violence in our community and to ensure survivors know they are not alone. The Denise House provides vital safety and support services to survivors of gender-based violence and their children.

Gender-based violence is an often invisible issue, and many women and gender-diverse individuals may not be aware of the services that are available in their community. Every Ontarian has a key role to play when it comes to addressing gender-based violence and preventing femicide. Take action to address GBV and femicide in a meaningful way today:

- Contact your local GBV agency to purchase a limited edition, handmade purple scarf to support the Wrapped in Courage campaign & **wear your purple scarf** throughout November and the #16DaysofActivismtoEndGenderBasedViolence (November 25<sup>th</sup>-December 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Reach out to your local leaders to ask about their awareness and actions related to femicide and ending GBV
- Learn more about femicide in Ontario via [www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/we-count-femicide-because/](http://www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/we-count-femicide-because/)
- Attend a flag raising in our community on November 25<sup>th</sup> at the **Oshawa City Hall, 50 Centre St South at 9:30am**. Post and share photos and videos of Wrapped in Courage flags across Ontario!

Thank you for your continued support of gender-based violence survivors across Ontario

Access the 2022 Wrapped in Courage Flag Location List via: [www.wrappedincourage.ca/flag-locations](http://www.wrappedincourage.ca/flag-locations)

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