



KINGSTON FRONTENAC
Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee

working together to decrease domestic and sexual violence

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION & WELCOME KIT

KINGSTON FRONTENAC ANTI-VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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www.kfacc.org

About Us

The Kingston Frontenac Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee (KFACC) is a member driven, front line service provider volunteer organization that includes agencies providing services directly for survivors of sexual assault and partner abuse along with other affiliated agencies, KFL&A community groups and individual community members. Sectors include shelter/housing, health/counselling support, law enforcement, military and justice.

Working together to sustain a coordinated community response to sexual assault and partner abuse (SA/PA), we problem-solve, develop projects to help identify gaps in services, create public awareness, develop community resources and offer professional development opportunities for service providers. KFACC serves as a collective voice used to address the issues in a clear, focused, effective way.

Beginning in 1983 as the ***Coordinating Committee Against Domestic Assault on Women (CCADAOW)***, and evolving over the years since into KFACC, our sectors work together to:

- Build effective, cooperative relationships;
- Better understand one another's responsibilities and challenges;
- Share information, resources and expertise;
- Improve their understanding of the issue of partner abuse; and,
- Enhance the network of services available to victims of partner abuse and their families.

The Protocols

In 2003 the Partner Abuse Protocol, outlining best practices for providing a collaborative response to victims of partner abuse was developed:

Partner Abuse Protocol

Comprehensive document which outlines and confirms a shared framework for understanding and responding to partner abuse, provides detailed information about agencies involved in the

delivery of services to victims of partner abuse and their children, and highlights specific commitments of said agencies to work together to provide a cohesive and seamless network of services.

The Partner Abuse Protocol is designed to:

- Promote a collaborative and cooperative response to victims of partner abuse and their children with attention to best practice guidelines and the most effective use of existing community resources;
- Facilitate and support effective communication between service providers involved with victims of partner abuse, including but not limited to the police, the Crown Attorney's office, shelter personnel, and community-based social service, justice, counselling, and health care professionals;
- Recognize the particular and specialized areas of expertise of the police, the Crown Attorney, shelter personnel, and social service, justice, counselling, and health-care professionals; and,
- Clarify the respective roles, responsibilities, and practices of various service providers involved with victims of partner abuse and/or their children, including the police, the Crown Attorney, shelter personnel, and community-based social service, counselling, and health-care professionals.

In 2008 the Sexual Assault Protocol was launched:

Sexual Assault Protocol

Comprehensive document which outlines and confirms a shared framework for understanding and responding to sexual assault, provides detailed information about agencies involved in the delivery of services to victims of sexual violence, and highlights specific commitments of said agencies to work together to provide a cohesive and seamless network of services.

The Sexual Assault Protocol is designed to:

- Promote self-care and recovery and to enable victims/survivors to make informed decisions for themselves;
- Minimize re-victimization by establishing a procedure which responds appropriately to the physical, medical, emotional and legal needs of the victims/survivors of sexual assault;
- Develop a consistent and coordinated response for all police and service providers in the county of Frontenac;
- Provide assistance that recognizes and is sensitive to the vulnerabilities and barriers encountered by each particular victim of sexual abuse;
- Define and explain inter-agency procedures and responses;
- Promote greater understanding and appreciation of the role of service providers, and to improve the working relationship between them;
- Encourage education of police and service providers in the area of sexual assault;
- Help service providers understand that individuals who have experienced sexual assault may display a variety of behaviours that may not be understood or considered appropriate by service providers; and,
- Enhance sexual assault victims'/survivors' confidence levels as well as the community's ability to respond effectively to their needs, thereby facilitating disclosures and reports.

Acknowledgement

It is widely acknowledged that sexual assault and partner abuse is a gender based crime. In addition, KFACC recognizes that racialized persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous persons, trans-persons, non-binary and those in the LGBTQ2+ community are also disproportionately affected by violence through deep-rooted systemic oppression.

KFACC is committed to ensuring our protocols and operations better reflect the community of KFL&A and are working towards changes that better reflect an anti-racist/anti-oppressive (AR/AO) framework and promote equal access for all persons.

Anti-Oppressive:

Strategies, theories, and actions that challenge socially and historically built inequalities and injustices that are ingrained in our systems and institutions by policies and practices that allow certain groups to dominate other groups.

Anti-Racist:

An active and consistent process of change to eliminate individual, institutional, and systemic racism as well as the oppression and injustice racism causes.

KFACC Structure

KFACC is a member driven, volunteer organization comprised of front line service providers, community groups and community members. As of 2022 KFACC Members include:

KFACC Signatory Partners**Sexual Assault Protocol Signatories**

- Crown Attorney's Office of Kingston and Frontenac County
- Kingston Health Sciences Centre Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Unit
- Kingston Interval House
- Kingston Police Force
- Ontario Provincial Police, Frontenac Detachment
- Queens University Human Rights Office
- Sexual Assault Centre Kingston
- Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac
- Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Partner Abuse Protocol Signatories

- Crown Attorney's Office of Kingston and Frontenac County

- Family and Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
- Resolve Counselling Services Kingston
- Kingston Health Sciences Centre Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Unit
- Kingston Interval House
- Kingston Police Force
- Kingston Probation & Parole Services
- Land O' Lakes Community Services
- Military Police, Canadian Forces Base Kingston
- Ontario Provincial Police, Frontenac Detachment
- Ontario Works, City of Kingston
- Sexual Assault Centre Kingston
- The Salvation Army Supervised Access Program
- Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac
- Victim/Witness Assistance Program

KFACC Affiliated Agencies and Groups

- Addiction & Mental Health Services KFL&A (AMHS-KFLA)
- Centre for Abuse and Trauma Therapy
- CFB Kingston Health Services Centre
- City of Kingston, Social Services & Housing
- The Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston
- John Howard Society of Canada
- Integrated Care Hub (Trellis)
- Kingston Anti-Violence Advisory Council (KAVAC)
- Kingston Community Health Centres | Immigrant Services Kingston & Area
- Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation
- Kingston Military Family Resource Centre
- Lennox & Addington Interval House
- Lennox & Addington Resources for Children

- Limestone District School Board
- Maltby Centre
- Purple Posse
- Quinte United Immigrant Services
- Sexual Health Resource Centre (SHRC)
- St. Lawrence College
- Trellis (Formerly HARS HIV/AIDS Regional Services)
- Youth Diversion

Membership is open to organizations working in some capacity with victims and survivors of partner abuse and/or sexual violence and their families, to agencies working with perpetrators and to like-minded community members and groups.

How We Work

The **Administrative Group** is KFACC's steering committee that meets regularly to coordinate, monitor and oversee the ongoing implementation of KFACC's mandate and specific projects. KFACC's Administrative Group is made up of senior members from our Protocol Signatories and from the Kingston Anti-Violence Advisory Council (KAVAC) our community survivors' advisory group, who are also the KFL&A chapter of WomenatthecentrE, especially those agencies providing front line services to victims/survivors of intimate partner abuse and/or sexual assault. Senior level positions are needed so information sharing and idea implementation can be completed at the agencies to fulfill their roles as outlined in the protocols.

All KFACC expenditures and budgets are managed by the Administrative Group and the Administrative Group develops and submits funding proposals, and provides approval to proposals prepared by other KFACC members, subcommittees or working groups, prior to submission. Further, the Administrative Group oversees the preparation and submission of progress and evaluation reports to the funding bodies.

The strategy and groundwork laid out during KFACC meetings is often moved forward at the subcommittee level.

Currently, we have two standing subcommittee workgroups:

1. The ***Education, Advocacy and Communication Workgroup (EAC)*** meet to provide education on timely topics as well as to provide advocacy for vulnerable populations. This is accomplished by education meetings and training sessions shared to the community and agencies. They are mandated, on behalf of the KFACC Administrative Group, to address the need for a collaborative approach to educating the public on issues pertaining to sexual assault and or partner abuse and advocating for social change.
2. The ***Diversity Workgroup*** meets to serve as an advisory on topics regarding diverse subjects, to the larger membership and to strategize community outreach to ensure diversity and accessibility at KFACC. These diverse subjects include, but not limited to:
 - Youth
 - Newcomers to Kingston, those identified as immigrants or refugees
 - Those living with a DisAbility
 - Those part of the LGBTQ2sIA community
 - Those who identify as part of the BIPOC community
 - Those who identify as Indigenous

As well, KFACC will establish additional ad hoc subcommittees as needed to complete specific initiatives. These workgroups are generally struck when projects fall outside the mandates of existing committees, or are too time-consuming/complex to be managed by KFACC as a whole.

The Administrative Group oversees all subcommittee work, and all committees, permanent and ad hoc, are accountable to the entire KFACC membership.

Meetings

Membership meetings occur bi-monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. The meetings have been held via ZOOM for the last few years due to the pandemic. Decisions to change the meeting format, including going back to in person meetings, is voted on by the Membership. In September and January, Membership meetings are moved to the second Thursday of the month due to back to school dates. Workgroup meeting dates are decided on by the Workgroup members. KFACC historically breaks during the months of July and August.

Vision Statement

KFACC envisions communities where all persons live safely, free from partner abuse and sexual violence.

Mandate

KFACC contributes to the eradication of violence by promoting individual and community awareness of issues relating to partner abuse and sexual violence and supporting a coordinated community response.

The Principles That Guide and Inform Our Work

Safety

The safety of victims of partner abuse and sexual assault, and their children, must be given priority consideration during any involvement with these individuals.

Confidentiality

We understand the relationship between safety and confidentiality for victims and survivors of partner abuse and sexual assault. We will protect the confidentiality of the victims and survivors with whom we work, and their families, within the constraints and parameters of the law.

Respect and Dignity

All persons should be treated with dignity, compassion and respect. We acknowledge the intrinsic worth and value of victims and survivors of partner abuse and sexual assault, and are committed to working cooperatively and collaboratively with the persons we serve.

Inclusiveness

Services should be inclusive, equitable and sensitive to gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religious/spiritual affiliation, ability/disability, sexual orientation/preference, and socioeconomic status.

Community Awareness and Education

Community awareness and understanding of issues relating to partner abuse and sexual assault are integral to the prevention and eradication of these forms of violence.

KFACC Belief Statements

1. All persons have the right to lives free from violence and the threat or fear of violence.
2. Victims of partner abuse and sexual assault are entitled to intervention and support regardless of where or when the violence occurred, and regardless of the nature or duration of the relationship between the victim and the offender.
3. Partner abuse and sexual assault are criminal issues. Perpetrators of these types of violence must be held accountable for their actions to the full extent of the law.
4. Partner abuse and sexual assault are complex issues with many contributing factors. Both types of violence occur regardless of socio-economic status, class, age, sexual

orientation/preference, occupation, mental health status, citizenship status, ability, spiritual beliefs, language, race, culture or ethnicity.

5. The primary dynamic of partner abuse and sexual assault is power and control: the offender uses intimidation, threats, humiliation and pain to establish control over his victim. Whether a one-time occurrence or part of an ongoing relationship, the dynamic of power and control makes it difficult for some victims of partner abuse and sexual assault to reach out for help and/or to end their relationship with the offender.
6. The development and implementation of a coordinated plan for a comprehensive community-based service delivery system is one of the most effective approaches to partner abuse and sexual assault. No single organization has the resources or mandate necessary to address the multiple and complex needs of the victims of partner abuse and sexual assault, their children, and offenders.
7. Victims of partner abuse and sexual assault should be active participants in the development and delivery of any services. A participatory approach to service delivery empowers clients, ensures that the client's priority needs are addressed, and promotes cooperation and collaboration between service users and service providers.
8. The unique experiences of children who have witnesses partner abuse, or any other forms of domestic violence, must be given due consideration and attention during the development and implementation of any service delivery strategy.
9. Coordinated community and law enforcement response systems are one aspect of the multi-pronged, long term solution to ending partner abuse. Education, advocacy, social action, and other preventative measures are essential components of any collaborative strategy to eradicate partner abuse and sexual assault.

Conflict Of Interest/Conflict Resolution Process

Designated representatives, alternate representatives, and community members are required to identify any real, possible or perceived conflicts of interest for themselves and/or their organization as necessary during their involvement with KFACC. The agenda for all KFACC

meetings includes a call for real or perceived conflicts, after items on the agenda have been confirmed and prior to the beginning of new business.

In those instances when a designated representative, alternate representative or community member declares a specific conflict of interest:

- The declaration will be noted in the minutes.
- The designated representative, alternate representative or community member may remain in the room during any discussion and decision-making relevant to the area of conflict if they wish; however, they will NOT participate in any discussion or decision-making pertaining to the area of conflict.
- In the event that the designated representative, alternate representative or community member chooses to excuse themselves from the room during said discussion or decision-making processes, their decision and the duration of their absence will be noted in the minutes.

A representative from any member agency has the right to seek clarification regarding a perceived conflict of interest involving a designated representative, alternate representative or community member in the event that the individual does not raise the issue. Under these circumstances, the chair has the authority to rule on conflicts as necessary.

If a conflict arises where a designated representative, alternate representative or community member is unable to align with the values of KFACC and its member agencies, a vote shall be taken by the membership as a whole and a new designated representative or alternate representative will be requested from the member agency. In the case of a community member unable to align with the values of KFACC and its member agencies, a vote shall be taken by the membership as a whole and the community member, if passed, will no longer be a member of KFACC.

In the event that the chair is involved in a self-identified conflict or discussion about a perceived conflict, the Administrative Group assumes responsibility for ruling on said conflict.

KFACC Membership Commitment Requirements

- ⇒ Accept and adhere to the mandate, belief statements, guiding principles and accountability mechanisms for KFACC.
- ⇒ Designated representatives, alternate representatives, and community members will attend KFACC meetings on a minimum of once per Quarter; contribute to meeting agendas, discussions and decision-making processes in a responsible and respectful manner.
- ⇒ Promote two way communication and information sharing as requested.
- ⇒ Participate actively on workgroups.

Furthermore, the undersigned shall respect and protect the confidentiality of any/all information identified as such by the Chair and/or the Administrative Group and/or any member of KFACC.

Organization

Representative Name

Position

Email

Phone

Please email your completed form to: info@kfacc.or