

# CALL TO ACTION - STATEMENT ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM



- The pandemic has intensified socioeconomic inequalities and racial injustices.
- Black communities are facing a triple threat, gender-based violence, anti-Black racism and COVID-19.
- Reliance on the criminal justice system to address domestic violence is largely ineffective and problematic for racialized populations who already are over-policed, over-surveilled and over-incarcerated.
- Media coverage of fatal police interactions continue to expose the extent of violence against Black, Indigenous and other racialized people.
- In 2018, over 99,000 intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents were reported to police across Canada – approximately 75-80% of cases go unreported<sup>1</sup>.
- Reliance on law enforcement and the criminal justice system to respond to domestic violence (DV) undermines women's safety and self-determination, especially for vulnerable populations.
- Correctional systems are ineffective in redressing harmful behaviour.
- We need to reimagine an alternative response model that does not rely on punishment and control but instead centres on accountability, rehabilitation and healing to support sustainable change.

1. Statistics Canada, Police-reported intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018

**The urgency for immediate action is rising, and there is no greater time than the present. We will:**

## Action #1

**Working with sister organizations and partners to advance new directions in alternative responses to Domestic Violence. We look forward to sharing updates on this important work soon**

## Action #2

**Holding elected and appointed officials accountable at the City of Toronto and the Ontario Government to:**

Take action and lead culturally relevant and effective changes to ensure Black communities are supported

Address systemic change within police services, including police oversight, strategies for eradicating systemic racism, and strengthening responses to domestic violence and anti-black racism