



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax, Nova Scotia / November 18, 2019

Grand Parade, Halifax — K'jipuktuk - Transgender Day of Remembrance is Wednesday, November 20th, 2019. Pflag Halifax, The Youth Project, South House and NSRAP invite our communities to join in solidarity for a transgender flag raising ceremony, readings from community members and a reading of a Proclamation by the Mayor of Halifax.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) follows Trans Awareness Week, November 13 – 19; a week where individuals and organizations from across Canada participate in events and activities to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and address the issues the community faces.

TDoR is an annual observance on November 20 that honours the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence in the past year.

Pflag Halifax welcome our communities in solidarity at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20th, for a remembrance memorial followed by a reading of a Mayoral Proclamation and raising of the transgender flag in Grand Parade, (the public parade square) in front of City Hall.

TDOR began in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

"The Human Rights Commission declared the transgender community in the United States as being a community in crisis, with the ongoing epidemic of deadly violence directed at trans and gender diverse peoples; specifically trans women of colour.

In the past 12 months, worldwide there have been 331 trans and gender diverse people murdered around the world, many of them were sex workers. With the majority of trans women facing barriers to the workforce, healthcare and housing and widespread discrimination, this economic violence continues to make the BIPOC trans community disposable; and these barriers to the basic necessities of life must be eliminated if we are to fulfill our basic human rights of protecting gender identity and gender expression.

There are too many names on this list. It is heartbreaking. I think of Muhlaysia Booker who spoke out to a crowd of supporters this past Spring, after she experienced brutal violence. Her messages were positive and hopeful. Less than a month later she was found dead. She was only 23 years old."

“Today, more than ever, we ask people to pause for a moment and consider the countless individuals who lost their lives around the world in acts of anti-trans violence. And we hope you will also consider the families here in our own communities, particularly those with trans and gender diverse youth, who experience exclusion or acts of transphobia every day because of their gender identity or gender expression.”

“Through education and openness we can all go beyond diversity and inclusion theatre to make our society safe, welcoming, safe and accepting for all trans and non-binary people.”

Cynthia Sweeney, Pflag Halifax

Pflag Halifax is a local 2SLGBTQ+ support, resource and education network, part of Pflag Canada. Pflag Canada is Canada's only National Organization that helps all Canadians with issues surrounding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Pflag Canada supports, educates and provides resources to all individuals with questions or concerns and is a 100% volunteer-led and operated registered charity, servicing the greater Halifax region. Pflag (People for Loving and Growing) is a family for all genders, all sexualities, all identities and all people, regardless of where they are on their journey.

Pflag Halifax hosts monthly Community Support Groups for those who for those who require peer-to-peer support or are looking for information about local resources.
It is a safe space for all.

For more information please visit

@PflagHalifax on FaceBook or

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The Youth Project: Magda, 902-429-5429

South House: (902) 494-2432

NSRAP (Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project): (902) 444-3206

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