OCTEVAW - COCVFF
END VIOLENCE

OCTEVAW stands with #JusticeforRegis

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW), is saddened and outraged at the injustice and racism faced by Black people in Canada and the murder of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, in yet another onslaught of anti-Black violence. Regis, a 29-year-old Afro-Indigenous woman was killed in Toronto on May 27th, 2020 while Toronto police were responding to a domestic incident call at her home. Today, we are grieving. This devastating loss means that her family and community will be left with a hole that can never be filled. What we would give for Regis Korchinski-Paquet to be alive today so she could live the life she deserved to live – surrounded by the love of her family and community. Regis Korchinski-Paquet's death is an injustice that continues a long pattern of police violence against Black people in Canada and beyond. State violence, gender-based violence, and violence against women are inextricably linked as organizers like Robyn Maynard, Andrea Ritchie and countless others have reminded us. Black and Indigenous women are among the most frequent targets for gender-based violence, which is compounded by violence created through over-policing, over-incarceration and under-protection. We know that Black and Indigenous communities are reluctant to call the police in emergencies for fear of retaliation, criminalization, and the serious and potentially lethal impacts of racism and discrimination.

Regis Korchinski-Paquet's death, as with so many other deaths, including those of Abdirahman Abdi in Ottawa, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Sandra Bland, highlight the need for meaningful alternatives for justice in our communities. We look to leaders in community accountability processes such as INCITE! and Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) among others, to help explore and create alternative forms of community accountability. As a society, we need to develop multiple, nuanced and nimble forms of accountability that meaningfully respond to various overlapping forms of violence, discrimination and oppression. This means creating transparent, safe, and equitable models of justice and accountability that centre marginalized communities.

We must have meaningful and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination that do not inherently rely on over-policing and criminalization.

Policing and courts were not designed to address these issues, and colonial expansion through violence and genocide is the foundation of the Canadian state. This reality has been captured in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTIAQ+ Final Inquiry Report.

OCTEVAW focuses significant amounts of work on addressing policing in our community and changing the structural barriers and discrimination experienced by survivors of violence who access the police on a daily basis. We recognize that survivors are regularly faced with the dilemma of being subjected to interpersonal violence while also encountering police violence and we are doing everything possible to mitigate and ultimately stop this harm. If you have any questions about the work OCTEVAW does on policing please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regis Korchinski-Paquet deserves accountability and transparency. We must all be in solidarity to end police brutality and state sanctioned violence against Black communities. It is our responsibility to #SayHerName, and amplify the voices of so many others in the Black community who our systems have attempted to silence. #SayHerName - Regis Korchinski-Paquet.

What can you do?

1) *Calls for Action*
   - Show solidarity with and support the family of Regis Korchinski-Paquet and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities by demanding justice for all peoples in Canada who are subject to discrimination upheld by the criminal justice system.
   - Monetary compensation for the families of victims of police violence. Please donate to the family of #JusticeForRegis HERE.
   - Justice4RegisOttawa Bail Fund HERE
   - Urge the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) for transparency and accountability in handling the case of Regis Korchinski-Paquet.

- Demand an Independent Public Inquiry in the Death of Regis-Korchinski Paquet. We need an urgent response and an immediate independent inquest into her death.
- Demand the release of data on the number of SIU cases involving racialized people, and racialized people living with mental health issues.
- Support for a Public inquiry by the Ontario Human Rights Commission into the disproportionate use of force used against Black people with mental health challenges in Canada.

2) Support Black organizations and anti-racist groups, and leading on supporting Black communities, in Ottawa and beyond

Justice for Abdirahman Abdi

Spice Ottawa (BIPOC Arts Collective)

Black Lives Matter Toronto

Black Lives Matter Montreal

Black Women in Motion (Toronto)

Black Legal Action Centre (Ontario)

Black Youth Helpline (Canada)

Canada Anti-Hate Network

3) More tools for action, templates for advocacy letters, etc.

We would also like to share this excellent document compiled by people in the community with additional tools for action and support, as the Introductory statement notes:

> "The following document is an accessible platform to be able to perform activism from your home, created for folks who are, or live with immunocompromised people. That being said, everyone is still welcomed to use it. There is an emphasis on the current Black Lives Matter Movement. Reminder that while sharing graphic content on your social media, to include content warnings (CW). Make sure you're not feeding into the tactics of the oppressor. Our community is stronger when it is educated and safe. Let's organize and help each other out!"

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EGhbRbUMjT63s0rS2tVhdC50sBIeZaiMXiJeLR_vRl0/mobilebasic

Please share, donate, or take part in this fundraiser based in community love and care:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/community-caring-2020?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1