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## **Accessibility and Outreach (AO) Standing Committee Mandate**

The **Accessibility and Outreach Committee** is one of four OCTEVAW standing committees through which the Coalition works to achieve its goal of ending violence against women and, through leadership, education, advocacy and political action, of promoting a coordinated response to women and their children who have experienced abuse. All Standing Committees report to the OCTEVAW Steering Committee through their chair, who represents them as a member of the Steering Committee. All OCTEVAW members are encouraged to participate not only on committees of particular interest to them, or to which they bring pertinent skills, but on every committee, on a rotating basis.

The mandate of the **Accessibility and Outreach Committee** is to work strategically to reduce barriers for membership and to coordinate and conduct an action plan for inclusivity efforts on behalf of OCTEVAW. These efforts must align with, and support the aims of the Coalition and correspond to the priorities of the membership. The committee members acknowledge the inter-relationship of the work and priorities of all OCTEVAW committees and of the Coalition.

Like other standing committees, the **AO Committee** is dedicated to the principle that its work must encompass all forms of violence against women, as defined by the OCTEVAW Constitution, and embrace women in all their diversity.

The committee is a forum for its members to:

- Outreach to community members, agencies and other potential stakeholders regarding OCTEVAW's mandate and mission.
- Outreach to previous, current and potential members regarding membership possibilities.
- Identify where barriers exist with OCTEVAW's policies and procedures and work to reduce these barriers.
- Focus on the inclusivity and diversity of the membership.
- Focus on internal communications, the members-only section of the website and the professional development of coalition members.
- Organize internal and external networking activities, events and fundraiser where appropriate

These goals are accomplished by:

- Compiling a list of previous, current and potential members.
- Creating outreach packages, a PowerPoint presentation and less formal presentation items as needed for outreach purposes.



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- Outreaching to these agencies and individuals by email, phone, in person, through presentations and presence at relevant community events.
  - Identifying the needs of potential stakeholders within the mandate of OCTEVAW and offering constructive ways to address them.
  - Creating an accessibility check-list if appropriate for use within OCTEVAW's governance structure.
  - Tracking what's gets posted on the members-only site and maintaining efficiency.

Membership of this Committee:

- Open to any OCTEVAW member
- Suitable for members who are interested in the work of the Committee as described above
- Encouraged for members who bring advocacy and public engagement skills to teach and to share as well as members who want to learn such skills
- Encouraged for women survivors of violence