



May 16, 2022

For Immediate Release

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan recognizes Sexual Violence Awareness Week

May 16 to 20 is Sexual Violence Awareness Week in Saskatchewan

Every May, Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS), its member agencies, community partners and the Government of Saskatchewan recognize Sexual Violence Awareness Week (SVAW) to raise awareness of issues relating to sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

"Sexual Violence Awareness Week aims to shift attitudes and beliefs surrounding sexual violence, a prevalent and pervasive issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities in Saskatchewan everyday," said Kerrie Isaac, Executive Director at Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS).

This year's campaign shines a light on the issue of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Saskatchewan. This issue has been happening for years in our province, however, there is a significant gap when it comes to understanding, addressing, and responding to the issue.

One of the most common misconceptions of human trafficking is that individuals are kidnapped or smuggled by strangers across borders in foreign countries. When in reality, people are trafficked here in Saskatchewan every day and most often by someone they are in an intimate relationship with.

"In order to prevent all forms of sexual violence from occurring, we have to hold our systems and institutions accountable to ensure every person has equal access and opportunity to safe housing, adequate food, meaningful education, safe transportation, access to justice, and reconciliation. Taking action means taking better care of each other and we each have a role to play in that."

To learn more about SVAW, visit sassk.ca/SVAW. Here you will find the campaign guide, resource lists, and information about the virtual events taking place throughout the week. Follow @sass.sask on Instagram and Facebook and use the hashtag #SVAW2022 to help us shine a light on sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

SASS is a provincial non-profit organization that works collectively with front-line agencies, community partners, and governments that provide support and advocacy for those affected by sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

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