



EAST PRESTON FAMILY RESOURCE
CENTRE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Developed by: Courtney Brown, Interim African Nova Scotian
Sexual Violence Community Engagement Coordinator

January Issue: Lack of Safety/ Criminalization of ANS Communities

Sexual violence continues to remain hidden and victims are frequently blamed and stigmatized. Although it can sometimes seem complicated and overwhelming to address, we know that sexual violence is preventable.

It is difficult for African Nova Scotians to speak out about issues in our communities because of the very real threat of violence and racial injustices. Going to the police is not always safe. Systemic discrimination within the criminal justice system and a history of police violence makes members of the ANS community hesitant to report to police. Systemic racism has contributed to the code of silence within ANS Communities. There are many reasons why people choose not to report to police. African Nova Scotian women are often not believed or respected when seeking help after being subjected to sexual violence. ANS women are often re-victimized, especially if there is any history of criminalization. The code of silence is another reason why ANS women may not report sexual violence. This is especially the case when harm is caused by ANS men because there is a fear of further stigmatizing the Black community.

<https://www.breakthesilencens.ca/training>

UPCOMING PROGRAM

SOUL SISTERS Talk

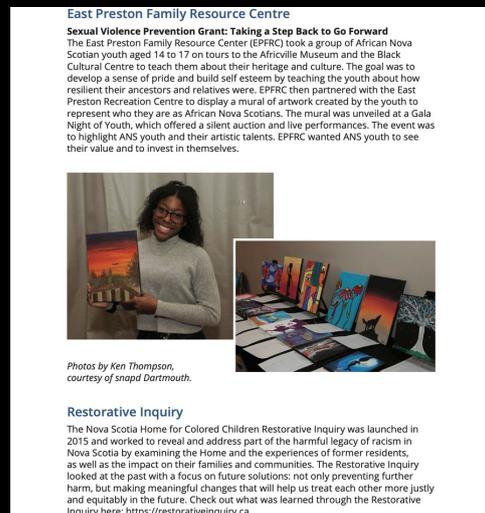
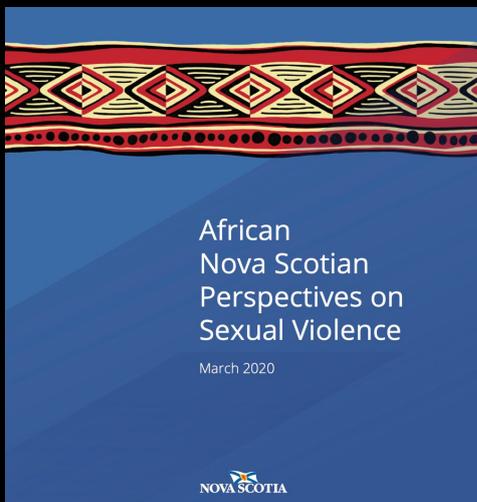
Soul Sister Talk is a new program facilitated by ANS Sexual Violence Community Engagement Coordinator which will highlight barriers Black women face when sexually assaulted, including stereotyping, oversexualizing, cultural appropriation and systemic barriers with a group of black women living in Nova Scotia. The program will start in January and will run until Spring 2021. Please see contact information on page 2 to find out more!



Sneak preview of our culturally
appropriate prevention poster!

African Nova Scotian Perspectives on Sexual Violence Workbook

As part of the NS Sexual Violence Strategy, a Provincial Committee of dedicated and passionate community members have developed a free online training course to help you learn more about sexual violence and how to support someone who has survived it. It is for service providers, friends, family members, neighbours, teachers, first responders, counselors, and anyone who is acting as a support person, or is concerned about sexual violence. The training is interactive and learner driven. If you complete all 7-modules, you can receive a Certificate of Completion. Last year we launched the African Nova Scotian Module as our seventh module. In addition, we have created hard copy (and PDF version) workbooks to which we are sending out to individuals and organizations that are interested. We are reaching out to see if you, any staff, would like any hard copies of the African Nova Scotian Workbooks. If yes, please let me know how many you, or your organization would like.



Since September of this year, we have provided over 15 organizations with ANS workbooks (as seen below) for their staff.

To take the online training, please visit
www.breakthesilencens.ca/training



For more information, please contact:
Courtney Brown
anssvfrc@bellaliant.com
902-818-4504
1900 Highway 7, East Preston, NS,
B2Z 1M2

In this photo: Courtney Brown, who is currently working as the African Nova Scotian Sexual Violence Community Engagement Coordinator until April 2021.

ANS Lived Realities of Sexual Violence

White Supremacy

Transatlantic Slave Trade

Systemic Racism

Lack of Safety

Criminalization of ANS communities

Disproportionate incarceration of African Nova Scotians

Black people 6x more likely to be street checked

Intergenerational Trauma

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

Rape of Black women ingrained in slavery

Sexual control of Black men

Trauma

Current lived realities of sexual violence

Deliberate impoverishment of ANS communities

Denied education and employment resources

Leads to lack of stability-housing, jobs, etc.

Involvement in The Game and other criminal behaviour in order to survive

Vulnerability

Gender based violence and race

Black women more vulnerable to sexual violence and less likely to be believed

Sexual stereotypes of Black women as highly sexual and men as sexually charged thugs

Violence

Resiliency/ Cultural Pride