

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, December 17, 2025

TRIPLE-X COMMEMORATES 22ND INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

5 p.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2025
The West End Sex Workers Memorial
1130 Jervis St., Vancouver, BC

Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of British Columbia commemorates the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers at The West End Sex Workers Memorial at Jervis and Pendrell Streets, in front of St Paul's Anglican Church (1130 Jervis St.). The intimate ceremony includes laying a wreath and a candlelight vigil to honour sex workers in Canada who faced violence or whose lives were taken in 2025. Our memorial list is prepared by sifting through media from the past year for reports involving physical and sexual assaults and murders that likely involved the sale of sexual services.

Andrew Sorfleet, president of Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C., said, "Predators can no longer assault or harm sex workers with impunity in Canada. In 2025—22 years after the first International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers when co-founder, Robyn Few, asserted that police do not always investigate the crimes committed against sex workers—the reports we have found make it clear that police and courts in Canada are now taking violence against sex workers seriously. And, with new attitudes toward victim reports and new forensic tools, they are solving murders, making arrests and prosecuting perpetrators."

The City of Vancouver granted Triple-X's request to light up City Hall and the Burrard Bridge in red to support this event.

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2025 Memorial List

- **Unnamed Victims**
November 26, Hamilton, ON – Hamilton Police have arrested a 25-year-old man following an investigation into a reported sexual assault and forcible confinement that occurred in November 2025. Gregory Izundu is charged with one count of sexual assault and forcible confinement. Hamilton Police believe Izundu may be targeting vulnerable individuals and that additional victims may exist.
- **Unnamed Victims**
October 23, Winnipeg, MB – Mohammed Al-Samraei, 19 was charged with two counts of sexual assault with a weapon, assault, pointing a firearm, uttering threats, choking, theft under \$5,000, and several weapons-related offences, after a series of violent attacks. “The women involved were all part of Winnipeg’s vulnerable sex-trade community.”
- **Montana Solomon**
October 20, Fredericton, NB – Fredericton police were alerted to the discovery of remains found in woods near Two Nations Crossing on the north side of the city. Police identified her as 28-year-old Montana Solomon and are investigating as a homicide. No one has been arrested. It is not known if Solomon was a sex worker.
- **Unnamed Victims**
September 26, London, ON – Shakire Ramone Mendoza, 26, of London was charged trafficking in persons, receiving material benefit from sexual services, and receiving financial or material benefit from trafficking someone over 18. Mendoza is also charged with four counts of assault, sexual assault, and assault by suffocation, police said. Police released a photo of Mendoza, saying they believe he may have victimized other women. He was held in custody and was scheduled to make a court appearance in London on Sept. 29.

- **Serenity Brown**
September 5, Toronto, ON – Toronto Police identify woman who died from injuries sustained near High Park, 21-year-old Serenity Brown. “The victim was having an interaction with a male, and that male was seen leaving the area.” No description was given. It is not known if Brown was a sex worker.
- **Lindsay Moore**
September 3, Comox, BC – Comox Valley RCMP requested assistance from the public to locate Lindsay Moore, a missing 35-year-old female who was last seen in Comox on August 28th, 2025. It is not known if Moore is a sex worker.
- **Judy Maerz & Laura Furlan**
July 7, Calgary, AB – Christopher Dunlop, 50, was found guilty of first-degree murder for the death of Judy Maerz, 58. Maerz’s body was found in Deerfoot Athletic Park in 2023. Dunlop previously confessed to the 2009 manslaughter of Laura Furlan, admitting he strangled Furlan during sex. In that case, Dunlop told undercover officers “he was angry and looking for someone who ‘would not be missed.’” Both women were sex workers. Dunlop completed his 13-year prison sentence on June 3, 2022. Justice Colin Feasby: “Mr. Dunlop’s possible calculation that there would not be a robust investigation of the death of a street sex worker in the present case was proved wrong ... CPS investigated the murder of Ms. Maerz with the same energy and determination that they would the murder of any other Calgarian. That is as it should be.” A first-degree murder conviction carries with it an automatic life sentence, with no chance of parole for 25 years.
- **Unnamed Victim**
June 23, London, ON – London Police reported that a sex-trade worker was threatened with a handgun and was physically and sexually assaulted. Police released a description of the suspect and photos of his vehicle.
- **Unnamed Victims**
June 10, Kamloops, BC – B.C. Director of Civil Forfeiture filed a lawsuit against Pierre-André Baptiste who was arrested by the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit in December 2024 in Kamloops. The director

alleged Baptiste used the BMW X5 to commit several crimes including: “recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing or harbouring a person, or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation,” receiving a financial benefit from the commission of an offence, procuring a person to offer sexual services, possession of the proceeds of crime and money laundering.

- **Unnamed Victims**

May 26, Ottawa ON – Anthony Badibanga-Mukendi, 27, of Ottawa charged with over 50 offences related to human trafficking, including: trafficking in persons by exercising control; material benefit in trafficking; material benefit from sexual services; procuring; uttering threats; assault, assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm; forcible confinement; advertising another person’s sexual services; withhold travel or identity document; and publishing an intimate image.

- **Unnamed Victim**

March 21, Surrey, BC – Surrey Police said a victim from Alberta escaped from a suite where she was being held and reported she had been kidnapped, given cocaine, and locked inside. She told investigators she was ordered to service a “date” in the apartment and, after being paid by a client, was forced to hand over part of her earnings. Gabriel Angel Osorio-Interiano, 27, and his associates were arrested for kidnapping.

- **Shenita Myers**

March 12, Lytton, BC – RCMP Southeast District Major Crime Unit, B.C. released the identity of suspicious death of a 27-year-old woman in Lytton. The deceased has been identified as Shenita Myers of Williams Lake. Myers death is being investigated as a homicide. It is not known if Myers was a sex worker.

- **Unnamed Victims**

February 13, Edmonton, AB – Edmonton Police report on Project Endgame, an investigation into human trafficking between western Canada and Quebec, opened in May 2023 after a 911 call in Edmonton about a sex

worker being violently assaulted. Clyde Elien-Abbot, 31, Kevin Dorcelus-Cetoute, 31, and Jean Rodnil Dubois, 31, together face 23 charges, including human trafficking, sexual assault, procuring, and material benefit from sexual services. The alleged traffickers coerced and forced victims to perform multiple sex acts on multiple people every day, assaulting and threatening them if they didn't cooperate. Staff Sgt. Chris Hayes: "We didn't have victims who were willing to provide us information. They were all too scared. ... We've identified upwards of 10 individuals [who were victimized]."

- **Unnamed Victims**

January 30, New Westminster, BC – Jennifer Stephens pleaded guilty to several of the charges in New Westminster, B.C. Stephens was arrested by Langley RCMP officers in December 2023 on more than a dozen charges for alleged human trafficking, benefiting from sexual services of a minor, forcible confinement, assault causing bodily harm, uttering threats and advertising sexual services. RCMP launched the investigation after a 911 call from a Langley gas station, where a worker "reported that an injured distressed adult female walked in and asked to call police."

Cold Cases Solved in 2025

- **Christine Prince, Claire Samson & Gracelyn Greenidge**

December 11, Toronto ON – Toronto Police Deputy Chief Robert Johnson said genetic genealogy has linked Kenneth Smith to the decades-old murders of three Toronto women: 25-year-old Christine Prince in 1982; 23-year-old Claire Samson in 1983; and 41-year-old Gracelyn Greenidge in 1997. Claire Samson was last seen on Jarvis Street, entering a beige vehicle driven by an older white man. Smith died in 2019 at the age of 72 in Windsor, Ont. If he were alive today, the Toronto Police Service would arrest Kenneth Smith for the homicides. In 2016, DNA from the Prince and Samson cases uploaded to the National DNA databank was matched to an unknown male profile. Toronto Police Service partnered with Othram, a Texas-based forensics lab. Investigators were able to identify familial relatives of the offender, and determine conclusively that Mr. Smith was the killer in all three cases.

- **Donna Oglive**

February 6, Toronto, ON – Toronto Police arrested Ronald Gordon Ackerman, 50, of Gander, Newfoundland, at Toronto Pearson Airport. He was charged with the first-degree murder of Donna Oglive, 24, in 1998. Det. Sgt. Steve Smith, Homicide and Missing Persons Unit: “We have DNA in 42 unsolved homicides and more than 100 sexual assaults. It’s only a matter of time. In the old days in murders involving sex workers, it was often like looking for a needle in a haystack. Not anymore.” Toronto Police Service submitted forensic evidence to Othram Lab in Texas, for Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing to build a comprehensive DNA profile for the suspect. The DNA profile was transferred to TPS for a forensic genealogy search. Using Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG), police said, officers were able to trace the homicide back to the accused.

Policy Changes in 2025

- **Federal Protecting Victims Act**

December 9, Ottawa, ON – Federal Justice Minister John Fraser announced the *Protecting Victims Act*: “We specifically will be creating a constructive first-degree murder charge where certain factors are present when a murder takes place, including a murder that is motivated by hate, including murder that takes place during the commission of a sexual offence, and including murder that follows a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour,” Fraser said.

- **B.C. Provincial Human Trafficking Unit**

July 30, Victoria, BC – B.C. provincial government and RCMP announced a new 12-member human trafficking unit. B.C. Solicitor General and Public Safety Minister Nina Krieger stated that although human trafficking victims are often forced to engage in sex work, the unit will not target sex workers who are there by choice. “To be clear, those who engage in sex work out of their own choice are not the targets of our province's response to human trafficking.” B.C. RCMP Chief Supt. Elijah Rain also stated that the unit “will not focus on sex workers engaged in consensual sex work.” There were 43

incidents of human trafficking that involved the exploitation of vulnerable people for profit reported to B.C. police in 2023.

History of the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

On November 5, 2003, Gary Leon Ridgway, 54, entered a guilty plea in King County, Washington State, for 48 murders of women stemming back to 1982, although the true number of murders could total 71. Many of his victims were runaway youth and other vulnerable women.

Ridgway's written plea statement of guilt was cold and shocking. "I wanted to kill as many women I thought were prostitutes as I possibly could," he said. "I picked prostitutes as my victims because I hate most prostitutes and I did not want to pay them for sex. I also picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up without being noticed. I knew they would not be reported missing right away and might never be reported missing."

Ridgway had strangled his victims then disposed of their bodies in inconspicuous sites around the Green River area near Seattle. A large number of those murders were carried out in the two-year period between 1982 and 1983. Before he was discovered, he was dubbed, "The Green River Killer." A police taskforce was set up to catch him.

Ridgway was first considered as a suspect in the killings in 1983, but he wasn't arrested until November 30, 2001, when he was definitively linked to one of the victims using DNA profiling. He had provided police with a saliva sample in 1987, after victims' boyfriends had identified him as the last person seen with two of the victims.

Ridgway signed a plea agreement on June 23, 2003; in exchange for showing police where the bodies were located, he would not face the death penalty. This finally brought a resolution to dozens of unsolved cases.

On December 17, 2003—the evening before Gary Ridgway's sentencing hearing—the first International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was organized. It included public events around the United States and the world: in

New York State, Arizona, California, North Carolina, Washington D.C., and Maine; as well as Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and Taiwan.

Annie Sprinkle from Prostitutes of New York (PONY) was moved to organize the event as a response to Ridgway's claims that no one cared about prostitutes. In her words, "As the names of the victims were disclosed, I felt a need to remember and honour them. I cared, and I knew other people cared, too." Annie Sprinkle contacted Robyn Few in San Francisco. Robyn had just founded the advocacy group SWOP-USA, a chapter of the Sex Workers Outreach Project based in Australia.

Robyn Few and SWOP-USA colleagues organized a large, well-attended vigil on the lawn of San Francisco City Hall, with an open-mic facilitated by Annie Sprinkle. In New York City, PONY along with the Sex Workers Project of the Urban Justice Center, organized a large, well-attended candlelight vigil at Judson Memorial Church.

"Sex workers are hesitant to report physical and sexual violence to the police because police do not always take their complaints seriously and investigate the crimes committed against sex workers. The assault, battery, rape and murder of sex workers has got to end. This is allowing violent criminals to prowl our streets with impunity."

~ Robyn Few (October 7, 1958 – September 13, 2012)

On December 18, 2003, Gary Ridgway was sentenced to 48 life sentences.

In 2011, Ridgway pleaded guilty to a 49th murder. Investigations are still ongoing. On December 19, 2023, police identified another one of Ridgway's victims whose remains were found in 1985: Lori Anne Razpotnik, who ran away from her home in nearby Lewis County at age 15 in 1982, and was never seen again.

"Since 2003, each year hundreds of people in dozens of cities around the world have participated in this day to end violence—from Montreal (they marched with red umbrellas), to Hong Kong (they protested police brutality), to Vancouver (they did a candlelight vigil), to Sydney (they held a memorial ritual), to East Godavery, India (a dance was organized to overcome pain

and trauma), to London (where they distributed sex worker rights information while Christmas carolling).”

~ Annie Sprinkle (Remembering Our Dead and Wounded, 2010)

The West End Sex Workers Memorial

The City of Vancouver unveiled The West End Sex Workers Memorial at a ceremony on September 16, 2016. The memorial is dedicated to a diverse community of sex workers in memory of their ongoing struggle for equality. Vancouver activist, Jamie Lee Hamilton (September 20, 1955 – December 23, 2019) initiated the sex worker memorial project in 2008.

Learn more: triple-x.org/about/westendmemorial.html

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Social media

Event hashtags: #IDEVASW #DEC17 #Vancouver
X/@xxxworkers
Instagram.com/triplexworkers
Facebook.com/triplexworkers

About Triple-X

Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C. is a registered non-profit association in British Columbia since February 2012.

Persons can become members of the Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C. if they have agreed to the direct exchange of sexual stimulation for financial compensation within the last six months and they intend to continue to work in the Triple-X industry. The full list of Triple-X membership criteria as defined in our Constitution, Bylaws & Policies are available on our bylaws webpage: <https://triple-x.org/about/bylaws.html>.