



Urban

Who We Are

We are survivors, family members, front line service providers and experts with lived experience in the urban reality and violence against *Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Our Vision

Ending violence will require the fundamental transformation of systems and society. Our vision is to restore the rightful place of ***Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people within a dramatically changed country. Our bold and strength-based vision has a focus on claiming our space, addressing violence, and ensuring a bright future.

Terminology and Inclusion

Identity is complex and Urban *Indigenous communities honour, respect and celebrate this complexity. One may identify as **First Nations, Inuit or Métis but, some may feel that they do not fit into these categories and may more readily identify with the term *Indigenous, which is inclusive of complex identities. However, we also recognize that some are not comfortable being identified as *Indigenous. Therefore, we use and understand the terms *Indigenous and **First Nations, Inuit and Métis to always mean “regardless of residency,” “regardless of relationship to the Crown,” and inclusive of the full complexity of our identities.

Urban Reality

A majority of *Indigenous people live in urban areas, and these voices are largely ignored, erased, undermined or silenced. Respect for and full inclusion of the dynamic, resilient and strong urban *Indigenous communities and voices would lead to human rights advancement, culturally appropriate programs and services and significantly improved socio-economic conditions.

For decades, we have used our experience and creativity to shift from barely managing poverty to leading long term success, and provide strength and value-based services rooted in relationships. We know what works for urban communities and what is needed to address violence. However, we haven't been provided with adequate resources to ensure that we can properly support and provide services to the most vulnerable. Further, as most urban service delivery organizations are led and accessed by women, ignoring urban is also about ignoring urban *Indigenous women.



Defining Urban

Our definition is: **First Nation, Inuit and Métis people living in small, medium and large communities, including rural, isolated and remote communities, which are: off-reserve; outside of their home community, community of origin or settlement; or outside of **Inuit Nunangat (*Inuit Homelands).

Priorities

Rights and Responsibilities

We are calling for the restoration of our roles and responsibilities, and the full enjoyment of all our human rights as Urban *Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. We are also mindful of our responsibilities to each other, the earth and our cultures. Accountability is critically important, and must include monitoring of meaningful and measurable goals and impacts, as well as consequences for all governments who fail to protect us and support our goal of a better life.

2SLGBTQQIA+ People

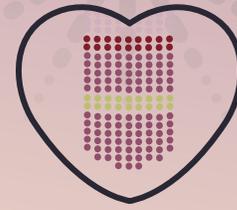
2SLGBTQQIA+ people have always existed and been a part of our communities. Their erasure and destruction of their traditional roles has resulted in increased violence and the loss of recognition and acknowledgement of their gifts. Restoring 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to power and place will be medicine for all.

Resources

A bold, transformative approach would include the shifting of power, decision-making and additional consistent resources and support for urban communities and *Indigenous-led organizations.

Co-Development

Given the size and scope of this genocide, urban *Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people must contribute as equal partners to eradicate violence. This is not about creating new rights or political organizations. Instead, it is about meeting the needs of people and providing programs and services no matter where we may live.



Next Steps

Putting it All Together – An Urban Approach to End Violence

We note that each region of the country will have their own priorities. Some urgent next steps include:

Substantive equality and human rights for urban

*Indigenous people

A National Urban *Indigenous Strategy; a comprehensive strategy for children; anti-racism, -sexism, -homophobia and transphobia violence prevention programs; and a national *Indigenous housing program, regardless of residency.

Grassroots solutions and decolonized approaches with survivors and families at the centre

Recognizing and supporting urban *Indigenous expertise; and urban *Indigenous communities have direct responsibility for research, planning, development and delivery of urban policies, programs and services.

Accountability and implementation tools

A mapping exercise of programs and services providing a direct focus on anti-violence; establish self-identification data collection standards which include urban and 2SLGBTQQIA+ as categories; establish an oversight/monitoring body with the full participation of urban *Indigenous people.

Distinctions-based, as defined in the National Inquiry Final Report

Application of human rights with a focus on urban *Indigenous/2SLGBTQQIA+ people; and strengthening and improving cultural safety/competency including public education campaigns.

Co-development of policy, programs, research and data collection, including urban *Indigenous partners

Ensuring all levels of all governments are committed to co-development; eliminate competition with mainstream providers for funding, with separate and distinct resources and approval processes to ensure equity.

Culture-based community development

Client-centered and culture-based services that are responsive to client needs; urban land-based activities for healing, ceremonies, social and community events; and breaking down binary gender stereotypes

Prevention-based approaches

Expanded urban programs and services; support for entities by and for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; independent child welfare oversight; and advance child protection jurisdictional challenges.

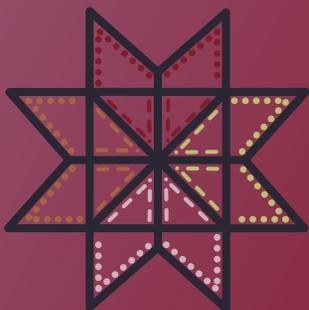
Intra- and inter-governmental coordination and collaboration

Coordinated urban approaches to address jurisdictional wrangling/urban governance; and design and promote different justice responses.

FULL Urban Sub Working Group Report:



https://mmiwg2splusnationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NAP-Urban-Framework_EN.pdf



Closing Statement

This framework must be seen as the new starting point. It is a concrete plan that will be subject to continuous review, updates and improvements to ensure future standards never fall below this point. Our task is urgent, and it must be treated as the highest priority. Our lives literally depend on it.