



July 16, 2008

**The Violence Against Women Community Supports and Encourages the
Take Back The Night 2008 Festivities on the U of O Campus**

The Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) supports *Take Back The Night 2008* to be held at the University of Ottawa (U of O) on September 25, 2008 and urges the administration to provide adequate resources to the Women's Resource Centre to facilitate a successful event.

OCTEVAW is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to ending violence against women and, through leadership, education, advocacy and political action, to promoting a coordinated response to women and their children who have experienced abuse.

Take Back The Night, an event to protest violence against women, began in Europe and has spread to cities all over Canada. This year marks its 30th anniversary. The goal of the event is to support women to reclaim their right to walk alone in our communities without fear of violence, harassment or abuse. Our own country's statistics are grim. "One in three women has experienced some form of sexualized violence that can be legally defined as sexual assault" (Violence Against Women Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993).

The significance of this event being held on the U of O campus is two-fold:

Firstly, this location allows the women that study, work and live on campus to unite around violence against women, a human-rights issue that can be eliminated. U of O has the responsibility to ensure that women on its campus are able to freely express and denounce all forms of violence with the appropriate resources to do so.

Secondly, universities are microcosms of what occurs in society as a whole, and over the past year, many young women across Ottawa campuses have been subjugated to sexual violence and sexism. By supporting and providing resources to this event, U of O is not only sending a clear message that violence against women on campus will not be tolerated, but it is also living up to its responsibility of ensuring that its students, faculty, staff and visitors are safe and protected from harm.

Supporting the Women's Resource Centre in bringing *Take Back The Night* to U of O would increase campus solidarity and strengthen the collective goal of justice and empowerment for women in Ottawa.

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**Ottawa Coalition to End
Violence Against Women**

**Coalition d'Ottawa contre la
violence faite aux femmes**

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