

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women – FEWO
Re: “Red Dress” Alert System

To The Standing Committee on the Status of Women:

My name is Jessica Peebles and I am submitting this written report to be included for the decision for the “Red Dress” Alert System. I wanted to include my personal experience to be considered in the final decision on this matter.

I was a delegate at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 66th Session in 2022¹. Most of the workshops I attended centred around domestic violence, human trafficking and religion/spirituality. After the conference, I attempted to connect with multiple Indigenous leaders to help initiate the information learned to prevent the main causes of why the Indigenous community faces a higher rate of death and disappearances compared to the rest of the Canadian population. When compared to other countries around the world, the statistics fall below the average of the other countries.

The University of Manitoba released information regarding Lateral Violence within the Indigenous communities². I have included a link to an article that describes this in more detail. This is the main cause that our women are preyed upon. Due to the legacy of Residential Schools, the older generations were left with trauma that impacted their ability to establish healthy relationships with those around them. There is a problem with “narcissistic abuse” in our communities. I have spoken at the Winnipeg Police Board on multiple occasions. The City of Winnipeg has been the only level of government that has given me an opportunity to share my experiences and I am grateful to them. I have experienced police being rude to me, however the amount of police officers that have supported me have outnumbered the few who did not. I would like to remind the Committee that the police force has their own trauma that they deal with limited resources for handling the symptoms.

I escaped a human trafficking ring stemming from our medical system. I had doctors and nurses forge medical documentation to say that I was mentally ill. This led to doctors attempting to force pharmaceutical prescriptions to alter my cognitive and emotional behaviour. From the definition, these medications are a form of “chemical restraints” and when working in the healthcare system, we are to avoid the usage of these types of medications unless absolutely necessary. I have connected with multiple women who have been let down by our medical system. Often times, symptoms of abuse are viewed as a “mental illness or behavioural problem” and the victims of domestic violence are diagnosed with personality disorders when the truth is that they are suffering from “narcissistic abuse disorder”.

The statements from Leah Gazan and Sheila North regarding the police being unhelpful was not my experience. The types of statements being released in the media that police “do not care” is placing blame on people who have nothing to do with the root cause of the issues. I have connected with law enforcement all over the world via social media and their support, along with the support from the Winnipeg Police, helped keep me safe from the trafficking ring. They offered words of encouragement and many have waved at me to help me feel safe again when I drive past them on the streets of Winnipeg. Their collective support has helped me heal.

If there is to be an alert system implemented for missing women, it should not be made public knowledge. I was listed as missing when I escaped the trafficking ring and I had people all over Canada posting videos about me without giving the public the correct information. When I tried to combat the misinformation, I was slandered worldwide to state that I was on illegal street drugs and that I was mentally ill, which was the same narrative that the medical system was claiming with the forged documentation. I am currently in the process of making complaints against all involved, although it seems that my complaints go unheard as medical professionals seem to have immunity against any wrongdoing, both intentional and unintentional.

Domestic violence is abuse, yes, however it does stem from childhood trauma patterns that we do not address. Individuals with a “fawning trauma response” often find themselves lacking the necessary personal boundaries to keep them away from people we deem as predators. There is a strong negative bias against the Indigenous communities, that is true. However, I hear from people often that our community leaders haven't healed yet.

I believe that a better solution for the Indigenous Leaders to implement would be to work with the Provincial and Federal levels of Government to create job opportunities. Discipline is lacking in our youth and I believe that the young males should sign up with the Canadian Armed Forces to help them build that part of their character up. Many military men and women I have met over the years all have learned how to take care of themselves. Our male youth are lacking proper guidance. For the female youth, a chance to work as support workers (healthcare aides) in the healthcare system will provide the knowledge base to take care of another individual as well as learn the basics for up-keeping a home.

In my experience, I have witnessed family members calling Child Family Services (CFS) on one another after an argument. Since family members usually know the details of the lives of their loved ones, they weaponize the system against each other. It is a very complex issue that is rooted in trauma. However, it is in my personal experience that I feel remains unaddressed. Without Truth, there can be no Reconciliation and that includes the truth of lateral violence within our communities. I tried to address it in the past and I have been told that I am “lying or that I hate my own people”. It is the opposite. I love my community members and I am trying to help them see past the veil of trauma that has shrouded us for generations. We need to develop the skills to treat ourselves and each other with respect (Buffalo Teaching).

At this point, my reputation has been shattered. All the hard work I did over the years to build a name for myself was wiped out with the MMIWG2S movement online making videos about me being missing. People were demanding that I tell them what happened and why I lied. I refused because I did not want my personal story to be shared with the rest of Canada for politics. The Red Dress alert will be abused by family members trying to harm one another as is the case with my situation. I do not want my other community members who are experiencing narcissistic abuse to endure the same fate. It took years to mentally recover from that betrayal and I was fortunate enough to have studied the human body in depth to understand how I could heal myself through neuroplasticity. This term is defined as “the ability of the nervous system to change its activity in response to intrinsic or extrinsic stimuli by reorganizing its structure, functions, or connections after injuries. Narcissistic abuse is a form of psychological abuse and altered the

brain structures, leading to behavioural changes.

I would like to see the funds that would be allocated to this Alert System to be invested in training opportunities and education via social media on how to overcome family affairs. We have to address the root cause or we will forever be treating the symptoms.

Respectfully,

Jessica Peebles

References:

- 1)[CSW66 \(2022\) | Commission on the Status of Women | UN Women – Headquarters](#)
- 2)[Indigenous Women's Experiences of Lateral Violence: A Systematic Literature Review - Lindsey Jaber, Cynthia Stirbys, Jesse Scott, Emma Foong, 2023 \(sagepub.com\)](#)