



WAVAW
rape crisis centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

Supporting Survivors
Shifting Society

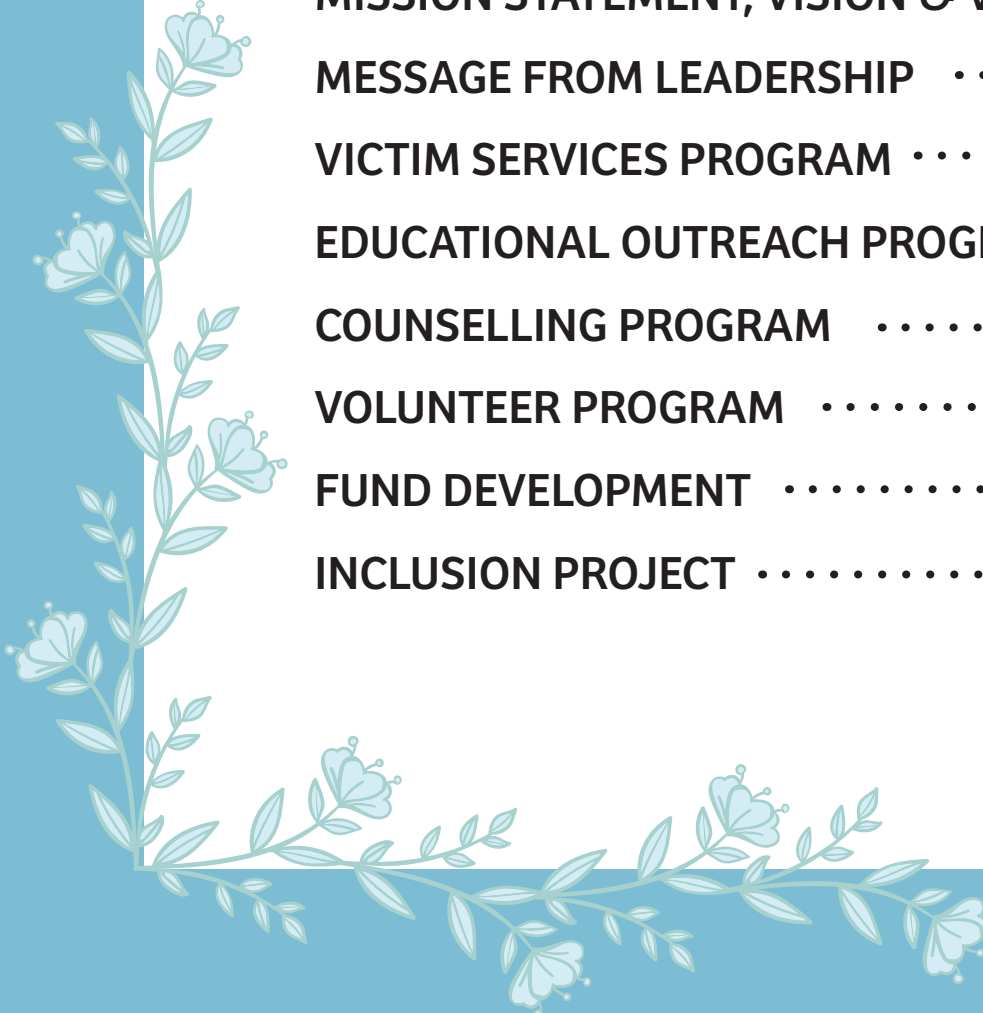


END SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE



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MISSION STATEMENT

We are a feminist, anti-oppressive, decolonizing rape crisis centre operating on unceded Coast Salish Territories. We provide support services to survivors of sexualized violence with shared experiences of gender oppression: women, Two-Spirit, trans and/or non-binary people. We advocate for social and systemic change through education, outreach and activism.

VISION

A world where people of all genders are valued and live free from sexualized violence.



VALUES

We are feminists who acknowledge and name systems of oppression and the impact of colonialism on Indigenous and other marginalized communities.

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE

We respond to calls for action from the communities we serve and recognize our opportunities for growth.

WE ARE NON- JUDGMENTAL

We create spaces for survivors to define their needs without judgment.

WE ARE INCLUSIVE

We honour and centre different ways of being and knowing.

WE ARE VISIONARY

We are leaders at the forefront of service provision and social change.

WE ARE SURVIVOR-CENTRED

We honour that survivors are experts of their experiences and have the right to choose their own paths to healing and justice.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP


It is hard to believe that another year has quickly come and gone. When things are as fast moving as they are at an organization like WAVAW, each annual report gives us the beautiful opportunity to reflect on all that we have learned and how much we have grown in the past 12 months.

WAVAW is moving into its 37th year and our past stories continue to impact the present. We are striving to hold ourselves accountable; in order to offer the best to survivors that seek our services. We believe deeply in our work and also believe that survivors of all marginalized genders deserve to have a sexual assault centre where they feel seen and heard.

Accountability is such an important role for any organization to take on, and it is a key value for the leadership team to model through our actions. Throughout the changes that the leadership team has seen this past year, we have had many opportunities to be an example both internally and externally to demonstrate what accountability can mean.

The hallmarks of accountability in our society tend to be marked by fear, defensiveness and shame. While it is true that sitting with the reality that you haven't done things right, or well or may have even caused harm can cause deep feelings of shame and fear; what we want to embody as the Leadership Team is a sense of vulnerability that embraces the reality of our humanity as imperfect. We see accountability as an opportunity to do different and better. This is what we believe will create a strong, relevant, and resilient organization that will continue to do vital and life-changing work with and for survivors of sexual assault.

“What we want to embody as the Leadership Team is a sense of vulnerability that embraces the reality of our humanity as imperfect. We see accountability as an opportunity to do different and better.”



We have been so honoured to listen and learn from the many communities that we serve and we have taken the time to truly hear you. Through the amazing strength and power of survivors, we at WAVAW realized that there are a number of areas where we had to be better, and wanted to do better.

In July 2018, we released an apology to the Sex Worker community. As our accountability continued, we followed up our letter, with surveys, actions, and strived to make our space more accessible for sex workers.

After the letter was released, other stakeholders, and members of the community felt inspired to reach out and share their thoughts, concerns, and also their gratitude. We are truly thankful, that these folks saw the opportunity to connect and offered us their courage and vulnerability, in hopes of making our response to survivors needs the best they can be.

Accountability is not a one time thing. It is something we need to continually introduce

into our everyday actions, and integrate into the organization. We hope to always work on this as a leadership team, with our staff, on our board, and within the community that we serve.

We once again want to thank everyone and continue to encourage the amazing open communication folks have bravely shared with us. We are here, listening, learning, and growing.

WAVAW looks forward to another exciting year ahead, we commit to continue to support survivors, and striving to create a future free from sexualized violence.

In solidarity,

WAVAW's Leadership Team



VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

1312

DAYTIME CALLS



1020

CALLS AFTER HOURS

SUPPORTED **70** SURVIVORS WHEN THEY SPOKE WITH THE POLICE

ACCOMPANIED

88

SURVIVORS TO SEE THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICE



219

NEW INTAKES TO THE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

200

HOURS SPENT AT THE COURT HOUSE SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



CRISIS LINE VOLUNTEERS WERE ON CALL FOR

5168

HOURS

WAVAW PARTICIPATED IN

43

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

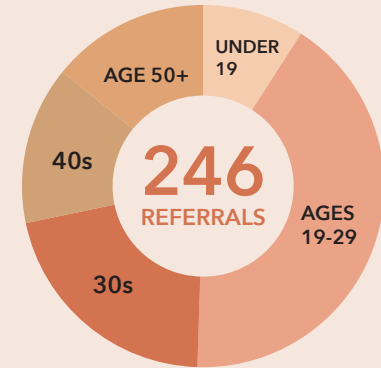


WAVAW BENEFITED FROM THE AMAZING TALENTS OF

52

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

COUNSELLING PROGRAM



20 (AVERAGE) NEW NAMES ON OUR WAITLIST EVERY MONTH

930 INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING SESSIONS OFFERED

245 SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS OFFERED

4 SUPPORT GROUPS OFFERED AT WAVAW

6 SUPPORT GROUPS OFFERED AT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- Aboriginal Mother Centre
- Helping Spirit Lodge Society
- Atira Women's Resource Society
- WISH Drop-in Centre
- Qmunity

VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

Last year I spoke about change. Change was ever present in the lead up to last year's Annual Report. As I reflect on what has transpired over the past year in the Victim Service program, the integration of change and the beginning of a path to ongoing accountability stands out very strongly.

I am constantly reminded on this journey that we must be vulnerable to enact change. We must be comfortable with not always getting everything right. As Maya Angelou tells us, "do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." It is when we embrace these values that we offer our best to survivors through our programming in Victim Services.

This year was the second year of our three-year systemic change Justice Project; where our work asked "how do we increase confidence

in the Criminal Legal System for survivors of sexual assault?" This project directly influences our programming in Victim Services. Through this project we spoke with 21 survivors and 10 Justice System personnel. We also held

a focus group with Indigenous, Sex Working and Queer & Trans Communities to ensure we centered the voices and communities of survivors who have historically,

and continue to be, marginalized within the conversations related to sexual violence.

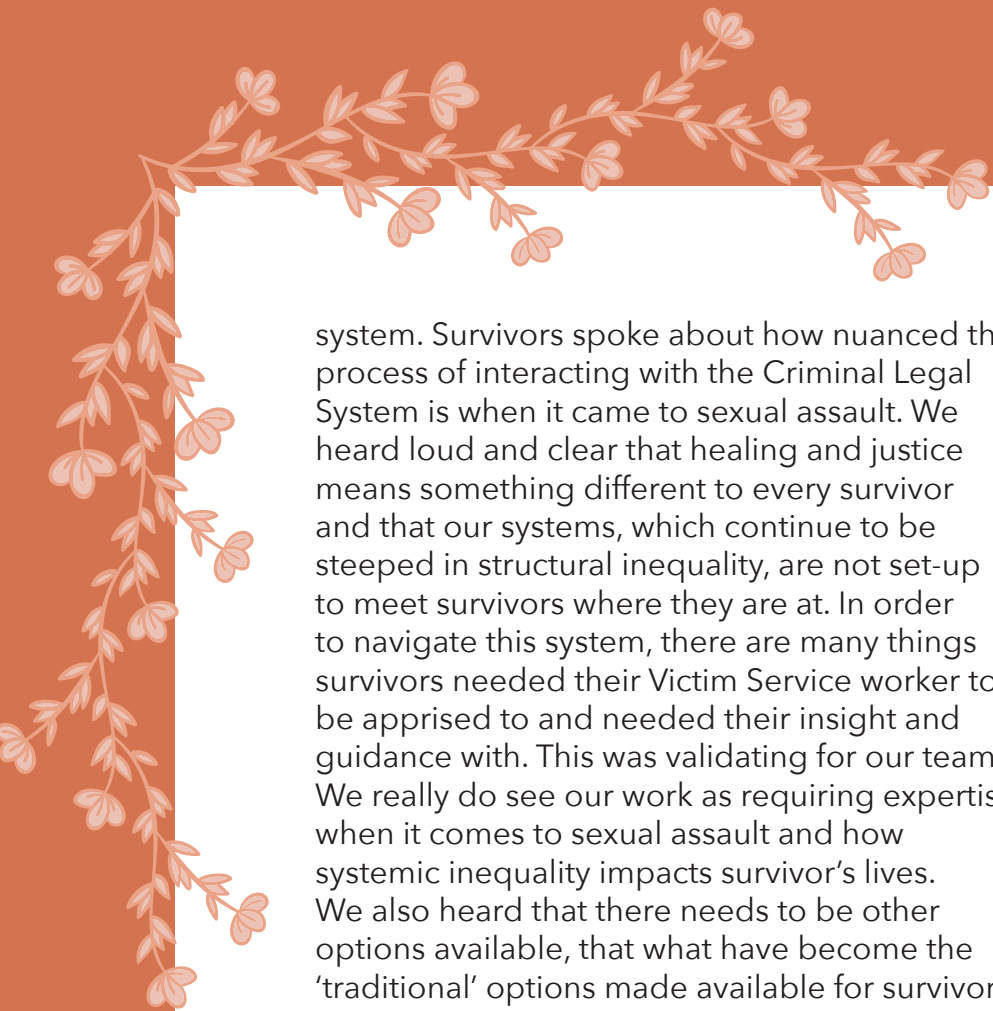
These are the voices that invite us to be accountable. These are the voices that push for systems to be accountable to survivors.

What we heard over and over again was that survivors need specialized support if they are going to engage with the Criminal Legal

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

– Maya Angelou






system. Survivors spoke about how nuanced the process of interacting with the Criminal Legal System is when it came to sexual assault. We heard loud and clear that healing and justice means something different to every survivor and that our systems, which continue to be steeped in structural inequality, are not set-up to meet survivors where they are at. In order to navigate this system, there are many things survivors needed their Victim Service worker to be apprised to and needed their insight and guidance with. This was validating for our team. We really do see our work as requiring expertise when it comes to sexual assault and how systemic inequality impacts survivor's lives. We also heard that there needs to be other options available, that what have become the 'traditional' options made available for survivors will not work for everyone; particularly those survivors who are facing increased systemic oppression and state violence. These are areas we are excited to explore.

We continue to hear that the Criminal Legal System in its current form doesn't seem to work as a means to connecting sexual assault survivors to justice. We have known this for years and now have the opportunity to work with others across

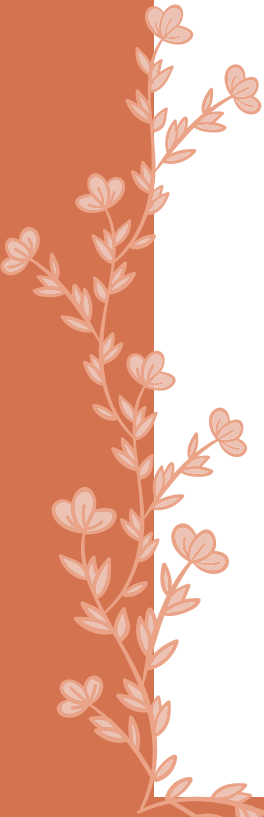
the country to look at combating this reality, and increasing healing.

We will be reflecting deeply to answer our question for the Justice Project in our final report, but many pieces of accountability have already begun in our day to day work.

While we continue to offer our more traditional services, we have added pieces that are responsive to the diverse needs of the survivors we serve. This year, in partnership with the Ending Violence Association of BC, we have launched our first ever Independent Legal Advise Pilot Project for Survivors of Sexual Assault. Through this partnership, survivors have access to lawyers for up to five hours of free legal advice. The lawyers that we have in our community cover a range of legal expertise and reflect the needs and concerns of the survivors we see at WAVAW. They are Human Rights lawyers, Civil Lawyers, Immigration Lawyers and Criminal Lawyers and this partnership has allowed us to offer support to survivors that falls outside of the traditional options, and outside of the Criminal Justice System.



In addition, we have been working with other sexual assault centers and provincial organizations to work towards seeing what is often referred to as the Philadelphia Model or Advocate Case Reviews to roll out across Canada. This work will create real change at both the systemic level and on the ground. This will offer the potential to change the ways in which police understand and investigate sexual violence.



We continue to see the impact of the cultural shift around sexual violence in the post **#MeToo** era and are busier than ever. As we move forward into this next year we will continue to sit, listen and speak with survivors about ways that we can make our Victim Service programming accessible and the best that it can be for survivors of all marginalized genders. We will deepen relationships with our partners locally and nationally which will allow us to hold systems and ourselves accountable to what survivors in our community want, and need from us.

We continue to be honored by all the survivors that trust us with their stories and allow us to see their courage and resilience in what can be

an incredibly vulnerable and daunting time. We are so grateful to be able to do this work.

As the world and our culture change, so will the needs of the survivors we serve. This means that we will be required to stay open, vulnerable, and courageous in our ongoing attempt to be accountable to survivors by supporting them and shifting society. We hold ourselves accountable to this.

ⁱ The Justice System Personnel that we spoke with included police, Crown Counsel, Legal experts and Defense Lawyers

ⁱⁱ Many survivors talked about wanting something different, not knowing exactly what but wanting something more than just the Criminal Legal System as the go to response after sexual assault for seeking Justice.

ⁱⁱⁱ Crisis line, hospital accompaniment to see the Sexual Assault Service at Vancouver General Hospital, Police accompaniment during statements, advanced interviews with Crown Counsel, witness preparation, testimonial support during Court, support to complete the Crime Victim Assistance application, Third Party Reports.

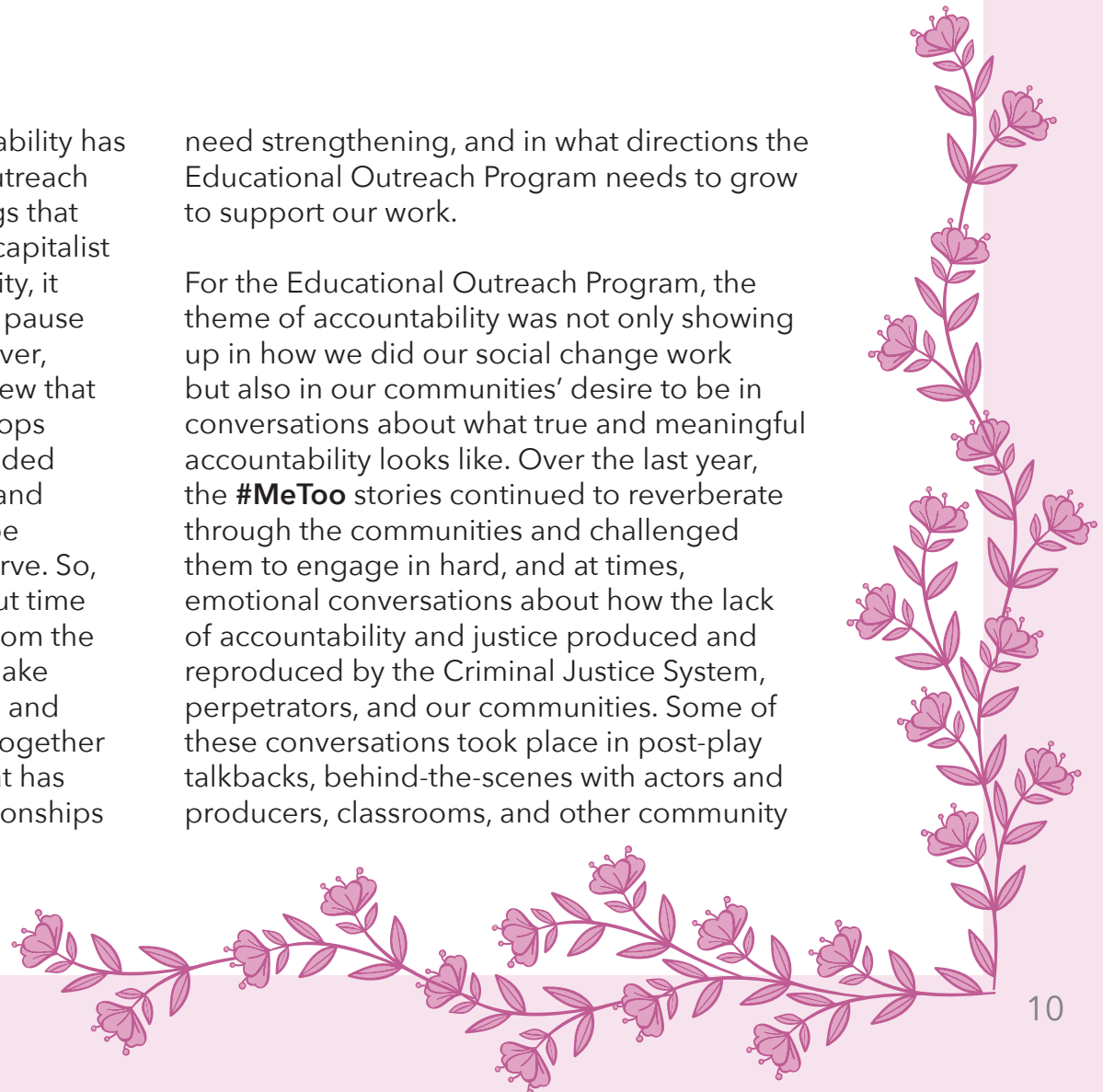
^{iv} A program that allows experts, namely those involved in sexual assault work, outside of law enforcement conduct reviews of police investigations into sexual violence cases. The goal of [The Philadelphia model] is to try and ensure there's one more link in the investigative chain and that there's a different lens and a different set of eyes on sexual assault cases. The review process is supposed to ensure police investigations are thorough and properly classified, in order to ensure stronger evidence-based files which can help cases move forward in the justice system.

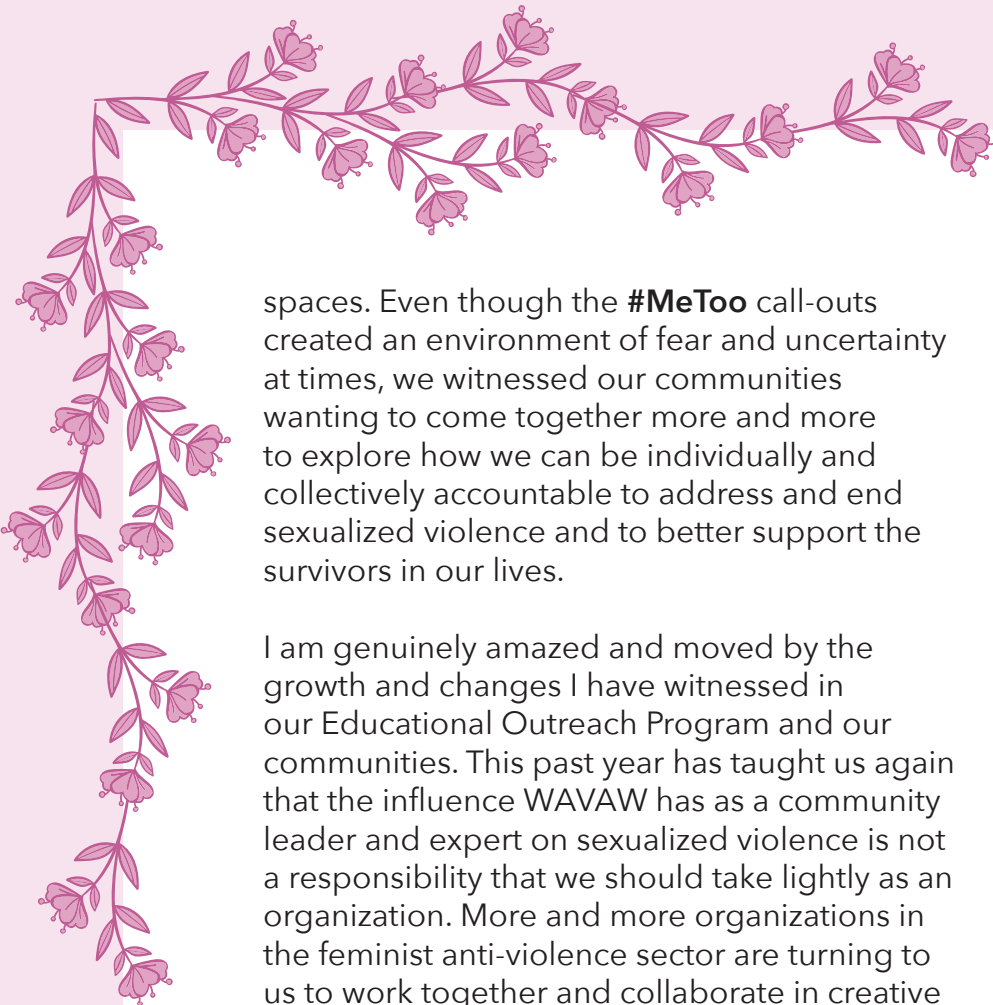
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

When I reflect on what accountability has meant for our Educational Outreach Program, one of the first things that came to mind was slowing down. In a capitalist society that overemphasizes productivity, it can feel unnatural and even difficult to pause to reflect and reassess our work. However, leading up to the last fiscal year, we knew that continuing to deliver the same workshops and talks that did not reflect our expanded understanding of sexualized violence and gender-based oppression would not be accountable to the communities we serve. So, we decided to slow down and carve out time to incorporate some of the learnings from the internal trans inclusion trainings and make other necessary updates to workshops and outreach materials. We also sat down together to gain a clearer understanding of what has been working well, what working relationships

need strengthening, and in what directions the Educational Outreach Program needs to grow to support our work.

For the Educational Outreach Program, the theme of accountability was not only showing up in how we did our social change work but also in our communities' desire to be in conversations about what true and meaningful accountability looks like. Over the last year, the **#MeToo** stories continued to reverberate through the communities and challenged them to engage in hard, and at times, emotional conversations about how the lack of accountability and justice produced and reproduced by the Criminal Justice System, perpetrators, and our communities. Some of these conversations took place in post-play talkbacks, behind-the-scenes with actors and producers, classrooms, and other community





spaces. Even though the **#MeToo** call-outs created an environment of fear and uncertainty at times, we witnessed our communities wanting to come together more and more to explore how we can be individually and collectively accountable to address and end sexualized violence and to better support the survivors in our lives.

I am genuinely amazed and moved by the growth and changes I have witnessed in our Educational Outreach Program and our communities. This past year has taught us again that the influence WAVAW has as a community leader and expert on sexualized violence is not a responsibility that we should take lightly as an organization. More and more organizations in the feminist anti-violence sector are turning to us to work together and collaborate in creative ways, to seek our support in their trans inclusion work, and to learn how we practice and model meaningful accountability in our anti-violence work.

We look forward to another year of bringing exciting changes to the Educational Outreach Program and working alongside our community

partners and members in creating a world free from sexualized violence.

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COUNSELLING PROGRAM

The past year has been a big year for integrating change, being accountable, and looking ahead. Our goal of serving survivors of sexualized violence requires us to grow and readjust. We are committed to meeting survivors where they are at, and with this value at the core of our Counselling Program we must be flexible and agile as we listen to the community for what this means.

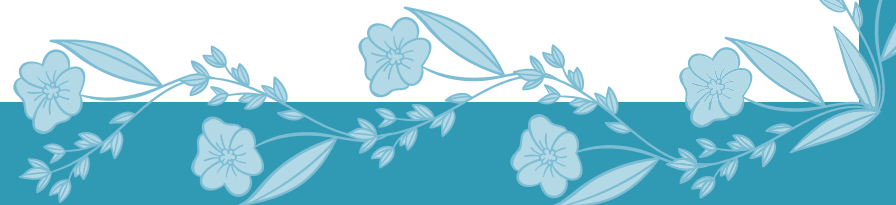
This year, in response to our community, we have increased services delivered in community with partnerships that have allowed for more survivors to access meaningful service delivery, with increased cultural safety. Culturally safe and community-oriented services were crucially important this year as we supported many family members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women,

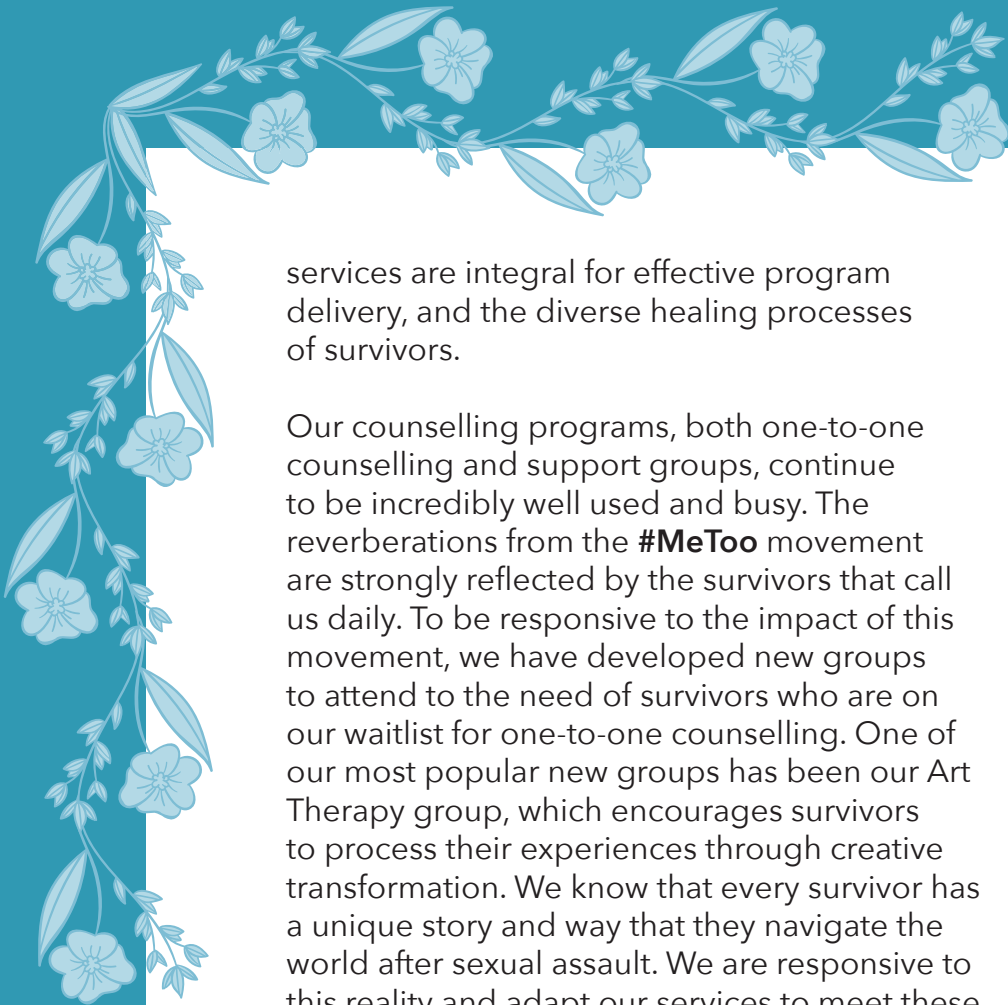
“We will continue to be accountable to all survivors; to hold and see healing as a sight of resistance to rape culture, and to hold Governments responsible for sustaining our life saving, life-affirming, culturally relevant and responsive services.”

Girls and Two-Spirit people through testimony at the National Inquiry meetings in Vancouver. We honoured this process by holding space and ceremony at the opening of the Inquiry and holding a healing space and talking

circle once the Inquiry was completed. We recognize the absolute importance of holding this sacred space for healing and ceremony and are committed to ensuring our programming is responsive and accountable to the needs of our

Indigenous communities. We continue to hold Governments responsible for the sustainability of these lifesaving and culturally affirming services. We know that to build trust and have meaningful impact, we must sustain our services in communities, and strong community partnerships and culturally safe and relevant





services are integral for effective program delivery, and the diverse healing processes of survivors.

Our counselling programs, both one-to-one counselling and support groups, continue to be incredibly well used and busy. The reverberations from the **#MeToo** movement are strongly reflected by the survivors that call us daily. To be responsive to the impact of this movement, we have developed new groups to attend to the need of survivors who are on our waitlist for one-to-one counselling. One of our most popular new groups has been our Art Therapy group, which encourages survivors to process their experiences through creative transformation. We know that every survivor has a unique story and way that they navigate the world after sexual assault. We are responsive to this reality and adapt our services to meet these needs in every way possible.

The hard and ongoing work of accountability has paid off for us in the Counselling Program, as we have seen an incredibly significant shift in who is accessing our services this year. This time last year I reflected on the changes we were making to open our services to include all trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit people. I am thrilled

to report that we have seen many survivors of these identities walk through our doors at WAVAW and sit with our counsellors. We have also seen many current survivors accessing our services share their previously withheld trans, non-binary or Two-Spirit identities with us. Their increased feelings of safety and comfort to share their whole selves with us has made their path to healing more effective and authentic to their experience.

We continue to be inspired and in awe of the courage, bravery and strength of all survivors of marginalized genders that walk through our doors, meet us at partner organizations, attend community ceremonies, come to groups, follow us on social media, and connect with us by phone to do the hard and often excruciating work of healing from sexual violence while living in a rape culture. We will continue to be accountable to all survivors; to hold and see healing as a sight of resistance to rape culture, and to hold Governments responsible for sustaining our life saving, life-affirming, culturally relevant and responsive services.

To the survivors we serve - thank you for trusting us with your stories, we hold them with honour, respect and admiration.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

I want to be one of the people who is doing the work at WAVAW” was the response an interviewee gave when I asked what brought them to the organization. The person has been following our work closely on social media and felt inspired by our accountability work; particularly the apology WAVAW released earlier last year to sex workers and sex working communities.

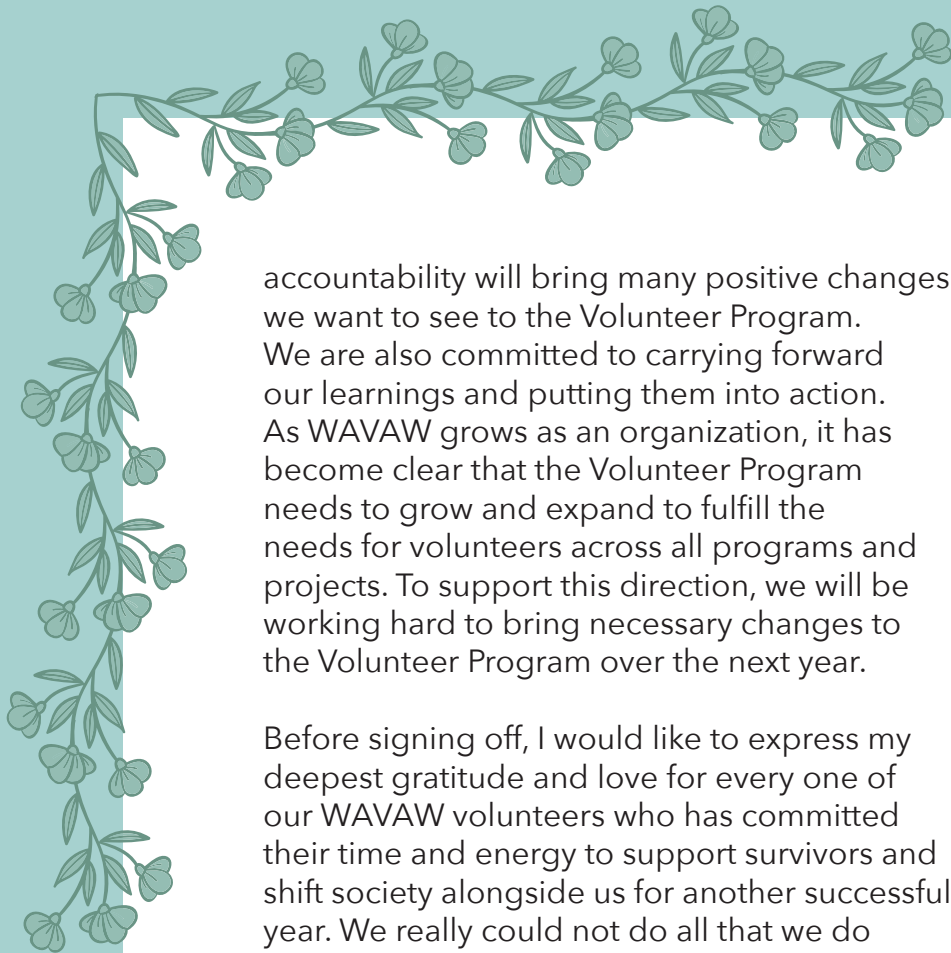
Although their answer has stuck with me to this date, this was not the first or last time I heard our community members express their feelings of excitement and inspiration for our work and organizational directions. Over the last year, I have witnessed the ripple effects and possibilities that genuine and meaningful accountability can bring to our work.

Accountability in the Volunteer Program has looked many different ways. To be accountable to our current and incoming volunteers, we have worked hard on reviewing and updating

workshops in the Volunteer Training, inviting new facilitators or inviting back previous facilitators, and providing training opportunities in the Monthly Volunteer Meetings to equip them with skills, tools, and knowledge to better support survivors of all marginalized genders. To be accountable to future volunteers, we have put our energy toward promoting our Volunteer Training, recruiting trans and gender diverse volunteers, and increasing the accessibility of the program and the diversity in our team by updating volunteer applications. To be accountable to past volunteers who left WAVAW in disappointment or sadness, we continue to turn our minds to repairing relationships and acknowledging the harm we have caused.

However, change takes time and often happens in stages. Even though we have not yet seen a significant increase in the number of trans, Two-Spirit, or gender diverse volunteers, we are hopeful that our commitment to ongoing





accountability will bring many positive changes we want to see to the Volunteer Program. We are also committed to carrying forward our learnings and putting them into action. As WAVAW grows as an organization, it has become clear that the Volunteer Program needs to grow and expand to fulfill the needs for volunteers across all programs and projects. To support this direction, we will be working hard to bring necessary changes to the Volunteer Program over the next year.

Before signing off, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and love for every one of our WAVAW volunteers who has committed their time and energy to support survivors and shift society alongside us for another successful year. We really could not do all that we do without you, thank you!

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude and love for every one of our WAVAW volunteers who has committed their time and energy to support survivors and shift society alongside us for another successful year. We really could not do all that we do without you, thank you!”




FUND DEVELOPMENT

This was the first WAVAW event that I felt safe attending”, said a community member over the noise from the DJ booth and event chatter at our Beers & Bids event this past June. “Thank you for finally giving folks like me the opportunity to get involved”. Beers & Bids was undoubtedly a success; from the more than 50 businesses that contributed to our silent auction, to the revenue that was raised in support of survivors. More than anything, it was a success because of the many comments like this that we received. People that previously supported us from the sidelines felt safe showing up at our community events. This means everything to our team.

Breaking down access barriers to involvement with WAVAW would never have been possible without our organization demonstrating accountability. Accountability to trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit folks. Accountability to sex workers. Accountability to our donors. Accountability to the WAVAW community

whose support allows us to sustain and grow our services and programs. Through our on-going commitment to accountability, WAVAW’s Fundraising and Communications team has grown, shifted and evolved. We have internalized feedback and taken risks. The results of this process undoubtedly show that when people feel that their participation will be safe, and valued; the creative and impactful ways that they will stand up for survivors will be limitless.

After being called upon to provide opportunities to support survivors beyond the traditional monetary gifts, we received incredible donations of art supplies for our support groups, and handmade goods to raffle at our fundraising events. Many community members donated in the form of skills-sharing; offering web development, photography or graphic design support. After being encouraged to foster more community connections, comedy troupes and



local businesses joined our Giving Tuesday campaign. By removing participation barriers, more than 45 walkers, runners, rollers and strollers asked their friends and families to help them surpass their personal fundraising goals during the 2019 Scotiabank Charity Challenge.

At WAVAW, we know that supporting survivors and building a world free from gendered-oppression is a shared societal responsibility. It is through accountability that we have developed an enthusiastic and empowered community of advocates for survivors of sexualized violence. Accountability is a vulnerable, on-going process, and the Fundraising and Communications team is grateful to the community members who have both called us out and called us in.

As a non-profit, WAVAW's funding is precarious and often unpredictable. It means so much to us that despite a lack of core funding from the government, our community will continue to stretch their capacity and to give their time, skills, support and advocacy for survivors. Thank you. We are so excited to continue doing this work with you. Together, we can do anything.

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INCLUSION PROJECT

Over the past year of the inclusion project, I have spoken to dozens of trans people about sexual violence in many different capacities, from conferences to coffee breaks.

We learned early on that simply updating our policies and opening our doors to trans people was not enough; what was needed was a shift in our feminism, a different way of thinking about healing and justice that would be relevant for trans and queer people.

There are exciting conversations about accountability amongst my community that have challenged us to think about it on two levels: accountability between community members when sexual harm occurs, and our accountability as an organization to the communities we want to serve. The thread which ties these together is the idea that


“The thread which ties these together is the idea that accountability, rather than being about punishment and exile, is at its best a way back to community, and a way to transform harm into the creation of a better world.”

accountability, rather than being about punishment and exile, is at its best a way back to community; and a way to transform harm into the creation of a better world.

The nuance of sexual harm in trans and queer community was captured beautifully in WAVAW’s first zine, “Recognition: trans and queer writing on sexual harm”. In Recognition, eleven artists explored what happens when queer people harm

each other, and the ways that transphobic and homophobic oppression can be re-created in our spaces. It reminded us that we learn violence first by experiencing it, and that, especially in trans and queer community, it can be difficult to draw a line between ‘survivor’ and ‘perpetrator’. These uncomfortable truths are part of the reason that violence in my





community is often silenced, and Recognition stands as one of few resources available that explore it.

Creating Recognition, and having conversations with the artists involved, demonstrated clearly that carceral thinking is not of much use to trans survivors; what is needed is the difficult work of community repair, of breaking cycles of violence, and thankfully Indigenous communities and communities of color, in addition to trans and queer communities, have wisdom we can lean on as we explore this important learning.

Organizationally, our accountability to trans and queer community means not shying away from what we've learned, even as it challenges us to grow beyond what we anticipated at the start of this project. The more we connect with communities that have been reluctant to access our services in the past, the more opportunities we find to dig deeper and do better; in this way, accountability has a momentum all its own.

A few times this year, I've been asked to speak about WAVAW's apology to sex workers,

which we made in July 2018. Through the trans inclusion project, and through other community feedback, we heard that our previous position paper on sex work had caused harm in sex worker communities and gave sex workers reason to distrust us; so, before moving forward with a new position, it was necessary for us to offer an apology.

When I tell the story, I often start with the day we published it, how a small group of us gathered around a computer in our fund development office when someone pressed 'post', sipping coffee and anxiously hitting 'refresh'. I'm not ashamed to admit that I was terrified, having been socialized my whole life to think that accountability is scary and punitive. The apology got a big reaction, and within the day it was being shared across North America and into Europe - to date, it is our social media post with the widest reach.

In the months that followed, something amazing happened. Sex workers started talking to us. Those conversations shaped the way we moved forward with our new position. Rather than exiling us to the furthest corners of feminism,

which my fear had told me would happen, sex worker led organizations reached out and asked us how they could help us to do better. We re-established community partnerships from years ago, and we've seen significantly more sex workers access WAVAW than before. We were even asked to speak at the first conference put on by Living in Community, a local sex worker advocacy group.

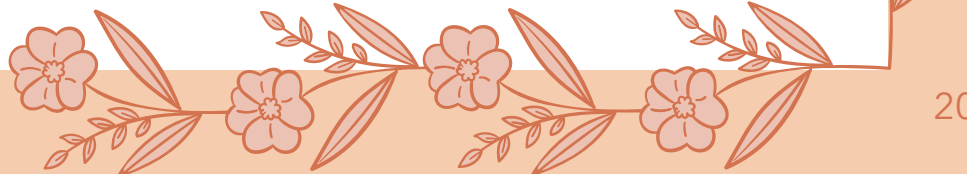
When I tell people about the apology, it sounds simple in a way that risks masking how much work it took: when you hurt someone, apologize. In the end, it was an overwhelmingly positive experience that, in addition to being the start of our repair with sex workers, taught us that accountability works. It gave us the appetite and confidence to keep doing this important repair work, and to ask our sector to do the same.

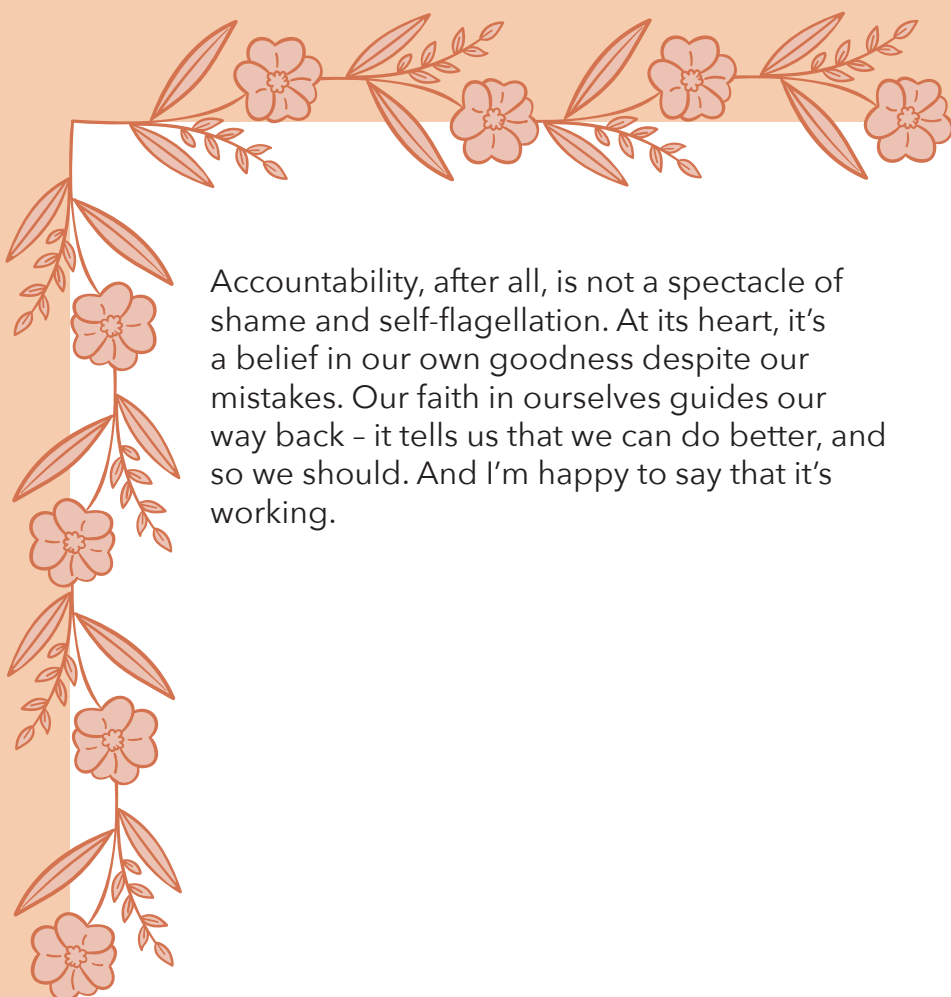
We began this project with the humble goal of serving twelve trans survivors. Currently, both our trans victim services worker and counsellor have full caseloads, and we've more than tripled the twelve clients we hoped to serve. We're participating in research that will shape the future of trans services, and we're emerging as a

leader doing groundbreaking work in trans and queer antiviolence.

With that in mind, we are stepping into our responsibility to make broader change. Another key learning from trans community has been that improved access to our organization is not enough to restore confidence in the feminist sector; we need to be advocating for inclusion across organizations. It's no secret that, in Vancouver, we are working amongst a hotbed of trans misogyny which co-opts feminism for the purposes of hatred and exclusion. The fight for a trans inclusive feminism is bigger than WAVAW, it is a longstanding struggle across the feminist movement, and as a trans inclusive, feminist organization, we have a responsibility to advocate for proactive inclusion measures in all of our partnerships.

I still believe deeply in repair between my feminist and trans communities, and I still believe that feminism and queer people need each other. I hope we can offer the same generosity that sex workers have offered us as we ask our sector to do better for trans women, and to be accountable to the harms that feminism has caused.



A decorative border in the top-left corner of the page, featuring a series of stylized flowers and leaves in a light orange color, arranged in a slightly curved path.

Accountability, after all, is not a spectacle of shame and self-flagellation. At its heart, it's a belief in our own goodness despite our mistakes. Our faith in ourselves guides our way back - it tells us that we can do better, and so we should. And I'm happy to say that it's working.



ACCOUNTABILITY LETTER TO THE SEX WORKER COMMUNITY

JULY 12, 2018

As an organization, we always say that systems and perpetrators of violence need to be held accountable. This is no different when we have enacted harm ourselves.

Today, we're writing this letter to take accountability. We have taken actions that have caused harm to sex workers, and it is important that we take responsibility for those actions.

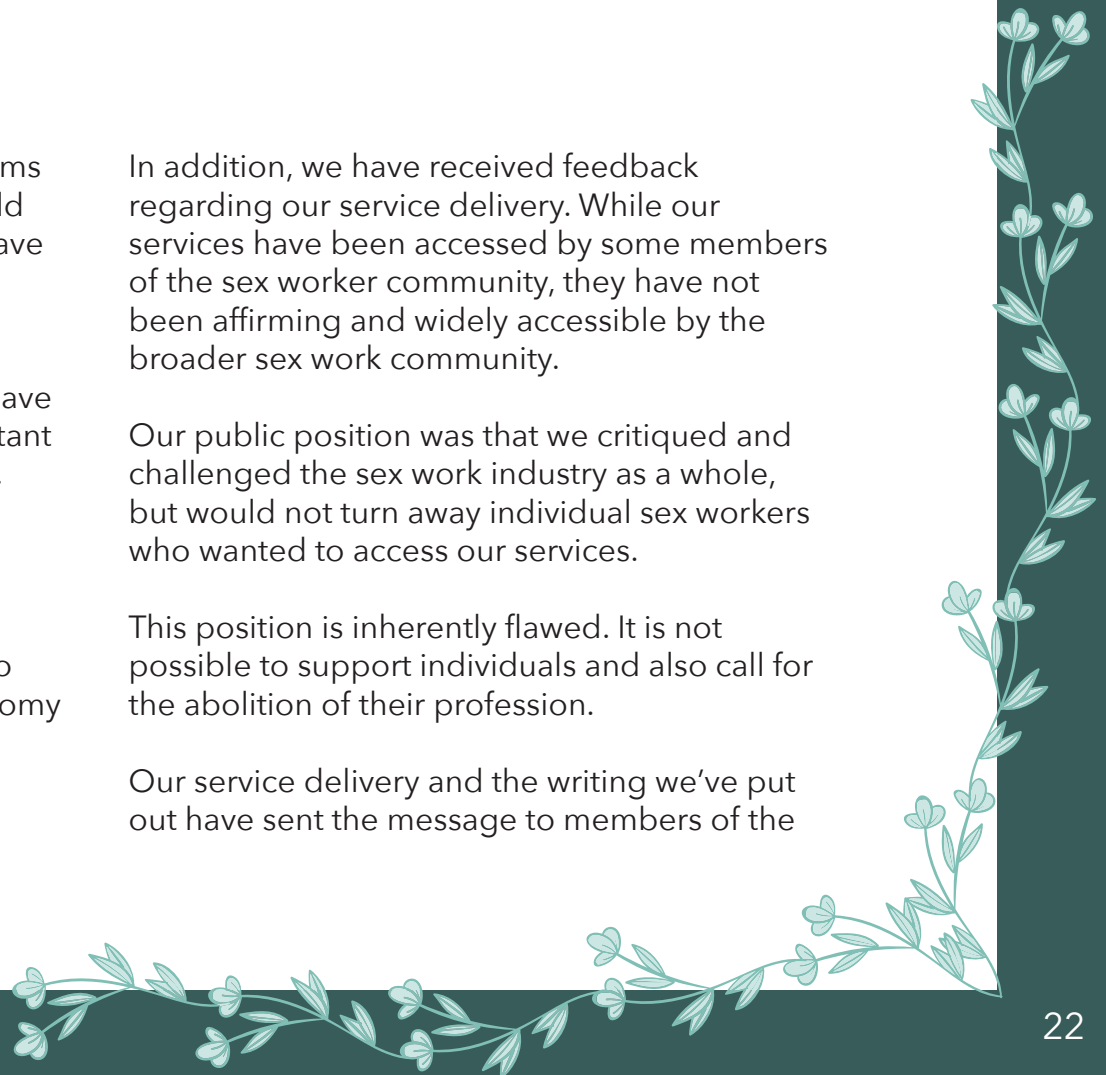
In 2008, we produced a position paper on sex work titled "Stepping out of the Binary." The paper framed the sex work industry as inherently violent and oppressive. It failed to recognize the resilience, agency, and autonomy of sex workers. It also conflated sex work with trafficking.

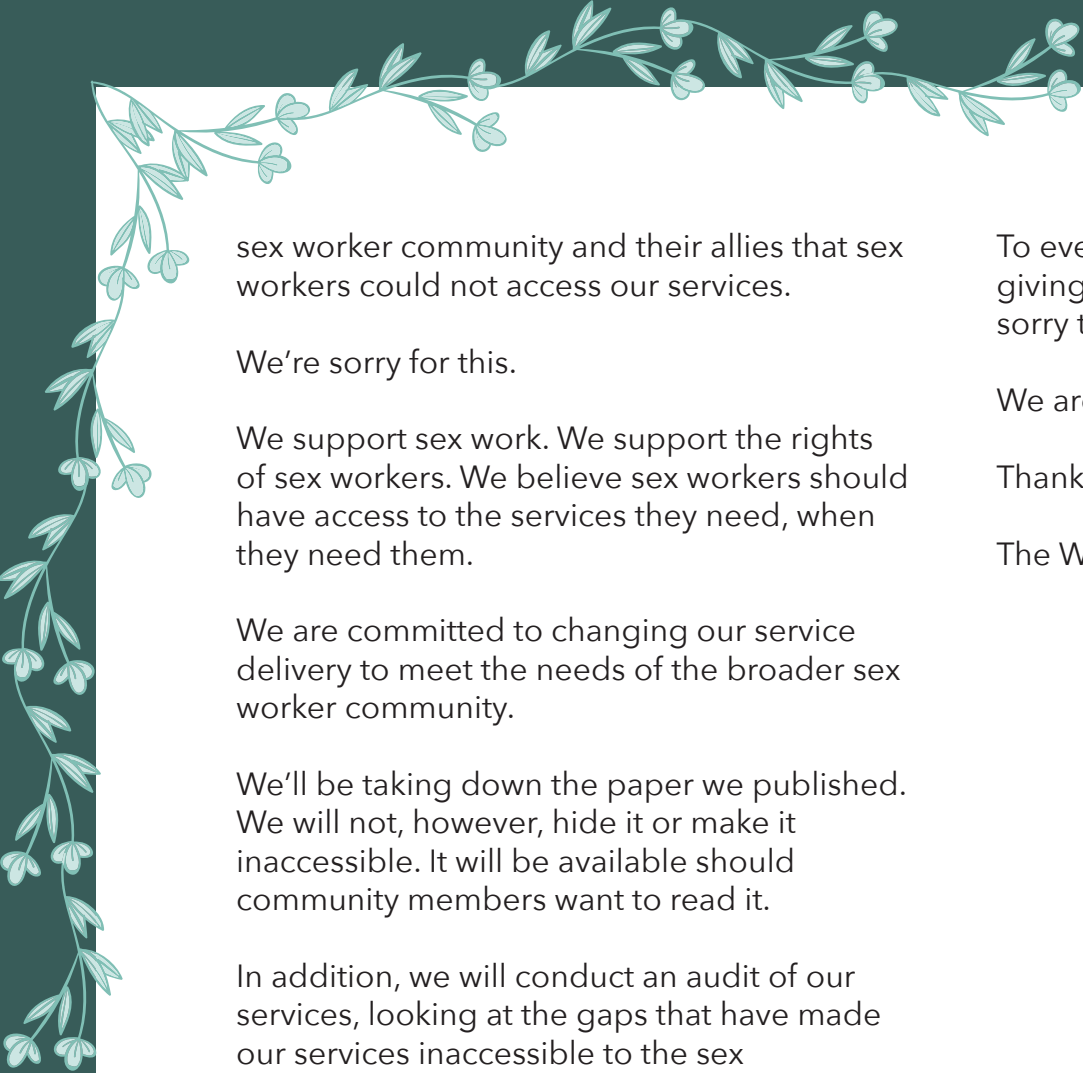
In addition, we have received feedback regarding our service delivery. While our services have been accessed by some members of the sex worker community, they have not been affirming and widely accessible by the broader sex work community.

Our public position was that we critiqued and challenged the sex work industry as a whole, but would not turn away individual sex workers who wanted to access our services.

This position is inherently flawed. It is not possible to support individuals and also call for the abolition of their profession.

Our service delivery and the writing we've put out have sent the message to members of the





sex worker community and their allies that sex workers could not access our services.

We're sorry for this.

We support sex work. We support the rights of sex workers. We believe sex workers should have access to the services they need, when they need them.

We are committed to changing our service delivery to meet the needs of the broader sex worker community.

We'll be taking down the paper we published. We will not, however, hide it or make it inaccessible. It will be available should community members want to read it.

In addition, we will conduct an audit of our services, looking at the gaps that have made our services inaccessible to the sex worker community.

Following this audit, we will enact changes in our service delivery to fill these gaps.

To everyone who has done the hard work of giving us feedback over the last few years, we're sorry that we did not act sooner. We hear you.

We are committed to being better.

Thank you,

The WAVAW Team



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Office Manager

SONMIN BONG

Manager of Social Change and
Community Engagement

CREDITS

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Designed by Madison Reid
www.madisonreid.com





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