

producing salutary effects. However, given that course participation is voluntary, the Committee is not sanguine that the judges who need gender sensitivity training the most will avail themselves of it.

The Committee holds the view that if judicial education on gender-equality issues is to be effective, the participation of judges must be mandatory and the course content must be developed in consultation with organizations and front-line agencies that work with abused women, as well as legal professionals. The participation and support of workers familiar with the needs and experiences of women victims of violence will facilitate the development of relevant course materials.

RECOMMENDATION 7

The Committee recommends that the federal government take the lead on gender sensitivity training for judges by requiring section 96 judges (federally appointed judges) to take training and refresher courses that focus on violence against women and related gender-equality issues. The federal government should also encourage the provinces to require their provincially appointed judges to take these courses. The content of the courses should be developed in consultation with front-line agencies that work with female victims of violence.

E. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES

The Committee learned that violence against women on university campuses is prevalent across the country. Dr. Rhona Steinberg, president of the Status of Women Committee of the Canadian Psychological Association, pointed out that, contrary to popular belief, violence toward women is found among university students – the wealthy, the educated and the supposedly enlightened (12:43).

She cited the findings of a study carried out on 34 university campuses in the United States involving over 6,000 students. Over 15% of the women who participated in the study reported that they had been victims of date rape, within the legal definition of rape. And 84% of the men, whose behaviour met the legal definition of rape claimed that they had definitely not committed rape. In another U.S. study, 32% of university men said they would rape if they were absolutely assured that they would not get caught. The percentage rose to 50% when the term “sexual assault” was substituted for “rape”. According to the witness, these findings suggest that we need to educate young people about what rape is and its consequences for victims. She noted that research done in Canada on a smaller scale at the University of Manitoba in the mid-1980s found a similar percentage of rape among women students (12:44).