

*S. O. 31*

The white ribbon, which many members of Parliament have been wearing this week, has very quickly become the symbol of this day. Just as we wear the poppy to commemorate the many who died in war, the white ribbon symbolizes our continued effort to remember and act against violence against women.

The New Democrats very much regret that television networks, including the CBC, CTV and Global, are forbidding on-air personnel from wearing the white ribbon. It is important that everyone, especially men who must bear the responsibility for violence against women, have the opportunity to participate in this act of remembrance.

I ask the networks to review their decision and give their own on-air employees the right to wear the white ribbon which speaks out clearly against violence against women.

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**CROATIA**

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Madam Speaker, I rise first in recognition of Joe Maric, Peter Matuzich, Tom Vlastic, Goran Ivanic and Drago Bigec.

Canadian Croatians from my constituency of Sarnia—Lambton came to Parliament Hill this week to express their concerns for Croatia. They came to Ottawa to demonstrate their desire for a stop to be put to the violence and bloodshed in Croatia.

I believe that Canada should note the European Community's condemnation of the Yugoslavian army's indiscriminate targeting of Croatian civilians and institutions.

We should be ensuring that our federal government is not supportive of any army's aggression that seems to be doing so to perpetuate itself.

All Canadians should heartily approve of the Government of Canada's backing of a UN peacekeeping force to go to Yugoslavia. Our troops are ready.

Canada should also do everything we can to ensure there is full compliance by all parties to a future agreement so a UN peacekeeping mission can be sent to Yugoslavia.

Also, we should all hope that the conditions which will allow Canada's recognition of the independence of Croatia, as noted by our Secretary of State for External Affairs, are met as soon as possible.

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[Translation]

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Madam Speaker, today I would like to draw the attention of the House to the tragic events that occurred exactly two years ago at the Montreal *Polytechnique*. It is a dramatic reminder of the daily violence against women in our society.

Psychological, verbal and sexual abuse are harder to detect. However, domestic violence has several faces, and it could not continue to exist without a form of social violence. Social violence is structural and institutional. Prejudice against women and the transmission of stereotypes which see women as subject to male power, tend to keep women in a state of dependence. Domestic violence is found at all levels of our society, in all age groups and all income brackets.

Forty per cent of battered women are attacked for the first time during pregnancy. We cannot remain silent. Together we must fight violence in our society.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Unfortunately the hon. member's time has expired.

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[English]

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose):** Madam Speaker, today represents a significant milestone on the long road to a violence-free society for women. On this national day of remembrance and action on violence against women, we should take this opportunity to pay tribute to the lives of 14 innocent victims. It is important for every Canadian to reflect on the deaths of those young women and ponder their own attitudes and actions in relation to violence against women.

We must now look to the future and I believe our government has by putting in place the following initiatives: The federal response to the committee report