

Violence Against Women

The Clothesline itself symbolizes a lifeline to help survivors join together in support of one another. The shirts are hung side by side on the Clothesline, as though the survivors were standing there themselves, shoulder to shoulder, bearing witness to the violence that is committed against women on a daily basis and breaking their silence.

The Clothesline is particularly effective when it is hung outdoors in a grassy area, to give viewers the full effect: sunshine, fresh air, and a gentle breeze blowing

* WHITE— for women who have died of violence because they were women;

*YELLOW OR BEIGE—for women who have been battered or assaulted because they are women;

*RED, PINK, OR ORANGE—for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted;

*BLUE OR GREEN—for women survivors of incest or child sexual abuse;

*PURPLE OR LAVENDER—for women attacked because they are lesbian;

*BLACK—for disabled women who have been assaulted.

These colours are not mandatory if a different colour has a special significance to you. The colour scheme was designed so the Clothesline would be a consistent visual representation of the statistics of violence against women.

For more information, please call us at 454-0460.

"Many women who are survivors speak of the desire to take some action, to do something about their experience. The Clothesline Project provides an excellent opportunity to do just that. It employs a creative process, whether it be color, shape,

"You can batter my body but you can't touch my spirit. Silent no more."

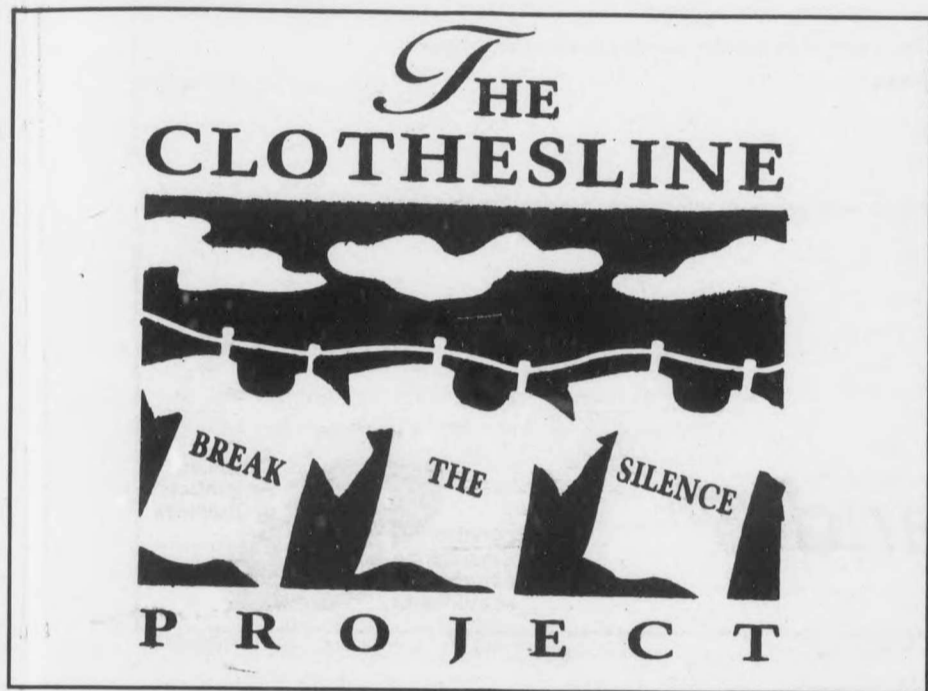
S.C., California

"The only time you bought me new glasses was when you punched me in the face."

Anonymous

"...raped me, beat me, and stole my pride and faith, and made me afraid... BUT MY SPIRIT ROSE UP and I found courage and hope. I DID NOT DIE!"

T.



through the shirts, filling them with life.

Creating A Shirt

The shirt may reflect the women's personal experience by painting or marking on it a name and/or date of the assault, or the shirt may simply display a slogan or symbol of interest such as "Stop Rape" or "Hope and Healing."

Naming the perpetrator is an important part of the healing process. *But, for legal reasons, we cannot display shirts with full names of perpetrators.* We ask that shirt-makers use only first names or initials if they wish to name their violator.

Because making a shirt is part of the healing process for survivors of violence, shirts should be submitted by the survivor or submitted with her permission. We would appreciate whatever information you or she would like to share. We will respect requests for confidentiality.

If you would like to submit a shirt for a woman who died as a result of violence, you may want to use a shirt that belonged to her. Please show on the shirt the woman's name, dates of birth and death, and hometown. You may wish to write a description of the person or a note of remembrance to her.

All materials submitted to the Clothesline Project become the sole property of the Clothesline Project and cannot be returned to or reclaimed by the sender.

The shirts will be hung on a clothesline for display at City Hall on Friday, Sept. 24, 1993. Shirts may be brought to the display, or brought to the FREDERICTON RAPE CRISIS CENTRE OFFICE across from City Hall. T-shirts and supplies will be available at the display.

What Goes On The Clothesline?

We ask women to send shirts, blouses or T-shirts preferably with the following colour codes:

style, or written word, that is often another avenue for healing... simply seeing the Clothesline can be validating for a woman who feels isolated and shamed as a result of her trauma."

—Molly F. Eldridge, LICSW
Chatham, MA

Messages From Shirts:

"I made this shirt so no one can tell me to be quiet anymore."

S.L., Cape Cod

"It was just your imagination. Don't you dare tell, I'll break your neck!"

Anonymous, Massachusetts

"Teach me to cry and when I have learned to cry, teach me to dance so that I may dance in the puddle of my tears."

Anonymous

The Dimensions of Violence Against Women In Canada.

Statistics confirm the dimensions of violence against women in Canada:

*At least one in every ten women is battered by her husband or male partner (*Battered But Not Beaten*, a report to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1987).

*27,000 sexual assaults were reported to police in 1990, almost double the figure in 1984 (*Statistics Canada Juristat Bulletin*, 1991).

*A Study of women with disabilities found that almost half had been sexually abused as children, and one in four had been sexually assaulted as an adult (*Violent Acts Against Disabled Women*, a report to the Ontario Networking Conference, 1986).

*Female victims of elderly abuse outnumber male victims two to one (Results from a national survey undertaken for Health and Welfare Canada by the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, 1990).

*A woman is raped every 29 minutes in Canada—a woman is sexually assaulted every 6 minutes.

*The FREDERICTON RAPE CRISIS CENTRE receives approximately 300 calls on the crisis line each year.