

LE REGROUPEMENT QUEBECOIS DES CENTRES D'AIDE ET DE LUTTE
CONTRE LES AGRESSIONS À CARACTERE SEXUEL

The Regroupement québécois des CALACS was founded in 1979 to pursue common activities and aims. We have succeeded in ending the isolation of individual centres and in creating a force which brings people to call into question our society and to listen to the voices of women who have been the victims of sexual assault.

The Regroupement has three objectives: to provide training and information opportunities to support and crisis centres; to mobilize individuals and groups to take up the fight against violence toward women and to bring about social, legal and political changes.

Ten years ago, the Regroupement held a special event to highlight the extent of the problem of sexual assault. This march, which is held on the third Friday in September (until 1985, it was referred to as "La rue, la nuit, femmes sans peur" (Women taken back the night), honours all women's struggle against violence and has become an annual rallying point for thousands of women.

The Regroupement especially supports groups interested in setting up a CALACS in regions which do not yet have this service as we believe all Quebec women are entitled to such resources.

Our ever-present concern is to upgrade our knowledge and broaden our experience. For example, several months ago, we undertook some research aimed at defining more clearly the treatment before the courts of women who have been sexually assaulted.

Lastly, the Regroupement reflects the viewpoint and reality of women who have been sexually assaulted and the position of support and crisis centres. It speaks out on their behalf to major consultative bodies (for example, the Rochon Commission) and to concerned officials.

Sexual assault is a serious problem in society. It is unacceptable to perpetuate the indifference and to allow the silence to continue.

WE MUST ACT TO ENSURE THAT ONE DAY, WOMEN WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO FEAR FOR THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY AND INTEGRITY.