

society needs a vehicle that signals that the government recognizes the great seriousness of the problem, brings the issue to public debate, and mobilizes public support for reforms that provide truly preventive action. They called for a royal commission that would travel across the country to hear women's voices, especially the voices of groups of women who have been under-represented such as aboriginal women, immigrant women, visible minority women, women with disabilities, elderly women, and rural women. Given the multi-faceted nature of the problem of violence against women and solutions to it, a broad mandate for a royal commission was recommended.

Lucille Panet-Raymond, a representative of the YWCA of Canada, made the following proposal to the Committee:

"The problem crosses all jurisdictional boundaries; so should the examination and eventual solutions. The mandate should be broad enough to examine the private and public faces of violence and call for changes to bring about equality for women, and equality which begins with adequate support services for women and children fleeing violence, equality which gives access to education and training and other resources if women are to become financially independent and not susceptible to control and domination" (4:70).

Witnesses emphasized that the outcome of the royal commission should be a national work plan that would recommend permanent ways of eradicating violence against women. For example, recommendations should identify laws in need of reform or abrogation, policies requiring review, gaps in education and reforms in criminal justice, health, education and social support services.

Finally, most of the witnesses stressed that the royal commission on violence against women should be composed of representatives of women's groups. However, most did not envision it as constituted only of women. An eloquent call for including both men and women on the royal commission on violence against women was made by Eunadie Johnson, President of the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada:

"I want men to be part of it. I want them to hear; I want them to know; I want them to participate; I want them to have the commitment. I don't want women to constantly take the responsibility of violence against women. I want the whole House of Commons, every Parliamentarian, every politician, to be aware of the issue and to support any initiatives that will help eradicate violence against women... But women should control the committee (4:109).

The Committee endorses the recommendation of the many groups who appeared before it that a royal commission on violence against women should be established. The Committee is convinced that the issue must be put on the public agenda and its incidence and impact must be exposed in order that we, individually and societally, accept