



For Immediate Release
October 9, 2009

IMAGINE A WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE
October 12 to 21, 2009

YWCA Toronto is inviting communities to consider the impact that violence has on the lives of women and to imagine peace, as we celebrate the 13th annual Week Without Violence. Through a series of free conferences, musical events, and workshops we are encouraging women to recognize the signs of violence in their lives, work with young men to participate in ending gender based violence, and harness the power of community and end violence in our homes, schools, and neighbourhoods.

Event: **Week Without Violence High School Assemblies**
When: Throughout the week (call for more information)
Who: A range of speakers who have experienced violence share their personal journeys with high school students in school assemblies.

Event: **YWCA Dance Peace: The Dance it out Campaign**
When: Throughout the week
Where: Dance schools and clubs around Toronto
What: YWCA Toronto encourages everyone to dance out their anger and dance in the peace. Dance school instructors will take time this week to teach students to use dance as a tool to manage anger. Some schools will also open their space to the community to offer free dance classes. YWCA is harnessing the power of dance to build peace and raise awareness about violence against women in dance clubs and bars. DJs and nightclub owners are asked to ensure that their space is safe for women.

Event: **YWCA girlJAM6**
When: Wednesday October 14, 7pm (Doors 6pm)
Where: MYTH 417 Danforth Ave. (at Chester)
Who: Julie Kaven, Alison Long, Kaya Johnson, Songbird, Amai Kuda, Moeraes Fate
What: An all-ages music festival to end violence featuring young women performers - singers as young as seven will participate in this concert.

Event: **gIRLs Chatroom | The Power of Being a Girl Conference™**
When: Thursday October 15, 10am to 1pm
Where: Scarborough Civic Centre Council Chambers 150 Borough Dr.
Who: Lynn Glazier, director/producer of It's A Teen's World; Wired for Sex, Lies and Power Trips, YWCA Girls Council, The Miss G Project members, Xania Khan, Editor in Chief of Vervegirl and Fuel Inc. Careers Uncensored magazines.
What: Girls in Gr. 7 and 8 will hear from speakers, and then gather in small groups to share thoughts and ideas on issues that concern them. The discussions will be facilitated by young women. Each girl will receive YWCA's new "A Girl's Guide to Knowing Her Rights Zine." It is a panel-to-panel comic with the most up-to-date information on issues ranging from social networking, to bullying, to stalking and sexual health.



Event: **ChaiBerry presents a Spa Day @ YWCA 1st Stop Woodlawn Shelter**
When: Friday October 16th Set Up Day.
Where: YWCA Toronto 80 Woodlawn Ave. East
Who: Massage therapists and aestheticians from four companies will provide free treatments to women living at the shelter. The residence's lounge will be transformed into a spa for a day to create moments of peace and promote self care to women. Media are invited to the set up day, to maintain women's privacy during treatments on Saturday Oct. 17th

Event: **YWCA Dance Peace: Family Dance Party**
When: Saturday October 17, 4pm to 7pm
Where: Artists' Play Dance Theatre 1112 Dundas St. East
What: Open to all ages, families, to come out and dance out the anger, and dance in the peace.

Event: **Common Ground: Respect for Being a Boy | The Power of Being a Girl Conference™**
When: Wednesday October 21, 2009 9am to 4pm
Where: CNIB Conference Centre 1929 Bayview Ave.
Who: High school students from across the city
What: Hosted by YWCA Toronto and the White Ribbon Campaign and presented by OSSTF District 12, Common Ground is a free one day conference and a response to a broadly acknowledged need to "build common ground" between young women and young men in today's Toronto. In particular they focus on finding solutions to gender-based violence.

Week Without Violence is a world-wide effort led by YWCAs in over 90 countries. Last year, more than 86,000 people in over 600 schools, workplaces and neighbourhood organizations throughout Canada participated in events, conferences, town halls and arts programs aimed at making violence a thing of the past.

YWCA Toronto is the city's trusted multi-service organization by, for and about women and girls, serving 26,000 across the GTA each year. Week Without Violence is a major annual advocacy campaign, aiming to prevent the need for our services.

For more information, please call Raine Liliefeldt 416-961-8101 ext.326 or 416.660.9483
Interviews can be arranged with the speakers, musicians, or with young women who have been touched by violence.