

# MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE



What do Women with Disabilities and Deaf women need from gender studies and feminist researchers?

## What we know:

The key findings of a recent review\* by DAWN Canada of VAW literature in Canada revealed that:

### 1. Disability is absent in VAW information

VAW information available to the public rarely reflects an understanding of disability or Critical Feminist Disability (CFD) perspectives

VAW literature does not exclusively focus on women with disabilities. In some cases disability is only a footnote.

None of the literature reviewed exemplifies the use of an intersectional lens that incorporates disability as a key factor in enhancing understandings of VAW, its causes, consequences and potential remedies.

Disability is absent even in literature that otherwise acknowledges the importance of an intersectional approach and/or the identification of marginalized populations.

### 2. Noting disability as a gap in research can be tokenistic

Disability is sometimes noted as a gap in the literature or the research study being presented. While this may seem to be a good first step toward valuing the voices of women with disabilities, it may at the same time be construed as an easy, tokenistic practice that works to further marginalize and isolate women with disabilities and other vulnerable women who may experience disability.

DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada

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## 3. Disability as a risk for increased violence is unexplored

Some publications identify disability as a factor that increases the likelihood of experiencing VAW but provide little context as to how and why disability experiences increase vulnerability to VAW.

### CALL TO ACTION

- DAWN Canada calls on gender studies and feminist researchers to ensure that they use an inclusive and intersectional approach that centralizes the experiences of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their VAW research.
- We call on our Allies and Supporters in the disability community, women's movement and broader human rights sector to join in on-going actions to ensure that women with disabilities and Deaf women are no longer a footnote in research, programs, policies and services!
- Subscribe to our list: [morethanafootnote@dawncanada.net](mailto:morethanafootnote@dawncanada.net)
- Tweet and Facebook using the hashtag #MorethanafootnoteWWD

\* The anticipated publication date for this research paper is May 2018.

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