



For survivors, By Survivors

Supporting survivors of gender-based violence through recovery and beyond.

Information Package

SAFE – Survivor Advocates For Empowerment

Mailing address c/o: 726 Parker Crescent, Burlington, ON L7R 3A3

September 8, 2025

If you know someone who may need support, feel free to refer them directly to us via:

- Email: info@survivor-advocates.org
- Website: www.survivor-advocates.org
- Instagram: "safe_advocates"
- Facebook: "survivoradvocatesforempowerment"
- LinkedIn: "survivoradvocateshalton"
- YouTube: "@SAFE-SurvivorAdvocates"

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OVERVIEW

Survivor Advocates for Empowerment ("SAFE" or the "organization") is a survivor-led organization with a focus on supporting and advocating for survivors of gender-based violence.

The SAFE Committee is the heart and soul of SAFE. The Committee is made up of female-identified and non-binary survivors who are no longer in crisis. Their core focus is to provide support and services for survivors and their family members, educating the community through advocacy efforts and speaking engagements, and providing community consultations to organizations who service survivors.

SAFE began in the Halton region but has been slowly growing to provide services through as much of Ontario as possible. At this time, SAFE's main focus is on the Halton region, Hamilton and surrounding areas, and the Greater Toronto Area.

SAFE was incorporated on August 7, 2023 under the federal *Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*, SC 2009, c. 23. In our infancy stages, several activities are taking place to operationalize the Corporation. Tasks include but are not limited to: applying for charitable status, establishing by-laws and governance policies for the Corporation, recruiting Board members, and building out a fundraising schedule. All these initiatives are concurrently occurring as the SAFE team continues to support survivors at a grassroots level.

PURPOSE

SAFE's mission is to address and prevent specific barriers faced by victims and survivors of gender-based violence, their families, and their friends by providing:

1. Peer support, discussion groups, outreach programs, and workshops catered to the specific needs of survivors, as identified by survivors.
2. Educational programs to and consulting with community organizations about gender-based violence from the perspective of survivors with lived experience.

WHY SAFE EXISTS

By Survivors, For Survivors

Supporting survivors of gender-based violence through recovery and beyond.



Support

We pick you up where you are, and take you where you want to go



Advocacy

Advocating on behalf of people suffering from gender-based violence in the forums that matter



Facts

Provide relevant and timely resources based on a survivor's specific needs



Education

Survivor-led education of victims and the wider community

HOW SAFE SUPPORTS

SAFE's role is to assist survivors.

- SAFE acts as a companion and guide in helping individuals understand their options at whichever point they are at in their journey to safety and security.
- SAFE's survivor-led support model is rooted in providing 100% peer support through the entire process.
- SAFE will engage in community advocacy for survivors for the purpose of increasing awareness and improving existing services through peer support utilizing the survivor's voice.
- SAFE provides public education opportunities for survivors to identify violence and move towards recovery; and opportunities for non-survivors to understand violence and support the movement towards eradicating gender-based violence.

WHO SAFE SUPPORTS



Victims and Survivors

Female-identified, non-binary individuals who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV) or intimate partner violence (IPV).

SAFE supports these individuals to prevent them from before, during and after experiencing abuse.



Support Agencies and Law Enforcement

Professional agencies and police providing professional services to victims and survivors.

SAFE provides a survivor's voice in each step of engagement.



Community and Government

General public and government representatives.

SAFE organizes events to educate the public to recognize GBV and IPV, how to support those in need, and how we can work together to prevent it. SAFE also advocates for survivors to government representatives at all levels.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

SAFE is proud to be collaborating with several community organizations including:



Halton Women's Place
Healthy Relationships • Healthy Communities



THE WOMEN'S CENTRE
OF HALTON



RISE PROGRAM

Providing Support to Women Experiencing Abuse

**STRONGER TOGETHER:
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND SUPPORT**

Gender-Based Violence Affects Us All. So Does the Solution.

CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

SAFE is proud to hold certifications and memberships with the following organizations:



OUR STORY



We at SAFE found the strength along our journeys to speak up about gender-based violence and advocate for survivors.

Speaking up is an act of empowerment, bolstering our self-esteem and resilience, and enhancing our lives while we strive to transform the lives of others.

We are dedicated to working collaboratively with other agencies to influence policies, educate the Halton Community and empower other survivors, their loved ones, and those still in crisis.

SAFE NEWS

Consider subscribing to our monthly newsletter (SAFE News) so you:

Get the Scoop

Always be in the loop with the latest news and info that matters to SAFE. Think updates on laws, cool resources, and helpful tips.

Heads Up on Events

Get the lowdown on cool events like workshops, speaking engagements and events. Perfect for learning new stuff and meeting people.

Make a Difference

Hear about neat ways to get involved. Whether it's volunteering, spreading the word, or other cool projects, you can really make an impact.

Learn Lots

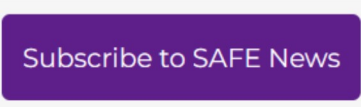
Expect awesome articles, interviews, and real-life stories that teach you a ton about what it's like for survivors and how to help.

Feel the Power

Regular doses of empowerment and inspiration to keep your spirits high and your motivation strong.

It's more than just a mailing list – it's a way to stay connected, informed, and ready to make a difference. Plus, it's pretty cool to be part of a community that cares!

Visit our website: www.survivor-advocates.org and locate this button at the bottom of the home page.



Subscribe to SAFE News

Complete your details to subscribe.

FUNDRAISING

SAFE is currently recruiting for a Chair of SAFE Fundraising and Events to lead the ambitious goals in 2025! Visit SAFE Event's page for details: <https://www.survivor-advocates.org/events>

DONATIONS

Your donation will help us achieve our goals.

SAFE is raising money to do 3 things:



1

Obtain Charitable Status

We need SAFE established and registered as a charitable organization so we can continue our mission of:

- Community engagement through peer support
- Community referrals
- Outreach programs and workshops
- Raising awareness through educational public speaking
- Consultation with local organizations and governments
- Active participation in community events
- Monitoring community needs

All of this being done with the aim of supporting those in crisis as well as those coming out of crisis.

2

To support the SAFE Committee

The SAFE Committee is a small group of survivors providing peer support and resources for victims, family members and loved ones of gender-based violence.

In essence, the SAFE Committee is the heart and soul of the organization. They are the individuals using their lived experience to advocate for and support survivors in the community.

3

To build and operationalize SAFE Programs

All of SAFE Programs help individuals in crisis, or recently out of crisis, to identify abusive behaviours, explore emotions, and plan towards long-term healing.

Importantly, all SAFE programs are created by survivors, for survivors. The underlying idea is to use the lived experience of survivors who have long been out of crisis, and are uniquely situated to provide survivor-centric guidance.

Learn more here: <https://www.survivor-advocates.org/programs>

How to donate

SAFE needs your donations to reach charitable status and continue our expansion in supporting victims and survivors of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence.



Donation link: <https://www.survivor-advocates.org/product/Donate>

Any donation big or small can make a tremendous difference.

You can also e-transfer SAFE at donations@survivor-advocates.org

Thank you again for your generosity and allyship.

FINANCIALS

SAFE established a Corporate Bank Account with Royal Bank of Canada on October 14, 2023.

As of SAFE's fiscal year end - July 31, 2025 - there was \$3,585.55 CAD in the account.

MEMBERS OF SAFE

Board of Directors

Currently, our Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:



You can read more about our Board of Directors here:

<https://www.survivor-advocates.org/about-us/board-of-directors>

One of our goals in 2025 is to recruit additional directors and various committee leaders. We will be looking for specific expertise in accounting, legal, insurance, community health and well being.

Message from the Board of Directors

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization. SAFE started off as a very small, Halton-based committee of survivors of gender-based violence. We have spent years volunteering any extra time we may have towards a common purpose: to provide survivor-centric support to folks in our community experiencing abuse, leaving an abusive situation, and recovering from the aftermath of violence. We have sought to fill a gap in our community; namely, the lack of awareness of gender-based violence and the fear, isolation, hopelessness, and uncertainty that comes from that. Adequate, culturally sensitive resources are minimal, and where they are plentiful, they are overwhelmingly so for someone who is on the path to recovery from trauma. That is where we come in.

SAFE provides peer support and we are uniquely situated to do so. We are intimately aware of the widespread impacts of gender-based violence from our own lived and shared experiences. We help survivors navigate the complexities of accessing resources and seeking help, and we teach survivors that recovery is possible. We do all of this from a compassionate and intersections lens, all the while amplifying the survivor's voice in our community through educational workshops, consultation with local organizations, and appearing as delegations before local governments.

After years of grassroots organizing on a small level, SAFE is proud to be growing and extending our reach. Your donation helps us do that. With your support, SAFE will be able to launch our own programs and workshops to support survivors across Ontario. We will be able to expand our services to provide more effective peer support and extend our consultative work and lobbying efforts. In short, your support will be integral to ensuring quality survivor-centric services to folks and their families across Ontario.

Please feel free to reach out to us directly by email: info@survivor-advocates.org if you have any questions about SAFE. We would be happy to tell you more about our work.

SAFE Committee



The SAFE Committee is a small group of survivors who provide peer support and resources for victims, family members and loved ones of gender-based violence. In essence, the SAFE Committee is the heart and soul of the corporation; they are the individuals using their lived experience to advocate for and support survivors in the community.

The SAFE Committee contact: Lorraine Rollo, Chair | lorraine@survivor-advocates.org

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