

## What is Take Back the Night?

Take Back the Night is an international event that is organized in local communities with the purpose of unifying women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families. The event is a coming together of communities and other interested persons who are ready to take a stand against violence and make our communities safe for everyone.

### THE HISTORY OF TAKE BACK THE NIGHT:

The first Take Back the Night event began in England in 1877 as a women joined together to protest against the violence and fear women encountered walking the streets at night. Based upon this event a similar event was organized in Germany in 1973 as a response to a series of sexual assaults, rapes and murders. Five years later the first U.S. Take Back The Night March was held in San Francisco; more than 5000 women from 30 states participated.

Since that time, Take Back the Night marches and events have been held internationally in all parts of the world. The message is the same throughout; many women are still not safe in their own communities. Incidents of family violence, rape and sexual assault are still all too common.

The Take Back the Night March is a way for communities to come together in a collective voice to call attention to the issue of violence against women. Although the march emphasizes that violence against women occurs at all times, historically it focused on concerns about violence at night.

There is no correct way to organize Take Back the Night community event. Organizers must decide for themselves what is most effective and empowering for their community. Some events are loud and noisy with chanting and singing, while others are carried out solemnly by candlelight. Many organizers have included a speak-out at their events to give survivors the opportunity to express themselves.



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Nunavutmi Anngnat Katimayit  
Nunavut Status of Women Council  
Le Conseil du statut de la femme du Nunavut

## SOME FACTS AROUND WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

Many women also feel worried when they are alone at home at night. 37% of women aged 15 and over reported feeling very or somewhat worried when they were alone in their homes in the evening or at night, three times the figure for men (12%).

Young women are the most likely to be worried when home alone in the evening or at night. 42% of women aged 15-24, compared with 39% of those aged 25-44, 37% of those aged 45-64, and 27% of senior women reported that they worried when they were alone in their homes in the evening or at night.

As well, women were generally more likely than men to have adopted these behaviors to protect themselves. In addition, many women routinely take measures to protect themselves from crime. For instance:

- 68% of women reported that they routinely locked their doors when alone.
- 58% planned their route for reasons of safety.
- 58% checked the back seat of their parked car before getting in.
- 24% stayed at home at night.
- 17% carried some kind of weapon.

Sexual abuse of women age 16 and over:

- 51% of women have been the victim of attempted rape.
- 40% reported at least one experience of rape.
- Two out of three women have experienced what is legally recognized to be sexual assault.
- 81% of sexual assault cases at the level of rape or attempted rape reported by women were perpetrated by men who were known to the women.

## SEXUAL ABUSE OF GIRLS (AGE 16 AND UNDER):

- More than one half (54%) of the women had experienced some form of unwanted or intrusive sexual experience before reaching the age of 16.
- 24% of the cases of sexual abuse were at the level of forced or attempted forced sexual intercourse.
- 17% of women reported at least one experience of incest before age 16.