

YOUTH STATEMENT: EVERY TWO HOURS: A SPECIAL REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPOSED TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN MANITOBA

JUNE 22, 2022

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is not just a problem for the adults involved. IPV affects children and youth both mentally and/or physically. It's not a child's responsibility to intervene, to be the protector between parents. Children are important too and do not deserve to witness violence. This report is very important as it provides us youth, a voice to hear us out. This affects us too.

Two things that really need to be improved for children are both awareness and resources. The current resources do not offer enough to the children involved, who need to be recognized as victims as well. Resources should be made immediately available, without delays or long wait times, to children involved in situations where they see violence between adults in their family. We need to put a spotlight on the children because so many times they are an afterthought or even missed. Children and youth need to know we are not alone and supporting us is just one way to show it.

It doesn't matter the age, kids remember and we don't forget. Sometimes it can lay dormant and show up later in adulthood. We learn from the adults around us what relationships are supposed to look like. We see violence between partners and grow up thinking it's normal. It is important to provide children and youth improved education on what healthy relationships are.

Our hearts go out to all the children and youth who are exposed to intimate partner violence. Our hope is to let them know they have the right to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. We want them to know they have the power to do something, and that help is there for them.

We need you, the adults, to show children and youth that we matter just as much as our caregivers. That we matter enough to protect us and support us. That we matter enough to give us the opportunity to not just simply live or exist, but to thrive. That all of us children and youth matter

YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVISORY SQUAD! (YAAS!)

MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OFFICE

