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THE PROJECT TO END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Media Monitoring during  
COVID-19:** Domestic violence,  
sexual violence, child abuse,  
women's rights, gender equality

July 2020

## OVERVIEW AND NOTE FOR USERS

Between December 1, 2019 and July 16, 2020, this document has been updated daily with the goal of compiling media updates related to domestic violence, sexual violence, child maltreatment, gender equality and women's rights during COVID-19 in selected countries. The objective of this process was to monitor and understand media coverage of these issues to inform the development and implementation of policies, programs, and approaches to prevent and address domestic violence, sexual violence, child maltreatment, and gender inequality in the context of COVID-19.

The report is divided according to topic area and country. If the news articles covered the global landscape (i.e., focused on more than a single country), they were included into the Worldwide section. Also, if relevant articles came up from countries other than the selected countries, they were included in the "Other countries" section but additional searches for these countries were not conducted. For more details on specific search terms and the list of selected countries, please see the Methods section. Although this review does not focus on research reports, information guides and/or academic articles, please see the Resources section for any websites and documents that emerged during our search.

The collected data was not analyzed, but can be used to explore a variety of research questions that center around understanding predominant issues covered by the media in relation to domestic/sexual violence and child maltreatment in the context of COVID-19, and how diverse stakeholders can use these findings to inform prevention and intervention strategies during times of crisis and disaster.

If you have any suggestions about our methodology, the websites included in our search, and/or have a news story that we have missed, please contact [lmwells@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmwells@ucalgary.ca).

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## 1.0 Methods

To capture media coverage of relevant topics, Google Search advanced tools were used. The search was narrowed to “News” only between December 1, 2019 and July 16, 2020. Researchers adjusted their location each time they conducted a search to capture news associated with a selected country. As a result, all key words below were searched for each country separately. In addition, media searches were conducted for each country/word combination every 24 hours and this document was updated on a daily basis.

The following countries have been covered (in no particular order):

Canada	United States of America	Spain
United Kingdom	Australia	France
Ireland	Norway	Italy
Wales	Sweden	China
Scotland	Finland	

The following topic areas with associated keywords have been used during the search:

1. Domestic Violence	2. Sexual Violence	3. Child Abuse	4. Women's Rights	5. Gender Equality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Gender-based violence” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Family violence” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Coercive control” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Domestic violence” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Domestic abuse” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Intimate partner violence or IPV” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Violence against women” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Coercive behaviour” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Controlling behaviour” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Intimate terrorism” and “COVID”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Sexual Assault” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Sexual Harassment” “COVID”</li> <li>• “Sexual Abuse” “COVID”</li> <li>• “Rape” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Sexual Violence” and “COVID”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Child abuse” and “COVID”</li> <li>• “Child maltreatment” and “COVID”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Women’s rights” and “COVID”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Gender equality” and “COVID”</li> </ul>



## 2.0 Domestic violence and COVID-19 by country

### Canada

1. July 15, 2020; EVA Canada endorses Joint Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women: COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence against women; <https://endingviolencecanada.org/eva-canada-endorses-joint-submission-to-the-united-nations-special-rapporteur-on-violence-against-women-covid-19-and-the-increase-of-domestic-violence-against-women/>
2. July 15, 2020; Sexual health and domestic violence during COVID-19; <https://www.med.ubc.ca/news/sexual-health-and-domestic-violence-during-covid-19/>
3. July 14, 2020; Gender-Based Violence Is the 'Pandemic Within a Pandemic'; <https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/07/14/Angela-Marie-MacDougall-Gender-Based-Violence-Pandemic/>
4. July 14, 2020; Domestic violence, burglary calls rise in Kamloops during pandemic; <https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/news/domestic-violence-burglary-calls-rise-in-kamloops-during-pandemic-1.24169952>
5. July 14, 2020; Why Many Marriages May Not Survive a Second Wave; <https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/happy-singlehood/202007/why-many-marriages-may-not-survive-second-wave>
6. July 13, 2020; Domestic assault reports in Thunder Bay rise during pandemic; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/domestic-assault-reports-in-thunder-bay-rise-during-pandemic-1.5647489>
7. July 8, 2020; New app aids women in violent relationships; <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-app-aids-women-violent-relationships.html>
8. July 7, 2020; New app aids women in violent relationships; <https://news.westernu.ca/2020/07/new-app-aids-women-in-violent-relationships/>
9. July 6, 2020; Donation drive for women's shelters and transition homes on July 10; <https://voiceonline.com/donation-drive-for-womens-shelters-and-transition-homes-on-july-10/>
10. July 6, 2020; Government of Canada Increases Funding for Women and their Families in St. Catharines; <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-increases-funding-for-women-and-their-families-in-st-catharines-840584975.html>
11. July 6, 2020; How your old cell phone could save a life; <https://www.cochranetoday.ca/local-news/how-your-old-cell-phone-could-save-a-life-2544536>
12. July 6, 2020; COVID-19 brings home how partner violence affects diverse people; <https://theprovince.com/opinion/columnists/douglas-todd-covid-19-brings-home-how-partner-violence-affects-diverse-people/wcm/9dbf0d6f-0036-4dd9-9c04-779b8ab7ca2>
13. July 4, 2020; Gender-based violence amid COVID-19 is B.C.'s shadow pandemic; <https://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/dr-bevan-hughes-gender-based-violence-amid-covid-19-is-b-c-s-shadow-pandemic>
14. July 2, 2020; Increase in domestic violence calls persists throughout pandemic, says non-profit; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/violence-prevention-east-val-barter-domestic-covid-1.5632993>
15. July 1, 2020; Pandemic highlights hurdles limiting access to justice; <https://www.ft.com/content/ad974842-b22d-11ea-94fc-9a676a727e5a>
16. June 29, 2020; Isolation, barriers related to COVID-19 force specialized domestic violence unit to adapt; <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/0623-dcrt-update>



17. June 28, 2020; Specialized domestic violence unit had to adapt to new COVID-19 challenges; <https://calgarysun.com/news/local-news/0623-dcrt-update/wcm/a828ba52-647c-4af9-af4c-d125ac70d133>
18. June 27, 2020; Shelter Movers helps women flee abusive homes; <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/shelter-movers-helps-women-flee-abusive-homes/>
19. June 27, 2020; Community Foundation accepting ECSF applications; <https://medicinehatnews.com/news/southern-alberta-news/2020/06/27/community-foundation-accepting-ecsf-applications/>
20. June 27, 2020; Shelter Movers helps women flee abusive homes; <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/shelter-movers-helps-women-flee-abusive-homes/>
21. June 26, 2020; A Measure of Protection for Potential Victims of Domestic Abuse; <https://www.swiftcurrentonline.com/local/a-measure-of-protection-for-potential-victims-of-domestic-abuse>
22. June 26, 2020; COVID-19 increases risk for Canada's 'invisible' homeless women: study; <https://www.mapleridgenews.com/news/covid-19-increases-risk-for-canadas-invisible-homeless-women-study/>
23. June 24, 2020; Twitter tackles violent upsurge against women in lockdown; <https://o.canada.com/pmnl/news-pmnl/crime-pmnl/twitter-tackles-violent-upsurge-against-women-in-lockdown/wcm/bc932b27-f185-46de-84e9-b8e246dea03b>
24. June 23, 2020; Gay, lesbian and bisexual teens in lockdown at increased risk, new research shows; <https://www.concordia.ca/news/stories/2020/06/23/gay-lesbian-and-bisexual-teens-in-lockdown-at-increased-risk-new-research-shows.html>
25. June 23, 2020; The Not Without Us Project: Domestic violence and accessibility in Nova Scotia; <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/the-not-without-us-project-domestic-violence-and-accessibility-in-nova-scotia/>
26. June 22, 2020; Violence top concern for Indigenous women during pandemic; <https://www.caledonenterprise.com/news-story/10039736-violence-top-concern-for-indigenous-women-during-pandemic/>
27. June 22, 2020; Possible rise in domestic violence incidents during COVID-19 pandemic; <https://www.mymcmurray.com/2020/06/22/possible-rise-in-domestic-violence-incident-during-covid-19-pandemic/>
28. June 22, 2020; Women May Delay Leaving an Abusive Partner if They Co-Own a Pet; <https://news.yahoo.com/women-may-delay-leaving-abusive-203000940.html>
29. June 20, 2020; Don't forget about kids: An open letter for children and youth during pandemic recover; <https://vancouversun.com/opinion/dont-forget-about-kids-an-open-letter-for-children-and-youth-during-pandemic-recovery>
30. June 19, 2020; Domestic violence victims have long endured the isolation of the lockdowns; <https://ricochet.media/en/3191/domestic-violence-victims-have-long-endured-the-isolation-of-lockdown>
31. June 19, 2020; Domestic violence calls to Hamilton police have increased during COVID-19; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/inasmuch-1.5613869>
32. June 18, 2020; Domestic violence support line welcome in Newfoundland, but it missed height of COVID-19 pandemic, advocates say; <https://www.thetelegram.com/news/local/domestic-violence-support-line-welcome-but-missed-height-of-covid-19-pandemic-advocates-say-463491/>
33. June 18, 2020; Canada boosts pandemic assistance to PHL, Asean; <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/18/canada-boosts-pandemic-assistance-to-phl-asean/>
34. June 17, 2020; Connectivity: a critical digital lifeline for women in Southwestern Ontario experiencing domestic violence during COVID-19; <https://www.globenewswire.com/news->



- [release/2020/06/17/2049454/0/en/Connectivity-a-critical-digital-lifeline-for-women-in-Southwestern-Ontario-experiencing-domestic-violence-during-COVID-19.html](https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/06/17/2049454/0/en/Connectivity-a-critical-digital-lifeline-for-women-in-Southwestern-Ontario-experiencing-domestic-violence-during-COVID-19.html)
35. June 15, 2020; Why would COVID-19 play out differently?; <https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/06/15/why-would-covid-19-play-out-differently/252547>
  36. June 15, 2020; Rogers family donates \$60 million to help most vulnerable Canadians dealing with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic; <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/06/15/2048118/0/en/Rogers-family-donates-60-million-to-help-most-vulnerable-Canadians-dealing-with-the-economic-fallout-from-the-COVID-19-pandemic.html>
  37. June 14, 2020; 'Signal for help' campaign aims to assist abuse victims in quarantine; <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/signal-for-help-campaign-231436626.html>
  38. June 11, 2020; Non-profit refutes RCMP domestic violence stats; <https://www.airdrietoday.com/local-news/non-profit-refutes-rcmp-domestic-violence-stats-2418094>
  39. June 11, 2020; Inuit women's organization steps up call for police reform; <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/inuit-womens-organization-steps-up-call-for-police-reform/>
  40. June 11, 2020; YWCA Alberta warns province its economic recovery plan must include women and girls; <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/ywca-alberta-economic-recovery-women-girls>
  41. June 10, 2020; Canada leads 30 countries in gender-responsive COVID-19 action: report- <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2020/06/10/canada-leads-30-countries-in-gender-responsive-covid-19-action-report/>
  42. June 9, 2020; Column: Time of upheaval also an opportunity for positive change; <https://www.saobserver.net/columns/column-time-of-upheaval-also-an-opportunity-for-positive-change/> (family violence)
  43. June 9, 2020; Connectivity a critical digital lifeline for Atlantic Canadian women experiencing domestic abuse during COVID-19; <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/06/09/2045498/0/en/Connectivity-a-critical-digital-lifeline-for-Atlantic-Canadian-women-experiencing-domestic-abuse-during-COVID-19.html>
  44. June 5, 2020; Canada: No Surge In Domestic Violence Cases During COVID-19 Lockdown — But It's Happening; <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/family-law/948220/no-surge-in-domestic-violence-cases-during-covid-19-lockdown-but-it39s-happening>
  45. June 5, 2020; Government delays Divorce Act amendments coming into force in response to requests from justice partners due to COVID-19 pandemic; <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-delays-divorce-act-amendments-coming-into-force-in-response-to-requests-from-justice-partners-due-to-covid-19-pandemic-844823233.html>
  46. June 5, 2020; Amnesty International urges Canada to lead a feminist, global response to COVID-19 crisis; <https://www.canadianlawyermag.com/practice-areas/labour-and-employment/amnesty-international-urges-canada-to-lead-a-feminist-global-response-to-covid-19-crisis/330251>
  47. June 5, 2020; Strategic Considerations for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on key population-Focused HIV Programs; <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/strategic-considerations-mitigating-impact-covid-19-key-population-focused-hiv-programs>
  48. June 4, 2020; Canada grants CDN\$400,000 to strengthen Sri Lanka's response to COVID-19 pandemic; <https://menafn.com/1100271913/Canada-grants-CDN400000-to-strengthen-Sri-Lankas-response-to-COVID-19-pandemic>
  49. June 3, 2020; "The COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to reimagine human mobility"; <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/covid-19-crisis-opportunity-reimagine-human-mobility>
  50. June 3, 2020; NEWS: Federal delay of MMIWG action plan sparks dismay ahead of inquiry anniversary; <https://theturtleislandnews.com/index.php/2020/06/03/news-federal-delay-of-mmiwg-action-plan-sparks-dismay-ahead-of-inquiry-anniversary/> (gender based violence)





51. June 3, 2020; No surge in domestic violence cases during COVID-19 lockdown — but it's happening; <https://business.financialpost.com/legal-post/no-surge-in-domestic-violence-cases-during-covid-19-lockdown-but-its-happening>
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53. June 2, 2020; New rules modernize family court in 2021; <https://ckpgtoday.ca/2020/06/02/new-rules-modernize-family-court-in-2021/>
54. June 14, 2020; The pandemic is hurting some more than others. How to address the hidden harms of COVID-19; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/angela-power-opinion-addressing-hidden-harms-covid-19-1.5599925>
55. June 10, 2020; Opinion: Policy Options for Defunding the Police & Creating Alternative Services of Safety and Support; [http://rosslandtelegraph.com/news/opinion-policy-options-defunding-police-creating-alternative-services-safety-and-support#.Xuo\\_BdrQiUk](http://rosslandtelegraph.com/news/opinion-policy-options-defunding-police-creating-alternative-services-safety-and-support#.Xuo_BdrQiUk)
56. May 26, 2020; I built a chatbot to make it easier to talk about family and sexual violence. Here's why; <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/soapbox/i-built-a-chatbox-to-make-it-easier-to-talk-about-family-and-sexual-violence-heres-why/>
57. May 26, 2020; At 61, I'm finally free of my mother's abuse: Ask Ellie; <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/opinion-story/9996887-at-61-i-m-finally-free-of-my-mother-s-abuse-ask-ellie/>
58. May 26, 2020; COVID-19: U of T researchers seek to protect women from abuse with re-tooled safety app; <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/app-built-u-t-researchers-re-tooled-protect-women-domestic-violence-during-covid-19>
59. May 25, 2020; Calls to Anova double as pandemic restrictions ease; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-anova-numbers-double-pandemic-restrictions-lift-1.5580635>
60. May 25, 2020; What you need to know about COVID-19 in Alberta on Monday, May 25; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/what-you-need-to-know-alberta-may-25-1.5583186> (24-hour family violence information line)
61. May 25, 2020; The prices and penalties women pay in a pandemic; <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/the-prices-and-penalties-women-pay-in-a-pandemic/>
62. May 25, 2020; Call for 'coercive control' law to help prevent abuse and events like N.S. mass shooting; <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/25/news/call-coercive-control-law-help-prevent-abuse-and-events-ns-mass-shooting>
63. May 25, 2020; COVID-19 Updates: Calgary restaurants, hair salons prepare to reopen | Alberta announces 42 new cases; <https://calgaryherald.com/news/covid-19-updates-alberta-reports-18-new-cases-calgary-to-reopen-playgrounds-by-june-1/wcm/72532ed4-7a97-42df-b35d-7135b3221028/> (CWES has partnered with a hotel chain in Calgary to offer shelter for women)
64. May 25, 2020; Your letters for May 25; <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/letters/your-letters-for-may-25-2/>
65. May 25, 2020; One new case of COVID-19 in N.S. Monday; <https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/one-new-case-of-covid-19-in-ns-monday-2374941>
66. May 25, 2020; Coroner suggests more training for police after examining murder of Quebec woman; <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/coroner-suggests-more-training-for-police-after-examining-murder-of-quebec-woman-1.4953325>
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68. May 24, 2020; Domestic violence tactics allegedly used by N.S. shooter could become a crime; [https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/coercive-control-domestic-violence\\_ca\\_5ecadcd1c5b6065ca9f0908b](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/coercive-control-domestic-violence_ca_5ecadcd1c5b6065ca9f0908b)
69. May 24, 2020; Demand for Ottawa app helping domestic violence victims doubled in first month; <https://www.ottawamatters.com/police-beat/demand-for-ottawa-app-helping-domestic-violent-victims-doubled-in-first-month-2373887>
70. May 23, 2020; Red Deer man charged with attempted murder following domestic assault; <https://globalnews.ca/news/6978404/alberta-rcmp-fort-mcmurray-domestic-violence/>
71. May 23, 2020; Did we miss the Nova Scotia shooting warning signs — or dismiss them?; <https://globalnews.ca/news/6932387/nova-scotia-shooting-warning-signs/> (shooting case started with domestic violence)
72. May 22, 2020; Iris Kirby House numbers during pandemic are down, but intensity of violence is increasing; <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/canada/iris-kirby-house-numbers-during-pandemic-are-down-but-intensity-of-violence-is-increasing-452630/> (numbers during pandemic are down but intensity of violence is increasing)
73. May 22, 2020; New domestic violence shelter serving area west of Edmonton; <https://www.sprucegroveexaminer.com/news/provincial/new-domestic-violence-shelter-serving-area-west-of-edmonton>
74. May 22, 2020; Halifax domestic violence court to reopen for remote hearing; <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/local/halifax-domestic-violence-court-to-reopen-for-remote-hearings-452802/>
75. May 22, 2020; Violence 'is actually on the rise' and prevention should be part of Canada's COVID-19 recovery plan, ombudsman for victims of crime warns; <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9995003-violence-is-actually-on-the-rise-and-prevention-should-be-part-of-canada-s-covid-19-recovery-plan-ombudsman-for-victims-of-crime-warns/>
76. May 22, 2020; Calgary shelter partners with hotel chain to aid victims of domestic violence; <https://calgaryherald.com/news/calgr-partners-with-hotel-chain-to-aid-victims-of-domestic-violence/>
77. May 22, 2020; Domestic abuse text service sees surge in demand; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/unsafe-at-home-ottawa-1.5579673>
78. May 22, 2020; This domestic abuse survivor wants status of women minister present at COVID-19 briefings; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/status-of-women-minister-covid-briefings-1.5579319>
79. May 21, 2020; Increased Violence Against Women During COVID-19 Leads to Jump in Emergency Boarding for Pets; <https://endingviolence.org/increased-violence-against-women-during-covid-19-leads-to-jump-in-emergency-boarding-for-pets/>
80. May 21, 2020; Applying terror laws to incel violence must not 'distract' from everyday misogyny women face: expert; <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-may-21-2020-1.5577286/applying-terror-laws-to-incel-violence-must-not-distract-from-everyday-misogyny-women-face-expert-1.5578957>
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82. May 21, 2020; Delta police not seeing rise in domestic violence calls; <https://www.northdeltareporter.com/opinion/seeing-rise-in-domestic-violence-calls/>
83. May 21, 2020; Saskatoon police continue to see rise in domestic violence calls, post COVID-19; <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-police-continue-to-see-rise-in-domestic-violence-calls-post-covid-19-1.5578323>



84. May 21, 2020; Rise in assaults attributed partly to COVID-related domestic violence, police commission hears; <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/rise-in-assaults-attributed-partly-to-covid-related-domestic-violence-police-commission-hears/>
85. May 20, 2020; The hidden crisis of COVID-19: the kids are not alright; <https://www.hilltimes.com/2020/05/20/the-hidden-crisis-of-covid-19-the-kids-are-not-alright/248608> (on children, you need to subscribe to read it)
86. May 20, 2020; Women's shelter opens in Morinville 11 years after namesake killed by domestic partner; <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/morinville-alberta-shelter-domestic-violence/>
87. May 20, 2020; Phones for violence victims; <https://www.castanet.net/news/BC/300494/Tnates-600-phones-to-Ending-Violence-Association-of-B-C>
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## 3.0 Sexual Violence and COVID-19 by country

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## 4.0 Child Abuse

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## 5.0 Women's Rights and Gender Equality

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81. March 13, 2020; How coronavirus hits women ; <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/women-rule/2020/03/13/how-coronavirus-hits-women-488584>



## 6.0 Other Resources

Resources on Gender-Based Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

<http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/ourwork/Resources%20on%20GenderBased%20Violence%20and%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic.html>

[https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resourcepdf/COVID19\\_impact\\_brief\\_for\\_UNFPA\\_24\\_April\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resourcepdf/COVID19_impact_brief_for_UNFPA_24_April_2020_1.pdf)

