



# NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Instant Meeting: Rangers

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada

## Table of Contents

<i>Background Information for Guiders</i> .....	2
<i>Using this Instant Meeting</i> .....	3
<i>Discussion/Reflection Questions</i> .....	3
<i>Get Informed</i> .....	3
<i>Quiet Activity</i> .....	4
<i>Be Active</i> .....	4
<i>Creative Expressions</i> .....	4
<i>Outreach</i> .....	5
<i>Debriefing/Closing</i> .....	5
<i>Where it Fits</i> .....	5





## Day of Action – Montréal Massacre Instant Meeting: Rangers

### *Background Information for Guiders*

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Geneviève Bergeron, 21          | Hélène Colgan, 23      |
| Nathalie Croteau, 23            | Barbara Daigneault, 22 |
| Anne-Marie Edward 21            | Maud Haviernick, 29    |
| Barbara Klucznik Widajewicz, 31 | Maryse Laganière, 25   |
| Maryse Leclair, 23              | Anne-Marie Lemay, 27   |
| Sonia Pelletier, 23             | Michèle Richard, 21    |
| Annie St-Arneault, 23           | Annie Turcotte, 21     |

These are the 14 young women who, on Dec. 6, 1989, were killed at the École Polytechnique in Montreal in what became know as the Montreal Massacre.

The anniversary of their deaths has been designated the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against women to remind us that dozens of women die violently every year in this country.

The murder of these women was not an isolated act of violence. Violence against women exists in many forms in homes, in schools, in workplaces and in the community. This violence can be stopped by working to make violence against women unacceptable and by working to achieve equality between men and women.

Read through the Day of Action Toolkit. It provides a lot of information and many resources about violence against women. Together with information you gather about your own community, it will assist you in using this Instant Meeting with your Rangers. As long as the Rangers are interested and involved in the planning and organizing, your Day of Action activities will be successful!

Once your unit has successfully completed a Day of Action Event, either based on one of the activities from the toolkit or something you have created yourselves, you are then entitled to the Girl Guides of Canada Purple Ribbon Crest. The crest illustrates that your unit has worked together in the fight against violence against women. You can purchase your crests at your local guide store or on-line at [www.thegirlguidestore.ca](http://www.thegirlguidestore.ca)

It is recommended that you review the Ranger program to identify where your Day of Action activities relate to the program areas and the possibility to attain further challenges.





## ***Using this Instant Meeting***

This Instant Meeting offers many activities that you can choose to do. Some require planning and organizing and some can be done with just the information presented here.

As you and your Rangers plan your Day of Action meeting, review the activities and decide which ones would be suitable for or of interest to you. Then you can mix and match activities to create a meeting that fills your meeting time.

You may want to open and close your meeting in the same way you always do or you might want to create a special opening or closing for this meeting. The Discussion/Reflection Questions can help you with that.

The Outreach activities are focused on marking the Day of Action, December 6<sup>th</sup>. You might want to use the other ideas, such as the Get Informed, Quiet Activities and Take Action, to plan a meeting that allows the Rangers to learn about the Montreal Massacre and then follow it up with participation in a Day of Action event in your community.

## ***Discussion/Reflection Questions***

- What is violence against women?
- What are the different forms of violence against women?
- What is a “massacre?”
- How does society, through news media, popular culture and government, view violence against women?
- How does society, through news media, popular culture and government, perpetuate violence against women?
- Why do you think that some people feel the Day of Remembrance and Action is “controversial”?
- How is violence against women related to gender inequality?
- What has changed for women since 1989? What has stayed the same?
- What does the word “feminist” mean to you?
- What does the word “sexism” mean to you?
- Can better gun control stop incidents like the Montreal Massacre from happening?

## ***Get Informed***

These websites give detailed descriptions of the Montreal Massacre that can help you learn about what happened on December 6, 1989. Use these websites to start a discussion about violence against women.

[http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/notorious\\_murders/mass/marc\\_lepine/index.html](http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/notorious_murders/mass/marc_lepine/index.html)

<http://www.mistressofmydomain.com/candle/vaw.html>

[http://www.gendercide.org/case\\_montreal.html](http://www.gendercide.org/case_montreal.html)



## ***Quiet Activity***

**Documenting Reality** – A documentary can be a great way to learn about a topic. The National Film Board of Canada has a 27 minute movie called “After the Montreal Massacre” directed by Gerry Rogers that discusses this topic from the point of view of the people who were there and the reporters who told the story live. This documentary helps viewers to understand the murders and how they relate to the larger issue of violence against women. You can probably get this movie from your library – though you may have to request it.

It’s useful to have one or two people preview the movie and write up discussion questions about it. Then, show the entire unit and talk about it afterwards.

**In the News** – On the CBC archives site, you can find short news clips from the day of the Montreal Massacre and the follow up news reports in the days following.

Watch some of the clips and talk about how the story was reported, what the camera focused on and why, what questions or comments were made by the journalists and why, how the issue of violence against women was dealt with, how the story changed over time (watching clips in chronological order), etc.

[http://archives.cbc.ca/society/crime\\_justice/topics/398/](http://archives.cbc.ca/society/crime_justice/topics/398/)

## ***Be Active***

**Spread the Word** – Write opinion pieces, articles or letters to the editor about violence against women and December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Write about what happened in 1989, what continues to happen to girls and women today and what actions we can take to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

Send them to local and national newspapers, magazines or radio or TV stations.

**Act it Out** – The best way to spread the message that violence against women is not acceptable is to not put up with sexist talk or jokes from the people around you. However, this can be difficult because it requires you to stand up to your friends and family. Work together to create scenarios such as what to do when Uncle Jack starts telling his famous blond jokes at Thanksgiving dinner. Then, help each other out. Develop ideas on how to stand up for your beliefs in these situations and then practice them together.

## ***Creative Expressions***

**Gender, Violence and the Media** – Collect a wide variety of magazines that can be cut up. Make sure these magazines show many different women in lots of different activities.

Flip through the magazines and look for pictures of women. How are the women represented? What messages are the pictures giving about women? Are there more negative or positive representations? Is society desensitized towards negative images – do we not even notice violent images? How often do you notice the negative images throughout the day?

As a unit, cut out the pictures and make two collages, one that shows negative images of women including sex and violence and one that shows positive images of women.

Display your collages in your community – at your local library, school or meeting place.



**Get Creative** – Use film, music, art, spoken word, dance or any other creative form to advocate or educate on violence against women.

## ***Outreach***

**Guest Speaker** – Invite someone from your local women’s centre, shelter or coalition to come to your unit and talk to you about December 6<sup>th</sup> and violence against women. When you call to invite her, ask if you can do anything to support their work.

**Day of Action** – Contact your local women’s centre, shelter or coalition to find out what events they are planning for December 6. They often plan activities such as learning seminars, rallies, marches or remembrance ceremonies. Ask if there is something you can do to assist with their event. For example, they may need programs put together, posters distributed or even help during the event.

## ***Debriefing/Closing***

**Stones of Activism** – Get a bag of stones – collect them from your garden or buy some from a craft / garden / flower store. Show the bag of stones to the unit and explain that you are going to pass the bag of stones around the circle for everyone to take a stone. Tell them that they should each use their stone of activism to build a strong building of change. They should keep their stone somewhere to remind themselves that they CAN make a difference. As the bag is being passed around, each person will take their stone and say something that they’ll take with them from the meeting.

Please share this message with all the Rangers, kids and teens you know.

**If you are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, please get help. Talk to a parent, teacher, friend or counselor. You can also phone the Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

## ***Where it Fits***

Community Connections  
Healthy Living  
Ranger Service Project

