

File No.: 04-1000-20-2019-198

April 18, 2019

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of March 19, 2019 for:

All letters and email that Council received in support or in opposition regarding Vancouver Rape Relief between March 11, 2019 to March 19, 2019.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out), under s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download this section here:
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2019-198); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,



Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

*If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

:pm

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:14:58 PM
Subject: 2019-2020 city grant for Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

I am a supporter and donor to Rape Relief Which has been working for over 40 years to combat violence against women in our city.

I am urging Mayor and Councillors to vote yes to continued funding of the excellent public education which Rape Relief does .

Thank you

s.22(1)

Resident of Vancouver

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:31:58 PM
Subject: 2019-2020 funding for Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

I am a supporter of and donor to Rape Relief (over40years Of,Work)
For their work in combating violence against women.

I am urging our Mayor and Councillors to vote yes for continued funding of the work and public
education dome by Rape Relief.

Thank you

s.22(1)

Vancouver resident

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:09:53 PM
Subject: 2019-2020 Rape Relief and Women's Shelter City grant

I am a supporter of and donor to Rape Relief , a 40+yr organization, in all the work they do to combat violence against women .

I am urging Mayor and all Councillors to vote for continued city grant assistance for the important public education work which Rape ReLief does.

Thank you

s.22(1)

Longtime Vancouver City resident

From: s.22(1)

To: "Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/19/2019 4:16:46 AM

Subject: Appalling decision to defund Vancouver Rape Relief

To whom it concerns

I, along with many many people around the world am absolutely appalled and shocked you have defunded Vancouver Rape Relief, particulatrly due to the harrasment of Morgane Oger who brags about their behaviour on twitter

You have failed the most vulnerable women and girls in your city, and appear to be proud of this decision. You have shown contempt for them and that they do not matter to you.

You need to take a long hard look at your priorities.

This is is shameful decision that history will judge you all for

s.22(1)

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From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:53:39 PM

Subject: City of Vancouver Funding

Hello

I am writing to express my gratitude and support to the city of Vancouver for allocating much needed funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter to do public education work. In light of the "me too" movement and the public discourse on male violence against women Rape Relief provides a unique and essential voice in speaking out and education on violence against women all the while also running a rape crisis line and transition house for battered women and their children.

Thank You,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen"
Date: 3/13/2019 4:50:45 PM
Subject: City public education funding

Vancouver Rape relief and women shelter has been part of this community from many years and work they are doing to educate public is great and valuable as I've personally attended many of their events.

As Rape Relief's funding for public education is under review, this year city staff have recommended that they receive this funding and I would like to write in support of this proposal. As to support them in keep doing the important work of educating the public about violence against women.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 10:38:26 AM

Subject: Community and Social Grants Vote

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you today because I care deeply about access to gender inclusive front line services for trans and gender variant people in Vancouver.

I am asking that you amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to approval. Specifically, I ask you to amend the recommendation in order to deny the award of a Direct Social Services Grant to Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS) as the organization does not meet the basic grant eligibility.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief Society, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant, has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."

Vancouver Rape Relief advocated to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16, claiming that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women."

This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

In 2015 Vancouver city council passed a motion titled "Ensuring Trans* Equality and an Inclusive

Vancouver" which underlined a commitment to "equity, diversity and inclusion by tackling forms of exclusion and discrimination for trans*, gender variant and two-spirit people."

I am calling upon Vancouver City Council to renew and enact this commitment by not awarding VRR this grant and instead awarding it to a rape shelter like Women Against Violence Against Women which not only provides inclusive services for women and gender variant people escaping violence in the GVRD but also advocates for social change as part of their mandate.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

References

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16 <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

"Women Only Spaces" Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

rddd

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/14/2019 8:15:52 AM
Subject: Community Service Grant for Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Councillor Swanson,

I am a resident of East Vancouver who has been following last night's council meeting, particularly Item 8, with interest. I see that there has been pressure to deny a \$34,312 community service grant to Vancouver Rape Relief, Canada's oldest rape crisis centre, on the grounds that it does not serve transwomen and that it opposes sex work.

For 45 years, the dedicated staff and volunteers at Vancouver Rape Relief have provided thousands of female abuse victims with services that they cannot obtain elsewhere. To this day, VRR is the only local organization with a transition house that has provided safety for abused women. Withholding funding from VRR does not help transwomen; it merely deprives female victims of abuse of needed services. The best way to help transwomen is to fund services that are designed to address their particular needs. I am pleased to see that several organizations that provide such services, such as QMUNITY, WAVAW, and Battered Women's Support Services, are up for grants totalling at least \$183,930. Similarly, several organizations that help sex workers operate more safely - including the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society, HIM, Providing Alternatives, Counselling & Education Society Vancouver, SWAN Vancouver, and WISH Drop-In Centre Society - are up for grants totalling at least \$337,969.

No organization can be all things to all people; in a city such as Vancouver, it is extremely valuable to have a variety of services that together can meet the needs of a diverse population. Vancouver Rape Relief's approach has allowed its staff to direct their energy toward providing unique services to women whose needs are not met by other local organizations.

I hope that you will not give in to political pressure to withhold a grant from Canada's oldest rape crisis centre, and that you will vote to provide \$34,312 in funding to an organization that has a decades-long record of serving female victims of violence.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)


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From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 6:38:12 PM
Subject: Community Services Grant- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

To Councillor Swanson,

I'm writing to request your continued public support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. The City of Vancouver has given the community services grant for more than a decade to fund the public education work of Rape Relief- to engage the public in conversation with the aim of ending violence against women, such as their annual Montreal Massacre Memorial conference, and most recently, their International Women's Day event.

I urge the continued tradition in 2019 from the city, to carry on Rape Relief's work in the community.

I appreciate you taking time out of your day to secure the funding of their important work.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:39:27 PM

Subject: Constituent letter of support for VRR public ed grant

Dear Vancouver City Councillors,

As a decision on whether or not to extend a public education grant to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter will be before the council in the near future, I am writing (as a constituent) to urge you to continue your support.

It is my understanding that over roughly a decade VRR has used public funding to provide educational events in the community. The content in these events has broadened my understanding of how violence against women (in conjunction with other forms of discrimination) fits into our cultural landscape. It is very important to me that this work continue.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean"
Date: 3/13/2019 2:28:11 PM
Subject: Continued Support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear City official:

I am writing to express my support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (VRRWS) and encourage the City of Vancouver to continue to offer this organization a grant to continue their important public education work.

VRRWS provides incredible support and services for women and children fleeing male violence, and I've seen first hand the incredible impact they've had on women's lives. Their work is admirable and much needed in our community.

Thank you for your continued financial support of this essential organization.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean"
Date: 3/13/2019 2:28:03 PM
Subject: Critical Public Education Funding

As a resident of Vancouver I have personally attended multiple public events by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's' Shelter. They are absolutely instrumental in the conversation about violence against women.

The city staff have again recommend that Rape Relief receive this funding and I would like to write in support of this proposal.

Best Regards,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/15/2019 10:30:30 AM
Subject: decision at last nights meeting

I remember in the s.22(1) attending a ELP workshop on poverty in Canada. You were running it, as a young working class kid I appreciated the analysis that poverty was not my fault and that a precious few owned the majority of the wealth. So my disappointment in your lack of a nuanced feminist analysis as you did for your anti-poverty work was pretty deep.

It is with grave disappointment I sat in council meeting where you undermined a local grass roots rape crisis center and transition house for battered women and their children. s.22(1)
the decision council made was a short sighted mistake.

One of your justifications was to say that you shocked that council had been giving funding for public education that was exclusionary. Really?

So when I sat in the ELP workshop you should have invited corporate capitalist and CEO's to the educationals? Come on now. Public education with a specific focus for a specific oppressed group is not necessarily result of bigoted beliefs. s.22(1)

One can support female only spaces and education about the oppression of female born women AND Support Trans rights they do not have to be in opposition. VRRWS provides the only female /women only space for sexual assault survivors and battered women and they do important much needed work.

I voted for you and I will not do so again. And to add insult to injury you sat there knitting, while cutting funding to a rape crisis center and transition house. Wow.

s.22(1)

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From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/18/2019 3:55:24 PM
Subject: feedback

Dear Jean,

I voted for you.

I am deeply and profoundly disappointed that you approved of City Hall's decision to remove funding for the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's shelter under some form of political correctness that places a vocal trans community as more important than the rights of women who have been raped.

This has taken political correctness to a place where it then becomes both discriminatory and abusive.

s.22(1)

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From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 2:02:02 PM

Subject: Financial Support for Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

Hello Council,

I am writing to request that you vote in support of continuing to fund Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter public education and events. I was surprised and disappointed to learn that this was going to be subject to a vote today.

I am proud to be a community volunteer in support of VRR for s.22(1). In that time, I have been fortunate to attend many of their public education and events and, in the process, become aware of and personally committed to the fight to end violence against women and girls. This has spurred me to volunteer in my community and my s.22(1).

Rape Relief provides essential information and services to women and children in our province. When I participate in fundraising events in Vancouver, donors frequently tell me "this service is so important" and "Rape Relief saved my life".

Along with providing immediate shelter and aid to women and girls in our community, Rape Relief is involved in provincial, national and international campaigns devoted to women's freedom, safety and social and cultural participation. They are viewed as experts and have been granted intervenor standing in trials and public hearings. Theirs is principled and hopeful work that must continue.

Please vote to support ongoing funding for Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter. Support for women's autonomy and organizing is crucial.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s.22(1)

To: "Dominato, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
CC: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 10:47:19 AM

Subject: Follow-up - urging you to approve city grant for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor and Council:

Having watched the portion of last night's council meeting where the staff recommendation for a city grant to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter was discussed, as well as the remarks of several speakers to this item, I wanted to follow up on the brief, last-minute letter of support for VRR that I sent last night, and particularly to respond to some important points the discussion provoked.

Breach of Fair Process

I am not aware of another situation in which people advocating against the awarding of a staff-supported city grant to a community service organization has taken place, so it's perhaps not surprising that the city does not have protocol for this circumstance. Still, I do believe it's unfair that the city did not directly make Vancouver Rape Relief aware that it would be necessary to defend itself, its politics, mandate and services, at risk of losing the grant it has received from the city for many years. Instead, VRR had to learn that it would be facing this opposition on its own and by chance, on very short notice, especially given the restrictions of city process on registration of speakers. In this case, the city's process allowed for several speakers who are not VRR collective members or volunteers to give their opinions and views on VRR's philosophy, history and operations – opinions and views which city process did not provide VRR equal time to respond to and which city staff and council are not in a position to verify in the best of circumstances, and certainly not in the short time-frame that the grant approval process requires. This is unfair to VRR and turning down the grant to VRR under these circumstances would set a bad precedent. I don't believe council's grant approval process is designed or intended to vet or pass judgement on applicant organizations' political philosophy, or approach to ending male violence against women, or feminism. Instead, and as you know, there is an extensive staff process to ensure that the organizations staff recommends the city support meet the city's criteria and provide valuable services to the residents of Vancouver. While several speakers last night argued that VRR does not meet the city's granting criteria, I believe that staff's assessment of VRR's eligibility was considered and correct.

Over-reach of council's authority and mandate

I am deeply concerned at how several councillors and speakers last night suggested the city should make approval of Vancouver Rape Relief's grant conditional upon the organization changing its philosophy and practices regarding, for example, whether they accept trans women into their transition house or peer counselling programs. I don't believe that council should be using the grant program to attempt to direct that an organization change its operations, policy or constitution. Staff have assessed that VRR meets the city's granting policy. If you as councillors don't think that VRR deserves a grant, then you should make that decision based on your own political criteria and conscience, understanding that you are going against staff's recommendation, which in turn was based on the city's granting criteria - instead of trying to use the grant as a means of persuading VRR to change its feminist political stance and chosen approach to ending male violence against women. If you are considering this, I hope you will keep in mind

that it is very unlikely that any member of council has as much direct experience and expertise in this subject than VRR – an organization that has not only aided thousands of female victims of male physical and sexual violence, but has also been a leader in achieving feminist legal and policy reforms in these areas.

I also think that council runs the risk of setting a bad precedent if it turns down this grant application on the grounds that VRR's mandate is to work with and train, on a peer-to-peer basis, only those people who were born and raised as female. This group of people represents approximately 50% of the population. If you don't think that making emergency shelter and peer counselling services available to that 50% of the population when they are victims of male physical and sexual violence is adequate grounds for a city grant, then I think you are setting an extremely high bar for grant eligibility. Will you be applying a similarly high standard when you make your decisions about grants for other community service organizations? While I don't speak for VRR, I believe that as a feminist organization they see male violence as a both a product of gender inequality and a means of maintaining it. Will you be insisting that other groups with a mandate to address social and economic inequality – such as of racialized people - also expand their mandates in order to receive a grant? I will also point out that VRR is not even asking you for a grant to fund its shelter or peer-counselling services, but instead only its public education work, which is available to all.

If you insist that VRR must change its mandate and constitution in order to receive a 34k grant, I believe that you will be making a decision to withdraw the city's financial support for VRR's public education work, because it is unreasonable and unrealistic to expect an organization that has already successfully fought and won a supreme court case allowing it to maintain its ability to self-determine who they as women (and members of an oppressed class) wish to organize with, in exchange for relatively small grant. By virtue of making that decision you would also be insisting that as a condition of the grant, women who seek refuge and shelter from male violence at Rape Relief should be forced to share that refuge space with male-bodied people – again I think this is unfair to the women seeking help from Rape Relief and to Rape Relief itself to insist on this, as well as it being an extreme overreach of the intention of the grant program. Is it truly council's intention to take the political position, through this grant process, that women who are fleeing male violence are not entitled to a space free of male-bodied people when they are escaping that male violence, trying to heal it from it and put their lives back together in the aftermath? I hope not – see this article for an example of the consequences this can have on women feeling male violence:

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/kristi-hanna-human-rights-complaint-transgender-woman-toronto-shelter>. For these reasons, I urge you to support not only the 2019 grant but to refuse to attempt to coerce VRR over a period of years to change its mandate, or put them on notice that this year's grant will be the last one.

Several speakers who advocated against approving the VRR grant argued that other organizations do similar work as VRR, so council could still support that type of work if they chose to refuse the VRR grant. I maintain that this would be unfair to VRR and set a bad precedent since staff have determined that VRR meets the grant criteria. If council decides to withhold the grant, it must do so with the points above in mind. Additionally, I think it's important that VRR is not just a social service organization. Providing services to trans women on a social services basis is different than being a group, such as VRR, whose mandate is to organize with women, on the basis of their shared experience, to liberate women from male violence and patriarchy.

Finally, I would like to put this matter in a broader context. The question of what constitutes the definition of "woman" is one that is relevant to last night's discussions and is currently subject to contentious debate in many parts of the world. This is because changing the legal and standard definition of "woman" (i.e. adult human female, as per the dictionary) – could have wide-ranging negative impacts on the rights of women, as well as on their participation and access to space and opportunities in areas such as sport, politics and the workplace, as well as in traditionally single-sex spaces such as women's transition houses and prisons. This debate is far too complex to discuss here, and again, I wonder whether it is council's intention to take a new and different position on these matters through its grant program.

In the past, feminists and transgender people have been allies due to their common interest in challenging and ending patriarchal, socially constructed gender roles. I hope and believe there is still common ground, or possibility for it, between these groups, but the many issues and debates raised by the still-new questions of what are the legal and cultural definitions of "woman" are going to take some time to resolve. In the meantime, I don't think it's morally right or procedurally fair for council to punish an established and leading feminist organization that provides desperately needed services to women (and others) by withholding this or future grants, or making them conditional on VRR changing its feminist practices or philosophy.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 9:53:18 PM

Subject: For the support of Vancouver rape relief fund

Hello there,

I'm writing to ask you for your support in renewing the education fund that you have for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I really hope that you consider to provide this organization these funds again because I believe with the ability to educate the public we can make a change in creating a better community. I know this to be true personally because I have been to many of their education events and have been enlightened from them in ways that will enhance my knowledge and to support my own community.

Thank you for your time,

s.22(1)

From: "Ruby Langan" <Ruby.Langan@une-sen.org>
To: "Ruby Langan" <Ruby.Langan@une-sen.org>
Date: 3/13/2019 5:36:42 PM
Subject: Fund vancouver rape relief

Mayor Kennedy and Councillors,

I write in support of the community awareness work that vancouver rape relief does. I have attended two of their recent community awareness events, Standing Together at the Vpl in October and International Women's Day event with Winona LaDuke last week. They do great service to society by bringing women's issues to All of us. I'm grateful for the teachings they have delivered and ask that their value be recognized by continuing their funding. Thank you.

In solidarity,
Ruby Langan
UNE National Equity Representative for Aboriginal Peoples
langanr@une-sen.org
778-235-2035

<http://www.feedingnunavut.com/feeding-my-family/>

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rtttt

From: s.22(1)
To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 4:22:15 PM
Subject: Funding for Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to support Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter in their efforts to receive funding from the City in order to continue the incredible work they are doing for women. They have always been there to assist our most vulnerable women and this funding will certainly help them in this endeavour.

We hope that you will see fit to support them as well.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen"
Date: 3/13/2019 3:41:09 PM
Subject: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

Dear Councillor,

I am a Vancouverite who has personally witnessed the incredible work that Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter has put into the community. Their mainly volunteer organization, made up of empathetic, hardworking, and truly community loving individuals have provided a voice and support for vulnerable and violence affected women in Vancouver.

I'm not sure if this email will reach you but I just wanted to voice my support of the recommendation from the City staff to continue to provide funding to this vital organization.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 9:08:58 PM

Subject: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief

To City Councillors,

I am shocked to hear that the Vancouver city council would consider withdrawing funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I fully expect the city would support an important organization such as Rape Relief that works on behalf of women. The center have been an important voice and service for women across the lower mainland. They have been crucial in helping several women that I know personally through their traumatic experiences. Not only do they provide important services to raped and battered women but their public education continues to address the most pressing issues of women's inequality. As a voter and resident of Vancouver, I fully disagree with any cuts to their funding and in fact, would support an increase to their funding. We need the services and work of Vancouver Rape Relief.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:06:56 PM
Subject: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Ms. Swanson,

I understand that there is a vote this evening on this year's funding for VRR-WS, and that city staff have recommended it be approved. As a Vancouver resident I consider the work of VRR-WS to be crucially important to members of our community; I deeply appreciate that recommendation, and I hope it is reflected in your vote tonight.

Thank you!

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 11:53:47 AM

Subject: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello city council members,

I would just like to take a moment of your time to express how important Vancouver Rape Relief is to me, and how essential their services have been to many women I know as friends. Their public education efforts have been instrumental in my personal growth as a man, and have inspired and healed so many women around me. I would be heartbroken to see the city of Vancouver turn its back on an organization that has done so much good for so many; doing so would send a message that Vancouver no longer supports female activists or feminist education. Please consider continuing your support for their education and outreach. I am not exaggerating when I say that I truly believe women's lives depend on it.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:32:43 PM

Subject: Funding of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Councillors,

Thank you so much for funding Vancouver rape relief over the years. I'm so grateful to see that they will continue to receive funding this year and I hope for many more to come. I believe that educating the public about male violence against women is a cause worth supporting, I'm thrilled to know that the city of Vancouver agrees.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean"
Date: 3/13/2019 3:27:33 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Support for Vancouver Rape Relief.

Hello,

As a resident of Vancouver I am writing to express my support of Vancouver Rape Relief and to appreciate the council's intent to fund the public education work of VRRWS for another year. This organization does vital work in the city working for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Their work is too critical in the city for their funding to be withheld.

Thank you

Kind Regards

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 9:53:23 PM

Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for funding Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

To the Mayor and Council:

I have resided my entire life in s.22(1) and am in support to increase funding for the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I am appalled to have learned that Morgane Oger is trying to get Vancouver City Council to cut funding to this valuable organization that provides essential services for women and children escaping violence, including counselling, shelter, food and advocacy. Such a ridiculous pursuit to cut funding when you consider that there are so many helpless victims of abuse that turn to this essential service when there is no other place to go. I can't imagine the countless hours the VRRWS spend volunteering their time to make our community a better place. Please do not be fooled otherwise by Ms. Oger.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 10:27:54 PM

Subject: Fwd: Support for Vancouver Rape Relief.

Hello,

As a resident of Vancouver I am writing to express my support of Vancouver Rape Relief and to appreciate the council's intent to fund the public education work of VRRWS for another year. This organization does vital work in the city working for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Their work is too critical in the city for their funding to be withheld.

Thank you

Kind Regards

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 8:53:53 AM
Subject: Grant applicant does not meet conditions of grant due to discrimination

Councillor Hardwick,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRR), who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people
- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.
- Leafleting the 2016 BC Federation of Labour convention when delegates unanimously stood up for trans rights.

In 2018, the BC Teacher's Federation tweeted "VRR is open with it's anti-trans practices and philosophy. @BCTF stands with @BCFED and other affiliates in no longer supporting VRR." - other unions and organizations have been withdrawing their support from VRR for these reasons.

In 2016, the COV Administrative Report "Supporting Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver" stated.

"Vancouver City Council continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion by tackling forms of exclusion and discrimination for trans*, gender variant and two-spirit people. Members of this community are all too often at the fringes of our society and outside the circle of inclusion."

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A and ensure that organizations which do not meet the grant requirements be denied public funds to assist them in ongoing discrimination.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

References

2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190312/documents/a3.pdf> (p.44)

Supporting Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver - COV Administrative Report June, 2016

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/trans-gender-variant-and-two-spirit-inclusion-at-the-city-of-vancouver.pdf>

BCTF Tweet about VRR's anti-trans practices

[https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?](https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU)

[fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU](https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU)

BCTF Statement of Trans Inclusion

<https://bctf.ca/publications/BCTFNews.aspx?id=44438#6>

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs -

Bill C-16 <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

"Women Only Spaces" Podcast

<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

From: s.22(1)
To: Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.c
Date: 3/13/2019 7:29:05 PM
Subject: Grant for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and the City Councillors,

As a resident of the City of Vancouver, I appreciate that the City of Vancouver has provided Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter with a grant for over a decade to fund their public education work. For the past few years, I have attended their events and I think its important in what they are doing.

I support Vancouver Rape Relief and hope the City of Vancouver will continue to provide the public education funding again this year to enable Vancouver Rape Relief to carry on with their work in the Vancouver community.

Thank you very much for your consideration,
s.22(1)

Here is what I sent.

I BCCed the councillors:

CLRbligh@vancouver.ca

CLRboyle@vancouver.ca

CLRcarr@vancouver.ca

CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca

CLRdominato@vancouver.ca

CLRfry@vancouver.ca

CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca

CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca

CLRswanson@vancouver.ca

CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca

sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

De : s.22(1)
Envoyé : 13 mars 2019 16:35
À : Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.c
Objet : Grant for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and the City Councillors,

As a resident of the City of Vancouver, I appreciate that the City of Vancouver has provided Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter with a grant for over a decade to fund their public education work. For the past ten years, I have attended their annual Memorial for the Montreal Massacre conferences, and recently attended their International Women's Day event with Winona LaDuke last week. These events are important to me and I believe they help raise awareness about male violence against

From: s.22(1)
To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 4:35:04 PM
Subject: Grant for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and the City Councillors,

As a resident of the City of Vancouver, I appreciate that the City of Vancouver has provided Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter with a grant for over a decade to fund their public education work. For the past ten years, I have attended their annual Memorial for the Montreal Massacre conferences, and recently attended their International Women's Day event with Winona LaDuke last week. These events are important to me and I believe they help raise awareness about male violence against women, and help to inform women who have experienced violence that they are not alone, and there are a number of possible actions to take.

I support Vancouver Rape Relief and hope the City of Vancouver will continue to provide the public education funding again this year to enable Vancouver Rape Relief to carry on with their work in the Vancouver community.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:37:23 PM

Subject: Grant for Vancouver Rape

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was so pleased to hear that the city has recommended that Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR) once again receive its grant to fund its public education work.

VRR is a crucial resource for Vancouver women. Its annual Montreal Massacre conference brings people together to commemorate - and learn from - an extremely dark time for Canadian women, a tragedy in which 14 women were killed because they were women. It's imperative that VRR be allowed to continue educating people about the violence women face every day - and the particular risks faced by Indigenous and differently abled women. Unfortunately, despite the progress advanced by groups like VRR, violence against women continues. And so the learning must continue as well.

Recently, VRR hosted renowned Indigenous climate activist Winona Duke for International Women's Day. This inspiring event included speeches and calls to action on behalf of incarcerated women, domestic caregivers, and Indigenous women who are leading the fight to protect our environment. Events like this are essential to our struggle for women's equality. They're opportunities to learn and grow, to challenge and support one another, and they simply wouldn't be possible without Vancouver Rape Relief.

Thank you again for supporting VRR's important work.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: s.22(1)
Date: 3/13/2019 2:21:46 PM
Subject: I support public funding for Vancouver Rape Relief!

Hello,

As a resident of Vancouver I am writing to express my support of Vancouver Rape Relief and to appreciate the council's intent to fund the public education work of VRRWS for another year. This organization does vital work in the city working for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Their work is too critical in the city for their funding to be withheld.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 12:53:35 PM

Subject: I SUPPORT VANCOUVER RAPE RELIEF

Please continue to support Vancouver Rape Relief. Their services are critical to the wellbeing and survival of rape victims. *No other agency does more for victims than they do, and their services are needed as much now, as ever.*

They need, and deserve, your support and funding, until the day when rape no longer exists.

Thank you

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 2:47:45 PM
Subject: In support of funding for rape crisis centers

Hello Counsellor Swanson,

s.22(1) I am a battered woman and have been raped repeatedly throughout my life. In my time of need I turned to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter for help and support. Please vote in favor of Vancouver Rape Reliefs funding. The continuation of this means that more women like me can get access to this vital service.

Sincerely

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 2:41:45 PM
Subject: In support of funding for rape crisis centers

Hello Counsellor Carr,

s.22(1) I am a battered woman and have been raped repeatedly throughout my life. In my time of need I turned to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter for help and support. Please vote in favor of Vancouver Rape Reliefs funding. The continuation of this means that more women like me can get access to this vital service.

Sincerely

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

CC: "Laurel McBride" <laurelm@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:31:25 PM

Subject: In Support of Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in support of continued funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. This organization is vital to the well-being and freedom of women and children in our city. Your grant helps sustain important service and advocacy work that saves lives. Please continue your support by funding this organization again this year.

Regards,

s.22(1)

Resident of Vancouver

From: s.22(1)
To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 2:44:08 PM
Subject: In support of Vancouver Rape Relief

Good afternoon,

Hi hope your day is going well. I'm writing in support of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, and sincerely hope the City of Vancouver grants them the critical funding needed to continue their amazing work in our community.

Without this funding, Vancouver Rape Relief would not be able to engage in public education work on violence against women, which helps keep our communities engaged and involved in ending said violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration - we as a community would greatly appreciate Vancouver Rape Relief receiving this funding so they can continue their amazing work!

--

Warmly,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:03:38 PM

Subject: In support of Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello Decision Makers of Vancouver,

As a resident of Vancouver I am writing to express my support of Vancouver Rape Relief and to appreciate the council's intent to fund the public education work of VRRWS for another year.

This organization does vital work in the city working for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Their work is too critical in the city for their funding to be withheld.

Thank you

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
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"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 7:53:00 PM

Subject: In Support of Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council members,

I am writing to you to express my fervent support of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I have friends and colleagues that have relied on VRR's services. A significant part of the organization of VRR is their public education work. Their voice is light among the darkness of slacktivism, disingenuous advocacy, and ill-conceived social justice perspectives.

Their educational programs provide excellent opportunities for critical thinking, analysis and awareness-raising about women's equality. I hope to see this funding continue; this is integral work.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:44:02 PM

Subject: In support of Vancouver Rape Relief

Hi,

I would like to share my experience with Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, as this organization has brought me so much.

The organization provided 24h support to women in crisis. More than a transition house for women fleeing violence, workers also work closely with women not staying in their house. In addition to the crisis work, the organization is dedicated to erase violence locally and everywhere in the world. Their work includes public education, prevention, community building, fundraising and campaigns for progressive change in laws, governments and institutions.

The organization is essential in Vancouver where we are facing a housing and social crisis. It is also crucial to help women's liberation.

I urge you to release funding so that it continues to operate and provide support to women in need in Vancouver and everywhere in Canada.

Thank you

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane"
Date: 3/13/2019 3:22:11 PM
Subject: In the decision to renew Vancouver Rape Relief Funding

Hello,

I'm writing to you to express my gratitude for the significant work that Vancouver Rape Relief continues to do in our community, from their educational events to grassroots aid for women and girls fleeing male violence. Their events bring feminists together from all over the globe, from local indigenous women to women of colour in South America, to strategize, share and educate the public on women's issues and how we can help. The funding received from the city of Vancouver is very important in ensuring the continuation of this important work. Women's work towards ending violence is extremely important, considering the alarming statistics that still exist on the issue. Women require spaces and resources to come together and educate one another and our community at large on how to work towards a more equal society. I hope to see a renewal in funding so that this extremely important work can continue. Vancouver Rape Relief is one of the largest contributors to the Canadian women's movement in terms of grassroots organizing, work and education. We need them to receive funding to keep doing this work.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 3:02:09 PM

Subject: Increased Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council:

My name s.22(1) I am a resident of Vancouver for over s.22(1)

I support Vancouver Rape and Women's Shelter (VRRWS) in its work to aid women and their children escaping violence by providing a transition house and rape crisis line. I am requesting the the City of Vancouver to increase funding for VRRWS to enable the organization to continue to provide the much needed service that it provides to the community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:26:38 PM

Subject: Keep funding women's rape crisis centre Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello,

this is to express my great appreciation for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter and the vital work they do for women in Vancouver. The events such as the Montreal Massacre Memorial has been instrumental in connecting with other women.

VRRWS has saved my life and if it weren't for the community of support they so generously provide I am not sure I would be the upward path I am now.

Please continue funding this important organization as it is life changing for innumerable women and we wouldn't know what to do without it.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/18/2019 2:52:03 PM

Subject: Letter from a resident

Attachments: Template letter to Mayor and Council.docx

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Please find attached my letter regarding a recent decision of City Council. (notwithstanding the title "Template letter.." – it is not a template letter, it is my own)

Kind Regards,

s.22(1)

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing in regards to the Vancouver City Council's March 14, 2019 decision to grant termination funding to Vancouver Rape Relief.

Vancouver Rape Relief arose out of the incredible struggle and sacrifice of many women in this city and across the country. These women were our mothers and aunts, neighbours and teachers. Women were being beaten and raped, and had nowhere safe to go. Often they were blamed for their suffering. Their children suffered too. Because of the activism of such early feminist women, in the face of powerful hostility and ridicule, victims and their children were finally given support and hope. Certainly the thousands of women and children helped and even saved by Vancouver Rape Relief would have remained in the hopeless and dangerous situations that women and children endured before there were rape crisis centers or transition houses. Your decision to try to force Vancouver Rape Relief to conform to a construction and model that you prefer appears arrogant, disrespectful and uncaring. I know you are not generally such people, so I ask you to reconsider your decision. It was a mistake, taken in haste, and without affording proper notice or opportunity for a full and complete response from a venerable and highly essential women's organization.

This organization is worth supporting and does indeed have the support and respect of most women in this city and across Canada. Despite what you have been told by certain individuals and groups, the service provided by Vancouver Rape Relief is unique, specialized, expert and sadly, still very much in demand. Their public education work is a critical part of what they do.

I urge you to reconsider your decision. Troubling to me, is the decision reflects yet another attempt to coerce a women's organization to bend to the will of its male opponents. Most regrettable and painful is that now such hostility and coercive tactics have come from elected women! who did not take the time or show the respect to first establish dialogue with a women's organization that provides an essential service to the women and children of your city. Please go back and do your work. Practice politics differently. Reconsider whether it is City Council's business to tell Vancouver Rape Relief or any women's organizations how to structure themselves, how to provide their services or to whom. (If legality is a concern, the courts will let you know..and so far all have supported the VRRWS model.)

Yours truly,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:36:20 AM

Subject: Letter to Council regarding Committee meeting (Mar 13, 2019), Admin Report 3 on
Community Social Grants

Attachments: Letter to Council s.22(1) Mar 13 2019.pdf

Dear Councillor,

I'm a citizen of Vancouver, and was just informed about tomorrow (Mar. 13, 2019) committee meeting regarding Community Social Grants. Attached is a letter I have written addressing concerns I have regarding potential funding towards a particular organization. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and consider it.

All the best,

s.22(1)

March 13, 2019

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the recommendation to award grant applicant, Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR), with a 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grant. As a resident of Vancouver, I ask that the City not provide this organization a grant because of its long-documented history of discrimination against trans people.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states that organizations “must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted.” I will argue that VRR’s exclusion of transgender women **does not** qualify for the exception, and that their stance on “female-born women only” is not effective, nor necessary, and only discriminatory.

VRR is unabashed in their refusal to acknowledge the humanity and lived experiences of trans women, claiming that their policy of “women only” spaces justifies this exclusion. The argument is well-worn among many trans-exclusionary radical feminists, and it reflects a fundamental belief in the supremacy of cis women over trans women, and an erasure of trans people’s existence.

VRR’s justification is often expressed as a concern for the safety of cisgender women in its spaces, but this argument veils a deeply rooted bias. Rather than serving to protect women from violence (when trans women are disproportionately affected by sexualized violence), VRR’s bias imagines trans women as either sexual predators or inherently alarming to cisgender women. These are extremely harmful stereotypes disseminated for the purpose of excluding a marginalized group of women from services provided to women.

VRR also excludes trans women from consideration as staff and volunteers. VRR believes that in order to be effective at counselling and helping women one must “share the same life experience,” which, they claim, trans women can never achieve. While their rallying call of “men can never be women” may sound easy and straightforward, it completely ignores the nuanced experiences of sex and gender that many people experience in their lifetime. It ignores the multitude of differences in bodies, heights, levels of hormones within humans of all genders and reduces a person’s sex to immutable box A or B.

Life experience is gained in a myriad of ways and any two cis women could have extremely different experiences growing up (ie. a poor, working class woman of colour compared to upper-middle class white woman). VRR’s fixation on defining any cis or trans woman’s potential for “life experience” by their genital configuration at birth is incredibly presumptuous.

For me, the most disappointing thing is that there is so much potential for a sharing of values and expertise between VRR and many other agencies helping women in need. Supporting survivors of sexual violence is incredibly important and valuable work, but people and organizations can do good work for many while also discriminating against the few. We must be able to hold organizations accountable for the things they do wrong.

Though VRR has argued that it cannot run their services successfully if it were to become inclusive to trans women, we need only look at the excellent work done by organizations such as WAVAW, SWAN, and PACE, who provide welcoming services to all marginalized genders and communities.

In closing, I ask that you consider these arguments and vote **No** to providing Vancouver Rape Relief a Direct Social Services Grant.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 8:05:58 PM
Subject: Maintaining grant

Hi Council Member,

I'm writing to request your support regarding public funding for Vancouver Rape Relief. They have received a grant from the City of Vancouver for over a decade to fund our public education work - to engage the public in conversation with the aim of ending violence against women such as the annual Montreal Memorial Massacre conference and most recently, International Women's Day.

Respectfully,

s.22(1)

From: "Lisa Gibson" <lisa@livingincommunity.ca>
To: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/18/2019 1:28:59 PM
Subject: Meeting with Living in Community

Hello Christine,

First of all, I wanted to thank you for your outspoken support for trans people and for sex workers during last week Council sessions, and your naming of the problematic nature of Rape Relief's narrow focus on women. As an organization that has been working to support diverse sex workers since 2004, we believe in the importance of naming and changing this kind of discrimination.

We are wondering if you are available for a meeting to share more about Living in Community's work and specifically more about our upcoming [provincial conference](#), and about how we can work more effectively as collaborators. It was really great to meet you in the run up to the election and now that you are in the work of running the city, it would be a great opportunity for a follow up conversation.

Are you available to meet sometime on April 3 between 12-3pm? The meeting would be with myself, along with Mebrat Beyene from WISH and Tricia Barnes from the Hastings North BIA who are the 2 co-chairs of WISH. I know how busy your schedule is so if that doesn't work, please let me know and I can find some other windows that work also for Mebrat and Tricia.

warmly,
Lisa

--
Lisa Gibson
Director of Community Development
Living in Community
www.livingincommunity.ca
604.723.4975

LIVING IN COMMUNITY: Building Power



\hhhhh

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/14/2019 4:00:57 PM
Subject: s.22(1) former drug addicted sex worker please read

Hi

s.22(1) I support VRR

Please consider after my sexual abuse as a child, I became addicted and became a sex worker .. I was also raped s.22(1) but not while I was working

I can't ever tell you how much through my recovery and times in detox and also rape counseling that if a man had been in my room , I would be dead right now. I would not have stuck around

Please there should be inclusive places but there should also be places where Bio women can just be with women , please do not remove that choice .. I send this article also

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/kristi-hanna-human-rights-complaint-transgender-woman-toronto-shelter>



Forced to share a room with transgender woman in Toronto shelter, sex abuse victim files human rights complaint | National Post

But when Hanna called the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, they said that she was the one engaged in discrimination for describing her new roommate as a 'man'

nationalpost.com

thank you for reading
s.22(1)

ps I hope you continue to support VRR , Its so important to women.

"There are two ways to be rich: One is by acquiring much, and the other is by desiring little." ~~~ C@Tz ~~~

From: s.22(1)
To: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/19/2019 12:34:34 AM
Subject: Nixon vs. Vancouver Rape Relief

Not to be printed, copied, or distributed. Intended solely for the recipient.

Dear Ms Boyle

Perhaps you are not aware that the Human Rights Tribunal, Supreme Court of BC, and in fact the Supreme Court of Canada have already declared that the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre is allowed to discriminate on the basis of sex because it is people whose oppression is on the basis of sex that they are serving. See Nixon vs. Vancouver Rape Relief. VRR is protected from penalty under the Section 41 of the Human Rights Code. Transgender males are not the target group served by the organization and that is perfectly reasonable.

Do you think you know better than the Supreme Court of Canada? Further, should vulnerable women—females making up 99% of street women and 70% of those women are Aboriginal—be denied essential services because a municipal government wants primarily white males to be included in services meant primarily for Indigenous females? Why must a male's idea of what is means to be a woman be the deciding factor of whether women receive funding for being raped? I am appalled and I look forward to the lawsuit that will no doubt follow against the City for sex discrimination against services made for females.

"The Vancouver Rape Relief was not guilty of discrimination based on the group's right of [freedom of association](#). This meant that the group had the right to organize as [women-only space](#), irrespective of gender identity.

"Following this decision Nixon [appealed](#) to the [British Columbia Court of Appeal](#) who [unanimously](#) maintained the previous decision by the Supreme Court of BC. They held that Vancouver Rape Relief Society was protected under the Human Rights Code, Section 41.

"On February 1, 2007 the [Supreme Court of Canada](#) dismissed Nixon's request to appeal the decision. Nixon was also charged with covering the awarded costs of Vancouver Rape Relief, which she has refused to pay."

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:01:55 PM

Subject: Note to Mayor and Council (VRR Grant)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was so pleased to hear that the city has recommended that Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR) will once again receive its grant to fund its public education work.

VRR is a crucial resource for Vancouver women. Its annual Montreal Massacre conference brings people together to commemorate - and learn from - an extremely dark time for Canadian women, a tragedy in which 14 women were killed because they were women. It's imperative that VRR be allowed to continue educating people about the violence women face every day - and the particular risks faced by Indigenous and differently abled women. Unfortunately, despite the progress advanced by groups like VRR, violence against women continues. And so the learning must continue as well.

Recently, VRR hosted renowned Indigenous climate activist Winona LaDuke for International Women's Day. This inspiring event included speeches and calls to action on behalf of incarcerated women, domestic caregivers, and Indigenous women who are leading the fight to protect our environment. Events like this are essential to our struggle for women's equality. They're opportunities to learn and grow, to challenge and support one another, and they simply wouldn't be possible without Vancouver Rape Relief.

Thank you again for supporting VRR's important work.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 1:58:05 PM

Subject: Please continue granting funds for public education and events

To whom it may concern:

My name s.22(1)

s.22(1)

In the midst of all this, I have come to the realization that education and events are the primary sources of empowering individuals and creating communal change. Please continue granting funds for public education and events.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 8:23:53 PM

Subject: Please continue to support Vancouver Rape Relief

Greetings,

I support Vancouver Rape Relief receiving continued funding from the city of Vancouver to carry on their important work in the community. I appreciate the city staff's recommendations that were put forth to continue this year's funding. I hope that the city council approves the funding of this important community organization that has helped women and their families for decades.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:20:20 PM

Subject: Please Do Not Cut Funding to Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Council Members and Mayor Kennedy Stewart

It has come to my attention that there is a movement to cut funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

I have been a volunteer at Vancouver Rape Relief s.22(1) and I can not express to you how crucial this organization is to the health and wellbeing of women and children in Vancouver. VRR houses hundreds of women every year in the midst of a housing crisis, assists women in obtaining financial stability, legal aid and medical care as well as peer counselling and ongoing support. VRR has saved the lives of some of our most vulnerable community members.

The public education work that VRR does is essential to promoting their services. At every event that VRR holds, women approach the peer counsellors present in order to reveal that they need help. Without the budget to hold public education events, knowledge of VRR's services will not reach the women who need it most.

I understand that Morgane Oger has issues with the way Vancouver Rape Relief provides a peer counselling model. I wish that they could know more about VRR and how they provide as much support as possible to the trans identified people who call the crisis line. I wish that instead of cutting funding to VRR, separate funding could be fought for in order to provide trans identified folks with services and public education funds that are appropriate for their unique needs and experiences.

Please do not cut funding for such a crucial service. I voted for many of you (the majority of you) during the last municipal election and I assure you I would not support you again should you do so.

Thank you,

--

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/14/2019 3:58:00 PM
Subject: please read I'm a former addicted prostitute

Hi

s.22(1) I support VRR

Please consider after my sexual abuse as a child, I became addicted and became a sex worker .. I was also raped s.22(1) but not while I was working

I can't ever tell you how much through my recovery and times in detox and also rape counseling that if a man had been in my room , I would be dead right now. I would not have stuck around

Please there should be inclusive places but there should also be places where Bio women can just be with women , please do not remove that choice .. I send this article also

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/kristi-hanna-human-rights-complaint-transgender-woman-toronto-shelter>



Forced to share a room with transgender woman in Toronto shelter, sex abuse victim files human rights complaint | National Post

But when Hanna called the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, they said that she was the one engaged in discrimination for describing her new roommate as a 'man'

nationalpost.com

thank you for reading

s.22(1)

"There are two ways to be rich: One is by acquiring much, and the other is by desiring little." ~~~ C@Tz ~~~

mllll

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 2:33:55 PM

Subject: Please Support Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Hello,

I am a resident of Vancouver and am actively pursuing a **world free of violence against women** in both my personal and professional life. We have a lot of work to do. Spaces like Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter offer women a space where they can find safety, peace, and eventually heal. I firmly believe that this space is vital toward reducing the impact of violence against women and creating a city that is safe for all of its residents.

I am writing to request your support **and continued funding** of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. The organization has received an annual amount from the City of Vancouver for approximately 10 years. The amount the City Staff recommended this year is \$34,000. for public education work. All of the VRRWS public education events are free of charge and open to the public. VRRWS facilitates this accessibility by ensuring venues are wheelchair accessible, providing free onsite childcare, and often providing some food. Unfortunately, some individuals are asking the City to deny VRRWS the money because they don't agree with VRR's service model of peer-based support and reserving shelter space for women.

Thank you for considering this email when you vote this afternoon.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/12/2019 10:22:24 PM
Subject: Please vote "no" on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants

March 12 2019

Dear Councillor Carr,

I'm writing to request that you please vote "no" on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The grant application form #2 states that *"The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."*

Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant, has consistently and unapologetically engaged in a decades-long pattern of discrimination against trans, gender-variant and two-spirit people, as well as sex workers.

There hasn't been a lot of time to write to you, as I just learned of the application today, but as a resident of Vancouver, a trans non-binary person, and an ally to the sex workers in my community, I strongly believe that the City of Vancouver must deny granting this organization because it openly discriminates against trans, gender-variant, two-spirit and sex working people, and because it goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Just a very small selection of this discrimination include;

- Trans, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to provide services only to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women."
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades long before 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Vancouver Rape Relief has done immeasurable damage to trans, gender-variant, two spirit and sex worker communities here in Vancouver and around the world. I have seen it first hand for nearly 20 years. It continues to advocate against improvements to the social and legal protection of trans people and sex workers and continues to position itself as the be all end all of services for women fleeing violence, all while vilifying trans people and sex workers. Because of the continued advocacy of affected communities, multiple progressive organizations increasingly refuse to align with VRR due to their virulent anti trans and anti sex worker stance, and I ask that you please vote "no" on Recommendation A.

I can only guess, but imagine that Vancouver Rape Relief has perhaps managed to get this grant over the years under the exemption in the requirements [i.e. "...except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"], but I believe this cannot reasonably continue uncontested.

Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of "accommodation, welcomeness and openness" and does not meet the grant requirements, does not deserve the support of the COV, and should not be conferred with the legitimacy of such a grant .

Respectfully,

s.22(1)

References:

2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants. VRR's grant is on page 44 <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190312/documents/a3.pdf>

Direct Social Services Grant Program - Application Form 2
<https://vancouver.ca/.../direct-social-services-grants...>

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16
<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission...>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal
<https://www.canlii.org/.../2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia

“Women Only Spaces” Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/.../launching-womens...>

CC:

Rebecca Bligh CLRbligh@vancouver.ca

Christine Boyle CLRboyle@vancouver.ca

Melissa De Genova CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca

Sarah Kirby-Yung CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca

Colleen Hardwick CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca

Pete Fry CLRfry@vancouver.ca

Lisa Dominato CLRdominato@vancouver.ca

Jean Swanson CLRswanson@vancouver.ca

Michael Wiebe CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca

rttttt

From: s.22(1)
To: s.22(1)
Date: 3/13/2019 6:57:52 PM
Subject: Public Education Funding

Hello,

I am writing to offer my support for a vital organization, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. For the past 20 years they have been instrumental in supporting women who are escaping violence and on the path to rebuilding their lives. We depend on public education funds to continue our great work.

Thank you!

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:11:18 PM

Subject: Public education grant for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Stewart and Vancouver city councillors,

I'm a Vancouverite, a longstanding community volunteer, and a dedicated proponent of the principle of public service. I wish I could write a longer letter in support of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter--one of the community organizations for which I volunteer--s.22(1)
s.22(1) time available to me is short.

The crux of my message is that I can't urge you strongly enough to renew the City of Vancouver's grant to Vancouver Rape Relief when it comes up for a vote in Council. The public education efforts of that organization make an invaluable contribution to efforts to end violence against women, and represent a very worthy initiative for the City to support. Since its founding in 1973, VRR has, among other things, helped countless women escape abusive relationships with men and weather challenging circumstances related to finances, child custody disputes, and the legal process. It has also facilitated a public conversation in which sexual assault and domestic violence are discussable--no longer "private matters" that women are expected to endure alone.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my appeal.

Regards,

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:15:35 PM

Subject: Public Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello.

I am writing to express my support of Rape Relief receiving public funding this year from the city to carry on our work with their work in the Vancouver community. Since the 1970s, the staff and volunteers at Vancouver Rape Relief have worked tirelessly to provide a safe place for women to go and get help. s.22(1) and a working class woman, I see such a need for these services to continue. This public funding is what makes this possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: sunletters@vancouver.sun.com
CC: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/19/2019 11:49:48 AM
Subject: Rape Relief/Trans-Women

Dear Editor:

Both peoples, rape-survivors as well as trans-women, require our solid support.

Both peoples need to be assured of their dignity; both have faced hurt beyond what most of us can imagine. We do know that all rape-survivors were deeply traumatized by male behaviour. Trans-women come from a very different connection with maleness. The two peoples are on a very different journey, both are on a singular journey of healing.

Should we expect rape-victims to show empathy to trans-women, and allow them in? Or should we expect trans-women to show empathy to rape-victims, and stay away?

Who, after all the pain, still feels greater strength?

s.22(1)
in Vancouver

orrr

From: s.22(1)
To: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/19/2019 10:23:01 AM
Subject: Rape Relief

Christine,

Your treatment towards sex assault victims and those who receive help from the Vancouver Women's Shelter is a Hate Crime.

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 7:34:29 PM

Subject: Re: {AWCEP} FW: Thank you! re: VRR funding

I am writing to express my gratitude in your continued support in funding Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter. Providing succor to the women of Vancouver is a priority much appreciated. Thank you.

On Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 8:08 PM s.22(1) wrote:
Hi all AWCEP members,

Our allies are asking us to help write letters to city council members to defend their right to community funding based on their women-only position.

Please see below and submit a short letter to all council members listed.

They will be deciding this evening at city hall.

s.22(1)

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Syllona Kanu <syllonak@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 2:01:56 PM
To: s.22(1)
Subject: Thank you! re: VRR funding

Hey s.22(1)

The city staff have recommended that we receive this funding again this year and it will go before the city council for approval, likely this evening. We've learned that there is a campaign led by Morgane Oger to persuade the city council to vote against providing this funding. In light of this effort, we are asking our supporters to write to the mayor and council (email addresses below) to express your support of Rape Relief receiving funding again this year from the city to carry on our work in the community. We request that any correspondence is brief and does not get into defending our positions or denouncing those leading the attack, sticking to an appreciation of their intention to continue to provide this funding. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your day to assist in securing the funding of our work.

Full list of email addresses to send your short email of support to:

CLRbligh@vancouver.ca

CLRboyle@vancouver.ca

CLRcarr@vancouver.ca

CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca

CLRdominato@vancouver.ca

CLRfry@vancouver.ca

CLRhawdwick@vancouver.ca

CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca

CLRswanson@vancouver.ca

CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca

Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca

sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

In solidarity,

--

Syllona Kanu

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter
(604) 872-8212

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "AWCEP" group. To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to awcep+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com. To post to this group, send email to awcep@googlegroups.com. Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/group/awcep>. For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

r"

From: "Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
To: s.22(1)
CC: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/19/2019 8:54:19 AM
Subject: Re: a special note of thanks

Thanks very much s.22(1) for taking the time to express this. Appreciate it a great deal.

Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
CITY OF VANCOUVER
453 W. 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC. V5Y 1V4
e: CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca
t: 604-873-7247
T: @sarahkirby_yung

Assistant
Tamarra Wong
e: tamarra.wong@vancouver.ca
t: 604-871-6710

On Mar 19, 2019, at 8:28 AM, s.22(1) wrote:

Hello, I just sent an e-mail to the Mayor & Council thanking everyone for the Rape Relief funding decision. I understand that the two of you have come under more attack than the others for the decision. I wanted to let you know I am very sorry this is happening to you. Thank you for doing the right thing. The attacks on you should not be happening.

From: s.22(1)
Date: March 16, 2019 at 10:01:12 PM PDT
To: <CLRboyle@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Ms. Boyle,

I am deeply disappointed in using the oppression of another group to oppress another as an excuse to try and fix the difficult and complex world of rape support.

You trivialize both issues oppression of our transgendered sisters and biological female sisters and though there are arguments to be made about sex work - I don't see how pulling the funding for such a strong and evidence-based institution that actually helps women is going to contribute to the overall betterment of vulnerable women.

I was a supporter of OneCityVancouver and in good conscience I cannot be now. Even though there are many other issues I am in support of with your organization, I have to break with one that puts vulnerable women's into danger.

Just to be clear, I don't think transwomen put anyone into danger, I think your decision to pull the funding to force this organization to accept transwomen is more dangerous. That you would exploit this population of women is immature and sickening to me. You pick "some" people to listen to on this issue and demonize the actual people who work at the Vancouver Rape Centre, not a very ethical way to conduct yourself or make decisions.

I really urge you to reconsider this terrible decision.

s.22(1)

.....

From: s.22(1)
To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:52:13 PM
Subject: Re: Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in regards to the decision this evening to allocate a grant to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter for their Public Education work. As a woman and resident of Vancouver for over 10 years, I am so grateful for VRRWS and their services to many communities within Vancouver. Their work is valuable and needed. It is important that our city support them financially in their fight against violence.

Thank you for your time,

Best regards,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 5:33:31 PM
Subject: Re: funding for VRRWS

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council

I have been living in Vancouver for the past 2 years and am s.22(1) I am familiar with VRRWS and I support the work that they do. I personally have known many women who have benefited from their training and services. I am writing to encourage you to decide in favor of continuing their funding for their public education work.

The work VRRWS do is vital to the safety of women in Vancouver and should be supported by our city.

I may not have been able to vote for you (despite paying tax) but I hope you will hear my voice on this matter.

Thanks,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/18/2019 10:14:42 AM

Subject: Re: Green Party Member Frustration RE: Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Councillors,

I write to say I share s.22(1) sentiments regarding the decision on Vancouver Rape Relief. Women have waited centuries to be able to carve out a safe space for themselves and now, according to some, they are being asked to make that space feel less safe for them. Shelters like this are one of the most fundamental spaces that need to be protected for women.

What a woman is, is now debatable. But it is a debate. It is ideological. We live in a pluralistic and secular society. Organizations need to be able to operate within their own value systems and funding ought not to be denied to one group as opposed to another simply on the basis of certain practices and beliefs.

There are biological women and there are people who identify as women. Biological women grow up with vaginas, uteruses, breasts, the potential to bear children and society's expectations of women. Trans women do not necessarily share that history. Biological women are a vulnerable class in society with very specific needs. Trans women are too, but we need to respect what the voices at Vancouver Rape Relief are saying as they have been at the forefront of rape relief for 45 years.

I hope you will reconsider your decision with respect to funding Vancouver Rape Relief and stand up for what women are asking for, as voiced by this society.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/17/2019 10:13:36 PM
Subject: RE: Green Party Member Frustration RE: Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello,

I appreciate the prompt response.

You may not be interested in a debate on the subject but it is your duty to listen to your constituents especially those who voted for you. I "singled" you out because the news indicates that you, along with two other councillors, worked on the proposal and therefore have responsibility for it. To use the language of "folk who prefer sex-worker and trans exclusionary spaces" suggests you do not fully understand VRR's position and their basis of unity, which is incredibly important for women and girls who are accessing their services. It also suggests that those who worked on and/or voted for this proposal are being swayed by the growing tide of people attempting (often successfully) at shutting down women's voices, particularly those that are radical or gender-critical.

VRR has been providing a vital service for 46 years. You've been a city councillor for under a year and you – as a male – have played a significant role in reducing funding that goes towards women and girls. The optics of that aren't lost on me or other Green Party voters.

I hope that you will reconsider your position in the future.

s.22(1)

From: Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2019 6:21 PM
To: s.22(1) Carr, Adriane <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>; Wiebe, Michael <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
Subject: RE: Green Party Member Frustration RE: Vancouver Rape Relief

s.22(1)

I'm not interested in a debate on the subject but since you identified yourself as a Green supporter and singled me out, here is some context for you.

The termination funding amendment was worked on because frankly the other option would have been to withdraw funding immediately. Termination funding allows VRSS one year to either prepare for alternate funding or to align with the City's expectations for funding partnerships (our established policies as applicable).

VRSS are free to not respect City of Vancouver policies as they wish, but it is not fair to other grantees to allow VRSS a special pass since we already expect all grant applicants to adhere to said policies.

As it happens though, I think the publicity of our decision has done more to offset the future loss of the City's \$30,000 grant to VRSS as it has compelled many more private donations from folk who prefer sex-worker and trans exclusionary spaces, and I'm sure the organization's \$1m plus operating budget will be fine without our compromised and relatively insignificant funding.

Pete Fry | City Councillor
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7246 | Pete.fry@vancouver.ca
Twitter: @PtFry

From: s.22(1)
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Carr, Adriane; Fry, Pete; Wiebe, Michael
Subject: Green Party Member Frustration RE: Vancouver Rape Relief

Hi Adriane (and Pete and Michael),

Adriane, s.22(1). We have been huge supporters of you and the Green Party for over a decade. I voted for you and the Green Party slate in the last election – s.22(1). I have also been a member of the municipal, provincial, and federal Green Party for quite some time, have come to numerous events, and have donated money to the cause.

I am extremely disappointed and frustrated with the decision to essentially defund Vancouver Rape Relief. This has shaken my faith in the Green Party's ability to stand up for sound policy decisions based on both evidence and social justice. It is so sad that the Green Party not only did not stand up to this decision but actually voted for it. Now, I know that the decisions of each councillor are their own as per Green Party standards but c'mon!

Pete – as a man – your decision to work on this proposal is so disappointing and reflective of the continuing struggle that women and girls face to have male allies support them in their endeavours. You could and should have done better.

I hope to receive a well-reasoned response to this. Either way, please consider the strong women who run VRR and the women and girls who access their services next time you're faced with decisions like these.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
Sent: March 17, 2019 2:09 PM
To: 'CLRbligh@vancouver.ca' <CLRbligh@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRboyle@vancouver.ca' <CLRboyle@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRcarr@vancouver.ca' <CLRcarr@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca' <CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRdominato@vancouver.ca' <CLRdominato@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRfry@vancouver.ca' <CLRfry@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca' <CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca' <CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRswanson@vancouver.ca' <CLRswanson@vancouver.ca>; 'CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca' <CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca>; 'Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca' <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>; 'sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca' <sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in regards to the Vancouver City Council's March 14, 2019 decision to grant termination funding to Vancouver Rape Relief.

I, along with a significant number of family and friends, are supporters of Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR) and the important work that they do. For 45 years, VRR has been an organisation that is integral to advancing women's rights on a local and national scale. Their public education work is an essential part of this. Most recently, they participated in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on the case of the murder of Cindy Gladue. Their events, such as the recent International Women's Day speak with Winona LaDuke, frequently features the campaigns of other important social justice movements locally such as towards the world we want to live in.

This decision by the Vancouver City Council is incredibly disappointing. I do not believe it reflects the sentiments and opinions of the residents of Vancouver. Allowing Vancouver City Council to overstep and dictate how a critical organisation (the oldest rape crisis centre in Canada) operates and fights for the women it serves is highly troubling. The current trend of defunding, deplatforming, and delegitimizing people and organizations who may have different

sociopolitical perspectives but do incredibly important work is extremely problematic.

I hope you will reconsider your decision.

Regards,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen"
Date: 3/14/2019 2:29:49 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear all,

I write to you again in support of the Vancouver Rape Relief.

I have read some statements some of you have made on social media regarding the issue and I must say I am disappointed. I am not sure if you're coming from a place of ignorance or you're just being your every day run of the mill politician fishing for likes on the internet. Honestly, I wouldn't be able to tell you which one I find worse.

Giving the benefit of the doubt, I truly believe you might've been fed a very one sided narrative of the issue, which is far too common in the political climate. Especially today.

To the best of my knowledge, **the Vancouver Rape Relief does not incite discrimination or hatred towards trans people**. I have been at events hosted or attended by their collective and have had the chance to speak of it with its members. They absolutely **support and are more than willing to help the trans cause**, should they come to them for aid on how to empower their own cause. The Shelter is founded on the basis of giving support to women -- if we deny that the abuse and oppression of women is deeply rooted on their biological sex, then we won't be able to fight violence against women. The women helped by the shelter suffer what they do almost solely on the fact they're women, and the shelter -- understanding this particular problem -- aims to help those women. Their safety and well being is the Shelter's most important mission, and these vulnerable women should be able to have a safe space. I can't begin to comprehend why someone would think otherwise.

The shelter does not hate anyone, it simply provides services to a specific class: women. There is a reason for that, as only women know what women go through. As I am absolutely aware and sure that only trans women know the terrible things they must endure as a class as well. I wouldn't dream to tell them how they should run their communities and services, as I am not a trans woman, but I would absolutely show my support and be available if they needed my help. Again, to the best of my knowledge, The Vancouver Rape Relief only asks the same.

I also saw one of **you bring up sex workers to your social media post; the vast majority of the women helped by the shelter are sex workers**. I don't understand why this was brought up? It only shows that you're being fed a narrative and taking it at face value, without researching for yourselves. Again, I expected more from elected officials, the fact this is so blatant is worrisome.

By removing funding from the organization you will be sending a very strong message: women do not matter. The struggles and oppression they face as women do not matter.

I urge you to consider your decision carefully, in name of all women.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

On Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 2:58 PM s.22(1) wrote:
Dear all,

I'm writing this email in support of Vancouver Rape Relief. The service they offer, not just the shelter in itself, but the work they do to inform the community is of unmeasurable value.

Please consider this when making a decision tonight. In the month where we celebrate women, silencing them is not aligned with Canadian values.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 10:45:17 AM

Subject: Re: Letter to Council regarding Committee meeting (Mar 13, 2019), Admin Report 3 on Community Social Grants

Good morning, Councillors and Mayor,

I'd like to thank you all once again for staying so late into the evening last night to hear the thoughts and letters by all the registered speakers. The amount of time and attention you devoted to each and every item brought to you was very much appreciated, and your efforts and the amount of personal time you gave to hear us has not gone unnoticed. We are all very grateful.

There were particularly contentious topic that were discusses, and s.22(1) (re: VRR), and I wanted to express my particular appreciation to Councillor Boyle, who tweeted her support for trans-inclusive spaces.

https://twitter.com/christineeboyle/status/1105907784711790594?s=19&fbclid=IwAR35bNj8td-wK19ZOTQCiQhB86nUZNx7Olyz6iKp2gf9_eMFXhYlczBUMKQ

I was sad to see shortly after however, many users decided to shame and guilt her for taking this stance, and I wanted to say that I am very sorry for these personal attacks. Know that you are supported, and myself and others will try our best to defend and make sure others do not make you feel unsafe for your position. These fear-mongering statements detract from the purpose of why we support trans-inclusiveness. It is absolutely NOT to reduce the number of services for women, but rather to expand them.

After the council meeting, myself and others decided to lock down our social media accounts for the time being, because we anticipated that many who would be angry about our speeches would try to reach us personally. The fact that we had to become extra vigilant for our safety is a very sad reality for many trans-inclusive activists.

Finally, to further whelm any doubts that trans-inclusive spaces take away valuable resources from vulnerable people, I'd like to give a few more positive examples of centres offering the same and similar services as VRR that have proudly expressed their support for all people, and which remain open and are willing to take in all who might be displaced by VRR, should they be declined funding.

Testimony on Downtown Eastside Women's Centre: from <http://dewc.ca/news/found-voice-conversation-elaine>

"A lot of women come from abused situations and are on the run. I'm really happy that the Women's Centre is transgender inclusive. Transgender women don't have the same respect as us [cisgender] women."

WAVAW <https://www.wavaw.ca/wavaws-letter-to-the-editor-on-trans-inclusion/>:

"At WAVAW, our core values explicitly affirm that women are self-identified, and we encourage all women to become involved in our organization as clients, staff, and volunteers."

SWAN: <http://swanvancouver.ca/mission-philosophy-goals/>

"We celebrate newcomer, migrant, and immigrant women as integral to the sex workers' rights movement. We welcome trans* & gender-diverse im/migrant women."

Battered Women's Support Services: <https://www.bwss.org/support/> under "LGBTQ2S and non-binary survivors of violence" section:

"BWSS is committed to facing this reality and providing relevant services and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, two-spirit, and non-binary survivors of violence."

Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre: <http://www.cwhwc.com/>:

"At the CWHWC, we aim to provide low-barrier wellness services to trans and gender diverse people in a way that is respectful and celebratory of clients' identity and self-expression."

...and many more. I hope these resources are helpful and informative, and perhaps may come in useful, should people ever approach you with doubts and with questions. There are alternatives. There are options.

Thank you so much again for all your hard work. I know this is not easy. I hope you all get the much need-rest today before convening again!

All the best,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: March 13, 2019 6:36 AM

To: CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRFry@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; maryclare.zak@vancouver.ca; kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca

Subject: Letter to Council regarding Committee meeting (Mar 13, 2019), Admin Report 3 on Community Social Grants

Dear Councillor,

I'm a citizen of Vancouver, and was just informed about tomorrow (Mar. 13, 2019) committee meeting regarding Community Social Grants. Attached is a letter I have written addressing concerns I have regarding potential funding towards a particular organization. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and consider it.

All the best,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 7:12:10 PM

Subject: Re: Please continue to fund Vancouver Rape Relief

I just heard the news. The only thing that will come out of your decision is less money for women and for children in need of safety. WAVAW is not an alternative. It isn't fair that women who have been abused in the sex industry and consider themselves victims rather than empowered workers should have to deal with WAVAW's pro sex work propaganda. Women and their children deserve a choice. VRR was built by women for women. It is a place to safely share experiences that are unique to women. Morgane Oger has only lived their life as a woman for a few years...whatever that means. They have no right to interfere in the business of women. They have never had to deal with pregnancy, with menstruation, and more importantly they have never had to deal with domestic violence. How dare Oger punish women because they feel invalidated. This is not about the safety of transwomen. If it were there would be a movement to start another centre....which we all know would get plenty of funding. This is about punishing women. I cannot believe that the vice president of the NDP will have as their legacy the civic defunding of a rape shelter and aiding a known predator male, who preys on teenage girls, so said person (Jonathon Yaniv) can force women to touch his genitals. This is total madness. You are all creeps. SHAME ON ALL OF YOU WHO VOTED IN SUPPORT OF A MOTION THAT HARMS WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

On Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 3:46 PM s.22(1)

wrote:

Dear Vancouver council and mayor,

It is my understanding that thanks to the advocacy of NDP vice president, Morgane Oger, Vancouver Rape Relief may not receive continued funding from the City of Vancouver. Some council members have already stated that they will vote to cut funding. It makes me question whether they think rape relief services and counselling and transition houses are necessary for women. Yes, Vancouver Rape Relief only accepts women born women, it is a women's organization, after all. Another critique has been that they believe prostitution is violence against women. The organizers are not the only people who think so. Many survivors of the sex trade also believe this. Imagine having traumatizing experiences as a former prostitute and being forced through lack of choice to go to WAVAW, a pro-sex work organization. your voice and your experiences would be not just diminished, but erased.

There is not a one-size fits all solution for women looking for safety and an escape from violence. We all have different needs. Defunding Rape Relief will not improve anything for trans women or marginalized genders, it only punishes women who would be well-served by using the services of Rape Relief.

Women deserve choices and places where they feel safe. Funding more than one organization, and increasing funding to women escaping violence is the solution that makes sense, defunding Rape Relief is a cruel move, motivated by an ideology rather than a desire to help those in need.

Thanks for your time,

s.22(1)

12222

From: s.22(1)
To: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 9:39:24 AM
Subject: Re: Recommendation A-Comm. Services & Other Grants

Thanks so much, Jean, for all your hard work!

Tues

On Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 9:00 AM Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca> wrote:
Thanks for your letter, Tuesday. I agree with you and won't be voting for that grant. Take care. jean

From: Tuesday s.22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:05 PM
To: Bligh, Rebecca; Boyle, Christine; Carr, Adriane; De Genova, Melissa; Dominato, Lisa; Fry, Pete; Hardwick, Colleen; Swanson, Jean; Wiebe, Michael
Subject: Recommendation A-Comm. Services & Other Grants

Hello Counsellors,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people, as well as persons fleeing violence and their domestic partner is not cis male. Discrimination extends to sex workers, as this group is pressured to leave the work they are accustomed to as a condition to access services.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to female born women.

I have personally listened to the story of a blind, disabled, wheelchair bound trans woman who, late one night, finally got the courage to flee her abuser only to be turned away from Vancouver Rape Relief's services because she is trans, and was even refused the use of their phone to make one phone call so she could call a cab to take her to another shelter. She was left to fend for herself on the street in the middle of the night.

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women. This statement is still featured on their website.

A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people

This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of "accommodation, welcomeness and openness" and does not meet the grant requirements.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

A large rectangular grey box redacting the signature and name of the sender.

References

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs

- Bill C-16 <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

ñWomen Only Spacesò Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

aggggg

From: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
To: s.22(1)
Date: 3/13/2019 9:45:01 AM
Subject: RE: Request for community action to stop the City of Vancouver funding VRR

Thanks s.22(1) I will be voting against Rape Relief receiving funding, I have long been critical of their exclusion of trans-women. And I appreciate this effort from the community to reach out to Council and make sure we have this info.

Keep up the good work.

Best,
Christine

Councillor Christine Boyle
CITY OF VANCOUVER
phone 604-873-7242 email CLRboyle@vancouver.ca
address 453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
twitter @christineboyle facebook www.facebook.com/ChristineBoyleVancouver

From: s.22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:59 PM
To: Bligh, Rebecca; Boyle, Christine; Carr, Adriane; De Genova, Melissa; Kirby-Yung, Sarah; Hardwick, Colleen; Fry, Pete; Dominato, Lisa; Swanson, Jean; Wiebe, Michael
Subject: Request for community action to stop the City of Vancouver funding VRR

Attn Counsellors,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants. The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people, as well as persons fleeing violence and their domestic partner is not cis male. Discrimination extends to sex workers, as this group is pressured to leave the work they are accustomed to in order to access services.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- ☐ Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to female born women.
- ☐ Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- ☐ A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude

trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people

- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of “accommodation, welcomeness and openness” and does not meet the grant requirements.

Thank you, s.22(1)

References

Vancouver Rape Relief’s submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16
<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

“Women Only Spaces” Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

S--

From: s.22(1)

To: "Elizabeth Wolber" <elizabeth.wolber@gmail.com>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:19:19 PM

Subject: Re: Urgent request for support for Rape Relief

Dear Council Members and Mayor Kennedy Stewart

It has come to my attention that there is a movement to cut funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

I have volunteered at Vancouver Rape Relief. VRR houses hundreds of women and their children every year in the midst of our current housing crisis. It assists women in obtaining financial stability, legal aid and medical care as well as peer counselling and ongoing support. VRR has saved the lives of extremely vulnerable community members over the years.

The public education work that VRR does is essential to promoting their services. At every event that VRR holds, women approach the peer counsellors present in order to reveal that they need help. Without the budget to hold public education events, knowledge of VRR's services will not reach the women and their children who need it most.

I understand that an individual named Morgane Oger has issues with the way Vancouver Rape Relief provides a peer counselling model. They need to learn more about VRR and how we provide as much support as possible to the trans-identified people who call the crisis line. Clearly separate, dedicated new funding can be considered in order provide trans-identified people with specific services and public education funds that will meet their unique needs and experiences. Cutting funding to VRR will only negatively impact vulnerable women and their children who desperately need our help.

Please do not cut funding for such a crucial services as are currently provided by clients of Vancouver Rape Relief.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: March 13, 2019 3:23 PM

To: s.22(1)

Subject: Fwd: Urgent request for support for Rape Relief

There is a motion at city hall to cut funding to VRR based on the women only policy. Please read below and email council members ASAP in support of VRR. They will be voting tonight.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laurel McBride** <laurelm@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca>

Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 3:00 PM

Subject: Urgent request for support for Rape Relief

To: s.22(1)

s.22(1)

As I mentioned on the phone...

We have received a grant from the City of Vancouver for over a decade to fund our public education work - to engage the public in conversation with the aim of ending violence against women such as our annual Montreal Memorial Massacre conference and most recently, our International Women's Day event with Winona LaDuke.

The city staff have recommended that we receive this funding again this year and it will go before the city council for approval, likely this evening. We've learned that there is a **campaign** led by Morgane Oger to persuade the city council to vote against providing this funding. In light of this effort, we are asking our supporters to write to the mayor and council (bcc to the email addresses below) to express your support of Rape Relief receiving funding again this year from the city to carry on our work in the community. We request that any correspondence is brief and does not get into defending our positions or denouncing those leading the attack, sticking to an appreciation of their intention to continue to provide this funding to us. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your day to assist in securing the funding of our work.

CLRbligh@vancouver.ca

CLRboyle@vancouver.ca

CLRcarr@vancouver.ca

CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca

CLRdominato@vancouver.ca

CLRfry@vancouver.ca

CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca

CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca

CLRswanson@vancouver.ca

CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca

Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca

sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

In solidarity,

--

Laurel McBride

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter
604.872.8212

laurelm@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

--

s.22(1)

This is an example of the letter I wrote:

Dear Council Members and Mayor Kennedy Stewart

It has come to my attention that there is a movement to cut funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

I have been a volunteer at Vancouver Rape Relief s.22(1) and I can not express to you how crucial this organization is to the health and wellbeing of women and children in Vancouver. VRR houses hundreds of women every year in the midst of a housing crisis, assists women in obtaining financial stability, legal aid and medical care as well as peer counselling and ongoing support. VRR has saved the lives of some of our most vulnerable community members.

The public education work that VRR does is essential to promoting their services. At every event that VRR holds, women approach the peer counsellors present in order to reveal that they need help. Without the budget to hold public education events, knowledge of VRR's services will not reach the women who need it most.

I understand that Morgane Oger has issues with the way Vancouver Rape Relief provides a peer counselling model. I wish that they could know more about VRR and how they provide as much support as possible to the trans identified people who call the crisis line. I wish that instead of cutting funding to VRR, separate funding could be fought for in order to provide trans identified folks with services and public education funds that are appropriate for their unique needs and experiences.

Please do not cut funding for such a crucial service. I voted for many of you (the majority of you) during the last municipal election and I assure you I would not support you again should you do so.

Thank you,

tmm

From: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
To: s.22(1)
Date: 3/13/2019 9:42:02 AM
Subject: RE: Vancouver Rape Relief discriminates against trans-women - please re-consider their grant allocation

Thanks s.22(1) I will be voting against Rape Relief receiving funding, I have long been critical of their exclusion of trans-women. And I appreciate this effort from the community to reach out to Council and make sure we have this info.

Keep up the good work.

Best,
Christine

Councillor Christine Boyle
CITY OF VANCOUVER
phone 604-873-7242 email CLRboyle@vancouver.ca
address 453 W 12 Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
twitter @christineeboyle facebook www.facebook.com/ChristineBoyleVancouver

From: s.22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 12:19 AM
To: Bligh, Rebecca; Boyle, Christine; Carr, Adriane; De Genova, Melissa; Kirby-Yung, Sarah; Hardwick, Colleen; Fry, Pete; Dominato, Lisa; Swanson, Jean; Wiebe, Michael
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief discriminates against trans-women - please re-consider their grant allocation

Dear Councillors,

Please do not move forward with giving Vancouver Rape Relief the over \$30 000 from the Direct Social Services Grant Program - there are areas where this funding could go which do not exclude trans women. I urge you to take time to hear the speakers today and re-consider.

I have worked for s.22(1) Women's Centre and emergency night shelter. I've seen first hand how valuable services, support and shelter which include trans women are. Rape Relief has maintained that "women are women" and trans women are trans women", when trans women ARE women. Hence, many individuals are violently excluded from their services. The grant really could go to a better place - what about re-directing it to health care for trans women? And making the process of transitioning more accessible. I'll also highlight the City's report on trans inclusion and equality in vancouver [here](#) . Funding Rape Relief certainly doesn't fit in this mandate.

Anyways, I'm not a government expert, just an individual who knows how harmful Rape Relief is - please give this grant some thoughtful re-consideration.

Warmly,
s.22(1)

\\

From: "Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
To: s.22(1)
Date: 3/12/2019 6:59:50 PM
Subject: RE: Why Rape Relief is not entitled to grant funding

Hi s.22(1)

Thanks for your email and some background on this issue.

Regards,

Councillor Michael Wiebe
michael.wiebe@vancouver.ca
t 604-873-7241
c 604-679-0890
Twitter @councillorwiebe
Facebook /councillorwiebe

Assistant:
Haley Mah
haley.mah@vancouver.ca
t 604-871-6711



From: s.22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Bligh, Rebecca; Boyle, Christine; Carr, Adriane; De Genova, Melissa; Kirby-Yung, Sarah; Hardwick, Colleen; Fry, Pete; Swanson, Jean; Wiebe, Michael
Subject: Why Rape Relief is not entitled to grant funding
Importance: High

Dear Council members

Attached is a letter outlining the reasons why Council should not fund Vancouver Rape Relief.

The link to the human rights decision referenced in my letter is:

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html?autocompleteStr=nixon%20rape&autocompletePos=1>

s.22(1)

This communication is confidential and may be protected by solicitor/client privilege. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and then delete the email completely from your computer.

mllllll

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/12/2019 10:44:36 PM

Subject: Re March 13th Council Meeting

Dear Counsellors,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants. The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people
- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of "accommodation, welcomeness and openness" and does not meet the grant requirements.

Thank you,

References

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16
<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

"Women Only Spaces" Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/12/2019 10:05:07 PM

Subject: Recommendation A-Comm. Services & Other Grants

Hello Counsellors,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people, as well as persons fleeing violence and their domestic partner is not cis male. Discrimination extends to sex workers, as this group is pressured to leave the work they are accustomed to as a condition to access services.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."

I have personally listened to the story of a blind, disabled, wheelchair bound trans woman who, late one night, finally got the courage to flee her abuser only to be turned away from Vancouver Rape Relief's services because she is trans, and was even refused the use of their phone to make one phone call so she could call a cab to take her to another shelter. She was left to fend for herself on the street in the middle of the night.

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs
City of Vancouver - FOI 2019-198 - Page 100 of 179

regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people “would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women’s groups to serve and organize with female-born women.” This statement is still featured on their website.

A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about “women only spaces” that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people

This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of “accommodation, welcomeness and openness” and does not meet the grant requirements.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

References

Vancouver Rape Relief’s submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16 <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia
<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcc601/2005bcc601.html>

“Women Only Spaces” Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/12/2019 7:59:03 PM

Subject: Request for community action to stop the City of Vancouver funding VRR

Attn Counsellors,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people, as well as persons fleeing violence and their domestic partner is not cis male. Discrimination extends to sex workers, as this group is pressured to leave the work they are accustomed to in order to access services.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people
- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of “accommodation, welcomeness and openness” and does not meet the grant requirements.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

References

Vancouver Rape Relief’s submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16

<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcc601/2005bcc601.html>

“Women Only Spaces” Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

unnnn

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

CC: "Laurel McBride" <laurelm@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca>

Date: 3/19/2019 12:40:15 PM

Subject: Reverse the anti-woman funding decision re: vancouver rape relief

Dear Mr Mayor and Counsellors,

I write as an outraged citizen of Vancouver, after your recent decision to cut the funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter's public education program.

I had the opportunity to use the services of this centre s.22(1).

I, like many other women, was trained (via the public education program you defunded) to be an active participant in our local civil society. I had the opportunity to work with women and men committed to positive social transformation. Your decision puts that program at risk. Should I assume that is your intent? To halt the critical feminist forces in our city?

I am appalled that women's rights to organise together are being undermined by your government. Women & girls remain systematically subject to discrimination, violence and indeed femicide, *because* we are born and raised female. Our right to organise with others who endure this experience is protected in Canadian law, as is the right of other disadvantaged groups to organise with others of similar experience (such as people of colour, disabled people, LGBTQ+). Your demand that Vancouver Rape Relief change their membership criteria as a condition of funding is an outrage to the thousands of callers and volunteers who understand our organisation among women-only until we understand and can end male domination.

Many of my colleagues, family, and friends see your decision as a betrayal of women and we count on you to reconsider.

Regards,

s.22(1)

se

From: s.22(1)

To: "Carr, Adriane"

Date: 3/13/2019 7:45:04 AM

Subject: Spam: March 13th meeting: concern about a Direct Social Services grant applicant

Attachments: letter to council-3.pdf

Hello,

My letter to council is attached.

Thank you for your time,

s.22(1)

March 13, 2019

Dear Councillor,

I ask that you move to amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to approval. Specifically, I ask you to amend the recommendation in order to deny the award of a Direct Social Services Grant to Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS) as the organization does not meet the basic grant eligibility.

I am a resident of Vancouver, a transgender person, and also someone who has previously volunteered with an organization that seeks to end gender-based and sexualized violence.

I deeply appreciated learning that grant applicants *"must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, **gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people)**, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"* (Direct Services Grant Application Form #2, emphasis added).

If this criteria is applied appropriately, VRRS will be found ineligible for the grant due to its public, ongoing, and active practice of exclusion of transgender women from services intended to serve women. VRRS applies definitions of woman and women in its policies, practices, and programs that are at odds with City's stated commitments to trans inclusion.

As a reminder, Council passed a motion "Ensuring Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver" in July 2015. Vancouver City Council sought to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion as trans, gender variant and two-spirit people "are all too often at the fringes of our society and outside the circle of inclusion [facing] damaging forms of discrimination and persistent challenges to accessing some of the most basic forms of human needs – housing, education, food, medical services, employment and safety from physical harm." Following this, city staff prepared a report titled "Supporting Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver," presented June 8th, 2016 (08-2000-20).

This report included a framework of five pillars through which inclusion work is considered. I want to highlight Pillar two: **Programs and Services**. It includes “programs and services constructed, contracted and granted through departments such as Community Services and Housing.” Recommendation 2B states that the City will “integrate TGV2S-inclusion into all existing programs and services.” From the explicit wording of the application form, we can see that the City has integrated TGV2S inclusion into the City’s processes for granting. These criteria in no way limit grant applicants from serving specific groups or applying specific definitions in their work, but instead indicate that an unnecessarily exclusive practice may affect CoV grant eligibility.

If you are concerned that VRRS’ definition of woman is necessary due to the work it undertakes with women survivors of violence, know that other grant applicants do similar work and are inclusive of trans women, or trans people more broadly. I do not disagree that women seeking support can and do find solace among other women, rather, I submit that VRRS’ choice to apply an exclusive definition of woman (cisgender or “female-born women”) when applying for grant to provide services to women makes them ineligible for a Direct Social Services grant.

What to do? VRRS has previously received grants from the City of Vancouver and it may indeed choose to apply any specific definition of woman in its organizing and work. However, Council has set out clear criteria for grant eligibility and the City has no obligation to fund any grant applicant. The correct action in this case is simple.

To close, I ask again that you vote to amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to its approval. Specifically, I ask you to amend the recommendation in order to deny the award of a Direct Social Services Grant to Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS) as the organization does not meet the basic grant eligibility.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

From: "Fay Blaney" <fayblaney01@gmail.com>

To: "Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>

"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>

"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>

"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>

"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>

"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>

"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>

"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:26:11 PM

Subject: Spam: Message of Support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

To Mayor Kennedy Stewart and City Councilors

My name is Fay Blaney and I am a long time collective member of the Aboriginal Women's Action Network (AWAN). I write in support of the continued funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (VRR). These women have demonstrated, through action, in writings and direct assistance, that they support the truth-telling and capacity building of Indigenous women. Although this support has been a mainstay of Rape Relief's work for decades, I will list a few specific and recent examples:

- When the National Inquiry on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls was announced, VRR worked in partnership with AWAN to organize two symposiums to educate ourselves in preparation for the upcoming hearings. Our two-day events were attended by Indigenous women and our allies, from around the province, and across the country.
- AWAN organized a series of workshops on Indigenous women's truths and issues, and VRR provided the space as well as the material resources required to ensure the success of these workshops.
- Each year during the commemoration of the Montreal Massacre, VRR invites Indigenous women from various parts of Canada and the United States to participate in the Roundtable discussions on salient topics. This not only ensures that Indigenous women's leadership and voices are included in the dialogue, but also provides an opportunity for local Indigenous women leaders to network with those guests.
- Winona LaDuke, VRR's International Women's Day 2019 guest speaker was a resounding success for Indigenous women and many other communities in the lower mainland.

The leadership of the VRR Collective is critical in this time of continuing struggle for women's inalienable rights and substantive equality. The fact that they privilege education and emancipation on par with service delivery to women and children fleeing male violence is extremely important to me and the members of my collective.

Should you wish to speak further with me on any of this, I may be reached at 778 714-0161 or via this email address.

Thanks for your consideration of my message of support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

Sincerely,

Fay Blaney
Aboriginal Women's Action Network

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:40:10 PM

Subject: Support for motion regarding 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Councillors,

I am writing to urge you to support the motion from city staff to approve the Direct Services Grants for all of the listed Agencies, including Vancouver Rape Relief Society.

Funding for organizations like Vancouver Rape Relief is more important now than ever. As the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) noted in a 2017 report, violence against women "is the most significant factor contributing to women's experiences of housing instability and homelessness" (2017, p. 2-3).

As many of you have probably read in the report that was released today regarding Tina Fontaine, the death of Tina Fontaine was preceded by her attempts to escape sexual exploitation and by being turned away from city shelters because there were no available beds. I urge you to do your part in preventing another death like Tina Fontaine's and to help other women and girls avoid the predictable fate of housing precarity and domestic violence.

Sincerely,
s.22(1)

References:

CMHC, "Women and Housing: Identifying Themes": https://eppdscrmssa01.blob.core.windows.net/cmhcprodcontainer/sf/project/archive/research_2/women_and_housing.pdf

Article on Tina Fontaine in the Globe and Mail: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-tina-fontaines-calls-for-help-went-unanswered-manitoba-childrens/>

///

From: s.22(1)

To: CLRbligh@vancouver.ca
@mailgw3.vancouver.ca

"CLRboyle@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRboyle@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRcarr@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRcarr@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRdominato@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRdominato@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRfry@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRfry@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRswanson@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRswanson@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>
"sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca @mailgw3.vancouver.ca" <"sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca"@mailgw3.vancouver.ca>

CC: s.22(1)

Date: 3/13/2019 9:35:21 PM

Subject: Support for Rape Relief Public Education Funding

Dear City Council,

The Steering Committee Members of the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) strongly support the continued public funding for it's education program to educate the public, most especially vulnerable women like our membership in recognizing and protecting themselves against male violence.

For the past 25 years, CDWCR has referred clients to Rape Relief and used their expertise and resources to educate our membership in their empowerment. CDWCR is a non profit, registered Society run by 100% volunteers who were former and current domestic and care workers. We receive minimal funding from the BCGEU and HEU and relies in working collaboratively and resource sharing with other partners in the community like Rape Relief to deliver on our mandate of advocating for and empowering domestic and care workers.

We urge the council to grant Rape Relief continued funding for the important education work they provide regarding ending violence against women.

Yours sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 3/13/2019 7:53:40 PM
Subject: Support for Rape Relief

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I'm expressing my support to continue Rape Relief's education funding.

I have been attending their annual Montreal Massacre Memorial for the last five years. This event is vital to educate the public about one of the most brutal attacks against Canadian women, and likewise, educates the public on how to end violence against women. It is the only event in Vancouver of this kind, and it would be a disservice to survivors of domestic violence and to the public at large if events such as these come to an end. It is through the City of Vancouver Funding that events and public education such as the Montreal Massacre Memorial is able to be realized.

Please continue funding Rape Relief's education programs.

Best,

s.22(1)

[REDACTED]

From: s.22(1)
To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 6:26:11 PM
Subject: Support for the motion regarding 2019 Community Service and other social Grants

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Councillors,

I am writing to urge you to support the motion from city staff to approve the Direct Services Grants for all of the listed Agencies, including Vancouver Rape Relief Society.

Funding for organizations like Vancouver Rape Relief is more important now than ever. Especially when violence against women "is the most significant factor contributing to women's experiences of housing instability and homelessness" as noted in the 2017 report by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) (2017, p. 2-3).

Violence against women is still an issue and impacting many, today is a good reminder of that with the release of the Tina Fontaine report. Education is crucial to help us and the community increase our awareness, give voice to those impacted by domestic violence and find solution that aim to end violence against women.

I have attended many educational events organized by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women Shelter Society and I have been able to bring my family(s.22(1)) and friends. These events help us to openly discuss the issues and increase support for women working to end violence against women.

Sincerely
Vancouver Resident-Mount Pleasant

s.22(1)

pll

From: s.22(1)
To: "Hardwick, Colleen"
Date: 3/13/2019 2:31:21 PM
Subject: support for Vancouver Rape Relief

Hi all,

I wanted to write in to express my appreciation that for over a decade the City of Vancouver has given some funding to Vancouver Rape Relief, and I appreciate the intent to fund Vancouver Rape Relief's Public Education program again this year.

As a lesbian survivor of male violence, it's organizations like Vancouver Rape Relief that helped me to heal and grow.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:26:57 PM

Subject: Support for Vancouver Rape Relief

Good afternoon

I am writing to express my full support for City Council to continue to provide financial support to Vancouver Rape Relief for their very important work in the community. I understand this issue may be coming before the Council soon.

Violence against women is a very persistent and serious issue in our society. I have supported Vancouver Rape Relief for many years, as I think they do critical work in trying to end this violence. Not only do I donate money to them, but I am also involved in street level fundraising.

I feel the City, and everyone, must be unequivocal in supporting efforts to make our society a safer place for women.

I ask you to continue to fund Vancouver Rape Relief.

Thank you

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 6:59:20 PM

Subject: Support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council members,

I am writing to you to express support for the very important public education work that Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter has been doing for many years in the community.

Their educational programs provide excellent opportunities for critical thinking, analysis and awareness-raising about women's equality.

I hope to see this funding continue for the important work that is being done in the community.

Warmly,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:16:21 PM

Subject: Support for Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Vancouver City Councilors,

I am in support of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter for the wonderful community service they do to keep women and children safe.

The city benefits greatly from their existence of the community support they provide. Continued funding support would be important to our community.

Thank you for hearing all sides and thinking about who this benefits.

s.22(1)

: [REDACTED]

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane"
Date: 3/13/2019 2:26:15 PM
Subject: Support Funding for Rape Relief (Urgent)

I understand that there is a motion to debate funding for Vancouver Rape Relief.

I want to voice my unconditional support as a resident of this city for the critical services that Rape Relief provides women and their children escaping male violence.

I am very grateful that the City has been supportive via funding for their services for many years now and that the staff is recommending that this continue. I have had to access these specific services before and it changed my life immeasurably.

Thank you for continuing to help end violence against women.

Sincere Regards and in gratitude for your civic service,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 2:31:42 PM

Subject: Support Vancouver Rape Relief

Hello,

I'm writing this email to implore you to please continue to support Vancouver Rape Relief. Their services are critical for the wellbeing, survival and support of female rape victims. Defunding this organization will only hurt women at their most vulnerable as there are already so few services available. Please continue your valued and much needed support.

Kindest regards,

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s.22(1)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 3/13/2019 3:34:50 PM
Subject: Thank you for continuing to fund VRR's work

Good afternoon Mayor Stewart and Council Members,

I am writing in appreciation of the funding the City of Vancouver has provided to Vancouver Rape and Women's Shelter over the years to support their very important public education work. I understand that you will be voting this evening on whether or not to continue this funding. I am a resident of East Vancouver and have experienced firsthand the tremendous value of this organization's anti-violence work and understand the absolute necessity of their public education and events in order to address systemic issues that effect us all. I ask that you please vote in favour of continuing funding to this excellent organization.

Many thanks,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 2:22:32 PM

Subject: Thank you for providing ongoing support for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

To the Vancouver City Council and Mayor,

I have lived in Vancouver for more than 20 years and want you to know how much I value the work done in the community by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I appreciate that the city has provided support for so many years to this organization and glad it will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 6:46:38 PM

Subject: Thank you for supporting Vancouver Rape Relief

Thousands of women have benefited from the services of VRR. What they offer saves women's lives and as such is priceless.

Sincerely, s.22(1)

From: "Kenzie Gerrand" <kenzie@pace-society.org>
To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/12/2019 11:52:10 PM

Subject: Urgent: Direct Social Service Grant recommendations

Attachments: Letter to CoV Council .pdf

City Councillors,

Please see attached letter requesting urgent consideration on the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants recommendations to be reviewed tomorrow by the council.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or to speak about these concerns further.

Thank you and take care,

Kenzie Gerrand
acting Executive Director
PACE Society
Cell: 604-786-5437

I respectfully acknowledge that my work takes place on the stolen lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the shared territories of the Skwx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Sḵw̓əwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nations.

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aggg



**Providing
Advocacy
Counselling
&
Education
Society**

—

148 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC

604-872-7651
info@pace-society.org
www.pace-society.org

March 12th, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of PACE Society, a peer-driven organization in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside providing support, advocacy, and education for current and former sex workers of all genders. PACE has been recommended for a Direct Social Services grant, up for City Council approval tomorrow, that will hopefully provide ongoing support for our Occupational Health and Safety program, which the City of Vancouver has funded for over ten years. This essential program aims to empower our members to protect themselves against situational violence frequently encountered in sex work. Violence against sex workers is a direct result of stigma and criminalization, a reality that the City of Vancouver has recognized in many ways over recent years, including naming destigmatization and access to support a key funding priority to increase safety for sex workers, as well as in the development of the City of Vancouver Sex Work Response Guidelines¹.

In 2018, the City of Vancouver awarded PACE Society an *Award of Excellence* for Diversity and Inclusion based on our work with trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse persons in Vancouver. We acknowledge the City of Vancouver's commitment to the inclusion of trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse people in various council motions and reports over the last few years².

With this in mind, I ask that Council does not approve funding for Vancouver Rape Relief Society's Public Education and Community Outreach Program. As you may be aware, Vancouver Rape Relief actively creates harm in the sex work and trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse communities PACE serves. They have a long history of advocating against the inclusion of trans women, notably in the 2002 Supreme Court case of *Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society* in which they defended a discriminatory and transphobic definition of a woman as "female-born" to exclude trans women from their organization³. They also made a submission to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 in which they claimed that

¹ <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/sex-work-response-guidelines.pdf>

² <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/trans-gender-variant-and-two-spirit-inclusion-at-the-city-of-vancouver.pdf>

³ <https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

protecting the human rights of trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse people “would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women’s groups to serve and organize with female-born women.”⁴

In addition, the sex work prohibitionist rhetoric that Vancouver Rape Relief advocates further stigmatizes and harms sex workers. They advocate for the continued criminalization of sex work, deny sex workers agency by claiming sex workers cannot consent, and shame those who choose to do sex work. Vancouver Rape Relief has made it abundantly clear that sex workers, trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse people are excluded from accessing their services, perpetuating the stigma and violence that these communities face on a daily basis.

We recognize the City of Vancouver has made significant efforts to build trust with the sex worker community and continues to work collaboratively to keep sex workers and trans, two-spirit, non-binary, and gender diverse folks safe. Part of this commitment is shown in the eligibility criteria for the City of Vancouver grants which sets out that organizations must: "demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), [...] in its policies, practices and programs". Vancouver Rape Relief should be ineligible for funding based on this criteria, as approving their funding would contradict the City's commitment to the inclusion of trans people and the health and safety of sex workers, and undermine the important work the City has done to build trust within these communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this sensitive and serious matter.

Kenzie Gerrand
Acting Executive Director
PACE Society

⁴ <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 9:04:07 AM

Subject: URGENT - RE 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants

Attachments: ATTN CITY OF VANCOUVER - RE VANCOUVER RAPE RELIEF.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a letter regarding today's proceedings, regarding Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

I apologize for the late letter, but hope you take the time to review my letter and other correspondence from trans folk and their allies in Vancouver.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

ATTN CITY OF VANCOUVER COUNCILLORS

March 13, 2019

Dear Councillors,

I respectfully write to you, requesting that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

I am disappointed to learn that Vancouver Rape Relief has been put forth as a rightful recipient of this grant. I have previously sat on a grant jury for the Cultural Infrastructure Grant s.22(1) I found this to be a very professional, ethical process and was honoured to be invited. I am concerned that Vancouver Rape Relief was not flagged early in the granting process, especially given its ongoing pattern of trans- and sex work-antagonistic organizing. You may not be aware, but this organization is doing harm in Vancouver, as well as nationally and internationally.

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief Society, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people. The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people
- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant. I thank my community for alerting me of today's proceedings.

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of "accommodation, welcomeness and openness" and does not meet the grant requirements.

References

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs - Bill C-16

<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For British Columbia

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

"Women Only Spaces" Podcast <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
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"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 11:55:04 AM

Subject: URGENT: VOTE TODAY - CITY OF VANCOUVER FUNDING GRANT - Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

Dear Mayor Stewart, Council, and City Manager,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a campaign to persuade city council to vote against providing a funding grant to Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter and that this vote is taking place this afternoon.

s.22(1)

, I am writing to request that you continue to support this vitally important work by approving the City of Vancouver funding grant this afternoon. It is my understanding that city staff have recommended Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter receive funding again this year and that it is now in City Council's hands to vote to continue to support funding this grant.

On behalf of my s.22(1) family, friends and countless other women in my life who have received support from Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter, I truly appreciate your support over the last 10+ years with this grant and your intention to continue to provide this funding.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

--

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
CLRdegenova@vancouver.c
aCLRdominato@vancouver.ca
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 5:00:09 PM

Subject: Vancouver City Funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear City Councillors,

s.22(1) and I are strong supporters of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter for the good work that they do in our community. Their dedication and commitment to helping women deal with male violence and to public education is necessary and important. We are 100% behind the city's ongoing funding of this small but vital organization.

s.22(1)

\tttt

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/16/2019 10:19:19 AM

Subject: Vancouver Council results

Hello,

I wanted to write concerning the recent decision to defund Vancouver Rape Relief. Sex as well as gender needs to be protected given the scale of sex-based oppression and violence women suffer. Female rape victims deserve a space that is free from males as this is triggering and hampers their recovery. There is also no evidence that suggests that trans women do not retain a male level tendency to criminality re: sexual and violent crimes so it is a huge risk to make vulnerable women share space with them. In addition, there are other shelters they may use (and are a small percentage of the population to begin with so the demand is not as great as with females). Changing pronouns and self-ID as a means to determine who is a woman in terms of accessing these vulnerable spaces is a huge risk and rape victims should not have to bear the cost of this. In my personal life I have worked with many women's orgs and trans women retain male attitudes and have threatened the women in these spaces when they get angered, similar to any male. Please do not be complicit in allowing this to happen. It is better to build alternate spaces for trans people rather than to say the female experience is meaningless and that females do not deserve space and protection away from males.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

•

From: s.22(1)

To: "Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/19/2019 4:24:50 AM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Crisis Centre

Dear Vancouver Councillors,

I am located in s.22(1)

I have watched with horror and incredulity as the VCC has withdrawn funds from the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

The VRRWS has provided services to women in crisis from violence and sexual violence for decades. It was established by women, for women.

I am thoroughly disgusted and horrified that you would withdraw funds because a biological male who identifies as a woman (Morgane Oger formerly known as Rohan Oger) has taken offence to this, and demands that the services be provided to males identifying as women. Oger is well-known as being intolerant of females of who seek to protect and defend their boundaries.

The fact that women in distress from male violence are being coerced into accepting male-bodied people into the space in exchange for funding is disgraceful.

Your lack of respect and understanding for traumatised women is appalling, women are entitled to spaces free from male bodies (whether they identify as women or not), particularly when seeking refuge from male violence. The fact that you are simply ignoring and dismissing the needs of these women, and subsuming them to the needs of biological males who have a personal issue with their gender identity is extraordinarily dismaying.

I hope that you reconsider your position, and perhaps put the needs of traumatised women before that of the current cause celebre.

Kind Regards,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 12:10:13 AM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear Mr. Mayor and Vancouver City Counsel

I am writing as a woman who has used the services of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's shelter s.22(1) and then as a volunteer trained to respond to other women in crisis.

It has recently come to my attention that the City staff have recommended to again provide funding to support the public education and training program that transformed my life and that of hundreds of other women (and men) who come into contact with Vancouver Rape Relief in the course of trying to understand and stop male violence against women.

I write to express my strong appreciation as a socially-engaged citizen of Vancouver that the City has provided funding to this important organisation for several years, and to heartily encourage you to do so again in 2019.

With warm regards,
s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 2:29:19 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

To all who are present and involved with allocating funding to the Vancouver Rape Relief funding.....simply put **please continue to support Vancouver Rape Relief**. This is in support of our daughters, mothers, aunts, grandmothers, girlfriends, mentors, and quite frankly for humankind!!! We all are effected by our passivity or a blind eye in helping those who are traumatized to receive emotion/physical support to recover to the best of abilities. It is your ability right now to protect and to serve. Please do not be swayed.

Their services are critical to the wellbeing and survival of rape victims. *No other agency does more for victims than they do, and their services are needed as much now, as ever.*

They need, and deserve, your support and funding, until the day when rape no longer exists.

Please be the pillar in standing for truth, respect and honour.

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

ieeeee

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/16/2019 9:08:19 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

To whom it may concern,

The defunding of VRR is a terrible loss to Vancouver women in need. I cannot even fathom the severe lack of empathy required to vote in favour of defunding an organization that serves women fleeing rape.

I am incredibly concerned by this deliberate attack on women's liberty and I pray that city council can see this. This is a major loss.

The VRR commitment is to ending violence against women, and I would hope that goal is the same for council.

Please reinstate funding. This is dire.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:12:07 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

Dear city council members,

I thank you for considering another year of funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. They are a great organization and their participation in the community to help end male violence against women has made a significant impact.

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From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/19/2019 1:12:37 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief and International Women's Day

Letter re Vancouver Rape Relief :

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing in regards to the Vancouver City Council's March 14, 2019 decision to grant termination funding to Vancouver Rape Relief.

For 45 years, Vancouver Rape Relief has been an organisation that is integral to advancing women's rights on a local and national scale. Their public education work is an essential part of this. Most recently, they participated in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on the case of the murder of Cindy Gladue. Their events, such as the recent International Women's Day speak with Winona LaDuke, frequently features the campaigns of other important social justice movements locally such as towards the world we want to live in.

This decision by the Vancouver City Council was undemocratic and does NOT reflect the sentiments and opinions of the residents of Vancouver. Allowing the Vancouver City Council to overstep and dictate how a critical organisation (the oldest rape crisis centre in Canada) operates and fights for the women it serves is highly troubling.

Regards,

Letter regarding International Women's Day:

<http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/blog/news/city-of-vancouver-proclamation-for-international-womens-day/> and <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadas-oldest-rape-crisis-centre-stripped-of-city-funding-for-refusing-to-accept-trans-women>

Hello Kennedy Stewart, Jean Swanson and Vancouver City Council, open letter

I'm shocked and appalled by your demands that trans identified (and other) men are to be included in International Women's Day. You have completely ignored that all human rights codes include sex which means WOMAN or MAN and sexual orientation which means lesbian, gay or straight women and men. There is no lawful definition of 'gender identity' and no reason why it should be

prioritized over sex and sexual orientation. There is no rational reason for this unless you simply believe that this proclamation will make you look woke, cool and progressive.

(It's also shocking that you have refused to continue to fund the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter's education fund.)

There are already at least SEVENTEEN special days/weeks/months that include (either strictly trans or trans included in LGBT) the celebration transness and other identities. Why should International Women's Day now honour men? Why should women now have to make room for men who don't consider themselves men despite the fact that they obviously are. You're just like the sentimental men who insisted Bill C-16 be passed with little to no public consultation just for the sake of an appeal to emotion and 'good wishes' for men. What about good wishes for women?

There is NO scientific evidence that medical interventions can change a human (or any other mammal) from one sex to the other. It's preposterous to believe that men or women can identify their way out of oppression by claiming to be the opposite sex. Sex is a biologically determined fact. Gender identity is not. There is no evidence that people have an inborn sense of gender id. Only people who believe in souls could sanctify this nonsense.

It's almost like none of you have fully examined the whole story and are only listening to crying men who demand we all kowtow to their magical thinking. There is plenty of information widely available exposing the whole picture of trans identifying men, children and some women.

Are you still unaware that every woman's space which allows men to enter will soon become a male dominated space? Women have little enough of our own yet here you are proclaiming that we need to give up even more for the sake of men who hate women and who cannot be bothered creating their own spaces despite the funds and motivation available for them.

Are you aware that men who 'transition' into women do not change their rate of violence? Are you aware that predatory men in prisons are claiming to be women so they can have special treatment such as free tampons (men needing tampons?) that even women don't get as well as being held in women's prisons where women are most vulnerable? Are you aware of the impact of men claiming to be women taking over women's sports in the most smug and spectacular ways? Are you aware that children are being made victims of the trans ideology that demands we capitulate to children's whims in order that they can be lifetime receivers of medical care? Are you aware of the reams of documentation showing how transactivists hate women and simply covet women's things so that they can get sexual gratification? Are you aware that men (including Kimberly Nixon) have publicly stated that they only want entry into women's places because they believe it will validate their claims to be women and that gives them a sexual charge?

Seems that you've all just decided that women aren't actually women anymore. Seems that you are only concerned with satisfying the whims of men confused (yes this is what so called gender dysphoria means, oh and btw, you don't need gender dysphoria to call yourself trans these days) about their sex /gender? Are you aware that male trans have multiple comorbidities and serious mental health concerns that are not being addressed? Are you aware that girls as young as THIRTEEN in Canada and elsewhere are able to have their total mastectomies and that girls and boys are being put on puberty blockers at such an early age that they will be rendered permanently sterile and permanently without sexual pleasure? Many detransitioners as well as trans people are stating that they were not given the full information

before the medical treatments. Also there is NO medically sound or approved treatment plan for people who have gender dysphoria. It's all a great big experiment.

If you are not aware of all of these damaging aspects of transgenderism, then why are you blithely going ahead and stealing more things away from women? Do you understand that lesbians are being banned from their own Dyke Marches established by women decades ago in order that men who believe they are lesbians (but in fact are heterosexual men) can have their false identities validated even though they have their own trans events/marches regularly? Lesbian spaces have been invaded at least since the 1950's by transvestites convinced they belonged in lesbian groups. Consequently there are almost zero orgs that are exclusively lesbian, by which I mean women (not trans id'd males who imagine they are lesbians) who love women. So you're willing to trample over the rights of sexual orientation for the sake of gender id.

People are beginning to believe that in order to capitulate to the lies of men confused about their sex and gender, you must be receiving a lot of cash from their lobbies. People are beginning to believe that all government agencies must be getting vast amounts of money from the trans lobby if they perpetuate men's lies. Which offshore accounts are you hiding their money in? If this is not true, why are you so desperate to cater to the demands of disordered men (yes it's still a disorder in the DSMV.)

Why would you take the word of a man, namely Morgan Oger, over the words of traumatized women who do not want to have men sharing their safest spaces? Why are you in favour of men breaking the boundaries of women? Morgan has established a society solely to persecute and sue women or anyone he disagrees with using funds (possibly from monies he owes his ex-wife and the Sechelt Band. Morgane who is a public figure and still VP of NDP as far as we know has never responded to requests for information on these illegalities) to cry hate while refusing to fund the trans resources that are clearly so necessary for them. He's been asked many times why he won't support trans in this way and he simply bans anyone who doesn't agree with him. Morgane has had a vendetta against VRR since right after he started taking estrogen and staged a rally AGAINST the memorialization of the Montreal Massacre of Women because it wasn't inclusive of transwomen!

Myself and many other women have written and commented to your council repeatedly and not received any answers to our questions. This is absolute proof that you are ignoring women in order to bow down to the demands of men just like men have been doing since time immemorial. Nothing that you are doing actually supports the liberation of women.

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

Myself and many other concerned women worldwide await your response. Please don't ignore us like the BCNDP ignored an open letter signed by over a hundred people regarding the March On Vancouver's (which was originally Women's March On Vancouver but that was decided not to be inclusive enough of men and the word 'women' was deleted by the march organizers) mistreatment of women by men at our own march.

s.22(1)

From: "Trisha Baptie" <trisha@educating-voices.com>
To: "Swanson, Jean"
Date: 3/13/2019 3:36:44 PM
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief and Shelter support

Hello,

We are submitting this letter in support of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter to continue to receive city funding to do the very dynamic public education they do. In light of the #metoo movement, Harvey Weinstein and other campaigns, now more than ever the public is listening to the plight that women are championing against, namely, violence against women. Vancouver Rape Relief has a long history and reputation for putting on amazing education campaigns that engage the public to learn more about the violence women face on a daily basis and that is an invaluable education the public needs. As a small non-profit that deals with the end result of men's violence against women we very much support trying to change attitudes and clear up misconceptions as to the lived realities of women and we appreciate how much work Vancouver Rape Relief pours into their public education events and how dedicated they are to getting the truth out there.

We look forward to seeing another year of Vancouver Rape Relief's anti-violence campaigns and hope the city of Vancouver sees the importance of supporting such things.

Best,
Trisha Baptie

=====

Founding Member & Community Engagement Coordinator
of EVE (formerly Exploited Voices now Educating)

Website: www.educating-voices.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abolitionEVE>

Twitter: [@abolitionEVE](https://twitter.com/abolitionEVE)

604.518.4798

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:22:40 PM

Subject: Vancouver rape relief and women's shelter

To Mayor Kennedy Stewart and City Councilors

My name s.22(1)

I was born and raised in Vancouver and I'm writing in support of the continuation of education funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I've been to a number of V.R.R. events and I find a sense of belong s.22(1) and other women from around the world. The events are informative on how I can stay safe and they give me mentally, emotionally, spiritual tools I need for me to walk in Vancouver streets. I always feel like I've been heard and there is a big sense of community with the workers and those there for help. I believe V.R.R is one of the very few places I and so many other women can go to 24/7 in case of male violence which I consider to be a constant everywhere and everyday. It would be a great loss to me and so many others if they could not continue the great education work they do. I hope you can sympathize with what I'm telling you and make the right choice of continuing to help keep this beautiful women's organization alive. I thank you for your time, sending my prayers.

s.22(1)

tm

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>

CC: "Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>

"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>

"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>

"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>

"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>

"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>

"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>

"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 1:45:12 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Dear Becky,

s.22(1) has asked me to email city council regarding the vote to continue funding Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I wish I'd known earlier...

I would argue that this organization assists the most vulnerable members of our community; abused women and children in need of shelter. If we want to address poverty and homelessness in Vancouver this is the best place to start.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss further. Thank you.

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 4:47:09 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter Funding

Dear members of Vancouver City Council,

Thank you for the work you do for citizens of Vancouver.

I want you to know how much I value the work done by the members of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. They provide extremely valuable support to people who have few options available to them.

I'm proud that the City recognizes the work they do with financial support.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)
To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
Date: 3/13/2019 3:02:12 PM
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

I understand there may be a vote tonight about continued funding for the vital educational work of this organization.

I write to support both that work and the long term support of it by Vancouver via it's City Council.

s.22(1)

A large rectangular area of the document has been redacted, appearing as a solid grey block. It covers the lower portion of the page, starting below the second paragraph and extending down to the footer area.

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 12:19:23 AM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief discriminates against trans-women - please re-consider their grant allocation

Dear Councillors,

Please do not move forward with giving Vancouver Rape Relief the over \$30 000 from the Direct Social Services Grant Program - there are areas where this funding could go which do not exclude trans women. I urge you to take time to hear the speakers today and re-consider.

I have worked s.22(1) Women's Centre and emergency night shelter. I've seen first hand how valuable services, support and shelter which include trans women are. Rape Relief has maintained that "women are women" and trans women are trans women", when trans women ARE women. Hence, many individuals are violently excluded from their services. The grant really could go to a better place - what about re-directing it to health care for trans women? And making the process of transitioning more accessible. I'll also highlight the City's report on trans inclusion and equality in vancouver [here](#) . Funding Rape Relief certainly doesn't fit in this mandate.

Anyways, I'm not a government expert, just an individual who knows how harmful Rape Relief is - please give this grant some thoughtful re-consideration.

Warmly,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:42:31 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief Funding

Good afternoon,

I am emailing you to urge you to continue funding Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. The group does important frontline service work and public education work in the community. As a Vancouver resident I believe it is vital that the city fund women's groups as an ongoing commitment to women and girls as well as to fight violence against women.

Thank you for your time,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 2:44:48 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief funding

Good afternoon Vancity Mayor and Council!

I'm am writing to you in hopes that you will continue to offer public funds to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter so they will be able to continue to offer public education and other events on the topic of male violence against women.

Now more than ever it is important that people are able to have access to the years of information that non-profit groups have. With continued shrinking budgets from local, provincial and federal governments to community organizations it is essential that women and girls have access to educational events. Often the only place women who are vulnerable can seek assistance and get connected to resources in their community are through various events. Stopping funding to Vancouver Rape Relief's public education events will isolate women and in some cases will put them in certain danger of violence and even death.

Please continue to support the hard work that these women have been providing to our community for decades. The women of our fine city deserve it!

Thanks for your consideration,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 3:28:02 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief funding

Dear Vancouver City Council,

It has recently come to my attention that for the last number of years, a grant has been provided to Vancouver Rape Relief. I fully support that. It has also come to my attention that there is a campaign to persuade you to vote against providing that funding in the future. If that's true, I find it to be very disturbing.

In one of my past lives, I worked as a volunteer s.22(1) at an emergency women's shelter. I have seen firsthand the important work that they do, and the service that they provide. I was one of very few male-bodied individuals even permitted in the building, and it opened my eyes to the very stark reality that some women face at the hands of abusive men. Even if I could, and sometimes I really do wish that I could, I'll never forget that experience. For that reason, and for those women, I would be very disappointed if the decision was made to not provide VRR with public funding.

To be clear, I have no objection to the causes brought forth by the individuals behind the campaign - even if I consider their reasons for doing so completely misguided, and I would be happy to support them in their plight. Still, I think it'd be reprehensible to not financially support an important organization that could be the difference between life and death of literally half of the population.

Best regards,

s.22(1)

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From: s.22(1)  
To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>  
CC: info <info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca>  
Date: 3/19/2019 6:32:06 PM  
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief Funding

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Dear City Councillors,

What message were you sending when you cancelled funding for Vancouver Rape Relief? Are you saying that traumatized women escaping male violence are expected to co-exist (in intimate spaces) with male-bodied individuals who identify as women, even if the presence of these individuals causes them to feel unsafe? It is a rape crisis centre for goodness sake! These women are already extremely vulnerable, and should not be used as political pawns under ANY circumstances. It really takes a gushing sense of entitlement to exploit their vulnerability, especially when there clearly are other options for trans individuals.

Feminists agree that trans individuals need protections and safe spaces, and there is no reason the City of Vancouver cannot fund those services, without penalizing other service providers. In fact, that is the law. Yes, trans rights are protected, but not at the expense of other marginalized groups. Besides, there are existing services that are trans inclusive, and those services could also be expanded with additional funding by the city. So put your money where your mouth is, instead of putting the onus on Vancouver Rape Relief to do your job, and penalizing them if they refuse on principle.

Vancouver Rape Relief is clearly not motivated by hate; they believe (rightly) that women escaping male violence also deserve to feel safe—by the way, many trans individuals agree. Moreover, these same trans individuals would disagree with the first sentence in the following, posted by an elected official:

*Trans women are women and sex work is work. Trans women & sex workers deserve care & protection. I can't support orgs who exclude them, so I won't be supporting city funding for #Vancouver Rape Relief. I hope we can redirect funds to an inclusive provider.*

**Christine Boyle** @ christineboyle Mar 13

Of course, "trans women & sex workers deserve care and protection", but as one feminist reminds us regarding "sex work", there is "no other 'job' where a 13-year-old with zero experience can be sold for 100 times the price what a 23-year-old with ten years experience is sold." The fact a few "sex workers" feel "empowered" by "sex work" does not eliminate the brutal reality experienced by the vast majority of prostituted women and girls, many of who have sought refuge at the Vancouver Rape Relief shelter.



Incidentally, why is the claim "trans women are women" often followed by the claim that "sex work is work"? What does one have to do with the other? Something stinks in this whole affair, and it's not transphobia.

We will definitely be voting very carefully in the next local elections.

Disagreement is not hate.

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
clrbpyle@vancouver.ca  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Dominato, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/16/2019 7:17:12 PM

Subject: Vancouver rape relief funding

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Councillor,

I am writing to express my disgust at the recent decision to revoke funding for Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR). VRR is Canada's oldest rape crisis centre and does important work removing women from male violence.

As a woman who has experienced sexual violence, I value the need for women-only spaces. These spaces serve as important places for women to share their experiences as girls and women living under patriarchy.

Women are oppressed on the basis of sex and biology. This is a fact. It is also a fact that women have been kicked out of crisis shelters to make room for transwomen, as well as being assaulted in crisis shelters by transwomen with fully functioning male genitalia. I don't care how people choose to identify, but I also believe that one person's freedom should end where another one's starts.

Furthermore, the concept of essentially bribing an organization like VRR to decide between changing their policy or ceasing to receive funding is inherently undemocratic and reminiscent of bullying and bribing.

The bottom line is that you have purposely voted to prioritize the feelings and validation of a tiny percentage of the population over the safety and well being of women, especially vulnerable women. I find this repulsive and embarrassing.

I will keep this misogynistic policy decision in mind during the next election, and I can guarantee that thousands of others in Vancouver will do the same.

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)  
To: "Hardwick, Colleen"  
Date: 3/13/2019 2:07:29 PM  
Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief Funding

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Dear City Council Members,

I thank you for considering another year of funding for Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. They are a great organization that helps many women, myself being one of them. Their participation in the community and goal to help end male violence against women has made a major positive impact in my life and many others and they continue to do great work.

Best,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>  
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>  
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>  
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/14/2019 12:26:53 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief grant funding

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I implore you to vote yes to continue to provide funding for Vancouver Rape Relief's public outreach and education activities. Please listen to this 5 minute video of s.22(1) very clearly explaining the importance of women-only space that excludes male people  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL\\_LueJaLis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL_LueJaLis)

As someone who used VRR's services s.22(1) can tell you that they fostered a safe and therapeutic environment in the secret safe house that not only helped me to overcome what I went through, but also started me on a journey that allowed me to see the bigger picture of how systemic oppressions, specifically white/male supremacy and capitalism, play an active role in our lives. I can't imagine how my life would have gone or how I would have turned out had VRR not existed when I needed it.

VRR is the only organization in Vancouver that operates from both a Radical Feminist and Socialist perspective, meaning that they mobilize to liberate the female class from oppression by males, and they also organize for the working class under capitalist oppression. As radical feminists, they understand that women are oppressed because of our sex, because of how our world views women due to our biological sex, and that individuals cannot "identify" their way in or out of oppression. VRR also recognizes that the global sex industry in all of its forms, including prostitution and pornography, is one of the largest tools of oppression and indoctrination. To demand that VRR accept male people as the same as females is to demand that they deny reality. To demand that VRR accept prostitution as "real," legitimate work is demanding that they accept the inevitability that women must accept sex they do not want for money. The radical feminist philosophy that VRR operates from quite literally saved my life, and the same can be said for countless women who have used their services.

As many speakers mentioned last night, every other rape crisis service in Vancouver accepts all people, male and female. Vancouver Rape Relief is the only service for females, and it is also the only service that treats violence against women as more than just an individual experience some women face. VRR recognizes the systemic factors that lead to men killing their spouses and the epidemic of sexual violence. I would hazard to guess that if you measured the absolute "success rate" of an organization like WAVAW versus an organization like VRR, women who come to VRR end up permanently eliminating male violence from their lives and joining the fight against it due to consciousness raising. High barrier shelters such as VRR need to be high barrier to function, it is how they are so effective. They cannot, for example, help a woman to flee an abusive partner if that woman does not want to flee. I've worked for "gender inclusive"/"pro sex-work" organizations in Vancouver, and I can tell you that the philosophies these organizations hold prevent them from being effective in liberating women from the conditions in their lives that lead to them being victimized. They are too focused on being "inclusive" that they won't dare name the problem even if it's necessary to find a solution.

Transgender people have absolutely nothing to gain by VRR being defunded. VRR's existence does not materially harm them in any way. But women in this city have everything to lose. Can you for a moment imagine yourself as a prostituted woman who is ready to try and escape the industry, you have been subjected to male sexual violence for most of your life, and you end up in one of Vancouver's other shelters where the staff regularly tell you how "valid" and "empowering" your "employment" as a "sex worker" was? Can you imagine having to share a room with an



obvious male person who loudly talks about their body and sexuality and asks you invasive questions? It's re-traumatization and it breeds hopelessness that escape is even possible. This is what women experience at these shelters, and this is why VRR is so crucial.

VRR's public education focuses on Indigenous people's liberation, environmentalism, labour issues Asian and Black women's liberation, lesbian and gay issues, among a multitude of intersectional issues. Please do not refuse to continue to fund this service due to political blackmail from a group of people who are rapidly gaining the loudest voice on social issues. If you care about women's liberation and ending male violence, please do the right thing.

--

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>  
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>  
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>  
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 10:43:44 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief should be allowed to operate

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Dear Councillors and Mayor Stewart,

I am writing to urge you to protect Vancouver Rape Relief and Women Shelter's funding in the upcoming vote on city grants. I have personally benefited from Rape Relief's services as a survivor of violence and I have also worked in their transition house and crisis centre in the past. While I think it is acceptable and necessary to have constructive debates over political differences, it is unethical to threaten women and children's access to Rape Relief's services in order to make a point. Cutting funding to any group that supports survivors of violence is a cynical form of activism and there are better ways for us to resolve conflict and work together as progressives.

Thank you for your time,

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC



From: s.22(1)

To: "Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>

CC: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>

"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>

"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>

"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>

"Dominated, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominated@vancouver.ca>

"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>

"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>

"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>

"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/13/2019 3:08:15 PM

Subject: Vancouver Rape Relief

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To the Vancouver City Council and Mayor,

I have lived in Vancouver for more than 10 years and want you to know how much I value the work done in the community by Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter. I appreciate that the city has provided support for so many years to this organization and glad it will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)  
To: "Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
Date: 3/13/2019 8:52:01 AM  
Subject: VRR Grant

---

Councillor Carr,

I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants.

The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRR), who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.

I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.

Some examples of this discrimination include:

- Trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."
- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.
- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people
- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.
- Leafleting the 2016 BC Federation of Labour convention when delegates unanimously stood up for trans rights.

In 2018, the BC Teacher's Federation tweeted "VRR is open with it's anti-trans practices and philosophy. @BCTF stands with @BCFED and other affiliates in no longer supporting VRR." - other unions and organizations have been withdrawing their support from VRR for these reasons.



In 2016, the COV Administrative Report "Supporting Trans\* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver" stated.

"Vancouver City Council continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion by tackling forms of exclusion and discrimination for trans\*, gender variant and two-spirit people. Members of this community are all too often at the fringes of our society and outside the circle of inclusion."

I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A and ensure that organizations which do not meet the grant requirements be denied public funds to assist them in ongoing discrimination.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

## References

2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190312/documents/a3.pdf> (p.44)

Supporting Trans\* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver - COV  
Administrative Report June, 2016

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/trans-gender-variant-and-two-spirit-inclusion-at-the-city-of-vancouver.pdf>

BCTF Tweet about VRR's anti-trans practices

[https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?](https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU)

[fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU](https://twitter.com/bctf/status/992802496358662144?fbclid=IwAR33ez3NRSEG8jyTLTfkjzCSSuxkZSN1TeezktmWFn66vZs6r-kDr5J5gnU)

BCTF Statement of Trans Inclusion

<https://bctf.ca/publications/BCTFNews.aspx?id=44438#6>

Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal  
And Constitutional Affairs -

Bill C-16 <https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/bill-c-16-submission-senate-committee-legal-and-constitutional-affairs>

Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, 2002 BC Human Rights Tribunal

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html>

Vancouver Rape Relief Society v. Nixon, 2005, Court of Appeal For  
British Columbia

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bcca/doc/2005/2005bcca601/2005bcca601.html>

"Women Only Spaces" Podcast

<https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/blog/launching-womens-waves-podcast-vancouver-rape-relief-episode-1>

From: s.22(1)  
To: "Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
Date: 3/13/2019 3:38:21 PM  
Subject: VRRWS Funding

---

Hello,

As a resident of Vancouver I am writing to express my support of Vancouver Rape Relief and to appreciate the council's intent to fund the public education work of VRRWS for another year. This organization does vital work in the city working for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Their work is too critical in the city for their funding to be withheld. \$  
[REDACTED] if it wasn't for the support I received from VRR I don't think I would .  
even be here today. The continued support I get from VRR is vital to my recovery s.22(1) . 2

Thank you

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>  
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>

Date: 3/12/2019 5:38:09 PM

Subject: Why Rape Relief is not entitled to grant funding

Attachments: 20190312 It Vancouver City Council re Rape Relief funding.pdf

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Dear Council members

Attached is a letter outlining the reasons why Council should not fund Vancouver Rape Relief.

The link to the human rights decision referenced in my letter is:

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/bchrt/doc/2002/2002bchrt1/2002bchrt1.html?autocompleteStr=nixon%20rape&autocompletePos=1>

s.22(1)



*This communication is confidential and may be protected by solicitor/client privilege. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and then delete the email completely from your computer.*

\*|||

March 12, 2019

Vancouver City Council  
By email

Dear Counsellors

**Re: Application by Rape Relief for Funding**

I understand that Rape Relief has applied for a \$34,000 City grant, and that the application is to be considered by Council tomorrow.

I write because Rape Relief does not satisfy the City's grant requirements.

Your grant requirements provide:

The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices, and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted.

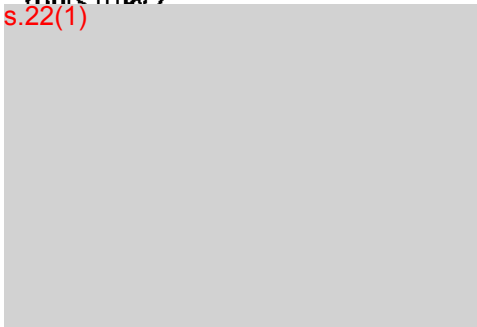
Vancouver Rape Relief has been judicially determined to discriminate against transgender people, in a case called *Nixon v Rape Relief*. The Court of Appeal ultimately held that because Rape Relief is a private organization it has a right to determine, for the purpose of its service delivery, who a "woman" is. However, that ruling did not displace the finding by the BC Human Rights Tribunal which held, in a long and carefully reasoned argument, that Rape Relief's conduct was discriminatory and was not saved by their argument that they could not effectively deliver services to "real women" unless they were permitted to discriminate against transgender women.

Rape Relief continues to maintain their position that trans women are not welcome or entitled to work or volunteer there.



Under the circumstances it would be a clear breach of your policy to grant funding to this organization.

Yours truly,  
s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Dominato, Lisa" <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>  
"Bligh, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>  
"Boyle, Christine" <Christine.Boyle@vancouver.ca>  
"Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>  
"De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>  
"Fry, Pete" <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>  
"Hardwick, Colleen" <Colleen.Hardwick@vancouver.ca>  
"Kirby-Yung, Sarah" <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>  
"Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>  
"Wiebe, Michael" <Michael.Wiebe@vancouver.ca>  
"Stewart, Kennedy" <Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca>  
"Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca  
"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

CC: info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

Date: 3/14/2019 11:36:29 AM

Subject: Writing in support of the city grant for Vancouver Rape Relief.

---

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express, in the strongest terms possible, my support for the continuance of the ongoing funding received by Vancouver Rape Relief from the City of Vancouver. The grant they have been receiving is earmarked for the benefit of the entire community and absolutely should continue.

I have learned that a small contingent of anti-VRR activists spoke at council last night. I could attempt to refute their erroneous and even slanderous statements, but in the bigger picture, it seems clear that using funds already approved by city staff, under a clear and well-defined process, as a lever to force a radical change of fundamental operating principles by the grant recipient, based on unsubstantiated attacks by a small group of individuals, is not an appropriate or acceptable action for Council to take. Especially considering that VRR was given insufficient opportunity to defend itself.

As a volunteer s.22(1) with VRR, I'm especially familiar with the incredible work they do, the struggles they have had to endure to do it, and the strong commitment by every member of their collective to supporting women in crisis. For City Council to harm this group, by withdrawing well-used funds for education and outreach in support of women's rights, would be unconscionable.

The anti-VRR speakers last night chose to try and tear down another group's efforts instead of focusing on building more support and resources. They chose to further the rift between groups that should be able to find common ground. To give in to their demands would be shameful, and as a supporter of women's rights I hope and trust that you will make the right decision and allow their funding to continue.

Thank you,

s.22(1)





| Council Correspondence - Vancouver Rape Relief - 2019 03 11 - 2019 03 19 |                |              |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Created Date                                                             | Requestor Name | Phone Number | Email   | Case Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/12/2019                                                               | s.22(1)        |              | s.22(1) | <p>Vancouver Rape Relief should NOT receive the city grant they are up for. As the eligibility criteria for the grant sets out that organizations must: "demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, [...] in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"</p> <p>VRR is opening trans exclusionary and sex worker exclusionary. If the city actually stands behind these anti oppression principals it needs to be critical of who this funding goes towards.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 03/12/2019                                                               | s.22(1)        |              | s.22(1) | <p>I'm writing in regards to the city grant that you're offering Vancouver Rape Relief.</p> <p>Giving them a grant would be in direct violation of your policies related to city grants. VRR is notoriously anti-trans and has been vocally opposed to including trans people in their work for decades.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for the grant sets out that organizations must: "demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, [...] in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"</p> <p>Please do not give a hate group a grant.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 03/12/2019                                                               | s.22(1)        |              | s.22(1) | <p>This pertains to Vancouver Rape Reliefs recommendation for funding. I am going to copy from a very well written article which you may find here:<a href="https://bit.ly/2TLBSVU">https://bit.ly/2TLBSVU</a></p> <p>This past January, a local Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist named Meghan Murphy hosted an event in Vancouver<sup>18</sup> 19 where the Executive Director of VRR, Lee Lakeman, was a guest speaker<sup>20</sup>. Murphy runs an online hate-rag, FeministCurrent. It is a platform for her hatred and bigotry toward trans people ? especially trans women ? sex workers, and feminists of colour<sup>21</sup>. She travels (mostly to the UK, USA, and Australia) and makes money by speaking at various events where she spews misinformation, stokes fear and confusion, and incites violence. She is considered a significant factor for the current uprising of anti-trans bigotry in the UK<sup>22</sup>, where she is highly regarded. Murphy is also connected to Deep Green Resistance (DGR)<sup>23</sup>, an eco-fascist group whose leaders, Derrick Jensen and Lierre Keith, have been denounced by student, eco, and Indigenous groups<sup>23</sup> for DGR?s trans antagonist, racist, and overall oppressive ideologies<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>When legislation was being passed to to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression (Bill C-16), both Murphy and representatives of VRR flew to Ottawa, sitting alongside a Christian fundamentalist, in unsuccessful attempts to block and speak against the bill.<sup>26</sup> 27 VRR also used their resources to push for Bill C-36, legislation which reintroduces the same harms as the previous laws while making it more difficult for sex workers to work in safer indoor locations.<sup>28</sup></p> <p>There are various initiatives currently being undertaken by individuals, community groups, and non-profit organizations to challenge the oppression and harm that TERFs &amp; SWERFs like VRR are responsible for in our communities. Part of this includes redirecting social capital and financial support from VRR to rape crisis centres such as WAVAW, who intentionally seek to do their work rooted in an inclusive, anti-oppressive, intersectional, and decolonial framework. We believe that no survivor of sexual assault should ever have to experience further trauma, violence and oppression while seeking resources and services.</p> <p>It is important to emphasize that, aside from pushing for harmful policies in all levels of government, TERF/SWERF ideology poses real, direct, material harms to trans people, especially trans women, and sex workers. The promotion and platforming of this ideology validates the misinformed fears about trans people in society, presenting us as perverted, mentally ill, and/or violent ? reaching our friends, family, coworkers, and neighbours. It also creates unsafe, hostile, and violent conditions for trans people and sex workers to exist in.</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief does active harm to the trans community. Please do not fund this oppressive organizations.</p> |



|            |              |         |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/12/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | <p>I'm a former Vancouver resident (left Vancouver s.22(1) and I'm writing to you today as a concerned person who cares deeply about my friends and family living in Vancouver.</p> <p>It was brought to my attention that tomorrow morning at 9:30 am during the Standing Committee meeting, council chambers will hear Administrative Report 3 on Community and Social Grants that addresses Vancouver Rape Relief crisis centre receiving a grant for direct social services.</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR) has not hid their trans exclusionary and biological essentialist ideology from Vancouver citizens. Both at a municipal and federal level VRR has advocated against the rights of trans and gender variant individuals, sending associates and graduates of its rape crisis centre as far as Ottawa to speak against Bill C-16. VRR not only seeks to exclude trans women as volunteers and those that seek shelter and assistance, but also plays both sides of the criminal legal system in an attempt to criminalize and remove the rights of trans people.</p> <p>In 2015 Vancouver city council passed a motion titled "Ensuring Trans* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver" which underlined a commitment to "equity, diversity and inclusion by tackling forms of exclusion and discrimination for trans*, gender variant and two-spirit people."</p> <p>I am calling upon Vancouver City Council to renew and enact this commitment by not awarding VRR this grant and instead awarding it to a rape shelter like Women Against Violence Against Women which not only provides inclusive services for women and gender variant people escaping violence but also advocates for social change as part of their mandate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/12/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | <p>s.22(1)</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief should not receive funding from the City of Vancouver until it expands its services to include trans women and sex workers. Vancouver Rape Relief receiving funding right now would go against the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for the grant sets out that organizations must: "demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, [...] in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief clearly does not meet this criteria as they do not demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness, and openness to people of all gender identities and excluding those folks (trans women and sex workers) is NOT required for another group to be effectively targeted. From an anti-oppression lens, if you serve folks who are the hardest hit by oppressive policies and are Raped and Sexually Assaulted at a higher rate than other women, you will end up serving all women better.</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief does not deserve the support of the City of Vancouver because they have not demonstrated support for all women. For instance, they have a section about "escaping abusive men" on their website but nothing about escaping an abusive relationship with a woman, trans woman, or non binary person. This seems to be geared only towards heterosexual women, in fact all of their services are about women escaping violence from men. It does not seem like they serve women escaping violence from not-men and then leaves a huge gap in their services that are ostensibly not accessible for lesbians, queer folks, or bi folks who are in relationships with not-men. An organization that only serves heterosexual women or folks in hetero normative relationships is not supporting all women.</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief does not operate with an intersection lens (which is crucial in 2019), does not support all women, and actively excludes trans women, sex workers, queer folks, bi folks, and lesbians. Do not fund this organization.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/help/escape-abusive-man/escape-abusive-man">https://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/help/escape-abusive-man/escape-abusive-man</a></p> |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | Please see attachments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      | s.22(1) | s.22(1)                | Please see attachments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | Please see attachment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | <p>Please do not award Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter any grants.? They are transphobic and whorephobic, which contradicts the mandate that organizations receiving these grants be accommodating, welcoming, and open to trans people, and which is very unjust towards sex workers.</p> <p>It is wrong for them to refuse to provide services to certain women based on their gender identities, and how they earn (and plan to) earn their income.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 03/13/2019 | Morgane Oger |         | info@ogerfoundation.ca | <p>Please find attached the written submission of the Morgane Oger Foundation regarding:</p> <p>Meeting Type:????????? Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting<br/> Meeting Date:????????? March 13, 2019<br/> Meeting Location:??? Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall<br/> Agenda Item:????????? #8: 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      |         | s.22(1)                | Please see attachment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1)      | s.22(1) | s.22(1)                | Request to amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to its approval. See attachment for complete comments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>Re: funding for Rape relief transition house and crisis line</p> <p>It is essential to continue the funding for this agency. Please do not be deterred by misinformation about RR. They are not, I repeat, not transphobic as some will contend. Trans activists like Morgan have targeted RR and seem determined to tear down this critical service rather than building more services for all who identify as women.</p> <p>If female bodied women do not feel safe in a transition house with transgendered women who still have male bodies, this cannot be misconstrued with transphobia. These women are traumatized and should not have to move out as has occurred in other transition houses where the rights of transgendered women have trumped the needs of female bodied women. This is not about inequality this is an attack on the one safe space in the city for traumatized female bodied women.</p> <p>Ask the transactivists what they have done to create safe spaces for transgendered women who need support from peers to recover.</p> <p>I urge you to support the funding for this service which is unique in its approach I.e. peer counselling and an essential service in our city</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>I understand you and council are considering NOT funding Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.? Please continue to fund this wonderful organization that helps so many women. A fight between trans women and birth women should not mean that the majority of women do not get services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | <p>Dear Mayor and Council,</p> <p>Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter provides a q 24/7 crisis line for victims of violence and a home to shelter the women and children fleeing violence at the hands of men.</p> <p>For over 40 years volunteers have worked to provide front line support to Vancouver's women and children.? Their work has saved lives, provided legal support, counselling support, and the Collective has worked with both Vancouver and Provincial police and legal agencies to advise regarding policy and law from the experience gleaned from years of front line service to victims of violence.</p> <p>They deserve to be funded.? Victims of violence need the resources of VRRWS.</p> <p>s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 03/13/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>Thank you for Rape Relief?s Community Services grant.</p> <p>I appreciate your support for the ongoing Community Services grant that Vancouver gives to Vancouver Rape Relief. The organization makes a great contribution to the city.</p> <p>In the 37 years that I have been in Vancouver, they have helped some 50,000 women deal with their experience of sexual assault, and they have provided shelter to over 4000 women and their children who are escaping male violence. Tremendous work for a volunteer-led organization.</p> <p>I have attended many of their public education events and they are excellent. They make good use of the money. Thank you again.</p> <p>s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 03/14/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>I want to commend and thank the City Council for its vote regarding the Trans exclusion at Rape Relief. As a Trans Woman, albeit one who has never had dealings with Rape Relief, I want to tell you that this organisation absolutely radiates hatred and abuse, on a non-stop basis, toward the Trans community. Their existence bolsters and encourages others who are inclined to reject Trans people as fully-qualified human beings. This attitude has dire effects on all Trans people; s.22(1)</p> <p>s.22(1)</p> <p>and it was a horrible shock to discover the attitudes here.</p> <p>The smug and ignorant and vindictive self-righteousness of the Rape Relief spokeswomen is a spectacle of cruelty, no less narrow-minded and self-satisfied than the utterances of the right wing bigots here and in the U.S., including Donald Trump. These women ought to examine their souls, to ask themselves what selfish and narrow motivations drive them to persist in their extremely pain-inducing behaviour. Not to go further into it right now, but they really need to accept that Trans women are Women, and that bigotry against them shrivels the legitimacy of the bigots in the community. They are on the wrong side of history, and will be recorded in a short note as the cruel and vicious reactionaries they are.</p> <p>??????? Thank you again for your actions, and please continue to support the Trans community.</p> <p>??????? ? s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/15/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>I object to the denial of funds to the women?s shelter(s). Trans women still have many male characteristics? which can?t be changed that? make them unsuitable for a women?s shelter</p> <p>Shelters are for safety &amp;? trans women don?t make women at risk feel safe Create trans shelter instead. The security of abused women is critical. Too many physical &amp; psychological traits of males are not regulated by hormones /surgery .? I have worked with shelters and at risk women. I have been abused I know what I am talking about. Services for trans people should be separate from women. Women will not use shelters where trans are allowed &amp; the council will help no one with this decision. Neither will have safety. The # of shelters for trans will be far less than women need due to small % of population even though trans people have more problems. Women need more shelters already Can?t put them together under any circumstances. Risk to all is high. Trans will feel more like suspects and women will suspect them. Everyone loses. You need a better solution. Defunding shelters protecting women not the answer. Get more creative and be less dictatorial. Find a way to fund both.</p> <p>What about shelter for abused men? They need it just as much but men are ignored in this issue completely. When will any services be available for them. Perhaps putting trans &amp; men connected in some way makes more sense. Now same shelter but other services could be used by both in separate locations or hours Women must remain completely separate. Maybe trans need different from shelters individual or small groups homes. Think outside the box.? No women with any trans or men.</p> <p>Provide funding for all in some creative way. The situation is not as simple as you are trying to make it.</p> |



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| 03/15/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Dear Vancouver City Council,</p> <p>I am appalled at your decision to cut funding for women's shelters due to the fact that they stand by their philosophy that the safety of women matters more than delusional men's feelings. Woman is not a feeling, a costume or a performance. Women is an adult human female, a biological fact. Women are systematically oppressed due to our sex; our genitalia. We will not be silent about our issues, we will not entertain the delusionals of men, we will not forfit our rights to women only spaces and we will not comply passively to this evolved form of patriarchy that masks itself as progressiveness. I hope this briefing will be informative to you and that you will take the concerns of women seriously. We stand together and demand that our safety be prioritized over the feelings of men.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>a young woman</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/15/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Sarah Kirby-Yung made a proposal, which passed on Thursday, that will compel the anti-violence support group to open up all of its services to include trans people or not get funding from the city.</p> <p>How dare you do this!? Most of these trans people have penises and cannot be classed as women.?</p> <p>Rape Relief and Women's shelter provide a crucial service to women.? Stop splitting hairs and give this group the funding.? There are more women who were born women, than there are transsexual people.? Trans people are a minuscule minority.?? Provide the funding as soon as possible please!</p> <p>s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/16/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>As someone who lived most of my life in beautiful Vancouver, it?s distressing to see your Council not supporting Vancouver Rape Relief.? As someone who will always stand up for the rights of everyone to be safe, no matter their gender preference, i must protest.</p> <p>Let?s be direct:? why can?t women have the right to be separate in private spaces from anyone with a penis?</p> <p>How thoroughly have you considered that trans folks might benefit from having their own space in which to be protected, rather than allowing infringement of the right of women born female to not be around people with a penis?</p> <p>Have you considered that:? ?The very reason trans rights activists cannot concede that a male body is different to a female body in sport is because they may then have to admit that a male body is different to a female body in a woman?s refuge or in a communal changing area, or in a rape crisis centre ? and this they are not prepared to do.??? s.22(1)</p> <p>My donation to Vancouver Rape Relief is in the mail today.? Despite living on a low and fixed-income, i?m determined to support them because you have decided to allow women who have been traumatized by some people with penises to have that trauma re-inflicted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 03/16/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Further to your decision denying funding to Vancouver Rape Relief ? here?s a question i?d like every Councillor to consider:</p> <p>Why are you in favour of prioritizing someone with a penis over women who have been traumatized, often horrifically, by someone with a penis?</p> <p>Trans-rights must not eliminate women's right to not be around people with penises in women-only settings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 03/16/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Your decision to stop funding for Rape Relief unless they change their criteria of female only is cowardly and wrong. Morgaine is a woman since 2003, has lived and profited from being a male by birth. Aside from Morgaine calling herself a biological female we have nothing in common. Both groups are not served well by insisting on being the same. Your decision did not represent me, my co workers or my friends.</p> <p>?You have let us down. I voted for several of you. I am deeply disappointed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/17/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>What is the matter with you people you are so worried about being PC that you are forgoing common sense. As the victim of rape I would not feel safe dealing with it in the vicinity of trans people but you are forcing the issue and not caring about victims in order to please the PC community. Please think about it, use common sense and fund the rape relief center. Making victims suffer is not the way to push your agenda!</p> <p>?Sincerely s.22(1)</p> <p>I lived in the east end of Vancouver when I was raped, s.22(1).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 03/17/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>I am very disappointed and angry with you for voting to terminate funding to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter following 2019's public education grant. All of VRR's public education events are open to the public, so it appears that you're punishing them for organizing and holding events that will help all people understand the importance of their work to end violence against women. This organization has operated a 24-hour-a-day rape crisis centre for nearly 50 years, and a transition house for women escaping violence for almost 40 years. I have benefited directly from their work, and have confidently referred many of the women with whom I work s.22(1) when they need assistance and advocacy directly related to the male violence to which they have been subject. Vancouver Rape Relief absolutely have a right to determine their membership and whom they can best serve. It's as absurd to insist they open their services to non-females as it is to insist that organizations of and for Chinese seniors or Native youth change their mandates and serve, say, Scottish seniors or Syrian youth as well. And that you pushed this decision through without public consultation is an egregious misuse of your power as elected officials representing this city. This is shameful, and as a resident of Vancouver, I'm embarrassed by your actions. By all means, provide supports to transwomen who wish to organize and act on behalf of their interests; there is no need to punish a feminist group in order to do that. This is a short-sighted and mean-spirited decision.</p> |

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| 03/18/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a trans Vancouver resident, and I was really worried to hear that Vancouver Rape Relief has requested government funds. I request that you vote no on Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants. The Direct Services Grant Application form #2 states "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."</p> <p>Grant applicant Vancouver Rape Relief Society, who seeks \$34,312 under a Direct Services Grant has engaged in a decades long pattern of discrimination against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.</p> <p>I realize this email comes at a late time, but it is critical that the City of Vancouver deny an organization that openly discriminates against trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people and goes against the explicit terms of the grant.</p> <p>Some examples of this discrimination include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit victims of sexual violence are turned away from their shelter as their mandate is to only provide services to "female born women."</li><li>- Vancouver Rape Relief's submission to the Senate Committee on Legal And Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-16 claims that protecting the human rights of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people "would be used to undermine the rights of women and the crucial work of women's groups to serve and organize with female-born women." This statement is still featured on their website.</li><li>- A podcast published by them on Feb 20th, 2019 talks about "women only spaces" that exclude trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people</li><li>- This discrimination is long standing, going back decades to 2002 and the case of Nixon v. Vancouver Rape Relief Society, a legal case that VRR spent significant resources on in order to justify its policy of the exclusion of trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people.</li></ul> <p>I ask that you vote no on Recommendation A. Vancouver Rape Relief has demonstrated the opposite of "accommodation, welcomeness and openness" and does not meet the grant requirements.</p> |
| 03/18/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Dear Mayor and Council:</p> <p>As a long time resident of Vancouver, I am writing to express my serious concerns about the Vancouver City Council's March 14, 2019 decision to grant termination funding to Vancouver Rape Relief.</p> <p>For 45 years, Vancouver Rape Relief has acted as an organization that is integral to advancing women's rights on a local and national scale. Their public education work is an essential part of this. Most recently, they participated in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on the case of the murder of Cindy Gladue. Their events, such as the recent International Women's Day speak with Winona LaDuke, frequently features the campaigns of other important social justice movements locally such as towards the world we want to live in.</p> <p>This decision by the Vancouver City Council was undemocratic and does NOT reflect the sentiments and opinions of the residents of Vancouver such as myself. Allowing the Vancouver City Council to overstep and to dictate how an organization of critical importance to ending violence against women (and the oldest rape crisis centre in Canada) operates and fights for the women it serves is highly troubling.</p> <p>I hope that you will revisit your decision and continue to support a local organization of crucial importance to women's equality interests.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>s.22(1)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |



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| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Not to be printed, copied, or distributed. Intended solely for the recipients.</p> <p>Dear Mayor and Council:</p> <p>Perhaps you are not aware that the Human Rights Tribunal, Supreme Court of BC, and in fact the Supreme Court of Canada have already declared that the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre is allowed to discriminate on the basis of sex because it is people whose oppression is on the basis of sex that they are serving. See Nixon vs. Vancouver Rape Relief. VRR is protected from penalty under the Section 41 of the Human Rights Code. Transgender males are not the target group served by the organization and that is perfectly reasonable.</p> <p>Do you think you know better than the Supreme Court of Canada? Further, should vulnerable women?females making up 99% of street women in Vancouver's downtown eastside and 70% of those women being Aboriginal?be denied essential services because a municipal government wants primarily white males to be included in services meant primarily for Indigenous females? Why must a white male's idea of what it "must mean" to be a woman be the deciding factor of whether women, primarily women of colour (who simply exist female despite their gendered identity) receive funding for being raped? Do you not care that females who identify as men (transmen) are served here due to their sex as females? I am appalled and I look forward to the lawsuit that will no doubt follow against the City for sex discrimination. The City is discriminating against services made for females, contrary to our right to Freedom of Association based on sex (not gender identity). I urge you to reconsider this political meddling that only serves to harm Vancouver's most vulnerable victims of male sexual violence: females.</p> <p>"The Vancouver Rape Relief was not guilty of discrimination based on the group?s right of freedom of association. This meant that the group had the right to organize as women-only space, irrespective of gender identity.</p> <p>"Following this decision Nixon appealed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal who unanimously maintained the previous decision by the Supreme Court of BC. They held that Vancouver Rape Relief Society was protected under the Human Rights Code, Section 41.</p> <p>"On February 1, 2007 the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed Nixon?s request to appeal the decision. Nixon was also charged with covering the awarded costs of Vancouver Rape Relief, which she has refused to pay."</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>s.22(1)</p> |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | the behaviour from Morgane Oger is absolutely despicable, why is this individual allowed to target extremely vulnerable women, and more so, do the biological women who support Oger's actions have no self-respect?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>Is it accurate to say you have withdrawn funding from a Vancouver rape centre because they don?t admit trans gender women?</p> <p>If it is, I implore you to reconsider this decision.</p> <p>s.22(1) and a lot of people are in disbelief you would do this to a centre that helps women after life scarring hideous traumas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | Your decision to defund theVancouver Rape Relief service is reflecting very badly on you around the world. You have shown that you value a baseless ideology over the rights of women and girls to be helped in a male-free safe space at a time when they desperately need such a space. You bring shame on your city by prioritising a deeply flawed, misogynistic and conservative ideology over the needs of raped women and girls. Vancouver is disgraced by your actions and your support of men's rights activism.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | I'm a Canadian academic and am disturbed Vancouver would cut funding to Vancouver Rape Relief because they cater some services to female persons. Female persons have the legal right self-organise and self-define, just like other oppressed groups. This right is enshrined in human right legislation and the Charter (section 15. 2). Why does Vancouver City Council think female persons are the only oppressed group who should be denied that right? Many groups target services to specific communities (people of colour, indigenous, youth, elderly, etc.). City Council is not forcing these groups to abandon their mandate to be "inclusive". Cutting VRR's funding for their policy of centring female persons is discrimination on the basis of sex. I hope someone is able to provide resources to VRR so they can challenge this horrible decision in court.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | Your Morgane Ofer councillor person spits more hate and unfettered bullying and misogyny on social media than I have ever seen. Never has a person elected to any kind of office been so delighted with themselves for hurting rape victims and those suffering the trauma of sex assault and male violence. I?m not from Vancouver, but it makes me think twice about ever wanting to visit. It?s shameful you allow this in 2019, you should be ashamed of yourselves for letting the bullies rule the classroom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | <p>HI,</p> <p>I'm not a Canadian but have visited Vancouver before and have friends there.</p> <p>I am appalled by your decision to de-fund a rape shelter because of its decision to support natal women. You set back women's rights considerably with this move and it has been seen around the world. Transgenderism is not progressive. It is regressive, homophobic, enables harassment of lesbians for being same-sex attracted and is based on out-moded notions of gendered behaviour and stereotypes.</p> <p>Your decision is seen around the world and brings your city into disrepute.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Dear Mayor and Council,<br>s.22(1) you may choose to ignore this but it's reached the attention of many of us globally that you have withdrawn funding from the Vancouver Rape Crisis Centre due to the objections of a minority of trans people. As a Mum who has had to deal with one rape and one violent sexual assault within my own family I am shocked that you should withdraw this on the whim of, as most sensible people see it men in dresses. These men, with their full biological bodies intact are somehow managing to defund essential, life-saving services to vulnerable and traumatised young women. No true woman would EVER campaign for that. Ever. Please see snes and look at the damage this is doing to your women and have the courage to say no to this warped sense of entitlement that gives this small voice the power to oppress women and remove their safe spaces and health services. Lives are at stake, and not trans lives. Yours very sincerely, s.22(1)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Refunding rape relief for women in the say so of a man.<br><br>You disgust me.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | I am so disgusted by unhinged tweets that Morgen Oger has been putting out. Her glee about VRR losing funding is one thing...I am most concerned about the magical biology myth that she insists on pushing. It is embarrassing for a political figure to behave in such an undignified manner. Shame on all of you for not taking action and shutting this down.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Vancouver Council have been highlighted internationally as misogynistic and your deplorable actions to remove money from a rape victims refuge, a decision taken mostly by men, confirms your hatred of women.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | s.22(1) I hope they never ever have need to use sexual trauma services, but I do know that if they do, they may need to be able to do so without being re-traumatised by having to share spaces where they should be recovering with males.<br>I'm thoroughly disgusted that you have de-funded Vancouver Rape Relief.? I thought Canada, and BC in particular, was progressive, respecting the needs of diverse communities and especially the most vulnerable. I'm sure you wrote equality laws for transgender people in some sort of good-mindedness, but the current extremist interpretations make you look like you practice some sort of Islamic-State-styled extremist misogyny.<br><u>Please review this decision, it's both harming girls and women in Vancouver, and undermining your international reputation as a fair and progressive city/country.</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | I'm from the UK and have been appalled at Morgane Oger's gloating and taunting at the removal of funding for your rape crisis centre. Please act on the disgust the rest of world is feeling watching this horrendous situation unfold. Share our shame!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | I wish to express my disgust<br>at the defunding of the vancouver rape shelter. Women are entitled to safe spaces when at their most vulnerable. This is misogyny in action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | I wanted to let you know that I completely and totally support the decision to discontinue Rape Relief's funding. I have been uncomfortable with their approach to women's issues for decades. Their exclusion of trans people tipped the balance for me. Thank you for doing the right thing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | As a Canadian living abroad, I am absolutely appalled by the rampant misogyny I am seeing at the highest levels of education and government in Canada. For the likes of Morgane Oger to to tirelessly campaign for the Vancouver Rape Relief Center to be defunded but to then brag and gloat about it on social media shows one thing: They are not interested in the safety of women and children. They are only interested in dominating them. And they are certainly not fit for any kind of public office. The replacement of 'sex' as a protected characteristic with 'gender' has been a terrible mistake and as many of us can see, it is opening the flood gates for some men to abuse it. Please rethink the needs of vulnerable women and children. Surely some spaces can be set aside for women who would be traumatised by the presence of a male-bodied person. This is simple compassion, not bigotry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Your city is a disgrace, removing funding from a rape crisis centre on the basis of total misogynist like Morgane Oger.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | I think it's appalling that the City council feels it is appropriate to not only remove funding for a rape relief shelter because people with penis' are not welcome.? As a rape survivor, this idea that I MUST always be open to people with penis' is disturbing.? when EVERY OTHER crisis center allows people with Penis, defunding a rape relief center for not centering people with penis is not right.? seems that city council thinks that women must be open to male bodies at all times..... disturbing, considering that at least HALF of your constituents have vaginas.... feeling lost that the City feels that doesn't matter.? Morgan Oger has called for harrassment and boycotting of women owned and operated businesses for supporting the VRR... she is now bragging that there will be no government funding, so I guess the city condones this kind of behavior?? Morgane Oger most definitely does NOT care about ALL women if she thinks that this is acceptable.. The government should not be condoning the bullying tactics of her and her supporters.? Female bodied people deserve to have some space that they have worked hard for.? We are regressing to where women are not allowed boundaries, and if we insist, the government will back boycotting and harassment.... sad.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Your defunding of the Vancouver Rape Relief Service is a disgrace. Provide alternative support for trans women, by all means, but do not punish traumatised women who for obvious reasons do not feel secure among intact male adults.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1)   |  | s.22(1) | Women are Women, Trans women are MEN... expecting a battered or abused woman to share space with a biological man is insanity and I hope none of you or your family are ever forced to endure that sort of abuse. Give Vancouver Rape Relief their grant back, you couldn't be more on the wrong side of history in siding with abusive men.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/19/2019 | Anonymous |  |         | Citizen is furious to hear that Vancouver City Council has cut funding to Vancouver Rape Relief over it's trans exclusionary policy. Citizen can't believe that City Council doesn't recognize the rights of women and their right for a safe space. Citizen said that according to a study done in 2015 by the National Centre for TransGender Equality, 90% of transgender women keep their male genitalia and that 63% were attracted to women. Citizen feels that by allowing transgender women access to women's change rooms, etc. it is normalizing male genetalia in women's spaces. A study done in the UK found that 90% of all sexual assaults happen in mixed sex changing areas. Citizen is concerned that it also allows easier access for cameras to be placed in changerooms and washrooms which are then later used for online porn. Citizen also said that according to the US website, 19.3% of transgender women have been incarcerated or currently are incarcerated, as opposed to a woman's incarcerated rate of 1%. Citizen can't believe that City Council doesn't recognize the rights of women and their right for a safe space. She said people all over the world are joining together to stop this attack on women's rights and specifically, the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre, has become a cause for people all over the world that women need secure spaces. Citizen said that Morgane Oger, who is a transgender activist is on twitter congratulating City Council for cutting the funding for Vancouver Rape Relief. She does not agree with City Council's decision. |



|            |         |         |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | <p>Dear city council,</p> <p>I?m extremely disappointed to learn that funding for an important rape crisis centre has been cancelled to satisfy one very loud trans person. I have supported ms. Oger in the past, but I will no longer do so. This is unacceptable behaviour and a perfect example of the patriarchy squashing women?s resources.</p> <p>I?m not sure if you think you?re being progressive by supporting trans people at the peril of women, but it?s not progressive at all. This is disgraceful. Where can women go now to feel safe?</p> <p>Again, I voted for Ms. Boyle but I won?t again based on her voting on this motion.</p> <p>Give your heads a shake Vancouver city council!! Women are struggling to be heard and this defunding further silences us.</p> <p>Sincerely,<br/>A Vancouver voter</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | <p>Citizen called in to provide her feedback about Mayor and Council voting to cut funding for Vancouver Rape Relief &amp; Women's Shelter. She feels that this was not a proper informed decision because they do a lot of important work, and that Trans Woman are also important, but it doesn't mean the work that has been done should be compromised.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>Appalled at dropping of funding for Vancouver Rape Relief centre.? Why on earth would you rescind support for so many women who have been raped by men simply to accommodate the demands of some men who have transitioned (or may not, but simply identify as women). Why can you not respect the fears of the vast majority of those who have been raped - women - by men, by providing transwomen with an alternative form of support if they are sexually assaulted?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>Dear city council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep disappointment in your decision to defund Vancouver Rape Relief, an organization which has served vulnerable women in the community, including First Nations women in the Downtown Eastside, for decades.</p> <p>Transgender individual deserve access to crisis resources, but they are already served by Vancouver's other rape crisis centres BWSS and WAVAW; they also make up less than one percent of the population. Some female sexual assault survivors may be traumatized and feel unsafe staying with a person born male, and it is essential that they have a place that they can stay where they feel safe. The case of Kristi Hanna in Toronto shows that this is not just conjecture.</p> <p>For all of recorded human history, in virtually every time and place, male-bodied people have oppressed female-bodied people in multiple ways, including the threat of sexual violence. Regardless of how you wish to name these categories, the latter should be allowed safe spaces free of the former without being accused of bigotry. While trans women share many oppressions with cis women, being born female carries unique experiences such as possessing specific anatomy, the risk of pregnancy, and female socialization from a young age.</p> <p>VRR is a female-only shelter; it is not a hate group. They serve vulnerable women who now may have no place to go. While it has been claimed that this funding will still go to rape crisis centres, VRR has the infrastructure, organization and experience available already. If they were forced to close their doors, it may take significant time for the other shelters to expand enough to make up for their loss.</p> <p>Must the battle for inclusion be fought on the backs of the city's most vulnerable women? I urge you to reconsider your decision.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>s.22(1)</p> |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>To whom it may concern. I'm in Ontario and I just read the most despicable bragging comment on Twitter by a person named s.22(1) Apparently it's a victory to have Vancouver Rape Relief rape crisis shelter defunded? I am totally appalled. I will be donating (along with others around the world) to the VRR. If I may say, this decision is utterly disgraceful!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |         | s.22(1) | <p>Hi. Transgender women have a plenty of choices in Mainland for victims of violence and sex related victims. Times changed and now there is more institutions than just one Vancouver Rape Relieve and Shelter.? Vanc. R. Relieve is specified group and I as a trans woman respect that. Others should too, including NDP, M.Oger, lawyers etc. All parties and citizens should follow laws in BC. One of the law is exception to Specified Interest Groups. Vanc. R. Relieve is properly and clearly specified. In fact it has exclusion clause in writing.? M.Oger and cohorts are wrong, City council appears to be inexperienced.? Read clause for non-profit groups: ?http://www.bchrt.bc.ca/human-rights-duties/non-profit.htm?fbclid=IwAR2Rcq2B9r5OcLVNh8Me06aQWvPUy3pF9xImqAWy4izWuPvea4oqPvDqnQs</p> <p>Review all aspects of this problem. Evaluate personal political gain of activists and lawyers, evaluate what VRR is doing.? The only outcome is to back off from your decision, based on deceiving and misleading information of some militant activists.? Transwomen do have several options to choose from. M. Oger and activists do not represent all trans women.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | s.22(1) | <p>To the Mayor and Council,</p> <p>I'm absolutely livid about your vote to defund Rape Relief. Don't any of you see the irony of men being supported to be able to force themselves on women in their safe place??? I guess none of you have been attacked by a 6'3", 200 lb man, trans or not.?s.22(1) Trans men are not women when an assault happens, believe me.? You're all a big disappointment to the women of this city.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|------------|---------|--|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | Dear City of Vancouver<br>I would like to express my concern over the defunding of Rape Relief. I was in a transition house myself once, and when I heard about this I was shocked. Women escaping from male violence need a place free of men to heal and think and grieve. There are services available for transpeople, and there should be services for women only. No woman has a penis. We all know this. Women deserve better, and are 1/2 of the population. I hope they remember this in the next election. |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | I am astonished that Vancouver thinks the needs of one male bodied person are more important than hundreds and thousands of female people (aka women) who need to use the Rape Relief service. Shame on you all. Does the safety of women (aka female bodied people) mean nothing?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | I want to protest in the strongest terms at your defunding of the Vancouver Rape Relief Service because they refuse to admit biological males. Traumatized women need space away from men to heal. The fact you are forcing them to share with males demonstrates the absolute contempt you feel for women. Please reconsider this ill-founded decision. It's nothing to do with being inclusive, it's about being vindictive.                                                                                       |
| 03/19/2019 | s.22(1) |  | s.22(1) | women are oppressed on the basis of our SEX and so we are entitled to organize on this basis. Males commit 99% of sexual crimes. if you do some research you will find cases of trans women committing rapes-Karen White, Eli Erlick, Cherno Biko, Andi Dier to name a few. It is absolutely a matter of safety for VRR to be female-only and you should reverse this decision to make this "inclusive" to males                                                                                                     |



Hello there,

My name is s.22(1)

My message is for the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services.

I am writing to express concern, raise awareness, and object to one particular recipient of the Direct Services Grant: Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS).

VRRS is recommended to receive \$34,312 for their "Public Education Program & Community Outreach". However, VRRS does not meet the eligibility requirements of Direct Services Grants. Specifically, VRRS breaches bullet point #3: "The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted."

VRRS has a long, publicized, well known history of being hostile and antagonizing toward trans, Two Spirit, and gender nonconforming people, especially trans women. They also conflate consensual, by-choice sex work with human trafficking.

VRRS has invested their resources in overtly discriminating against trans people by:

1. refusing volunteers as soon as they discover volunteers identify as trans, and fought a trans woman in court for their ability to discriminate (see Kimberly Nixon v. VRR);
2. refusing services to women as soon as they find out the women are trans;
3. having their Executive Director, Lee Lakeman, speak on a panel hosted by Meghan Murphy about the dangers of trans activism and "gender identity ideology" (January 10, 2019). Murphy is a well known anti-trans, anti-sex worker bigot who runs an online hate-rag, FeministCurrent, and who was banned from Twitter for deadnaming, doxxing, and harassing trans women;
4. flying staff as representatives to Ottawa to speak against Bill C-16, legislation which passed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression; also sitting alongside Murphy: <http://www.cpac.ca/en/programs/in-committee-fr>

VRRS has invested their resources in overtly discriminating against sex workers by:

1. flying their staff as representatives to Ottawa to speak in favour of Bill C-36, legislation which made working indoors more challenging and harmful for sex workers;
2. promoting strategies in "ending prostitution" like the Nordic Model, which sex workers have identified as contributing to violence against sex workers (and therefore, violence against women).

It would be highly inappropriate for VRRS to receive funds from the City, especially when organizations like BCFED and BCTF have officially taken a public stance to no longer fund groups like VRRS until they stop discriminating against trans and gender nonconforming people.

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Thank you,

s.22(1)



March 13, 2019

Dear Councillor,

I ask that you move to amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to approval. Specifically, I ask you to amend the recommendation in order to deny the award of a Direct Social Services Grant to Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS) as the organization does not meet the basic grant eligibility.

I am a resident of Vancouver, a transgender person, and also someone who has previously volunteered with an organization that seeks to end gender-based and sexualized violence.

I deeply appreciated learning that grant applicants *"must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, **gender identities (including trans\*, gender-variant and two-spirit people)**, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted"* (Direct Services Grant Application Form #2, emphasis added).

If this criteria is applied appropriately, VRRS will be found ineligible for the grant due to its public, ongoing, and active practice of exclusion of transgender women from services intended to serve women. VRRS applies definitions of woman and women in its policies, practices, and programs that are at odds with City's stated commitments to trans inclusion.

As a reminder, Council passed a motion "Ensuring Trans\* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver" in July 2015. Vancouver City Council sought to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion as trans, gender variant and two-spirit people "are all too often at the fringes of our society and outside the circle of inclusion [facing] damaging forms of discrimination and persistent challenges to accessing some of the most basic forms of human needs – housing, education, food, medical services, employment and safety from physical harm." Following this, city staff prepared a report titled "Supporting Trans\* Equality and an Inclusive Vancouver," presented June 8th, 2016 (08-2000-20).

This report included a framework of five pillars through which inclusion work is considered. I want to highlight Pillar two: **Programs and Services**. It includes “programs and services constructed, contracted and granted through departments such as Community Services and Housing.” Recommendation 2B states that the City will “integrate TGV2S-inclusion into all existing programs and services.” From the explicit wording of the application form, we can see that the City has integrated TGV2S inclusion into the City’s processes for granting. These criteria in no way limit grant applicants from serving specific groups or applying specific definitions in their work, but instead indicate that an unnecessarily exclusive practice may affect CoV grant eligibility.

If you are concerned that VRRS’ definition of woman is necessary due to the work it undertakes with women survivors of violence, know that other grant applicants do similar work and are inclusive of trans women, or trans people more broadly. I do not disagree that women seeking support can and do find solace among other women, rather, I submit that VRRS’ choice to apply an exclusive definition of woman (cisgender or “female-born women”) when applying for grant to provide services to women makes them ineligible for a Direct Social Services grant.

What to do? VRRS has previously received grants from the City of Vancouver and it may indeed choose to apply any specific definition of woman in its organizing and work. However, Council has set out clear criteria for grant eligibility and the City has no obligation to fund any grant applicant. The correct action in this case is simple.

To close, I ask again that you vote to amend Recommendation A of the 2019 Community Services and Other Social Grants Report prior to its approval. Specifically, I ask you to amend the recommendation in order to deny the award of a Direct Social Services Grant to Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS) as the organization does not meet the basic grant eligibility.

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It would be highly inappropriate for VRRS to receive funds from the City, especially when organizations like BCFED and BCTF have officially taken a public stance to no longer fund groups like VRRS until they stop discriminating against trans and gender nonconforming people: <https://bctf.ca/publications/BCTFNews.aspx?id=44438#6>

Thank you,  
s.22(1)



Hello there,

s.22(1)

have lived experience with homelessness, sex work, incarceration, and addiction.

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