



## Statement

### ***Women's Mosque of Canada supports Women Survivors of Sexual Assault and Violence Against Women***

Dec 13, 2020- Toronto: The Women's Mosque of Canada stands with women that come forward about cases of sexual assault and violence against women in all of its forms.

Violence Against Women continues to be a challenge in every community and we are not exempt as Muslims from this. This is about dominance, power and control over women and it is essential that we hold men accountable for their actions.

The recent sexual assault case in BC by an imam who has now been jailed for sexual assault is an example of how administration can brush off an issue as a "private matter".

Violence Against Women and Sexual Assault is never a private matter.

It is the responsibility of administration and the community to ensure that women feel safe in their homes and in the mosques and they can come forward in cases of violation and mistreatment.

When left unaddressed, such cases not only impact the victim, but also impact the community at large. There are many women in our community that identify as survivors and are in need of closure and reassurance that the mosques are a safe space to enter and pray.

We at the Women's Mosque of Canada fundamentally believe that women have the right to safety, to be treated with respect, honoured and heard. Especially survivors of violence. Women in the community should be comforted and supported after experiencing such violence not shamed.

It is time that our male counter parts make women' safety a priority in the mosques and ensure that any such issue, even a small rumour that could impact the safety of women be investigated immediately.