

# COVID-19 AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Canadians have been urged to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, **home is not a safe place for everyone.**

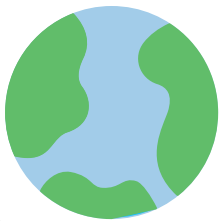


## SHADOW PANDEMIC

"As more countries report infection and lockdown, more domestic violence helplines and shelters across the world are reporting rising calls for help. **We see a shadow pandemic growing, of violence against women.**"

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

**This increase has been seen around the world.**



**France:** cases of intimate partner violence increased by 30% in March 2020.

**China:** police reports show family violence **tripled** in Hubei province in February 2020 (compared to February 2019).

**Argentina:** emergency calls for family violence rose by 25% in March 2020.

## SITUATION IN CANADA

The stress and anxiety resulting from physical distancing measures was a top concern for many Canadians in early April 2020.



**One in 10 women reported being very or extremely concerned about the possibility of violence in the home.** (Statistics Canada)

**32%** of Canadians think that domestic violence has increased a lot since the start of the pandemic.

(Privy Council Office survey, Spring 2020)

The Battered Women's Support Services hotline, located in British Columbia, reported a **400% increase** in calls between April and May 2020. 40% of those calls were from women isolated with their abuser.

The Assaulted Women's helpline of Ontario reported a **400% increase** in calls in April 2020.



Learn more at: [canada.ca/gbv-knowledge-centre](https://canada.ca/gbv-knowledge-centre)