



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# CONFRONTING ANTIFEMINIST IDEOLOGIES IN CANADA

Report of the Standing Committee on the Status  
of Women

Dominique Vien, Chair

JUNE 2026  
45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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IN CANADA**

**Report of the Standing Committee on  
the Status of Women**

**Dominique Vien  
Chair**

**JUNE 2026**

**45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION**

## **NOTICE TO READER**

### **Reports from committees presented to the House of Commons**

Presenting a report to the House is the way a committee makes public its findings and recommendations on a particular topic. Substantive reports on a subject-matter study usually contain a synopsis of the testimony heard, the recommendations made by the committee, as well as the reasons for those recommendations.

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# **THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

has the honour to present its

## **SIXTH REPORT**

Pursuant to its mandate under Standing Order 108(2), the committee has studied antifeminist ideology and has agreed to report the following:



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## SUMMARY

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Antifeminist ideologies are gaining prominence in Canada and around the world. These ideologies harm people of all genders, contribute to violence against women and gender-diverse people, and shape public discourse in a way that undermines progress towards gender equality. In response to these concerns, the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (the committee) undertook a study on antifeminism and its impacts on young Canadians' development and mental health. Throughout the study, the committee heard about the nature and scope of antifeminist ideologies, including causes and impacts, the role of the "manosphere" and influencers, and links to other extremist movements and gender-based violence.

Witnesses identified several key measures to prevent and counter the spread of antifeminism in Canada, including:

- enhancing public awareness and digital literacy, particularly among youth;
- addressing online harms and regulating digital platforms;
- increasing diverse representation in workplaces, including supporting women's participation in politics, and ensuring access to positive role models;
- improved funding for programs and services that work to combat gender-based violence and support women and gender-diverse people;
- developing strategies to engage men and boys in advancing gender equality, including through early intervention;
- continued funding for Canadian media, including local and diverse sources; and
- expanding data collection, research and reporting to better understand and respond to antifeminist ideologies in Canada.

In releasing this report, including its 14 recommendations, the committee hopes to underscore the urgency of this issue and contribute to efforts to prevent further harm arising from antifeminist rhetoric and actions.



# LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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*As a result of their deliberations committees may make recommendations which they include in their reports for the consideration of the House of Commons or the Government. Recommendations related to this study are listed below.*

## **Recommendation 1**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, support public awareness campaigns to counteract antifeminist rhetoric which target a range of audiences, including parents and youth, in particular, young men and boys.** 28

## **Recommendation 2**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, enhance its support for Canadian media, including local media, community media and diverse media sources.** 28

## **Recommendation 3**

**That the Government of Canada table legislation to regulate online platforms, including requirements for stronger moderation of harmful content, measures to protect children, improved transparency mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting requirements for platforms.** 31

## **Recommendation 4**

**That the Government of Canada, continue its efforts to criminalize non-consensual deep fakes, including through Bill C-16.** 32

## **Recommendation 5**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, provide funding for programs that provide youth with tools to navigate online spaces safely and improve their digital literacy, including the capacity to recognize mis- and disinformation.** 33

### **Recommendation 6**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, increase funding for programs that support young women and girls in science, technology, engineering, math and in the skilled trades and apprenticeship programs.** 36

### **Recommendation 7**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, fund programs that support young men and boys in the health, education, arts, literacy, and sport sectors.** 36

### **Recommendation 8**

**That the Government of Canada increase support for programs and initiatives that encourage women to enter and participate in politics at all levels.** 36

### **Recommendation 9**

**That the Government of Canada implement measures aimed at preventing harassment, online intimidation, and gender-based political violence.** 37

### **Recommendation 10**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, continue its efforts through *the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* to invest in prevention in order to address the root causes of gender-based violence.** 39

### **Recommendation 11**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, continue to support programs that encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion, to address barriers facing women and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples, and advance their full and equal participation in economic, social, and political life.** 40

### **Recommendation 12**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, strengthen initiatives to share knowledge and best practices with other levels of government and across organizations working to prevent gender-based violence and supporting victims and survivors.**

**40**

### **Recommendation 13**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, invest in programs and continue its efforts to engage men and boys in advancing gender equality, including through promoting healthy masculinities and men’s mental health, combatting antifeminism, and providing early intervention programs for individuals at risk of radicalization into ideologically motivated violent extremism – especially extreme antifeminist movements.**

**40**

### **Recommendation 14**

**That the Government of Canada make additional investments in research on antifeminist ideologies, its intersections with gender-based violence and coercive control, and its impacts, and that results from this research are made public.**

**42**





# CONFRONTING ANTIFEMINIST IDEOLOGIES IN CANADA

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## INTRODUCTION

Antifeminist ideologies are becoming increasingly prominent in Canada and internationally, shaping public discourse in harmful ways. These narratives negatively impact everyone, undermine efforts to advance gender equality, and contribute to violence against women and gender-diverse people. With an aim to address these challenges, on 15 September 2025, the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (the Committee) adopted the following motion:

That, pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the committee conduct a study on antifeminist ideology and its impacts on young Canadians' development and mental health; that the committee allocate at least four meetings to hearing witnesses; that the committee report its findings to the House; and that, pursuant to Standing Order 109, the committee request that the government table a comprehensive response to the report.<sup>1</sup>

Over the course of the study, the committee heard from 30 witnesses, including academics, researchers and advocates; representatives from women's, Indigenous women's, 2SLGBTQIA+<sup>2</sup> and men's organizations; professional associations and digital literacy groups; journalists; and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The committee also received 30 briefs. Testimony focused on the issue of antifeminist ideologies, what they entail and potential causes, as well as the "manosphere" and the role of influencers. It heard about the impacts of antifeminist ideologies, as well as links to other extremist movements and gender-based violence. Witnesses shared with the committee perspectives on addressing antifeminist ideologies, including raising awareness, addressing online harms, increasing representation of those working in non-traditional occupations, better funding for programs, services and media, and a need for more research. This report presents 14 recommendations to address these issues. The

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1 House of Commons, Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO), *Minutes of Proceedings*, 15 September 2025.

2 The 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym represents Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities.



committee thanks those who provided meaningful testimony to address the harmful impacts of antifeminist ideologies.

## ANTIFEMINIST IDEOLOGIES

**“[A]ntifeminism is not just a fringe phenomenon.”**

Tristan Boursier, Doctor of Political Science,  
as an individual, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026

The committee heard about the nature and scope of antifeminist ideologies. Vé Mikaelian, Mobilization Coordinator at the Fédération des femmes du Québec, explained that “[a]ntifeminism is an extremist ideology based on gender.”<sup>3</sup> Several witnesses characterized antifeminist ideologies as a backlash against progress made by women and feminists in advancing gender equality.<sup>4</sup> David Morin, Full professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke, told the committee:

[A]n anti-feminist is someone who is against equality between men and women and the social progress that has been made. This can manifest in different ways, for example through narratives claiming that women are responsible for the masculinity crisis, that they should return to the home and that their presence in the workforce ultimately destabilizes society because they’re not taking care of children enough, among other things.<sup>5</sup>

Jacqueline Neapole, Executive Director of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, described antifeminist ideologies as “regressive,” “aimed at undoing gains made on women's rights” and “blocking further change needed for the full realization of equality.”<sup>6</sup> Jake Stika, Executive Director of Next Gen Men, observed

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3 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Vé Mikaelian, Mobilization Coordinator, Fédération des femmes du Québec).

4 See for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Francis Dupuis-Déri, Full professor, Chantier sur l'antiféminisme, Réseau québécois en études féministes, Université du Québec à Montréal, as an individual); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Eslie Chan, Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, as an individual); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International; FEWO, [Brief](#), British Columbia Humanist Association.

5 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (David Morin, Full professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke, as an individual).

6 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Jacqueline Neapole, Executive Director, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW)).

that the “backlash is also because men and boys haven't seen themselves in the conversation. ... They see it as a zero-sum conversation: As others gain, they must lose.”<sup>7</sup>

While the committee heard various definitions and descriptions of antifeminism throughout the study, Marie-Eve Carignan, Full professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke, indicated that “[h]aving a clear definition of antifeminism could help to better define the problem and deal with it more effectively.”<sup>8</sup> Kyle Ganson, Assistant Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, added that “[f]iguring out what that definition is through a consensus process that includes researchers, policy-makers, advocates, people on the ground and individuals would be a great place to start.”<sup>9</sup>

The committee also heard that antifeminist ideologies promote myths about gender equality: that gender equality has been achieved; advancing gender equality harms society; women should be subordinate or “deserve to be violated”; that there is “gender symmetry in violence”; and that feminism is causing a “crisis of masculinity.”<sup>10</sup>

Several witnesses reminded that antifeminist ideologies are not new; however, they are “gaining momentum” and “becoming normalized,” particularly among young people who are active online.<sup>11</sup> A CSIS official noted that one recent development is the growing convergence of antifeminist ideologies with other forms of ideological extremism, a trend that will be discussed in greater detail later in this report.<sup>12</sup>

Michael Kehler, Research Chair, Masculinities Studies in Education, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary, told the committee that “in many ways, we've become complicit in antifeminism. We've allowed for this uprising. We've allowed for [it in]

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7 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Jake Stika, Executive Director, Next Gen Men).

8 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Marie-Eve Carignan, Full professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke, as an individual).

9 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Kyle Ganson, Assistant Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, as an individual).

10 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Shari Graydon, Catalyst and Chief Executive Officer, Informed Perspectives); FEWO, [Brief](#), Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie.

11 See for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Léa Clermont-Dion, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University, as an individual); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Tristan Boursier, Doctor of Political Science, as an individual); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan).

12 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Luc M., Director General, Assessments, Integrated Threat Assessment Centre, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)).



different spaces, locker rooms. ... We've seen [it] in many spaces for a long time.”<sup>13</sup> The committee heard that “[a]nti-feminist ideology is rapidly normalizing across digital platforms, politics, media, and everyday life in Canada and globally.”<sup>14</sup> Antifeminism was also characterized as “one of the fastest-growing extremist ideologies in the [W]est.”<sup>15</sup>

The committee heard that antifeminist ideologies are diverse and vary in extremity.<sup>16</sup> For example, they “can manifest ... in complex ways, from sexist jokes to threats and violence. They can be focused on one area or issue and intersect along gender, race, sexual orientation and religion.”<sup>17</sup> Some witnesses explained that antifeminist ideologies can be institutional, manifesting through government policies or civil society organizations.<sup>18</sup> The committee also heard that male role models in positions of power, particularly in politics and the technology sector, are normalizing and promoting antifeminist ideologies.<sup>19</sup> For example, Francis Dupuis-Déri, Full professor, Chantier sur l'antiféminisme, Réseau québécois en études féministes, Université du Québec à Montréal, told the committee that antifeminists are some of “the most influential men in the world.”<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, the committee heard that engagement with these ideologies is not limited to men and boys; rather, some women and girls are embracing antifeminist views as well.<sup>21</sup>

Some witnesses described alarming trends and statistics.<sup>22</sup> The committee heard that based on Statistics Canada data: “[I]n 2022, young Canadians aged 15 to 24 were the most likely of any age group to have seen content online over the previous 12 months that incites hate or violence, with 71% reporting seeing media that may incite hate or

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- 13 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Michael Kehler, Research Chair, Masculinities Studies in Education, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary, as an individual).
- 14 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International.
- 15 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).
- 16 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Mylène de Repentigny-Corbeil, Executive Director, Les 3 sexes\*); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri); FEWO, [Brief](#), CRIAW.
- 17 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole). See also FEWO, [Brief](#), British Columbia Humanist Association.
- 18 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).
- 19 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Liza Lorenzetti, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, as an individual); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Michel Dorais, Professor Emeritus, Université Laval, as an individual); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Graydon).
- 20 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri).
- 21 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier).
- 22 See for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

violence, higher than the national average of 49%.”<sup>23</sup> Morin described a 2025 survey conducted by the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism; survey responses indicated that 30% of anglophone and 13% of francophone respondents aged 18 to 34 agreed with the statement, “feminism is a strategy to control society,” and 40% of anglophone men agreed with the statement “equality between men and women has been achieved, so feminism has no reason to exist.”<sup>24</sup>

## Types of Masculinities

**“During the last 70-plus years, we've had a really brilliant conversation about women's roles, norms and stereotypes. ... However, in having that gas pedal for women and girls, we've simultaneously held down the brake on having similar conversations about norms, roles and stereotypes for men and boys. I think we need to let go of that brake and expand what it means to be a man, and masculinity.”**

Jake Stika, Executive Director,  
Next Gen Men, *Evidence*, 24 November 2025

Several witnesses told the committee about different expressions of masculinity and how these relate to antifeminist ideologies. Kehler explained:

[A] growing body of research show[s] that masculinity is not biologically fixed but socially constructed, meaning boys and men are shaped by the environments and pressures around them. It's not simply boys being boys. Boys and men navigate and negotiate power arrangements within and among men, determining which forms of masculinity are heralded, valorized and validated and which attitudes and behaviours about being men are discounted, marginalized and ostracized.<sup>25</sup>

Jean-Michaël Dubé-Rousseau, Executive Director, Partage au Masculin, told the committee that certain expectations associated with traditional ideas of masculinity in which “a man must cope on his own, ... needs to be strong, ... must never falter, and ... is

23 FEWO, *Brief*, Women's Shelters Canada.

24 FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Morin).

25 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Kehler).



not allowed to show his emotions or show weakness,” represent “ideals of toxic masculinity.”<sup>26</sup> Dubé-Rousseau explained that these expectations are harmful to men, as they discourage them from seeking help when experiencing distress.<sup>27</sup> Stika also emphasized the harmful or limiting impacts of masculine stereotypes on men and boys: “Men, as a class, benefit within patriarchy in terms of representation, earnings and all of those types of things, but individually they are deeply harmed when it comes to rates of suicide, substance abuse and incarceration.”<sup>28</sup>

Some described a link between restricting masculine stereotypes and the potential for misogynist attitudes. Esli Chan, Doctoral Candidate, Political Science, explained that:

I think with online and working with young boys, the difference is confronting toxic masculinity and not masculinity in itself. There are many ways to express very healthy masculinities. The root of the issue really is this toxic nature, this warped understanding of how to express masculinity and what that constructs around visions of feminism.<sup>29</sup>

Sue Bookchin, Executive Director, Be the Peace Institute, discussed the “strong connection between stereotypical views of masculinity and perceived threats to masculinity, and gender-based violence and mass violence committed by males” found by the Mass Casualty Commission in Nova Scotia. The committee heard that:

Misogyny is a common trait among perpetrators of mass violence, among other causative factors. Anti-feminist and extremist views appear in their writings, manifestos or online activity, and the hallmarks of the incel [“involuntary celibate”] movement, which people have talked about, include the overt hatred of women and the belief that they don't deserve respect, security or equality.<sup>30</sup>

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26 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Jean-Michaël Dubé-Rousseau, Executive Director, Partage au Masculin).

27 Ibid.

28 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika).

29 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan).

30 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Sue Bookchin, Executive Director, Be the Peace Institute). The Joint Federal/Provincial Commission into the April 2020 Nova Scotia Mass Casualty was the public inquiry created to analyze the causes, context and circumstances of the mass casualty that took place on 18–19 April 2020 in Nova Scotia. The chain of events began with a man attacking his partner. He then went on to impersonate an RCMP officer and kill 22 people, injuring three more, and set a number of fires over a two-day period. See Mass Casualty Commission, *Turning the Tide Together: Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission*, “[Executive Summary and Recommendations](#),” March 2023. [Volume 3](#) also explains: “[T]here is a newer phenomenon of mass casualties committed by self-proclaimed ‘incels’ – involuntarily celibate heterosexual men – who commit violence against women because, they say, they are angry at being sexually rejected by women. The incel movement is characterized by the belief that women should be sexually available to men who desire them, and by an ideology of male supremacy.”

## Causes of Antifeminist Ideologies

Several witnesses discussed factors contributing to the rise of antifeminist ideologies and the risk factors associated with engaging with them. The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women identified widening economic inequality and worsening socioeconomic conditions, highlighting Statistics Canada data on the disproportionate impacts on lower-income people, younger adults, families with children and people with disabilities. In their brief, they note this fuels fear and anger that can be exploited by regressive movements. Further, strong social safety nets are critical to countering antifeminist ideologies, to ensure that no one feels “left behind.”<sup>31</sup> Mikaelian added that “[i]n the context of widespread social unease, economic crises and uncertainty, these narratives find fertile ground to spread.”<sup>32</sup>

Some described a pervasive sense of hopelessness among young people, including relating to climate-related anxiety and economic insecurity. For example, Liza Lorenzetti, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, told the committee that antifeminism is “amplified to our youth through economic insecurity, the climate crisis, political polarization and the digital world, where misogyny generates enormous profits.”<sup>33</sup> Similarly, Dan Irving, Associate Professor, explained that “[m]any young men are feeling anxious, both because we're in a climate crisis and in an economic crisis and also because they don't necessarily have that community; they think they have to bear that by themselves.”<sup>34</sup> Lorenzetti further explained: “As a university educator and mentor, I witness gen[eration] Z's anxiety and feelings of hopelessness through my students. Their depth is reflected in the words of my 17-year-old, who told me that young people turn to screens because the real world is terrifying.”<sup>35</sup> Bookchin emphasized the “epidemic of loneliness,” which can “propel them into online spaces looking for a sense of community and belonging.”<sup>36</sup> Alok Kanojia, Trustee and President, Healthy Gamer Foundation explained that “loneliness is an important risk factor because in these online communities, that's where [young boys and men] find connections.”<sup>37</sup>

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31 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole); FEWO, [Brief](#), CRIAW.

32 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

33 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti).

34 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dan Irving, Associate Professor, as an individual).

35 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti).

36 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin).

37 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Alok Kanojia, Trustee and President, Healthy Gamer Foundation).



Social isolation, a lack of meaningful community and mental health challenges were also identified as contributing risk factors for engagement with antifeminist ideologies. For example, Kanojia discussed “online drift” which occurs when an individual begins to socially isolate, and then “[a]ll they do is surround themselves with Internet forums where people are sharing very similar experiences, so they have a very poor selection bias in terms of what kind of information and interactions they have.”<sup>38</sup> Compounding these issues is the role of social media and a lack of regulation from technology companies, to be discussed later in this report, accelerating antifeminist narratives and creating “soft entry points for a more radical ideology.”<sup>39</sup> Bookchin cited the book, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, which:

[T]alks about how the mental health of adolescents has plunged, primarily through the arrival of phone-based childhoods. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide have risen sharply in the last decade in this era of smart phones, social media and big tech, which are influencing the social and neurological development of our children.<sup>40</sup>

Some also expressed concerns about online pornography normalizing antifeminist behaviours, in that “[i]t’s inherently misogynistic and shockingly violent toward females, and males and females are learning to accept the normalized misbehaviour.”<sup>41</sup> Kanojia observed that pornography addiction is strongly associated with a higher likelihood of engaging with antifeminist ideologies.<sup>42</sup>

Kanojia also told the committee about his work as a psychiatrist with young men involved in extreme antifeminist online subcultures, including the incel community. He described recurring themes among these individuals, including social deprivation, emotional illiteracy, trauma histories, and unmet mental health needs. Kanojia further explained:

Most of the young men I work with do not begin with antifeminist ideology. They begin with loneliness, shame and a sense of falling behind their peers. A typical pathway looks something like this. A young man feels isolated. He experiences repeated rejection or humiliation, sometimes romantic, sometimes academic, sometimes familial. He turns to the Internet for support because he has nowhere else to go. Online spaces provide

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38 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Emmanuelle Parent, Cofounder and Executive Director, Le Centre pour l’intelligence émotionnelle en ligne); FEWO, [Brief](#), The Healthy Living Plan.

39 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Rachel Gilmore, Journalist, Bubble Pop Media, as an individual).

40 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin).

41 Ibid.; FEWO, [Brief](#), Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

42 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia).

simple explanations for complex situations. Those explanations slowly harden into ideology. The core psychological start is with hopelessness that then transforms into hatred.<sup>43</sup>

However, Dupuis-Déri underscored the importance of men and boys taking accountability for their actions, noting that while they may experience significant challenges, women are not at fault nor the cause of their problems, contrary to narratives promoted within antifeminist movements.<sup>44</sup>

Overall, the committee heard that actors in antifeminist movements, particularly those operating in the manosphere online, actively seek to exploit vulnerabilities, including those of young men and boys, for their own purposes.<sup>45</sup>

### The Manosphere and the Role of Antifeminist Influencers

**“You know, in the manosphere, it’s two clicks of an algorithm and then all control is lost: boys start looking at something about bodybuilding on their cellphone and it leads to antifeminist content.”**

Vé Mikaelian, Mobilization Coordinator,  
Fédération des femmes du Québec, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025

### The Manosphere

The committee heard about the role of the manosphere, a network of online communities claiming to address men’s issues, in promoting and amplifying antifeminist ideologies. Kehler explained that the manosphere is a series of online spaces that spread unchallenged antifeminist beliefs, and promote narratives urging men and boys to “take back power and assert dominance and control.”<sup>46</sup> The committee heard that the manosphere “provides simplified narratives and validation for youth who feel

43 Ibid.

44 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri).

45 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Kanojia); FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian); FEWO, *Brief*, Aura Freedom International.

46 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Kehler).



misunderstood or isolated;” Bookchin described it as a “vehicle for grooming young men into these ideologies.”<sup>47</sup>

Several witnesses told the committee that manosphere communities promote and reinforce antifeminist narratives that blame women and feminism for men’s hardships.<sup>48</sup> Léa Clermont-Dion, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University, explained that manosphere narratives often centre on domination and control, hypermasculinity, the suppression of men’s emotions, the victimization of men, the dehumanization of women and the amplification of gender-based violence.<sup>49</sup>

Others expressed concerns that the significant amount of time young people spend online increases their exposure to manosphere content, and emphasized the major role social media platforms play in hosting and amplifying this material.<sup>50</sup> For example, Chan referenced a recent incident on X in which the generative artificial intelligence chatbot Grok was used to create more than three million non-consensual sexualized images of primarily women, in just over a week.<sup>51</sup>

Some cautioned that the manosphere is now more accessible than ever on social media and gaming platforms; Clermont-Dion noted a study that indicated more than 70% of young people consuming “online videos end up, in just a few clicks, viewing toxic, masculinist discourse.”<sup>52</sup> Luc Cousineau told the committee that boys and young men are regularly exposed to masculinist and misogynist content online, “regardless of their interest or their desire to consume that content.”<sup>53</sup> Mikaelian described the way in which the manosphere is growing at increasing rates, that in “10 years, the number of messages posted [in manosphere] communities has more than doubled.”<sup>54</sup> Tristan Boursier explained that digital platforms are a key contributor, making antifeminist

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47 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin). See also FEWO, [Brief](#), The Healthy Living Plan.

48 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Dorais); FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services; FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's Shelters Canada; FEWO, [Brief](#), Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society.

49 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion). See also FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

50 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Brief](#), Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

51 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan).

52 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.

53 FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.

54 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

perspectives more available, increasing in intensity, and more “[able] to reach younger audiences.”<sup>55</sup> Boursier noted studies that show that new TikTok users can be exposed to violent content, and more specifically, antifeminist content, in cases where their profile identifies them as a man, in less than a day.<sup>56</sup>

The committee heard that the rapid proliferation of antifeminist content, combined with algorithmic-driven social media platforms and limited online regulation, contributes to the radicalization of men and boys.<sup>57</sup> Aura Freedom International described the manosphere as a “radicalization pipeline;” Mikaelian noted that radicalization is “no accident—it’s the dominant trend in the manosphere.”<sup>58</sup> Further, the committee heard that radicalization in the manosphere is not gender neutral; rather, it “disproportionately targets women and girls, reinforcing harmful gender norms and legitimizing violence.”<sup>59</sup>

Chan explained that language and terms (for example, “looksmaxxing,” the process of maximizing one’s physical attractiveness through sometimes extreme means) originating from some of the more extreme antifeminist subcommunities within the manosphere, like incels, are becoming more normalized and used by men and boys in everyday conversation.<sup>60</sup> The committee heard that the views expressed in the manosphere do not stay online; as Stika noted: “While we often talk about online influencers, these messages don’t stay on screens.”<sup>61</sup> These online views ultimately spread into physical spaces like playgrounds, classrooms, family gatherings, locker rooms and sports arenas.<sup>62</sup>

### The Role of Antifeminist Influencers

Witnesses told the committee about the role of influencers within the manosphere, and their growing reach among men and boys. Kehler observed that these influencers promote “hate, dominance and violence” that urge men to reclaim and reassert a “dominant” form of masculinity.<sup>63</sup> Boursier told the committee that their “main activity

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55 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier).

56 Ibid.

57 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International; FEWO, [Brief](#), Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society.

58 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International; FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

59 FEWO, [Brief](#), Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society.

60 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan).

61 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika).

62 Ibid.; FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler).

63 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler).



is to produce and disseminate digital content that promotes an antifeminist world view, such as videos, podcasts, memes, or paid training courses.”<sup>64</sup> Furthermore, they “aren’t fringe actors; they sometimes have very large followings and develop real business models based on capturing attention.”<sup>65</sup> Rachel Gilmore, Journalist, Bubble Pop Media, reminded the committee that “[t]here’s a lot of money” in being an anti-feminist influencer, highlighting “the profit model and incentive structure that is created through social media.”<sup>66</sup> Emmanuelle Parent, co-founder and CEO, Centre pour l’intelligence émotionnelle en ligne, indicated: “Hatred is very profitable.”<sup>67</sup>

Witnesses told the committee that influencers use a range of tactics to reach and influence a diverse audience of young men and boys. Some noted three common entry points influencers use to build their audiences: advice related to physical appearance and fitness, financial success and business skills, and relationships with women.<sup>68</sup> Irving told the committee:

[T]he manosphere often will bring in adolescent boys who are experiencing their first rejections in the dating world, for instance ... This particular isolation and the feelings that they may have then get fuelled within this very algorithmic digital world, which will then tell them that this rejection is the fault of women. If they haven't come in with some misogyny, there's a huge chance that they're going to develop that through this. Then they see this as their community.<sup>69</sup>

The committee heard that young men and boys are searching for belonging and connection, and in the absence of positive role models or healthy alternatives, they turn to online communities where influencers exploit their insecurities and vulnerabilities.<sup>70</sup> “[A] lot of ... young men want someone to tell them how to be a man in this society” and influencers claim to have the answer.<sup>71</sup> Dubé-Rousseau told the committee:

[H]ow many ... influencers directly approach our young men to sell them a false reality? They are being sold a bill of goods. They are being manipulated while they are in the

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64 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier).

65 Ibid.

66 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

67 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent).

68 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion).

69 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving).

70 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent).

71 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

midst of building their identity. Influencers draw them in by telling them that if they want to succeed, be attractive to girls and solve all the problems in their lives, all they have to do is side with what they are proposing and listen to what they are telling them. ... The more they're immersed in it, the more insidious and toxic it becomes and the more it is hammered home that women are to blame for everything wrong in their lives and the fact that they are rejected.<sup>72</sup>

The committee heard that for some, participating in the manosphere helps to shape their political identities.<sup>73</sup> Others highlighted that financial gain for influencers also plays a significant role.<sup>74</sup> Gilmore explained:

All of this is a grift. Some of them are ideologues, sure, but there are a lot of people who have figured out that there is a ton of money in exploiting people's fear, their insecurity. ... There is a lot of money you can make in telling people that you have all the answers on how they should live and can help them to get the girls, the money and the fast cars.<sup>75</sup>

The committee heard that “[y]oung men's insecurities are being weaponized in ways that make them willing to spend money,” for example on fitness-related products.<sup>76</sup>

Furthermore, the committee heard that some influencers trivialize or normalize gender-based violence, including sexual and cyber-violence, the impacts of which will be discussed in greater detail in the sections below.<sup>77</sup>

The committee heard that some women and girls also hold antifeminist views. For example, Boursier noted that women who act as antifeminist influencers are in the “minority”; however, emphasized that “some of them are very high-profile.”<sup>78</sup> Boursier further explained: “Being women gives them an excuse for making sexist or anti-feminist comments. They use the fact that they are women to say that it is impossible for a woman to make anti-feminist comments.”<sup>79</sup>

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72 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau).

73 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

74 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent).

75 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

76 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti).

77 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti).

78 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier).

79 Ibid.



Furthermore, the committee also heard about the “tradwife movement” (short for “traditional wife”), in which influencers advocate for women to embrace traditional gender roles, especially homemaking.<sup>80</sup> In a brief from Aura Freedom International, the committee heard that both “manosphere” content targeting young men and “tradwife” content aimed at women, promotes “misogyny, anti-equality misinformation, and idealiz[es] patriarchal roles.”<sup>81</sup>

## Impacts of Antifeminist Ideologies

**“These days, comments that dehumanize women and reject gender equality circulate freely both online and off-line. Too often, this rhetoric is portrayed as simply harmless or [as] innocuous opinions. However, these ideologies have very real consequences for the dignity, safety and health of women and girls in Canada.”**

Mylène de Repentigny-Corbeil, Executive Director,  
Les 3 sexes\*, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026

The committee heard that, just as antifeminist ideologies manifest in many different forms, their impacts are likewise numerous and varied, and “don’t remain online.”<sup>82</sup> Some witnesses explained that such ideologies represent “a threat to collective wellbeing and social infrastructure” and pose “a real threat to public safety, social cohesion and our democratic institutions.”<sup>83</sup>

One brief noted that youth are particularly vulnerable: “[Y]oung boys are recruited into anti-feminist narratives, while girls and gender-diverse youth internalize damaging messages and face direct violence.”<sup>84</sup> Several witnesses reported that antifeminist views are appearing in classrooms, making environments less safe for everyone.<sup>85</sup> Some

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80 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

81 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International.

82 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

83 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian); FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.

84 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International.

85 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (de Repentigny-Corbeil); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Pascal Vaillancourt, Director General, Interligne); FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.

referenced a White Ribbon study indicating that 95% of surveyed educators reported boys and young men being exposed to sexist and misogynistic content online, and 80% had witnessed related behaviours in their classrooms.<sup>86</sup>

The committee also heard concerns regarding the increasing polarization between young women and young men regarding the need for gender equality. Some noted the friction this could cause as young people develop their personal and sexual identities.<sup>87</sup> Morin explained that based on findings from the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism:

We're becoming aware that there is currently a very strong polarization between young men and young women. Some of them don't understand couple relationships or intimate relationships in the same way. In this respect, if we don't take matters in hand now, without blaming or stigmatizing young men ... we may be setting ourselves up for what could become a major social crisis in terms of equality between men's and women's rights.<sup>88</sup>

Briefs emphasized that antifeminist ideologies harm people of all genders, but especially undermine the well-being of women, girls and gender-diverse people, by eroding progress toward gender equality across public and private spheres.<sup>89</sup> In addition, witness testimony outlined how Indigenous women and women of colour are disproportionately impacted and harmed by these ideologies.<sup>90</sup>

The committee heard about the impacts on democracy, particularly through efforts by antifeminist actors to silence, threaten and dissuade women from participating in public roles.<sup>91</sup> Witnesses described examples such as doxing, deepfakes and other forms of cyber-violence to target women and girls.<sup>92</sup> Journalist Rachel Gilmore described how online abuse has forced her to change her daily life and expressed worry that such

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86 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International. See: White Ribbon, [Boys are at Risk: Confronting the Rise of Online Misogyny and Harmful Ideologies](#).

87 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri).

88 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin).

89 FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada; FEWO, [Brief](#), United Food and Commercial Workers Union Canada (UFCW).

90 See for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Lisa Pigeau, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti); FEWO, [Brief](#), Project Agape.

91 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

92 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dina Haddish, Members' Coordinator, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan); FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada.



behaviours may deter young women from pursuing journalism.<sup>93</sup> Shari Graydon, Catalyst and Chief Executive Officer, Informed Perspectives, told the committee that “the visibility of women exercising power, being present and demonstrably making clear that women deserve to be in these spaces and are necessary to democracy helps ... to challenge and undercut [antifeminist] conversations.”<sup>94</sup>

Some told the committee about how antifeminist ideologies affect diverse and marginalized communities, including individuals with multiple intersecting identities.<sup>95</sup> The committee heard that “[a]ntifeminism has always included racist, homophobic, transphobic and colonial ideologies.”<sup>96</sup> Lisa Pigeau, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, explained that colonial systems imposed rigid gender roles that silenced Métis women, and that today’s antifeminist messages echo these historic harms.<sup>97</sup> Nour Enayeh, President, Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne, described her organization receiving a threatening package with violent, antifeminist messages targeting francophone women and immigrants.<sup>98</sup> Pascal Vaillancourt, Director General, Interligne, explained that antifeminism “fuels homophobia and transphobia, normalizes violence, and worsens psychological distress, particularly among trans women, non-binary people and youth.”<sup>99</sup>

Pigeau noted that antifeminist ideas create hesitation around gender equality work and can affect program funding and support for organizations working to support gender equality.<sup>100</sup> Witnesses also highlighted impacts such as targeted harassment, service disruptions, funding instability, increased security needs and staff burnout or loss due to online and in-person threats.<sup>101</sup>

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93 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

94 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Graydon).

95 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (de Repentigny-Corbeil); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International; FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada; FEWO, [Brief](#), Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

96 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Lorenzetti).

97 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Pigeau).

98 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Nour Enayeh, President, Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne (AFFC)).

99 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Vaillancourt).

100 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Pigeau).

101 See for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Vaillancourt); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish); FEWO, [Brief](#), AFFC; FEWO, [Brief](#), Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie; FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's Shelters Canada.

The committee heard that antifeminist ideologies also harm men and boys.<sup>102</sup> As previously discussed, witnesses noted that the types of masculinity promoted in the manosphere can be restrictive and make men and boys less likely to seek help. In a brief, Luc Cousineau told the committee that research demonstrates that exposure to antifeminist content can increase risks, such as unhealthy or extreme fitness behaviours, steroid or supplement use and lower self-esteem. Witnesses also pointed to the rising rates of body dysmorphia and eating disorders among young men influenced by unrealistic online standards.<sup>103</sup> Clermont-Dion referenced “the cult of the body” that exists within the manosphere.<sup>104</sup> Ganson explained:

For many, this is not merely about fitness or aesthetics. It is about adhering to an ideal of manhood that carries significant social and political meaning. Online platforms supercharge this dynamic. ... The mental and social health consequences are significant. For many boys and men, the pursuit of these ideals is accompanied by anxiety, compulsive routines and deep insecurity rather than well-being. What’s more, many of these behaviours correlate with physical fighting, weapon carrying, criminal offending, intimate partner violence and polysubstance use.<sup>105</sup>

The committee heard that antifeminist ideologies contribute to disinformation and misinformation about gender-based violence and are linked to increased levels of violence, including femicide; that “[a]ntifeminist ideology is not simply rhetoric, it is a gateway to violence.”<sup>106</sup> Carignan further added: “[C]ommunities in the manosphere promote narratives that are sometimes very hateful and violent, and can lead to rape, suicide, murder, increased intolerance, a deterioration of togetherness and acts of terrorism.”<sup>107</sup> Kanojia noted that isolation within these communities “becomes reinforced,” making individuals more susceptible to harmful narratives where there are “no contrary perspectives.”<sup>108</sup>

Dina Haddish, Members' Coordinator, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, explained that “[s]urvivors are choosing not to report sexual violence, not to testify, not to attend

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102 FEWO, *Evidence*, 24 November 2025 (Stika); FEWO, *Evidence*, 24 November 2025 (Irving); FEWO, *Evidence*, 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau).

103 FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Kanojia); FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 February 2026 (Ganson).

104 FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion).

105 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 February 2026 (Ganson).

106 See for example: FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, *Brief*, Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada; FEWO, *Brief*, Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society.

107 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

108 FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Kanojia).



public events and not to seek services due to fear of online pile-ons, doxing and reputational harm,” further demonstrating the harmful, real impacts of antifeminist ideologies.<sup>109</sup>

## Links to Violent Extremism and Other Extremist Ideologies

Several described violent extremist acts, mass casualty incidents and terrorist attacks motivated by antifeminist ideologies, such as the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre, the 2018 Toronto van attack, the 2020 mass casualty event in Nova Scotia, the 2020 Toronto spa attack and the 2023 University of Waterloo attack.<sup>110</sup>

Some witnesses noted that antifeminist ideologies intersect with other forms of extremism, including white supremacy and other forms of political or religious extremism.<sup>111</sup> The committee heard that actors within extremist networks exploit these overlapping beliefs to recruit.<sup>112</sup>

CSIS officials told the committee that, although most people who hold antifeminist views will never engage in mass violence, their assessments show that antifeminism can, in some cases, act as an “enabling factor along pathways to violent extremism.”<sup>113</sup> From a national security perspective, CSIS indicated that antifeminist ideologies “warrant attention when [they] appear alongside indicators of violent intent.”<sup>114</sup> They further explained: “Women, including elected officials, journalists and educators, may be [perceived by anti-feminists] as undermining social order, which can contribute to

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109 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish).

110 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri); FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's Shelters Canada.

According to CSIS, violent extremism constitutes a significant threat to Canada’s national security. Violent extremism can be classified into such categories as religiously motivated, politically motivated and ideologically motivated. [Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism](#) can be further classified into four categories, including “gender identity-driven violence, which includes violent misogyny (including incel movement), anti-2SLGBTQIA+, and anti-gender driven ideology violence.” See: CSIS, [CSIS Public Report 2024, Forty Years of National Security](#), p. 44.

111 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri); FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.

112 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin).

113 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Luc M.).

114 Ibid.

environments where harassment, threats and, in rare cases, violence become more likely.”<sup>115</sup>

CSIS also told the committee that, when assessing violent-extremism threats, including those linked to antifeminist ideologies, they look for specific indicators. These include steps toward mobilizing to violence, escalating rhetoric online or in-person, the sharing of violent materials and behaviours such as selling personal assets.<sup>116</sup>

## EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTIFEMINIST IDEOLOGIES

Across the study, the committee heard repeatedly about the importance of preventing antifeminist rhetoric from taking hold, as Mikaelian warned the committee: “[I]f we keep reacting instead of preventing, it will never end. We’ll confront increasing violence.”<sup>117</sup> Witnesses discussed a variety of ways in which antifeminism can be prevented, counteracted and addressed, including through raising awareness, measures to protect people online, addressing underrepresentation of women in the workplace and in politics, better funding for services and supports, and improved data collection, research and reporting.

### Raising Awareness, Training and Education

One way to combat antifeminist rhetoric is through raising awareness and public education, as Michel Dorais, Professor Emeritus, Université Laval, urged awareness is “an essential first step.”<sup>118</sup> The committee heard about the importance of public awareness campaigns to counter disinformation about feminism and gender-based violence. Carignan discussed “prebunking,” which involves educating people before they are exposed to misinformation or violent messages, so that they are better prepared and able to think critically about these issues.<sup>119</sup> Haddish urged that “anti-feminist thinking can be reduced through early education, specifically on healthy masculinities, on consent, [and] on healthy relationships.”<sup>120</sup>

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115 Ibid.

116 Ibid.

117 FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian).

118 FEWO, *Brief*, Michel Dorais.

119 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

120 Ibid.; FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 February 2026 (Haddish); FEWO, *Brief*, Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic.



A variety of solutions were presented on ways in which the federal government could support raising awareness, including:

- Providing parents with tools to be better equipped to understand what young people, and in particular boys, are being exposed to, such as the manosphere;<sup>121</sup>
- In collaboration with other levels of government, facilitating training for justice system actors, including police and prosecutors, to undertake trauma-informed training to be able to recognize all forms of gender-based violence, such as how antifeminist ideologies intersect with other types of discrimination;<sup>122</sup> and
- Supporting training for elected officials on antifeminist speech, to better understand the harm it causes and its connection to violence.<sup>123</sup>

The committee heard about the importance of countering antifeminist ideologies in sport, including in locker rooms and sports arenas.<sup>124</sup> Stika told the committee that antifeminist messages are “reinforced in locker rooms from coaches who mock anything soft.”<sup>125</sup> Dorais reminded the committee that awareness raising around antifeminism needs to happen “where the boys are;” where they are already engaged and participating. One concrete example provided was the program Sport-Aide, which educates and raises awareness of boys and their coaches across a range of sports teams. The committee heard there are young men who are “stars in their sport,” and “leaders in their community;” this is the place where intervention needs to take place. Dorais also emphasized the need to shift sport culture to address and counter antifeminist narratives, stressing that this effort must be led by sports federations, team leaders and coaches who can act as “positive role models” for young men and boys in sport.<sup>126</sup>

A number of witnesses and briefs also raised a need for better education on topics such as gender equity, gender-based violence, positive masculinities, and antifeminist rhetoric for children and youth in schools, including by flowing federal funding to provinces and

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121 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International.

122 FEWO, [Brief](#), AFFC; FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic; FEWO, [Brief](#), Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

123 FEWO, [Brief](#), Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie.

124 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler).

125 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika).

126 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Dorais).

territories; however, the committee recognizes education does not fall under federal jurisdiction.<sup>127</sup>

Another way in which witnesses discussed raising awareness is through increased support for, and diversity in, the media. The committee heard about the importance of supporting media, including local media. As Gilmore reminded the committee, “[w]ithout local media, we would never know how to address community issues or discuss them. Without real facts on societal issues, people will look for someone to blame them on.”<sup>128</sup> In alignment with the recommendations for public awareness, witnesses stressed that the presence of diverse media outlets and sources “is essential to counterbalance problematic individuals who exploit people.”<sup>129</sup> As Carignan reminded the committee, without well-resourced media capable of “address[ing] substantive issues by finding the right experts, and explain[ing] the issues clearly to the public,” Canadians increasingly turn to non-news sources on social media for information. Carignan explained this shift increases the likelihood that social media influencers, including antifeminist influencers who may spread mis- or disinformation, may be mistaken for credible news sources, causing people to confuse unverified social media content with “professional information.”<sup>130</sup>

Some asked that traditional media receive more funding, to enable better coverage of issues; however, in their brief, Aura Freedom International highlighted cases where media coverage may perpetuate antifeminist views, framed as “neutrality.” The brief argued the importance of media “promoting accurate, survivor-centered, and gender-equitable coverage.”<sup>131</sup> Carignan echoed that journalists also require training to enable them to cover these issues more effectively, drawing particular attention to the need to avoid promoting or spreading harm.<sup>132</sup>

In their briefs, Aura Freedom International and Battered Women’s Support Services indicated a need to recognize antifeminist ideology, alongside gender-based violence, as

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127 See for example: FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Keeley Prockiw, Red Seal Endorsed Welder, as an individual); FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Kehler); FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 February 2026 (Vaillancourt); FEWO, *Brief*, Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada; FEWO, *Brief*, Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan.

128 FEWO, *Evidence*, 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

129 Ibid. See also FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

130 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

131 FEWO, *Brief*, Aura Freedom International.

132 FEWO, *Evidence*, 3 December 2025 (Carignan).



a public safety crisis.<sup>133</sup> Further, Project Agape suggested that the federal government should recognize antifeminist ideology as a form of hate in its national strategies, such as *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence*, and the *National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence*.<sup>134</sup>

Taking this testimony into consideration, the committee recommends:

#### **Recommendation 1**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, support public awareness campaigns to counteract antifeminist rhetoric which target a range of audiences, including parents and youth, in particular, young men and boys.**

#### **Recommendation 2**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, enhance its support for Canadian media, including local media, community media and diverse media sources.**

### **Addressing Online Harms**

Throughout the study, the committee heard about the necessity of tackling online harms, where antifeminist rhetoric proliferates. Boursier told the committee about how digital platforms play “a central role” to “facilitate the mass dissemination of this content, its algorithmic recommendations, and its access by increasingly younger audiences.”<sup>135</sup> Overwhelmingly, the committee heard that addressing online spaces is critical, and that this could be done in two main ways: raising awareness and better preparing youth to participate online, and by better regulating these spaces so that digital platforms are held to account.

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133 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aura Freedom International; FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services. See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau; FEWO, [Brief](#), Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie.

134 FEWO, [Brief](#), Project Agape. See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services; FEWO, [Brief](#), AFFC.

135 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier).

## Regulating Online Spaces

A majority of witnesses spoke to the need to strengthen safety online, particularly through regulating online spaces, as they are one of the major amplifiers of antifeminist ideologies. Many discussed the need to regulate platforms, sharing various components of what this should entail, as Bookchin told the committee: “Big tech companies are getting away with pretty much no accountability for the harms being caused to young people.”<sup>136</sup> Overall, some expressed concerns about social media business models and design features, like algorithms and user anonymity, that can contribute to harm.<sup>137</sup> The committee heard that regulating spaces should include: requiring content moderation and dealing with harmful or mis- and disinformation, processes for reporting and removing this content, dealing with artificially generated images, and having sufficient penalties for non-compliance.

First, some spoke to the need to moderate harmful content online. Morin reminded the committee about [Bill C-63, An Act to enact the Online Harms Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act and An Act respecting the mandatory reporting of Internet child pornography by persons who provide an Internet service and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts](#), that was introduced in the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament, but died on the order paper when Parliament prorogued in January 2025. In particular, Morin urged the need to require platforms to “take responsibility for removing undesirable content themselves.”<sup>138</sup> Chan argued that online platforms must be required to build safeguards against harm, alongside “streamlined content removal processes.”<sup>139</sup> However, the committee heard that moderating such content can be difficult, as it is often disguised as seemingly harmless, including fitness advice.<sup>140</sup> Even so, Kanojia provided an example of video games with voice chat options, where the game is designed to immediately implement mute functionality when it recognizes toxic or harmful words through voice modulation analysis and capacity to identify expletives.<sup>141</sup>

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136 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin). See also for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Soukaina Boutiyeb, Executive Director, AFFC); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (de Repentigny-Corbeil).

137 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Ganson); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent).

138 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin).

139 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan).

140 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

141 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia).



Others discussed the need to implement mechanisms to allow users to report harmful content. The committee heard that this should include a requirement for quicker response times on the part of platforms to remove such content. Kanojia provided the committee with an example of a video game studio that developed a mechanism for more timely feedback to users relating to moderated content: the system provides almost instant reasoning for why content is blocked or removed, so a user can better understand, in the moment, what is identified as hurtful or harmful, and potentially avoid such behaviour in the future.<sup>142</sup>

Others indicated that mis- and disinformation should be included in removable content, as it can also be harmful.<sup>143</sup> However, Morin cautioned the challenges of regulating disinformation online, noting that it is “far too broad and there would be a lot of interpretation issues.”<sup>144</sup> Carignan echoed these challenges referring to misinformation as something complex to regulate.<sup>145</sup>

Another topic discussed was the importance of implementing sufficient penalties for platforms “that fail to protect users from targeted online harassment, doxing, or deepfake sexual exploitation.”<sup>146</sup> However, the committee heard caution: Gilmore shared the difficulties when some influencers are “deplatformed,”<sup>147</sup> though they are still able to be successful through the influence they had already gained, and that deplatforming a user might gain them popularity in other (online) spaces.<sup>148</sup>

As referenced earlier, the committee heard about the more recent phenomena of synthetic image generation, particularly, using artificial intelligence to generate intimate imagery without consent. In its brief, the Ending Sexual Violence Association argued for the regulation of these types of images, as Clermont-Dion echoed: “[W]ith deepfakes, someone’s face is used to create pornography. Thus, with artificial intelligence, we’re

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142 Ibid.

143 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Pigeau); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia). See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada.

144 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin).

145 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

146 FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic.

147 To deplatform means to bar or block a registered user from an online space.

148 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore).

obviously victimizing women again.”<sup>149</sup> The committee heard this could fall under the criteria: “non-consensual distribution of porn.”<sup>150</sup>

The committee heard examples of some jurisdictions that have implemented legislation in this regard; Parent reminded the committee: “[I]t’s possible [for] the platforms [to] comply with these laws.”<sup>151</sup> For example, witnesses described the *Digital Services Act*, passed by the European Union in 2022.<sup>152</sup> Notably, some applauded its requirement for online platforms to be more transparent about their business models, and requirements for increased accountability, including to “to show exactly how much content has been reported by young people and exactly how much has been removed from the platform.”<sup>153</sup> Witnesses discussed the *Online Safety Act 2021* in Australia, that, among other things, created an independent body responsible for compliance with and enforcement of the Act, with some arguing this enforcement component is critical for success.<sup>154</sup> Finally, Parent discussed the *Age-Appropriate Design Code Act*, passed in California in 2022, which among other things, requires default settings to better protect minors.<sup>155</sup>

Given this testimony, the committee recommends:

### Recommendation 3

**That the Government of Canada table legislation to regulate online platforms, including requirements for stronger moderation of harmful content, measures to protect children, improved transparency mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting requirements for platforms.**

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149 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan); FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada.

150 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion).

151 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent).

152 European Union, [Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC \(Digital Services Act\)](#).

153 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan).

154 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan); FEWO, [Brief](#), Women’s Shelters Canada; FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schliker Commemorative Clinic.

155 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Parent). See United States, California Assembly, [The California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act](#).



## Recommendation 4

**That the Government of Canada, continue its efforts to criminalize non-consensual deep fakes, including through Bill C-16.**

### Raising Digital Awareness

Hand-in-hand with regulation, another important component in addressing online harms relating to antifeminism involves raising awareness for young people. As Irving described for the committee: “If we're not equipping young people with the critical skills to [identify] what is misinformation and what isn't, they can fall victim to that because of the emotional validation they receive,” recognizing the way in which antifeminist communities provide support and confirmation to men.<sup>156</sup> Overall, critical thinking and media awareness are important, Stika explained, to enable people “to recognize when they're being sold inadequacy as a business model, or when someone profits from their pain.”<sup>157</sup> The committee also heard about a need for better digital literacy, a better understanding of antifeminist terminology, and how “these ideologies ... unfold online.” Pigeau called for “digital safety supports.”<sup>158</sup>

De Repentigny-Corbeil clarified that greater digital literacy and awareness is not just for young people, but also for parents, to make them aware of the challenges, and to be better able to support their children.<sup>159</sup> The committee heard that media literacy can “inoculate against algorithmic feedback loops.”<sup>160</sup>

Some witnesses also discussed a need for supporting and creating “counter-narratives,” both off- and online, and “positive influencers,” who do not “seek to promote a goal of domination and oppression”<sup>161</sup>

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156 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving).

157 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika). See also FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving); FEWO, [Brief](#), Nicole Chittle.

158 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Pigeau). See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services.

159 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (de Repentigny-Corbeil).

160 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Ganson).

161 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion). Public Safety Canada is the federal lead for initiatives to address hate, particularly radicalization to violence. The *National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence* includes addressing radicalization to violence in the online space, such as building resilience online through initiatives like digital literacy and promoting alternate narratives. See Public Safety Canada, [National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence](#).

Given this testimony, the committee recommends:

### Recommendation 5

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, provide funding for programs that provide youth with tools to navigate online spaces safely and improve their digital literacy, including the capacity to recognize mis- and disinformation.**

### Addressing Representation

Throughout the study, witnesses described another effective means to combat antifeminist rhetoric: increasing representation of women in traditionally male-dominated workplaces, including politics, as well as increasing men’s representation in traditionally female-dominated occupations.<sup>162</sup> The committee also heard that positive role models are essential in supporting greater representation and offering alternatives to antifeminist influences.

Some discussed the importance of increasing equity and diversity across historically more gender-segregated sectors, for example, by increasing the proportion of women in male-dominated fields,<sup>163</sup> or breaking down notions of “men’s work” and “women’s work.”<sup>164</sup> As Keely Prockiw, Red Seal Endorsed Welder, argued, “[a]ddressing anti-feminism is essential to create workplaces where everyone is respected, supported and empowered to succeed.”<sup>165</sup>

Some witnesses discussed the importance of increasing women’s representation in traditionally male-dominated fields, emphasizing that despite progress, men “significantly outnumber women in science and math-related careers;” where, for example, in Canada women make up less than one-quarter of the people employed in

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162 See for example: FEWO, *Evidence*, 10 February 2026 (Graydon); FEWO, *Brief*, Informed Perspectives; FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Prockiw).

163 For example, in January 2026, women made up less than 13% of the construction workforce, and about 15% of the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction workforce. Conversely, men made up less than 20% of the health care and social assistance sector. See Statistics Canada, “[Table 14-10-0022-01: Labour force characteristics by industry, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality \(× 1,000\)](#),” Database, accessed 13 February 2026.

164 FEWO, *Evidence*, 24 November 2025 (Stika).

165 FEWO, *Evidence*, 1 December 2025 (Prockiw).



science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.<sup>166</sup> Jennifer Quaglietta, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Professional Engineers Ontario, shared her perspective on the importance of engaging students in STEM early on.<sup>167</sup> Engineers Canada shared an initiative to increase the percentage of newly licensed engineers who are women to 30% by 2030, including by creating resources for engineers and employers on culture change, network opportunities, and building champions and mentors across the country. The committee heard that women made up 21% of newly-licensed engineers in 2024 and that they represented 16% of the total national membership.<sup>168</sup> By comparison, a 2013 Engineers Canada membership survey reported that 13% of engineering members were women in that year.<sup>169</sup> Stika reminded the committee that having workplaces that are more inclusive for women improves the environment overall, for all employees.<sup>170</sup>

Others supported the importance of positive role models to encourage more women to enter and remain in certain fields. Quaglietta described the challenge that women engineers face when they lack mentors; Prockiw discussed the success that one can achieve with the support of a strong role model and advocate.<sup>171</sup>

Witnesses also discussed the importance of increasing the proportion of men who work in typically women-dominated fields. Stika indicated:

[W]e're missing a parallel conversation. Richard Reeves has called it the HEAL movement: health, education, arts and literacy. How do we get men into those fields as well? As we truly pursue gender equality or parity and those types of things, as men move out of one space, they also have to be invited into a new space where there are opportunities and new possibilities for them.<sup>172</sup>

However, others cautioned the committee that on its own, increasing the number of men in occupations predominantly held by women will not address these concerns.<sup>173</sup> Kehler provided the committee an example of increasing the proportion of male teachers in elementary schools, indicating that this increase alone would not change

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166 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Jennifer Quaglietta, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Professional Engineers Ontario).

167 Ibid. See also FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Prockiw).

168 FEWO, [Brief](#), Engineers Canada.

169 Engineers Canada, [Engineers Canada 2013 Membership Report](#), December 2014.

170 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika).

171 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Quaglietta); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Prockiw).

172 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika).

173 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri).

people’s perspectives. Rather, he noted it is the principles and practices children learn and see modelled in schools that has more impact.<sup>174</sup>

Furthermore, the committee received testimony relating to the importance of positive and diverse male role models for youth, and particularly for young men and boys. Dubé-Rousseau explained:

I don't think it's going too far to say that any little boy needs to have a positive male role model in his life. Sometimes it's his father. Sometimes it's his brother. Sometimes it's an uncle. Sometimes it's a neighbour. It can be anyone.<sup>175</sup>

Kanojia stressed the importance of having positive male role models in online spaces, including on social media and in online video games, noting that there is a strong need for “positive communities” and “healthy alternatives” to counteract negative content.<sup>176</sup> In addition, witnesses described a need for positive models off-line to counteract antifeminist rhetoric in various spaces. The committee heard of the importance of local communities through peer-support programs or mentoring programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.<sup>177</sup>

The committee also received testimony relating to the importance of increasing women’s representation in political life, as well as other decision-making roles. In their brief, Informed Perspectives shared the importance of having more women in politics, referencing a poll showing that 84% of Canadians “see gender parity as a way to achieve policies that better reflect the realities and needs of the broader population,” and increase “civility in public debate but also trust in institutions.”<sup>178</sup> The committee heard about the link between women in politics and antifeminism, as having fewer women leaders “reinforces perceptions that women don’t really belong in politics and aren’t truly capable of wielding power,” ultimately resulting in women losing agency.<sup>179</sup>

Some argued that political under-representation of women denies their democratic influence but also shapes the “narrow expectations of where women belong and what

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174 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler).

175 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Dubé-Rousseau).

176 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia). See also FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Gilmore); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Boutiyeb); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Dorais).

177 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Stika); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia).

178 FEWO, [Brief](#), Informed Perspectives.

179 Ibid.; FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau.



leaders should look like.”<sup>180</sup> This can reinforce or perpetuate antifeminist perspectives, and, as a result, may discourage women from entering politics. It can also expose women in public life to threats, including with violence, and ultimately undermine Canada’s democracy.<sup>181</sup> In their brief, the Canadian Association of Social Workers also noted the need to strengthen women’s representation more broadly across decision making roles, such as leadership in boards and on councils.<sup>182</sup>

The committee heard about the need to implement approaches to increase women’s representation in leadership and politics. Graydon urged the committee to consider demanding gender parity for political parties’ candidates, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure this occurs. The committee heard that Mexico has required gender parity for every political party’s candidate list for their national elections, and have since achieved gender parity in the Congress of the Union, at the national level.<sup>183</sup>

Taking this testimony into consideration, the committee recommends the following:

#### **Recommendation 6**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, increase funding for programs that support young women and girls in science, technology, engineering, math and in the skilled trades and apprenticeship programs.**

#### **Recommendation 7**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, fund programs that support young men and boys in the health, education, arts, literacy, and sport sectors.**

#### **Recommendation 8**

**That the Government of Canada increase support for programs and initiatives that encourage women to enter and participate in politics at all levels.**

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180 FEWO, [Brief](#), Informed Perspectives.

181 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Graydon); FEWO, [Brief](#), Informed Perspectives.

182 FEWO, [Brief](#), Canadian Association of Social Workers.

183 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Graydon); FEWO, [Brief](#), Informed Perspectives.

## Recommendation 9

**That the Government of Canada implement measures aimed at preventing harassment, online intimidation, and gender-based political violence.**

### Funding and Access to Services

Throughout the study, witnesses stressed the importance of funding for feminist and women’s organizations, particularly those that are community-based, in order to continue to combat and counteract antifeminist ideologies. Some indicated a need for more long-term, stable funding sources. Neapole reminded the committee that “progress on women’s rights is not fixed and permanent,” and as such, women’s rights organizations need to be funded “in order to do the coordinated work that we need to do on these pressing issues.”<sup>184</sup>

In particular, witnesses and briefs recommended funding for initiatives, including:

- For projects that support girls and women in various spheres and aspects of their lives, such as financial literacy, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education supports, and supports to address online and social media harms;<sup>185</sup>
- For projects that support a variety of organization types (such as civil society, unions, etc.), to address challenges unique to their sectors and industries in supporting women and girls;<sup>186</sup>
- For funding across the arts and music, as these are mediums where people can “open up” and “express their feelings;”<sup>187</sup>
- To engage men and boys in combatting gender-based violence;<sup>188</sup>

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184 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Neapole). See also for example: FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Bookchin); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (de Repentigny-Corbeil); FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women’s Support Services; FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada.

185 FEWO, [Brief](#), UFCW.

186 Ibid.

187 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Irving).

188 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Ganson); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler). The federal government funds certain programs through the Department for Women and Gender Equality’s [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#), and Public Safety’s [Community Resilience Fund](#).



- For organizations that support fathers and their children, including to support tools to strengthen family relationships;<sup>189</sup>
- For specific groups, such as francophone and Acadian women’s organizations in minority situations;<sup>190</sup> and
- Programs that support 2SLGBTQIA+ rights.<sup>191</sup>

Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne reminded the committee that in addition to funding projects that combat antifeminist rhetoric, expertise and learning needs to be shared with other levels of government and civil society.<sup>192</sup> In their brief, the Canadian Association of Social Workers recommended that any major government spending must be aligned with “gender equity goals,” as more general or generic approaches to funding tend to reinforce existing inequalities.<sup>193</sup>

Further, many reiterated that antifeminist ideologies silence the voices of victims and survivors of gender-based violence.<sup>194</sup> For example, Dina Haddish, who appeared as a witness representing the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, told the committee that member centres are “seeing [the] weaponization of legal and administrative processes being used to intimidate and silence survivors and service providers. The result is not less sexual violence, but less disclosure and reduced access to supports.”<sup>195</sup> Haddish further explained that:

Over the past decade, our member centres have seen a notable increase in harassment, intimidation and barriers to disclosure, as well as shifting social tides that allow folks to come forward and disclose more often, but without a subsequent increase in resources and supports for survivors. The harm may not always be reflected in official statistics, but the risks to disclosure, and to access to supports as well, have grown significantly over the past decade.<sup>196</sup>

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189 FEWO, [Brief](#), Réseau Maisons Oxygène.

190 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Enayeh); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Boutiyeb).

191 FEWO, [Brief](#), Michel Dorais.

192 FEWO, [Brief](#), AFFC.

193 FEWO, [Brief](#), Canadian Association of Social Workers.

194 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish); FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic; FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's Shelters Canada.

195 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish).

196 Ibid.

Witnesses argued in favour of core funding for women’s shelters, legal clinics, and other supports and services for women experiencing violence.<sup>197</sup> Additional funding asks included for services for women belonging to language minorities (such as francophone women outside of Quebec) experiencing or fleeing violence;<sup>198</sup> for affordable housing units for women, Two-Spirit, trans and gender-diverse people;<sup>199</sup> and for racialized as well as Two-Spirit, trans and gender-diverse people overall.<sup>200</sup> Importantly, witnesses discussed the need for stronger preventative mental health supports for men, as Kanojia urged: “If we address their underlying suffering, not just their ideology, we can meaningfully reduce harm ... and create a more inclusive and resilient society.”<sup>201</sup>

Overall, Kehler highlighted a need for a comprehensive strategic framework for engaging men and boys. There are certain spaces that engage men and boys to promote gender equality, for example, the White Ribbon Campaign, which was established by three men following the 1989 École Polytechnique mass femicide. Nevertheless, several witnesses suggested that more action is required at a national level.<sup>202</sup>

Finally, the committee heard that CSIS would benefit from more resources for hiring personnel in its duties assessing and analyzing violent extremism as a threat to Canada’s national security.<sup>203</sup>

Taking this testimony into consideration, the committee recommends the following:

### **Recommendation 10**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples and governments, continue its efforts through *the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* to invest in prevention in order to address the root causes of gender-based violence.**

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197 Ibid.; FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic; FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's Shelters Canada.

198 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Boutiyeb).

199 FEWO, [Brief](#), Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network.

200 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish).

201 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Kanojia); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Ganson); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Chan). In March 2026, the federal government [launched](#) engagement on the development of a men and boys’ health strategy.

202 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Kehler); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Dupuis-Déri). See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services; FEWO, [Brief](#), Réseau Maisons Oxygène; FEWO, [Brief](#), Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan.

203 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 10 February 2026 (Witness-Témoign 1, Director General, Counter Terrorism, CSIS).



### **Recommendation 11**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, continue to support programs that encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion, to address barriers facing women and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples, and advance their full and equal participation in economic, social, and political life.**

### **Recommendation 12**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, strengthen initiatives to share knowledge and best practices with other levels of government and across organizations working to prevent gender-based violence and supporting victims and survivors.**

### **Recommendation 13**

**That the Government of Canada, while respecting the jurisdiction of, and in consultation and collaboration with, provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples and governments, invest in programs and continue its efforts to engage men and boys in advancing gender equality, including through promoting healthy masculinities and men’s mental health, combatting antifeminism, and providing early intervention programs for individuals at risk of radicalization into ideologically motivated violent extremism – especially extreme antifeminist movements.**

## **Data Collection, Research and Reporting**

Finally, while the committee was provided with some statistics on antifeminist ideologies throughout the study, in large part, testimony indicated that “[s]ignificant data gaps make it hard to grasp the full scale of online hate, harassment, and radicalization,” and Canada lacks data on what types and how much antifeminist content occurs online, as well as how these beliefs translate into violence.<sup>204</sup> The committee heard that a lack of data hinders effective responses to this issue by the Government of Canada and others.

Data collection on hate-motivated violence should include antifeminist violence, and be disaggregated by factors such as gender identity, race, sex, sexuality, age, region and

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204 FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada.

immigration status.<sup>205</sup> As Haddish warned the committee, a lack of national data “allows misleading narratives about prevalence, reporting and credibility to persist.”<sup>206</sup> Witnesses also discussed gaps in data on men’s attitudes and online behaviours, limiting the ability to track digital misogyny and evaluate interventions.<sup>207</sup> One brief recommended some of this could be accomplished with additions to Statistics Canada’s General Social Survey, adding questions on exposure to antifeminist content, attitudes and acceptance of violence; another argued a National Commission on Gender Equality and Safety could fulfill this role.<sup>208</sup>

Testimony also raised the need for more research examining the growth of antifeminist ideologies and their impacts. More specifically, witnesses and briefs asked for more funding for research on the growth of antifeminist ideologies and its intersections with gender-based violence and coercive control, and the impacts of exposure to antifeminist content on men and boys and on the overall population. Further, some stressed that public dissemination of research findings, alongside knowledge mobilization is key.<sup>209</sup>

Others raised concerns about the absence of a comprehensive framework to track gender-based violence in Canada.<sup>210</sup> The committee heard that such a framework could track exposure to violence, including femicides, coercive control, intimate partner violence and antifeminist content, and its impacts.<sup>211</sup> Further, in a brief, Aja Mason noted the need for improved mechanisms for evaluating the impacts of policy interventions, criticizing “siloeed” tracking mechanisms, and argued for tracking and measuring conditions that might predict or indicate higher likelihoods of violence, such as “shelter capacity relative to population, transit access to services, economic precarity indices, and first responder training rates.”<sup>212</sup>

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205 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Boursier); FEWO, [Brief](#), Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic; FEWO, [Brief](#), Project Agape; FEWO, [Brief](#), Anonymous Author.

206 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 February 2026 (Haddish).

207 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 24 November 2025 (Pigeau); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Morin); FEWO, [Brief](#), Aaron Kimberly; FEWO, [Brief](#), Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan.

208 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aja Mason; FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services. See also FEWO, [Brief](#), Canadian Women's Sex-Based Rights.

209 FEWO, [Evidence](#), 1 December 2025 (Clermont-Dion); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 3 December 2025 (Carignan); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Boutiyeb); FEWO, [Evidence](#), 8 December 2025 (Mikaelian); FEWO, [Brief](#), AFFC; FEWO, [Brief](#), CRIAW; FEWO, [Brief](#), Luc S. Cousineau; FEWO, [Brief](#), Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society.

210 FEWO, [Brief](#), Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada; FEWO, [Brief](#), Aja Mason.

211 Ibid.; FEWO, [Brief](#), Battered Women's Support Services.

212 FEWO, [Brief](#), Aja Mason.



Considering the testimony it received, the committee recommends:

#### **Recommendation 14**

**That the Government of Canada make additional investments in research on antifeminist ideologies, its intersections with gender-based violence and coercive control, and its impacts, and that results from this research are made public.**

### **CONCLUSION**

Throughout this study, witnesses described links between antifeminist ideologies and other extremist movements and emphasized the dangers that antifeminist rhetoric poses to everyone in Canada, especially young people, as well as the implications for gender equality and democracy. The committee recognizes the risks posed by antifeminist ideologies and the impacts on young people's development and health. Based on witness testimony, it makes recommendations to counteract these ideologies, by raising the public's awareness of this critical problem and improving digital literacy; regulating online spaces to reduce gender-based harm; increasing support programs, including for mental health; funding for the media; and improving research. With urgency, the committee encourages action to prevent further harm caused by antifeminism.

## APPENDIX A: LIST OF WITNESSES

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The following table lists the witnesses who appeared before the committee at its meetings related to this report. Transcripts of all public meetings related to this report are available on the committee’s [webpage for this study](#).

Organizations and Individuals	Date	Meeting
<b>As an individual</b> Dan Irving, Associate Professor	2025/11/24	16
<b>Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak</b> Lisa Pigeau, Director of Intergovernmental Relations	2025/11/24	16
<b>Next Gen Men</b> Jake Stika, Executive Director	2025/11/24	16
<b>Partage au Masculin</b> Jean-Michaël Dubé-Rousseau, Executive Director	2025/11/24	16
<b>Professional Engineers Ontario</b> Jennifer Quaglietta, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar	2025/11/24	16
<b>As an individual</b> Léa Clermont-Dion, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Concordia University David Morin, Full Professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke Keeley Prockiw, Red Seal Endorsed Welder	2025/12/01	17
<b>Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women</b> Jacqueline Neapole, Executive Director	2025/12/01	17

<b>Organizations and Individuals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>As an individual</b> Marie-Eve Carignan, Full Professor, UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, Université de Sherbrooke Dr. Michael Kehler, Research Chair, Masculinities Studies in Education, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary Dr. Liza Lorenzetti, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary	2025/12/03	18
<b>Be the Peace Institute</b> Sue Bookchin, Executive Director	2025/12/03	18
<b>As an individual</b> Rachel Gilmore, Journalist, Bubble Pop Media	2025/12/08	19
<b>Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne</b> Soukaina Boutiyeb, Executive Director Nour Enayeh, President	2025/12/08	19
<b>Fédération des femmes du Québec</b> Vé Mikaelian, Mobilization Coordinator	2025/12/08	19
<b>Healthy Gamer Foundation</b> Dr. Alok Kanojia, Trustee and President	2025/12/08	19
<b>As an individual</b> Tristan Boursier, Doctor of Political Science Francis Dupuis-Déri, Full Professor, Chantier sur l'antiféminisme, Réseau québécois en études féministes, Université du Québec à Montréal Dr. Kyle Ganson, Assistant Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto	2026/02/03	22
<b>Interligne</b> Pascal Vaillancourt, Director General	2026/02/03	22
<b>Les 3 sex*</b> Mylène de Repentigny-Corbeil, Executive Director	2026/02/03	22
<b>Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres</b> Dina Haddish, Members' Coordinator	2026/02/03	22

<b>Organizations and Individuals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>As an individual</b>	2026/02/10	24
Eslie Chan, Doctoral Candidate, McGill University		
Michel Dorais, Professor Emeritus, Université Laval		
<b>Canadian Security Intelligence Service</b>	2026/02/10	24
Witness-Témoin 1, Director General, Counter Terrorism		
Luc M., Director General, Assessments, Integrated Threat Assessment Centre		
<b>Informed Perspectives</b>	2026/02/10	24
Shari Graydon, Catalyst and Chief Executive Officer		
<b>Le Centre pour l'intelligence émotionnelle en ligne</b>	2026/02/10	24
Emmanuelle Parent, Co-founder and Executive Director		



## **APPENDIX B: LIST OF BRIEFS**

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The following is an alphabetical list of organizations and individuals who submitted briefs to the committee related to this report. For more information, please consult the committee's [webpage for this study](#).

**Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada**  
**Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne**  
**Anonymous Author**  
**Aura Freedom International**  
**Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic**  
**Battered Women's Support Services**  
**Bhattarai, Lok**  
**British Columbia Humanist Association**  
**Canadian Association of Social Workers**  
**Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women**  
**Canadian Women's Sex-Based Rights**  
**Chittle, Nicole**  
**Cousineau, Luc S.**  
**Dorais, Michel**  
**Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada**  
**Engineers Canada**  
**Informed Perspectives**  
**Kimberly, Aaron**  
**Mason, Aja**  
**Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses**  
**Project Agape**  
**Réseau Maisons Oxygène**  
**Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society**

**Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan**

**Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Montérégie**

**The Healthy Living Plan Inc.**

**United Food and Commercial Workers Union Canada**

**Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network**

**Women's Shelters Canada**

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Pursuant to Standing Order 109, the committee requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report.

A copy of the relevant *Minutes of Proceedings* ([Meetings Nos. 16 to 19, 22, 24, 34, 36, 37 and 39](#)) is tabled.

Respectfully submitted,

Dominique Vien  
Chair



## RESPECT FOR QUEBEC'S JURISDICTION AND ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

The Bloc Québécois believes that many of the solutions proposed in this report concern areas that fall primarily within Quebec's jurisdiction, including education, social services, mental health, youth prevention initiatives, and support for community organizations.

The testimonies heard during this study demonstrated that the factors making certain individuals more vulnerable to antifeminist discourse are often linked to social isolation, psychological distress, economic insecurity, limited access to local services, and the absence of support tailored to local realities. These issues are already addressed daily by Quebec's health, education, and community action networks.

The Bloc Québécois believes that the federal government's most meaningful contribution is not the multiplication of national programs with attached conditions, but rather the provision of adequate transfers that allow Quebec to fund the services that best meet the needs of its population.

The challenges identified throughout this study cannot be addressed solely through increased regulation of digital platforms. They also require sustained investments in public services, community organizations, youth centres, mental health resources, and local support networks that work every day to reduce isolation, support young people, and foster respectful and egalitarian relationships.

The chronic underfunding of the health care system, psychosocial services, mental health resources, and community organizations limits Quebec's ability to intervene quickly with youth experiencing difficulties and to prevent radicalization, violence, and social exclusion.

The Bloc Québécois therefore reiterates its call for a substantial and permanent increase in federal health transfers, without conditions, so that Quebec may have the resources necessary to respond to the growing needs of its population according to its own priorities. The Bloc also emphasizes that funding for community organizations must be stable, recurring, and sufficiently flexible to enable communities to develop responses adapted to their specific realities.

Finally, the Bloc Québécois believes that efforts to combat antifeminist ideologies must be rooted in prevention, education, the development of critical thinking skills, access to mental health services, poverty reduction, and the strengthening of social cohesion. A more inclusive, supportive, and well-resourced society is also better equipped to counter hate-based narratives and forms of radicalization.

Additional Recommendations of the Bloc Québécois

### Recommendation 1

That the Government of Canada increase federal health transfers on a recurring and unconditional basis in order to enable Quebec to strengthen its mental health services, psychosocial intervention services, youth prevention initiatives, and support for community organizations.

### Recommendation 2

That any federal strategy aimed at combating antifeminist ideologies fully respect Quebec's exclusive jurisdiction over education, health care, and social services, including the right to opt out with full financial compensation.