

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitchener, ON. December 22, 2020 – As Ontario moves into lockdown, Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region (WCSWR) will remain open to support women and children who are experiencing domestic violence.

"Staying home helps stop the spread of COVID-19. However, we must remember that home is not safe for everyone," said Jennifer Hutton, CEO of WCSWR.

With the added stresses of social isolation and financial worries, domestic violence can escalate. In fact, domestic violence has increased by approximately 30% in Canada since the beginning of the pandemic. Locally, reports of domestic violence have increased as well.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, there is support available. Please contact Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region. Its emergency shelters remain open during this time. So do its outreach services and 24/7 support lines. If you need help, call 519-742-5894 or visit www.wcswr.org for immediate support via online chat.

It can be more difficult for women to reach out for support when they are in isolation.

"We encourage everyone to check in with their family, friends and neighbours during this time," said Hutton. "Please look out for one another. We will get through this together."

If you are wondering how you can help, here are some actions you can take: <https://wcswr.org/she-is-your-neighbour/how-to-help/>

WCSWR is committed to protecting the safety of its clients, staff and larger community. In order to ensure a safe environment, only essential visitors will be allowed into shelter during lockdown. There will be no donation drop offs permitted at this time. Online donations are encouraged.

For immediate support:

24/7 support line (phone): 519-742-5894

24/7 support line (online chat): www.wcswr.org

For media inquiries, please contact:

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