



For Immediate Release

End Solitary Confinement of Pregnant Women in Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities

March 30, 2016 (K'jipuktuk - Halifax, NS) – Women's Wellness Within is calling for an end to solitary confinement of pregnant women in Nova Scotia's correctional facilities.

On Tuesday, March 28th, the Board of Women's Wellness Within: An Organization Serving Criminalized Women learned that a pregnant inmate at Burnside had been held in solitary confinement, reportedly without access to a mattress or her medications, since Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Volunteers immediately sought to intervene but learned early on Wednesday, March 29th, that the woman in question had been taken to hospital for medical assessment and would be returned to general population upon discharge.

We ask that no pregnant woman ever be placed in solitary confinement.

Solitary confinement is recognized as torture. In pregnancy, all women are at risk of peripartum mental health illness including depression, anxiety and psychosis. One in five women experience peripartum depression. Stress, exhaustion and isolation exacerbate these risks. A woman's mental health in pregnancy also affects the wellbeing of the fetus. The greatest risk of mental illness is dying from it through suicide.

Please join Women's Wellness Within at the Halifax Grand Parade on March 30th at 4:30 pm to demand an end to this inhumane practice.

For further information, please contact:

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