



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Nelson House Statement of Beliefs

Mission Statement: Nelson House exists to provide safety for women and children who are being abused and to work with other groups toward ending violence against all women.

Our Beliefs: We operate from a feminist perspective and in doing so believe that:

- It is a basic human right for all individuals to live their lives free of violence and the fear of violence.
- All forms of abuse are based on the abuse of power and control by a dominant group. Therefore the work to end all violence against women needs to be linked to ending all forms of discrimination such as sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism.
- Groups of women in our society, such as poor women, immigrant and refugee women, women from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, cultural and linguistic groups, including deaf women, aboriginal, francophone women, women living in rural areas, lesbian and bi-sexual women, women with disabilities, young and older women face additional oppression. Service providers need to deliver services in ways that are responsible to these groups.
- It is necessary to address the issue of violence against women at both individual and structural levels.
- Violence against women is supported and maintained through structural inequalities that need to be dismantled in order to end violence against women.
- Psychological, emotional, sexual, physical and economic abuses have major social and health consequences. Women have a right to appropriate help for all forms of abuse.
- Violence against women is a criminal offence, not a private family matter. Perpetrators, not the women who have been abused, must be held responsible for their abuse.
- Children see, hear and feel the violence done to their mothers and have a right to live free of that violence. The effects on children can only be ameliorated with sensitivity, understanding and support for them selves and their mothers.
- All women, including women who have been abused, have unique strengths, needs and capacities that must be honoured and respected. Women can take control of their lives provided that they are offered resources, accurate

information and assistance with overcoming barriers. We respect the choices that each woman makes about her life.

- A coordinated, adequately funded continuum of services is necessary for women to have the opportunity to act on the choices they make.
- Services which are of assistance to women and children must be accountable to the women who use the service, the staff and volunteers who provide the service, the membership of the agency, the funders and donors and the community.

Adopted by the Board of Directors January 27, 1997

MEMBERSHIP FORM (to be completed)

I am a new member or renewing my membership.

Membership fee not required. Donation optional.

N.B. Please make cheque payable to 'Nelson House of Ottawa Carleton'.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____ **Postal code:** _____

Phone: _____ (please specify: home / work / cell)

Email: _____

Please indicate if you do not wish to receive email updates from Nelson House.

I have read and support the Mission Statement and Beliefs of Nelson House.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____