

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sisters in Spirit Vigil to Be Held for Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People

Friday, October 1, 2021

St. John's, NL – First Light and the St. John's Status of Women Council (SJSWC) have partnered to organize the annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil honouring missing and murdered women, girls, and gender-diverse people. A Sisters in Spirit committee, consisting of community members and local organizations, have collaborated to plan this year's vigil.

The Sisters in Spirit Vigil will take place at 6pm on Monday, October 4, 2021, at the First Light Centre for Performance and Creativity located at 81 Cochrane Street in St. John's. The event will be held in person and made available via livestream on the <u>First Light Facebook page</u>, with visual language interpretation provided. The vigil provides a space for families and friends to celebrate the life of their loved ones while creating opportunities for healing.

Registration for in-person participation is now closed. However, additional seating has been reserved for families and friends of women, girls, and gender-diverse people who have been murdered or are missing in the province. If you are a friend or family member and you would like to participate in any aspect of the Sisters in Spirit event, including speaking at the vigil, please contact Brooke Temple at First Light via email at brooke@firstlightnl.ca.

Media are invited to attend the Centre for Performance and Creativity on Monday, October 4, 2021, between 4pm and 5pm. During that time, staff will be available for interviews and tours. The event will be closed to the media after 5pm.

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About the Organizers

First Light is a registered non-profit that has been serving both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in St. John's since 1983. The organization provides programs and services rooted in the revitalization, strengthening, and celebration of Indigenous cultures and languages in the spirit of trust, respect, and friendship.

The **St. John's Status of Women Council/Women's Centre** is a feminist organization that since 1972 is continually working to achieve equality and justice through political activism, community collaboration and the creation of a safe and inclusive space for all women in the St. John's area.