

For Immediate Release



Media Contact:

Lorris Herenda
Chief Executive Officer
905-709-0900 ext. 2224
lorrysh@yellowbrickhouse.org

Yellow Brick House Endorses Survivor-Centred Approaches in Calls to Expand Restorative Justice Options in Ontario

Yellow Brick House acknowledges the recent discussions at Queen's Park calling for expanded access to restorative justice as an option for survivors of sexual violence within Ontario's justice system.

For many survivors, the traditional criminal court process can be lengthy, adversarial, and retraumatizing. They may be required to recount deeply painful experiences in public, over extended periods of time, within a system that does not meet the needs of survivors.

Restorative justice approaches, when appropriately designed, trauma-informed, and survivor-led, can offer an alternative pathway to provide opportunities for acknowledgment of harm, accountability from those who have caused harm, and meaningful steps toward repair. Importantly, restorative justice is not about minimizing or excusing sexual violence, nor is it about forgiveness or reconciliation. It is about creating space for survivors to define what justice and healing may look like for them, on their own terms.

A one-size-fits-all approach to justice does not reflect the complexity of sexual violence, nor does it reflect the diverse needs of those impacted. Expanding access to carefully regulated restorative justice options, alongside the criminal legal system, can strengthen survivor-centred responses and support more pathways to accountability.

As an organization supporting survivors of gender-based violence, Yellow Brick House continues to highlight the urgent need for systems that are responsive, flexible, and centred on survivor autonomy. Survivors deserve access to options that prioritize their safety and dignity whether within the criminal justice system or through alternative community-based processes.

We commend the ongoing advocacy of survivors and community organizations who continue to push for meaningful reform and expanded pathways to justice. Their voices remain central to shaping systems that are more humane, responsive, and effective.

Yellow Brick House remains committed to advocating for survivor-centred justice responses, strengthening supports for those impacted by sexual violence, and advancing

systemic change that ensures survivors are heard, believed, and supported in whichever path they choose.

About Yellow Brick House

Since 1978, Yellow Brick House has been providing life-saving services and prevention programs to meet the diverse needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by violence. Our Vision is Freedom from violence. Equality for all. The organization is committed to providing a wide range of free and confidential support services to women and children experiencing abuse and violence and empowering them to transition to a violence free lives.

For more information about Yellow Brick House, visit yellowbrickhouse.org

Crisis and Support line: 1-800-263-3247 (call or text)

Yellow Brick House | 52 West Beaver Creek Rd. Unit 4, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1L9 |
905-709-0900 | communications@yellowbrickhouse.org | yellowbrickhouse.org

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Yellow Brick House | 52 West Beaver Creek Road Unit 4 | Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1L9 CA

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