

Regarding the trial of Jian Ghomeshi

Hollaback! Canada joint statement 21 April 2016

We believe people who share their stories

We stand in solidarity with Lucy DeCoutere, Linda Redgrave, and others who have bravely shared their stories. We stand with Kathryn Borel, Reva Seth, Zoe Kazan, and anyone else who has reported harassment or assault.

We believe there are many stories that have not been shared

This trial offered highly visible examples of injustice, but we recognize that there are many stories going unheard. Stereotypes and snap judgements privilege more powerful voices over others. Many do not feel safe or supported accessing institutions that claim to offer justice, particularly when facing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, poverty, ableism, and/or gender identity and expression. Many have reason to distrust and fear the police, the law, and the courts. These stories are no less true than the few that recently made headlines.

We believe that stories can be imperfect or incomplete without being discredited

We understand that narratives are influenced by trauma, time, and memory. Too often, people are asked to push their own needs aside and ignore abusive behaviour for the sake of harmony. Insisting on automatic, linear storytelling ignores the realities of lived experience, and further prioritizes the stories of people who have access to traditional power structures and institutions. We believe in your process, whatever that might look like for you.

We believe there are people who want change

We know you're out there. You believe. You remember. You find kindred spirits. You build networks. You share stories and skills. You open doors. You encourage resistance, resilience and persistence. You're building a better world, one person at a time.

We believe in the people who didn't make it

Not everyone is a survivor. We acknowledge the lives that have been lost because of this violence.

We believe in the people who are surviving

You don't have to share your story with us, and you don't have to give us your reasons, but we'll hold space for you to breathe. We see you. We hear you. We're so glad you're still here.

With love and revolution,

Hollaback! Alberta
Hollaback! Halifax
Hollaback! Montreal

Hollaback! Ottawa
Hollaback! Peterborough
Hollaback! Vancouver

Hollaback! Victoria

Hollaback! (NYC Headquarters)

