

# Survival stories shared at 15<sup>th</sup> annual One Billion Rising YYC event

Hundreds in Calgary joined millions around the world Thursday in rising up to help put an end to violence against women.

Held in the Core Shopping Centre, the 15th annual One Billion Rising YYC saw a series of speakers share their own stories of survival, followed by a panel discussion on how to put an end to violence against women.

“This issue is just so in the shadows and the basis for change is going to come through conversations,” said Calgary Communities Against Sexual Assault spokesman Joe Campbell, who took part in the panel discussion.

“There are a lot of people who are really dedicated and take this to heart, but change is going to come when more people start taking it on personally.

“We’re all affected by this issue.

“Whether someone has told us or not, one in three women have been affected and we know somebody who has been affected.”

According to the World Health Organization statistics, one in three women around the world will be the victim of violence in her lifetime.

Similar events were held in hundreds of cities around the world.

“Essentially it’s a walkout,” said Calgary organizer Chelsea Humphry.

“Having people walk out of their homes, leave their jobs and join in solidarity to protest violence against women and raise awareness.”

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