**Emerging Equity Issues in a COVID-19 World**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The rapid response of governments at the municipal, provincial and national levels has transformed our lives in a matter of weeks. Amidst the daily increase of reported cases and concern for our health care system’s capacity to address this crisis, existing social inequities become more apparent.

This global health crisis has also resulted in the rise of the discrepancy between those with privilege and those who are marginalized by society. These oppression points include but are not limited to: racism, homophobia, classism and gender inequality and more.

Equity and Women’s Services (EWS) will be providing overviews of some of the ways in which different, particular groups are impacted by COVID-19. Below are links to more information with a quote from each website that speaks to how members and parents can celebrate the Day of Pink, a day centered on transphobic and homophobic bullying, online by considering the realities of cyber-bullying as well as ways in which to continue to keep 2SLGBTQ+ youth safe.

Resource #1: egale.ca

“LGBTQI2S people are 1.5x more likely to have depression and anxiety compared to heterosexual counterparts. Due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, LGBTQI2S people are likely to experience higher levels of stress. These moments of panic and high stress can often be due to an overwhelming sense of uncertainty and lack of control. When this happens, it is important to pull back, take a breath and evaluate. Here are a few tips that might help ground you in those moments.”

Link: [egale.ca/awareness/lgbtqi2s-mental-health-tips-during-the-covid-19-pandemic](https://www.egale.ca/awareness/lgbtqi2s-mental-health-tips-during-the-covid-19-pandemic)

Resource #2: prevnet.ca

“LGBTQ youth often suffer from depression or problem behaviours. They live with the threat of discrimination and violence, and the fear that friends and family will not support them in their decision to come out. LGBTQ youth may suddenly withdraw from family and friends to avoid discussing their sexual orientation, and in defense against real (or feared) rejection and harassment.”

Link: [prevnet.ca/bullying/parents/parents-of-lgbtq-youth](https://www.prevnet.ca/bullying/parents/parents-of-lgbtq-youth)

Resource #3: the519.ca

“The 519 is doing everything we can to continue to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of our most vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the building remains closed to public and regular programming postponed in accordance with the City's decision, we are continuing to provide some essential services to support our communities and the neighbourhood in this time of crisis.”

Link: [the519.org](https://www.the519.org/)

Resource #4: youthline.ca

“As the situation around the Coronavirus (COVID-19) evolves rapidly, LGBT YouthLine is continuing to adapt and determine how we can keep our Peer Support HelpLine open while ensuring our staff and volunteers are able to physically isolate to reduce transmissions. Staying open as a HelpLine feels especially important now, as many 2SLGBTQ+ youth in Ontario will be further isolated, in social isolation with families that may not be supportive and not able to access in-person programs as most have had to cancel.”

Link: [youthline.ca/news/service-closed-today-mar-17th-2020/](https://www.youthline.ca/news/service-closed-today-mar-17th-2020/)