

## Fact sheet

### Barriers to the criminal justice system for racialized and marginalized populations

- Marginalized people face additional barriers to the criminal justice system which often discourage their pursuit of legal action or result in an unfair trial.
- Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination (*Crenshaw, 1993*).
- Racialized Canadians earn 81.4 cents for every dollar earned by their white counterparts; and the reality for women is even worse. Negative outcomes of poverty, disproportionately experienced by racialized women, increase the threat of violence and limit victims' options (*Wellesley Institute, 2013*).
- In Canada, Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted by sexualized violence because of historical trauma caused by the residential school system, last impacts of colonialism, patriarchal laws denying equal citizenship by gender, and systemic racism that continues to diminish the perspectives and experiences of Indigenous women (*Status of Women Canada, 2015*).
- The sexual assault rate of Indigenous people (58 incidents per 1,000 people) is almost three times that of non-Indigenous people (20 per 1,000) (*Statistics Canada, 2014*).
- Overall, 2SLGBTQIAP+ individuals express lower levels of satisfaction with police performance than cis people. A total of 60 per cent of cis people express satisfaction in their exchanges with police in Canada. In contrast, only 42-47 per cent of queer folk express satisfaction with police performance (*Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series, 2004*).
- FORGE identifies that 64 per cent of transgender people have experienced sexual violence (*Transgender Rates of Violence, 2012*).
- In a 2006 study, it was determined that women with disabilities were four times more likely to have experienced a sexual assault than women without disabilities (*DAWN-RAFH Canada, 2006*).