
Reasons Not To Go To Take Back the Night

created August 2016

#1 – I’ve never heard of Take Back the Night

We’ve been celebrating Take Back the Night in Hamilton since 1981 and unfortunately lots of folks have still not heard about it. Just like lots of folks in Hamilton don’t know about the amazing work that SACHA is doing.

Let your friends know about how they can take action to end sexual violence.

Help spread the word about Take Back the Night!

- Share the TBTN FaceBook event or other info about the event on your social media
- Host a sign making party
- Go to a solidarity event
- Invite your friends
- Let us know why you march

#2 – I didn’t know that sexual assault is an issue in Hamilton

It makes sense that you have not heard that sexual assault is a problem in Hamilton because sexual assault is still not talked about and very hidden. One in three women and one in six men will experience sexual assault in their lifetime.

Part of Take Back the Night is letting people know that sexual assault is still an issue in our community and to also let folks know that people care about ending violence.

For many folks either being a person who cares about ending sexual violence or being a survivor of violence is a really isolating experience.

Joining hundreds of others fighting sexual assault at TBTN can be a powerful reminder that you are not alone – either in your experiences, or in taking a stand against sexual violence.

#3 – I don't belong there

Some folks worry that Take Back the Night is only for survivors. Or only for survivors who have told their story. Or only for survivors who speak about their story in a certain way or are in a certain place in their healing journey. Or only for activists.

There is no right or wrong way for a survivor to heal or to act.

Women, gender non-conforming folks, and their children are welcome at Take Back the Night.

#4 – I'm worried about the weather

In late fall we could any kind of weather. We've had sunny, hot and muggy, chilly, and rainy. We prepare for all sorts of weather but hope for the best.

If the weather is not as awesome you would like, know that folks have told us that some of the more fun Take Back the Nights have happened in the rain.

Also, it can't rain forever. The rain has to stop sometime.

#5 – I don't like the idea of an event just for women and gender non-conforming folks

We've put a lot of thought into why we continue to organize Take Back the Night as a space for women and gender non-conforming folks to speak out against sexual violence, including:

- ▶ making space for marginalized genders
- ▶ allowing folks to see women and non-binary in leadership positions
- ▶ women and non-binary folks' daily experiences of sexism
- ▶ anti-sexist spaces that centre women and non-binary folks are sadly rare

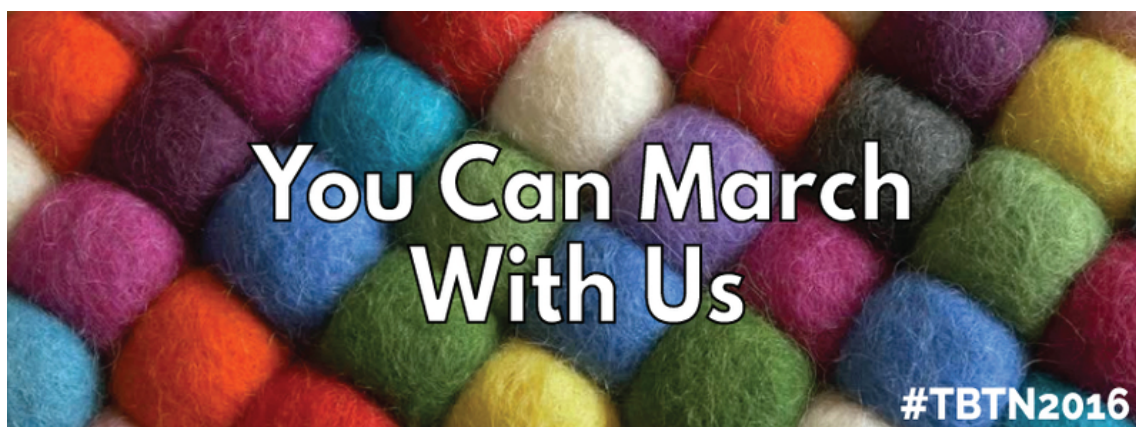
#6 – I don't have anyone to go with

That's normal. Sometimes survivors or folks who are passionate about changing our communities can feel isolated. It can be hard to come to events by yourself.

Please know that everyone who comes to the event also cares about ending sexual violence.

You can pop by a solidarity event, like SACHA's sign making party or other solidarity events, to meet cool folks and to have someone to walk over the event with.

At the event, you can stop by the You Can March With Us table. You'll see at least one person there who will welcome you and is excited that you came. You can connect with other people who came by themselves or friends who are looking to welcome folks who might be nervous about being there.



#7 – I can't walk the entire hour-long march

We understand that not everyone is able to walk for an hour long.

Recognizing that some participants use canes, walkers, wheelchairs or scooters or just struggle with walking, we try to have the march happen at a slower pace.

Halfway through the march, at Summer's Lane, there is a shortcut back to City Hall for folks who would like to only walk in half the march. Look for the marshal with the 'TBTN Shortcut' sign.

If you'd like to participate in the march AND ride in style, both an HSR bus and a DARTS bus will be following the march and available for folks!