



Monday, February 12, 2024

Dear EDST Members:

Re: The 33rd Annual Women's Memorial March in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, will witness the holding of the 33rd Annual Women's Memorial March in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The aim is to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+), and commemorate the lives of "women's and gender-diverse people who lost their lives in the Downtown Eastside":

**“THEIR SPIRITS LIVE
WITHIN US”:**

**THE 33RD ANNUAL WOMEN’S
MEMORIAL MARCH**

**FEBRUARY 14TH
2024**

12PM - March begins at Main & Hastings
Follow protocol & keep up to date

Learn more:
<https://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/>

The first women's memorial march was first held in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in 1992. Every year since, people have gathered to honour missing and murdered women and gender-diverse people of the DTES.

The march is organized by Indigenous women in the DTES, and it is an opportunity to grieve the loss of MMIWG2S+ relatives in the Downtown Eastside, remember the women who are still missing, and to dedicate ourselves to justice.

*Source: <https://xwi7xwa.library.ubc.ca/2024/02/07/33rd-annual-womens-memorial-march/>

Vancouver's Eastside Downtown offers a vivid reminder of the entanglements of city spaces and violence and the role differentiated geographies play in perpetuating regimes of dispossession, colonisation, and oppression.

The cause upheld by the Annual Women's Memorial March is not to be considered distinctive to the Eastside Downtown and its histories. Rather, it must be understood in relation to the material and sociopolitical constructions of the Eastside Downtown that have marked the establishment of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia and Canada, more generally.

With this March, we are invited to remember and grieve the loss of Indigenous women and girls in the Eastside Downtown. Such a remembrance and grief cannot be complete unless we inscribe ourselves in

a larger movement of education and social transformation that takes spatial inequities in our communities as a point of departure for a larger consideration of spatial solidarities.

For EDST members, remembrance and grief cannot remain detached from our efforts to question spatial regimes in our communities and their implication in the perpetuation of violence, colonization, and (quite differently) coloniality. Here are some lines of reflection we could pursue as we contribute, each in their own way, to the marking of this Day:

- How do we open our curricula, programs, courses and research projects in ways that expose modalities of spatial violence and the colonisation they perpetuate?
- How do we make manifest in our teaching, learning and education, our commitments to decolonize spatial regimes of oppression?
- How do we expose, dismantle and decolonize gendered, racist, and racialized forms of spatial power that we inhabit to build a home for all to share and for none to claim as their exclusive possession?
- What role can research projects, inquiries, and classroom activities play in making the Women's Memorial March of February 14th, 2024, not just a one day commemoration but a social movement that lays the ground for spatial solidarities of engagement, inclusion and transformation?

Let us seize this Day to engage the above lines of reflection and reclaim – in our respective sites – our commitment to spatial and social justice within our communities and beyond.



André Elias Mazawi