

Women's Committee Report

The Redwood hosted event Let's Talk About It, held on March 8, International Women's Day, was an eye opening reminder of why this day is still much needed. A screening of Deepa Mehta's documentary Let's Talk About was followed by an engaging panelist discussion. The documentary placed the camera in the hands of children, who are often the forgotten victims of domestic violence. They asked their parents - some victims and some the aggressors - about their experiences, which was often raw and heart wrenching.

The panelist discussion that followed included speakers Deepa Mattoo, Director of Legal Services at the Barbara Schlifer Clinic, Alex Timoteo, Resident Services Counsellor at the Redwood, Tanisha Sri Bhaggiyadatta, Project Manager at Springtide Resources, and Jeff Perera, Speaker for Next Gen Men. Topics ranged on how to help not just the victims and their children, but how to build better men by engaging, educating and empowering men and boys to be part of change where we work and live. The audience engagement in the Q & A portion of the night discussed a wide range of issues of how to help victims through an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, non-judgemental lens.

As Unifor values the contributions of its female members, events like this are important to attend to remind us that we still have work to do in the community and amongst our own members to spread the message of justice and respect to end domestic violence

Eden Letrondo

Women's Committee Chair