

## POSC 4340: Photovoice Assignment #1

**Due Date:** May 23, 2025 23:59 PM Newfoundland Time

**About Photovoice:** Christensen (2017) sums up photovoice action research as “a community-based participatory research (CBPR) method, which engages participants in taking photographs about a topic of concern, critically reflecting on the topic, and developing solutions to address the problem (Wang & Burris, 1997). This approach is grounded in critical consciousness (Freire, 1973/1990) and feminist theory (Weiler, Giroux, & Freire, 1987) as described by Wang (1999). The goal of PVAR methodology is to use community-based descriptions of a social problem (photographs and narratives) as a tool for social change” (2).

**Assignment Objectives:** The purpose of this assignment is to use your smartphone to explore your community for evidence of, influences on and experiences of gender-based violence. The purpose is **NOT** to capture actual incidents of GBV (safety first). This is an opportunity to think creatively about how GBV is entangled in/with many institutions, social spaces, private spaces and more.

An example: you travel to downtown St. John's to take a picture of the courthouse steps where demonstrations took place over the past six years in support of Jane Doe in the rape trials of RNC police officer Doug Snelgrove (see <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/jane-doe-appeal-1.6815752>). Maybe you find some packing tape blowing in the wind from the railings that might be from one of those protests. Maybe you photograph an object that relates to the case sitting on the steps. Maybe you bring a friend who photographs you interacting with the courthouse steps.

**Special Note:** If you are photographing people's faces in the community, please explain the assignment to them, that the photographs will only be used for learning purposes and get their verbal consent to photograph them. You may not photograph children or youths under 18 years of age.

### Assignment Specifications:

1. Please complete photovoice assignment #1 independently of members of the class. (You will have the opportunity in the next photovoice assignment to work with other students in the course on this project.)
2. Collect 30 photographs of a minimum of 10 spaces in your community.
3. Choose the five (5) photographs that represent five (5) different spaces in your community and that best represent your concerns about GBV in your community.
4. Compose your text for each photograph following the PHOTO protocol (below). Each PHOTO protocol text should be a minimum of 300 words to a maximum of 500 words. Please be aware that you will be sharing these photographs and texts with other members of the class for photovoice assignment #2. As such, please consider carefully what and how you wish to share.
5. Submit the five (5) photographs and five (5) protocol texts in a combined file to the Brightspace dropbox.

### PHOTO protocol for each photograph:

1. Describe the **P**hotograph's context and contents.
2. What is **H**appening in the photograph?
3. **O**rigins story: Why did you take a photograph of this?
4. What does the photograph **T**ell us about gender-based violence in your community?
5. How might this photograph provide **O**pportunities to impact policy for gender-based violence in your polity/polities?