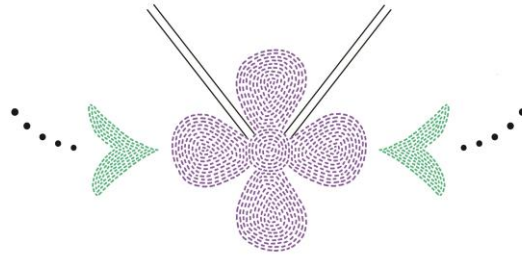


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process
Part 1 Statement Gathering
Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia**



PUBLIC

Wednesday August 22, 2018

**Statement - Volume 471
S.M., In relation to F.M.**

Statement gathered by Terriea Wadud

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II

ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 7 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller ordered that all names be made anonymous in this transcript and any related documents. The order for anonymity was made April 8th, 2019.

III

NOTE

Where not required by other statute, redactions to this public transcript have been made pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*, which provides for "the discretion to redact private information of a sensitive nature where it is not material to the evidence to be given before distributing the information to the Parties. The National Inquiry will consider the public interest in releasing this type of information against the potential harmful impact on the individual whose personal information is at issue."

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Statement Gatherer: Terriea Wadud

Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 10:27

3 a.m.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** My name is Terriea
5 Wadud, and I am a statement gatherer with the National
6 Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and
7 Girls. The time is 10:27 a.m. The date is Wednesday,
8 August 22nd, and we are in Vancouver, B.C., at the
9 Aboriginal Friendship Centre. In the room with me I
10 have...

11 **MS. [S.M.]:** [S.M.]. Do you want me to spell
12 it?

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yes, please.

14 **MS. [S.M.]** [*Spells name*]

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And where are you from?

16 **MS. [S.M.]:** I was born in Calgary, Alberta.
17 My mother's from Stó:lō Nation, Chilliwack, and my father
18 is from [European country].

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay, thank you. We also
20 have as health support...

21 **MS. V.J.:** My name the V.J., and I'm a
22 Tsimshian Nation, north of Terrace, on the Northwest coast
23 of B.C.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wonderful, thank you.
25 All right, [S.M.], where would you like to start today?

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: Well, my mother is [F.M.]. She
2 was born [birthdate], 1953.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

4 **MS. [S.M.]**: And she passed away [date], 2000
5 - [identifying information removed].

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Eighteen years.

7 **MS. [S.M.]**: I don't even know where to
8 start. My mother was -- she struggled with drugs my entire
9 life. My brother was born addicted to heroin. I'm not too
10 sure, but my -- my aunt says that I have fetal alcohol
11 syndrome. I don't know whatever else I have too, but even
12 though my mother was -- was a junkie, she was a good
13 person. My entire life she -- she was in and out of
14 recovery homes.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]**: Detox centres. Not once did my
17 dad try to get -- get help for his addiction. He just was
18 enabled by living free in my grandmother's basement, and my
19 mother just lived on Hastings Street my entire life. She
20 tried so hard to -- to quit.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

22 **MS. [S.M.]**: Growing up she told me many
23 stories of my family and my background and I never wanted
24 to -- I never paid attention to -- to her stories.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: I didn't see the importance of
2 it.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

4 **MS. [S.M.]**: And I, kind of, wished I did pay
5 attention now --

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

7 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- now that she's gone. I don't
8 even know where to start. Just before my mom died she -- I
9 didn't know because I was -- I was about 17 or 18, and I
10 didn't know that she was completely clean off of methadone,
11 and after 35 years she -- she was completely free from any
12 drugs, any methadone, anything, for two months.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

14 **MS. [S.M.]**: She was with my aunt in
15 Princeton, B.C. It was the first time ever that she -- she
16 made it that far. And I wish I wasn't so caught up in my
17 life that when I seen her I should have took her to my
18 grandpa's because she was in town for -- she was in town
19 for a doctor's appointment, and I think she's going to pick
20 up her last welfare cheque and she was going back to
21 Princeton.

22 I had told her -- I had told her that my
23 brother was having seizures, because my brother's on the
24 streets.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: And when people would go to
2 check to see if he was okay they weren't actually checking
3 to see if he was okay, they were checking his socks and his
4 pockets. And so I told her that this was happening and,
5 you know, being an addict in recovery, she had jumped on a
6 -- the Greyhound, and somehow she ended up on an express
7 bus, and my grandfather was supposed to meet her at the
8 Greyhound and she never showed up, but she -- she showed up
9 -- but she came early, and so she put her stuff in -- in a
10 locker at the Greyhound.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

12 **MS. [S.M.]**: And came downtown to find my
13 brother. And at the time I was -- I was selling drugs in
14 Pigeon Park.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

16 **MS. [S.M.]**: And, you know, my brother -- I'd
17 see my brother every day. And I'd look, and "Mom, is that
18 you?" Like, I -- I didn't even recognize her. She's so
19 beautiful.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

21 **MS. [S.M.]**: She had been clean. And I was
22 so caught up in my own world that I didn't take the time to
23 -- to take her back to my grandpa's. I didn't think -- you
24 know, I didn't think that was the last time I was going to
25 see her.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course not.

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** She found my brother, and my
3 brother convinced her to get some crack and when you smoke
4 crack you -- you need to do heroin to come down. It kind
5 of goes hand in hand, so...

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** They ended up going into the
8 back alley and getting high and they ended up leaving each
9 other, and...

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** They ended up -- I'm
11 sorry?

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** They ended up leaving each
13 other. My brother's, you know, he's -- he's very messed
14 up. And, I mean, the next day was welfare day, I think, or
15 -- yeah, welfare day, or maybe it was that day, I can't
16 quite remember.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** And so my foster parent calls
19 me. I had just left a foster home and started to live on
20 my own with my first born child.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** And she said -- asked me if the
23 police had come to my house and, I said, "No." And I was
24 really scared because I was selling drugs. And --

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- and I was 18 and had alcohol
2 in my house. And so I quickly hid everything because I
3 didn't know why they were coming and what was -- and what
4 was happening. And then my aunt calls me and -- and she
5 didn't tell me either.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

7 **MS. [S.M.]**: But I, kind of, had a bad
8 feeling, so when the police came to my house they pulled
9 out some ID cards that my mom had. They were my kid's ID.
10 Even -- and the police said that they found my mother's
11 body --

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

13 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- in a hotel room on Main
14 Street --

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- with the needle still in her
17 arm, the lid in her mouth, and her money down her pants.
18 And those were the details that they gave me.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

20 **MS. [S.M.]**: And that was the last time I
21 ever decided to sell drugs because the person that sold my
22 mom the drugs murdered her, and I don't know if it was
23 intentional or if it was just a bad case of dope.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

25 **MS. [S.M.]**: But I lost my mother, and --

1 yeah, she -- she lost her -- her battle to
2 -- to her addiction.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

4 **MS. [S.M.]:** And she tried so hard. My
5 mother told me many stories of -- of being raped and gang
6 raped by multiple people, and beaten. She lived a horrible
7 -- horrible life.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

9 **MS. [S.M.]:** Abused and used because she was
10 powerless over her addiction.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** And she was -- she was a slave
13 to -- to the streets and to the drugs.

14 Growing up my dad's side of the family raised
15 me from the time I was three.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

17 **MS. [S.M.]:** Until I was about 12 or 13.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

19 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, growing up my family
20 really despised me because I lived in my grandmother's
21 house and my dad was a junkie. You know, he put a lot of
22 stress on my grandma.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because, you know, my dad would
25 -- would do drugs all the time and there was always a

1 bottle of methadone in the -- in the fridge and, you know,
2 I'd always find needles kicking around the house.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

4 **MS. [S.M.]:** And it was okay for him to have
5 his addiction. But the way my family talked about my
6 mother was -- it was -- you know, it was because she didn't
7 have somebody to enable her addiction, like, my -- my -- my
8 dad's mother did.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** And so growing up my dad said
11 that the family would -- they would call me a "chug," and I
12 didn't know what that meant until I was a teenager, because
13 I thought it was, like, a Hindu because we lived on 49th
14 and Main, and so I just assumed that it was because I lived
15 in the neighbourhood. I didn't know, and they would tell
16 me that I -- I look like my mother and I act like my
17 mother.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

19 **MS. [S.M.]:** I'm going to be pregnant by 16,
20 and I'm going to turn out just like my mother and --

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- and everything they told me I
23 eventually lived up to. I was prostituting on -- on
24 Hastings at the age of 13. I was addicted to drugs. And I
25 was pregnant by 16.

1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

2 MS. [S.M.]: By a Vietnamese drug dealer.

3 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

4 MS. [S.M.]: Who I thought loved me.

5 It was pretty shitty living up to those --
6 what -- what they told me was going to be, right.

7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

8 MS. [S.M.]: I remember, I think I was, like,
9 14 when I -- when I left home. I went to go live with my
10 mom. She was --

11 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: I'm sorry, what age did
12 you --

13 MS. [S.M.]: I think it was about 13.

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Thirteen.

15 MS. [S.M.]: My mom was staying with -- like,
16 a church lady, and on the other side of the PNE, and we
17 were staying in her basement. My mother was still on
18 methadone, but she wasn't using and, you know, I was --
19 I've always loved my mom.

20 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

21 MS. [S.M.]: Even though, you know, my family
22 would talk bad about her and put her down and say all these
23 bad things about her. The more they said that, the more I
24 would love her.

25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: I've always had the connection
2 with her. And she's always loved me. And there was always
3 no abuse. And I felt that love.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]**: And grew -- growing up I was
6 always told that she was bad and she was a "chug," she was
7 junkie, and -- and the more they said that the more I -- I
8 loved her.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

10 **MS. [S.M.]**: So that time we lived with this
11 church lady, and my mom, and she would do my hair, and
12 she'd accept me for who I was, and she would tell me that I
13 was beautiful and loved, and -- and I was finally with my
14 mom again.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Yeah.

16 **MS. [S.M.]**: She ended up -- I can't really
17 remember what happened, but we ended up moving to my aunt's
18 in -- in -- in Maple Ridge.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

20 **MS. [S.M.]**: We stayed there for a few
21 months. I think my mom was still on methadone at the time,
22 and I don't think she was using, and -- but we stayed with
23 my aunt for a few months and I was going to school out in
24 Maple Ridge, and it was great. I was with my mom again.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Yeah.

1 MS. [S.M.]: And I think that went on for
2 maybe six months.

3 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible).

4 MS. [S.M.]: And then my aunt -- I don't know
5 what happened between my aunt and my mom, but something
6 happened.

7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

8 MS. [S.M.]: And we ended up leaving there
9 too.

10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

11 MS. [S.M.]: I think we ended up in Powell
12 Street, Powell Street Shelter (ph) or Powell Street
13 Shelter. Not a shelter for -- for children, that's for
14 sure.

15 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm, because you were
16 still 13?

17 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

19 MS. [S.M.]: In Powell Street Shelter my mom
20 had relapsed.

21 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

22 MS. [S.M.]: And she, kind of, went in and
23 out, and I think eventually social workers, or something
24 took me away.

25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: And then I was in a group home.
2 They didn't -- they didn't try helping my mom. They just -
3 -

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- they just took me away. And
6 my mom tried really -- really hard to -- to keep us
7 together. And there was no support for her.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

9 **MS. [S.M.]**: She never -- she never took care
10 of me growing up, so she tried really hard, but the
11 addiction took over, and from there it was, kind of, went
12 all downhill in my life and her life and --

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: From the time that you
14 were...

15 **MS. [S.M.]**: Moved into the group home.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: (Indiscernible) into the
17 child welfare system?

18 **MS. [S.M.]**: Yeah.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

20 **MS. [S.M.]**: Eventually I -- I
21 -- you know, I learned how -- like, eventually I started
22 smoking pot and --

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- drinking and doing drugs in
25 these group homes. I got put in a few different group

1 homes.

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

3 MS. [S.M.]: And I ran away because I -- I
4 didn't like the place I was in. I just wanted to be with
5 my mom. And they wouldn't -- the Ministry wouldn't let
6 that happen.

7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

8 MS. [S.M.]: So I turned to some friends and
9 ended up getting turned out at the age of, like, 13 or 14.

10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

11 MS. [S.M.]: I was really -- really scared.
12 I just wanted to keep these guys happy and I needed a place
13 to stay. And my first trick, or john --

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

15 MS. [S.M.]: -- was an undercover police
16 officer.

17 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

18 MS. [S.M.]: And I was charged with
19 soliciting a police officer -- a police officer at the age
20 of 13 or 14. And my mom came to court and she tried
21 fighting to keep -- to keep me, but because she was in her
22 addiction nobody would, you know, try to help us.

23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

24 MS. [S.M.]: So, again, I ran away and I
25 found my mom, and stayed in the Regent Hotel with her.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. And that's in
2 Downtown Eastside?

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** Eastside, yeah. Many times I
4 sat in that window looking down on the street and just
5 wishing things were different.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** My mom survived many close calls
8 to death.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** And she was -- she was -- she
11 tried so hard. She really did. She never gave up -- my
12 entire life -- like -- her -- my entire life that she was
13 alive, she never gave up. I remember one Christmas I had
14 been up for days, I think, it was, like, 14 and my feet
15 were so cold, frostbitten. And -- and I was hurting for
16 drugs.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** And standing on the corner of
19 Jackson and Hastings, and my mother was standing on the
20 other corner, and it was snowing, and it was cold, and it
21 was Christmas. And I just wished my life was so much
22 different. Nobody ever gave my mom a hand out or help.
23 They just -- all they ever seen was a junkie whore. And I
24 think things could have been different if -- if, you know,
25 if the welfare system or Ministry had worked with my mom

1 instead of --

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- against her.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

5 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Could you -- could you
7 tell us more about what that would have looked like if the
8 Ministry was to work with your mother. What -- what did
9 you need? What did you she need?

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** She needed -- she needed
11 somebody to tell her that she was doing well and making
12 progress and offering her services.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

14 **MS. [S.M.]:** Working with her instead of
15 against her.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

17 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, they make it so hard
18 for -- for people when they already are struggling for
19 fight their addiction.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** They put more barriers in the
22 way. Makes it harder.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

24 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, my mom -- that first
25 year that I lived with my mom it was like -- it was like I

1 had lived with her my whole life.

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

3 MS. [S.M.]: It was like we didn't miss out
4 on anything, we connected so well. And -- and my mom had
5 suffered her entire life. Her body was the only thing that
6 could help her survive as far as addiction, food, rent,
7 everything, it was -- it was like that was the only thing
8 she had to offer.

9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Of course.

10 MS. [S.M.]: My -- my aunt would tell me
11 about, like, the stories of them growing up and --

12 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

13 MS. [S.M.]: -- living in the orphanage.

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. So your mother --
15 your mother and her aunt were in an orphanage?

16 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. In New West on, like, 6th
17 Street. there's this big -- I think it's a museum, I don't
18 know. They had said that it was an orphanage when they
19 were kids.

20 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

21 MS. [S.M.]: And she would tell me about how,
22 you know, my mom would just -- she would protect my aunt,
23 even though my aunt was the older one. My -- my mom was
24 just -- she was just a little fighter.

25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: And she would always get into
2 trouble, and she'd speak her mind, and -- and they would --
3 she would tell me how they -- the -- the nuns would, like,
4 split them up.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

6 **MS. [S.M.]**: And, like, my mom
7 -- my mom would get punished a lot because my grandfather
8 had to go, like, off to sea to (indiscernible) ships, or
9 whatever he had to do to -- so he would leave my mom and
10 aunt for -- for a few months at a time.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

12 **MS. [S.M.]**: And they were mean to my mom,
13 and I think it was because they were Aboriginal and --

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

15 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- and they made sure to cut her
16 hair real short and -- and --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: So what -- sorry, was
18 this orphanage a residential school?

19 **MS. [S.M.]**: I don't know.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]**: I think it was, like, a discreet
22 residential school. Like, because my grandpa could pick
23 them back up months later when he came back from going out
24 to sea.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay. And it was in New

1 Westminster?

2 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

3 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

4 MS. [S.M.]: But they were really mean to my
5 aunt and my mom. And my aunt -- my mom would always --
6 always take the blame and she'd get the whip because of
7 something that my aunt did, and she -- she always protected
8 my aunt. And then my mom -- when she met my dad he got her
9 hooked on drugs.

10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Do you know when they
11 met?

12 MS. [S.M.]: Can't -- I don't remember, but
13 my mom was really young at the time.

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

15 MS. [S.M.]: And --

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: So was she an adult, or
17 something younger?

18 MS. [S.M.]: Early -- early adult, I think.

19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

20 MS. [S.M.]: And they lived in Calgary, and I
21 was pretty oblivious to -- to -- to their addiction until I
22 was older. I didn't really understand. You know, my -- my
23 mom was abused her entire life, and...

24 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

25 MS. [S.M.]: When -- when I started using and

1 living on the streets and fulfilling the -- those quotes
2 that my family told me growing up, I -- I thought that
3 that's what I deserved.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm -- m'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I thought that that was the
6 life that -- that I was set out to have. I'm sure my mom
7 thought the same thing. Being a woman, and addicted to
8 drugs and living on the streets. It felt like that was --
9 that was the only life there was. I didn't realize there
10 was another life. I thought I deserved that.

11 You know, when I had my -- my first baby at
12 16, my mom came to the hospital and she was there. She
13 tried so hard to -- to fight her addiction. There's just
14 -- there isn't resources available for -- for people as
15 much as there should be. There's a long waiting list to
16 get into detox.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** You got to call every day. Now,
19 I think they -- I haven't been in detox in years, but I
20 heard that, you know, they've -- now taken smoking away and
21 --

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

23 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- you know, when you're
24 quitting drugs or alcohol, you know, smoking is, like, the
25 only thing you have left, right? So they're making it a

1 lot harder for people to get clean today.

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: And just for
3 clarification, detox would be the first step on that path
4 to recovery?

5 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. You can't really be in
6 recovery houses until you have gone through the withdrawal
7 -- withdrawal stage.

8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

9 MS. [S.M.]: My mother was really -- really
10 heavily addicted. Like, when -- there was nights when she
11 jumped in bed with me and she was naked and she was
12 sweating and she was delusional. She was vomiting. And I
13 tried so hard to take care of her. Heroin has never been
14 my drug of choice.

15 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

16 MS. [S.M.]: Because I've watched my mom go
17 through the withdrawals, and it was really bad, her body
18 wouldn't survive without the methadone.

19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay. And she did have a
20 period where she was on methadone quite a bit.

21 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah. Quite -- quite often.

22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

23 MS. [S.M.]: That's why when I seen her that
24 day in the park, I've never seen her so -- so -- so free,
25 so beautiful, so -- so healthy.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And at that time she was
2 on methadone treatment?

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** No, she wasn't. She was off of
4 methadone for two months.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I didn't realize that
7 because I was young and caught up in my own world and
8 trying to survive too, right.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course.

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, I -- I -- I know my
11 mother wasn't murdered in a brutal way, but her whole
12 entire life she was abused, raped, used, tortured, by
13 multiple men on the streets in order for her to survive.
14 And I thought that that's how I was supposed to live too.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]:** The details of how they found my
17 mother --

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

19 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- in that hotel washroom will
20 always be with me. It's, like, a typical junkie move to
21 be, you know, like -- don't -- I've never used needles, but
22 I've watched many people and, you know, they pull the lid
23 out and (indiscernible) my mother must have died instantly
24 because her body wasn't used to drugs because she was so
25 clean.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah, m'hm.

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** But, you know, selfish as it --
3 like, I -- I seem to think, and I want my mother here with
4 me today, but I feel, like, you know, now her -- she
5 doesn't have to suffer. She lived a -- a life of
6 suffering.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

8 **MS. [S.M.]:** Her entire life she -- she was
9 abused one way or another, and not once did she abuse me.
10 Not once did she call me a Chug. Not once did she put me
11 down. She just loved me unconditionally, and she never
12 judged me.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It sounds like you had a
14 very special relationship with your mom.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** Yeah. And I -- I
16 -- I've tried really hard to break the family cycle.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** And it took me three kids to
19 really -- really get it.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I've had to fight the
22 Ministry tooth and nail to get where I am today. And
23 because of my history and my parents' history, they've made
24 my life really hard.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: You know, because I -- I have
2 addiction in my family I'm judged.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Okay.

4 **MS. [S.M.]**: And supports -- it's like --
5 it's like people don't believe me, or what I have to say is
6 not valid because I -- I have addiction in my history.
7 And, you know, who's going to listen to a junkie, right?
8 No matter how much clean time I have, nobody wants to
9 fucking listen to me.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

11 **MS. [S.M.]**: And I'm not heard. I still
12 fight [Child and Family Agency 1] and -- yeah, you know, if
13 -- if -- if -- if [Child and Family Agency 1] had put
14 supports in place rather than make things difficult for my
15 mother maybe she'd be here today.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Is it fair to say that
17 you see a pattern based on your own time being in the child
18 welfare system, and now being involved with them through
19 children, your -- your own history being in the system and
20 the addictions is impacting the care --

21 **MS. [S.M.]**: Definitely.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: -- that your children are
23 getting?

24 **MS. [S.M.]**: Definitely. You know a lot of
25 these social workers at the beginning when I lost my -- my

1 first son, they didn't give me a chance because I was 18.

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

3 MS. [S.M.]: And I was in care and both my
4 parents are junkies.

5 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

6 MS. [S.M.]: So there was no help for [S.M.],
7 about getting her shit together, or having her own family.

8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

9 MS. [S.M.]: And I had to fight and I had to
10 fight and when my son was three, I just -- I couldn't
11 handle my mother's death any longer. There was no supports
12 in place for me and I was scared the social workers were
13 going to take my son so I sent him to my aunt's.

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

15 MS. [S.M.]: And even she thought I wasn't
16 going to make it because of my mom and my life. She gave
17 him to family -- to her family -- extended family, like,
18 she -- even my aunt thought, like, there was no hope for
19 me. And out of all of the grandkids, like, me and my
20 cousins, and my aunt's kids, I'm the only successful one.
21 And I'm -- I should have been the one that should be dead
22 by now. And -- and even my aunt she just is blown away
23 that I'm the only successful one out of everybody when I
24 should have been the one that is down on the streets, or
25 even dead.

1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

2 MS. [S.M.]: All the social workers, they --
3 you know, they -- they read my file, and then they meet me
4 and they just --

5 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

6 MS. [S.M.]: -- they -- they're assuming to
7 meet a junkie with scabs all over their body and --

8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

9 MS. [S.M.]: -- you know, they're blown away
10 at what they read, and then what they see. And, you know,
11 they -- the system is broken. They've all told me that
12 themselves and --

13 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: The social workers?

14 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah.

15 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

16 MS. [S.M.]: A lot of the time they said
17 there's nothing they could do to help me. And, you know,
18 for the last 11 years I've been -- I've been calling them
19 and making reports because my [teenage] son -- well, when -
20 - when I was pregnant with him -- I -- I was pregnant with
21 my drug dealer pimp and I couldn't have another baby,
22 especially since I didn't have my first one.

23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

24 MS. [S.M.]: So I tried terminating my
25 pregnancy with drugs and alcohol --

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- crack and whatever else --
3 heroin was never really my choice, but, even crystal meth,
4 because I have ADHD, I don't get high off of the crystal
5 meth.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** So it was never really my drug
8 of choice. So I couldn't terminate the pregnancy. And
9 when I had him, they instantly took him away from me, but
10 because I was in Fir Square and the doctor had fought for
11 me to stay there a few extra weeks because I was
12 breastfeeding and my -- my son wasn't physically born
13 addicted, but mentally fetal alcohol syndrome, all that
14 other stuff, he struggles with. I see a lot of me in my
15 son.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

17 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because all he's ever wanted was
18 his mom.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** And when he was about 15 months
21 old I managed to get him back, and his dad beat me up so
22 bad that I packed a suitcase and went back to the street
23 because I didn't know what else to do, so I was back on the
24 streets, and I went missing, and -- yeah.

25 I -- I've been begging the Ministry to look

1 into my -- my family -- my son's family home because there
2 were signs of physical abuse.

3 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

4 MS. [S.M.]: Sexual abuse.

5 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

6 MS. [S.M.]: And I've made numerous reports,
7 police reports, social worker reports, any reports to
8 anybody that would listen.

9 I remember one time I was telling my
10 probation officer the things that my son does and she had
11 said that, "You know, if he doesn't help that he needs he's
12 -- he's -- these are signs -- I don't know, of a
13 psychopath."

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

15 MS. [S.M.]: His father's family is
16 [*ethnicity redacted*] and they're very traditional and
17 they're very abusive.

18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

19 MS. [S.M.]: And the social workers kicked me
20 out of their offices. (Indiscernible) followed up on their
21 reports. Told me that I needed to stop making these
22 reports -- false reports, and they never wanted to listen
23 to me because I'm a junkie and I got no family, and, you
24 know, there's -- I've got -- you know, I don't have money.

25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: So they can continued to close
2 my son's file and told me that I needed to get my facts
3 straight.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]**: I've freaked out in their
6 office. I've made threats. I've begged anybody to listen.
7 I've been the biggest advocate for my son.

8 You know, hearing my son's diagnosis with --
9 with [Health Centre 1], broke my heart because a lot of his
10 struggles were the struggles that I went through growing
11 up.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

13 **MS. [S.M.]**: Struggling with fetal alcohol
14 syndrome myself.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]**: Not understanding and just
17 wanting to be with my mom.

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

19 **MS. [S.M.]**: And his dad's side of the family
20 told him that I didn't love him, and that I loved all my
21 other children and not him, and -- and they brainwashed him
22 just like my family had brainwashed me.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]**: And all he ever wanted was his
25 mom and he could never have it.

1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

2 MS. [S.M.]: Because I started having more
3 kids.

4 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

5 MS. [S.M.]: And my -- my son [was] four
6 years old, and I caught him taking my two-year-old's diaper
7 off, telling him that he was going to give him kisses and
8 make him feel real good. And when I told the Ministry
9 about this they never helped me.

10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

11 MS. [S.M.]: They told me that I couldn't
12 have visits because it was stressing him out and he was
13 doing these things because of me and I couldn't parent him
14 properly, and the reason why he was doing all these things
15 because he was in my care. I said -- I told them that it's
16 not true. Like, these -- I'm noticing these things and I'm
17 the one that's speaking up.

18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

19 MS. [S.M.]: His dad's side of the family was
20 hiding all of this stuff.

21 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

22 MS. [S.M.]: And they said -- they stopped my
23 visits actually because these things were happening.

24 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

25 MS. [S.M.]: And I tried so hard to get him

1 the help that he needed. Last week the supervisor of my
2 son told me that -- I said, who's -- who's going to be held
3 accountable for the incident that just recently happened?
4 You know, somebody needs to held accountable.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** The police, the social workers,
7 the doctors, anybody, somebody needs to be held
8 accountable. Because I have been telling people for years
9 what has been happening. What's going on and nobody ever
10 listened to me. They closed the files. They ignored my --
11 my -- my reports.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

13 **MS. [S.M.]:** Said that I didn't know what I
14 was talking about, and nobody ever took me serious, and I
15 got my son into a program for children that were, like,
16 exposed to sexual abuse and --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- I tried really hard to be
19 consistent with it, but because he was living at his dad's,
20 his dad had control.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** And he took him out of the
23 programs. And Social Services ignored me. And they
24 ignored me and they ignored me, because I'm a junkie, or
25 I'm not sure. I didn't know what I was talking about, or

1 they just never believed me and I -- I've been very
2 cautious with my son because I, kind of -- he was very
3 exposed to wanting to be exploratious [sic] with my younger
4 son and I always -- I -- I kept -- I kept the sleepovers to
5 very minimal and almost next to nothing because of it.

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** And just recently, and it's been
8 about seven years since the last the incident and I thought
9 he was better. I -- I thought maybe it was just a boy
10 thing, or I don't know.

11 You know, five months ago I finally had proof
12 that his father -- my son finally spoke up to the police
13 and his father was finally charged with assault after 11
14 years. And I've had -- I've taken him to the police when
15 he was, like, four with a handprint, and the social workers
16 continued to put him back in that home because when they
17 walk into this [*religion redacted*] house they see a big
18 glass window separating the two living rooms, and the glass
19 window is engraved of the [*ethnicity redacted*] temple, and
20 they just see a million dollar home.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, they don't see my
23 concerns or what I was seeing was happening. And they
24 ignored me and they ignored me, and finally I -- I remember
25 my son called me and he said that he was really dizzy and

1 told me that his dad had stomped on his head, and I took
2 him to the hospital and I did the follow up.

3 But because of my son's issues in the past I
4 couldn't have him in my home because I can't protect my
5 other children. So my -- he's at my sponsor's.

6 And just last week we had gotten back from
7 camping, and me and my partner had broke up, and we -- we
8 let our fighting get in the middle of our parenting and we
9 put our -- let our guard down, and I fell asleep for 20
10 minutes and I woke up with my daughter's pants down.

11 So now I'm living this nightmare all over
12 again. And I asked [Child and Family Agency 1] who's held
13 accountable for it now, and they told me his dad
14 manipulated the system.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]:** So I had to call the police on
17 my son and get my daughter assessed and I feel like I'm
18 starting this cycle all over again.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** Now, my daughter's violated at
21 the age of four and my son's a pedophile/rapist; I don't
22 know. Nothing happened. I mean, I don't know what
23 happened. My daughter says that he had touched her.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

25 **MS. [S.M.]:** But when I took her to the

1 hospital and her checkup, it was okay -- she was okay. And
2 the investigation is still going on, but I don't know, I
3 just -- I'm living a nightmare and once again [Child and
4 Family Agency 1] is not supporting my family. And
5 everything is really messed up. Times like this I wish my
6 mom was here.

7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

8 MS. [S.M.]: You know, like, trying to break
9 the family cycle, it's so hard.

10 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

11 MS. [S.M.]: I've been drink -- in the last
12 four days I've been drinking. You know, I feel like -- you
13 know, my mother's death, it's -- it means nothing, and she
14 was a good person. She had a big heart, and she loved me
15 more than anything.

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

17 MS. [S.M.]: And she tried, she tried so
18 hard, but there was no support, there was no help.

19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm -- m'hm.

20 MS. [S.M.]: And --

21 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: She sounds like she --
22 she had a fighting spirit.

23 MS. [S.M.]: She was. She -- she was
24 amazing.

25 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. I can hear that.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: You know, and it's so hard to
2 move forward in life when these things happen --

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

4 **MS. [S.M.]**: -- with my children. It's
5 really hard to be there for my son now because I have to
6 protect my other children.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Yeah.

8 **MS. [S.M.]**: And all those nasty things that
9 my son's paternal family told him growing up.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Yeah.

11 **MS. [S.M.]**: He -- it's -- it's like, "Your
12 mother doesn't love you. Your mother doesn't want you.
13 She loves her other kids." And -- and I don't think he
14 understands that, like, now I can't be there for him
15 because I need to be there for my other children.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Yeah.

17 **MS. [S.M.]**: And it's hard to be put in this
18 position to choose from my children.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: Of course.

20 **MS. [S.M.]**: You know --

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: How -- how old is your
22 son?

23 **MS. [S.M.]**: He's [a teenager]. And I've
24 been fighting for him for 11 years.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: And nobody would listen to me.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

3 **MS. [S.M.]**: Because I'm Aboriginal, because
4 I'm a junkie, because I got no family. I don't know. I
5 don't know why, but [Child and Family Agency 1] has painted
6 a picture of me at a very young age and I have been trying
7 to prove them wrong, that I'm not that person that they
8 wrote and made me out to be. And because my mother was a
9 junkie in the Downtown Eastside means that I can't love or
10 care for my children? Yeah, I -- I grew up having to
11 parent myself and I don't know how to parent because I've
12 never been parented properly.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

14 **MS. [S.M.]**: But I have good intentions and
15 I've done every parenting course there is. I've done every
16 detox course there is. I could teach these programs.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

18 **MS. [S.M.]**: You know, and I have a lot of
19 love to give and everything is just really messed up in my
20 family right now. I don't have any family. I got my aunt.
21 But she just, kind of, you know, she's in town right now
22 and it's for my daughter's birthday, but it's funny because
23 she just stayed at my house overnight, and she's off on the
24 island with her daughter spending time there and, you know,
25 kind of knowing, it's, kind of, heartbreaking because, you

1 know, I know deep down inside that she didn't actually come
2 to town to see me, it's -- [S.M.] a layover, and she's here
3 to see all her kids and her grandkids, and it just hurts.

4 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah.

5 MS. [S.M.]: Because I'm not stupid, and it
6 just hurts not having any family, especially, like, what's
7 happening right now in my life. You know, I'm still
8 fighting these fucking social workers.

9 And if my son -- like, they have dropped the
10 charges on my son, but if -- if charges don't stick they
11 can't force him to get help because he's now at that age
12 where he doesn't want help. He doesn't want to see these
13 counsellors. And I'm just scared that, you know, after him
14 pulling my daughter's pants down last week I'm scared that
15 he is sick.

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

17 MS. [S.M.]: Really sick.

18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

19 MS. [S.M.]: And where is he going to be in
20 five years? What's going on in his head? And once again
21 the social workers let me down. And you know, I -- he's
22 not -- he smokes pot, but, you know, he's on a fast track
23 of ending up on Main and Hastings pretty quick. You know,
24 he was telling me about, "That's the Native quarter, mom,
25 and that's where we buy smokes, and that's the pot corner."

1 And you know, trying to tell me all these things. "Oh, I -
2 - you know what a six is? Like, you know, police are
3 coming, mom." Tries to teach me these things that, like --

4 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

5 MS. [S.M.]: -- I've lived through and I know
6 about. It's scary because, like I said, I see a lot of me
7 in him. And now he's in care.

8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

9 MS. [S.M.]: And -- and now I can't be there
10 for him. And it's just a matter of time before he's
11 downtown too.

12 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm. Is there anything
13 that you can identify what would support you in this
14 experience with your son?

15 MS. [S.M.]: With my son?

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Yeah. What do you need
17 (indiscernible) --

18 MS. [S.M.]: I just wish --

19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: -- what would be helpful?

20 MS. [S.M.]: I just wish like, you know,
21 eight years ago, seven years ago I got him into
22 counselling. I had him in this program.

23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

24 MS. [S.M.]: My son still to this day hasn't
25 told me who abused him.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** But after speaking with multiple
3 professionals they're the ones that have told me that
4 children don't just do this.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** This is -- this is happened to
7 him -- something has happened to him. I would have never
8 thought of that. It was the professionals that filled my
9 head with --

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

11 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- why this is happening.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

13 **MS. [S.M.]:** But nobody ever did anything.
14 And now, you know, he's old enough to be charged and I just
15 don't know where to go from here.

16 You know, I'm very angry at my son. I know
17 that it was impulse -- his impulse and his FAS that -- that
18 -- that gave him that impulse that night. I know I had
19 only fallen asleep for 20 minutes because he had put a
20 movie on for my baby upstairs and I had checked the PVR.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** And by the time I went upstairs
23 it was 25 minutes, so he -- he had only had 25 minutes. I
24 don't know what happened. But it literally was two feet
25 away from my head. My daughter was right beside me. And

1 just my family is so broken now and I've tried to so hard.

2 You know, last -- last week when we all went
3 camping, I had all five of my babies together. Something
4 that doesn't happen often.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** And the Ministry has been making
7 my life very difficult to keep my children and have access
8 to my children.

9 And last week it -- all of my dreams came
10 true. Like, my partner hates my son. And he's really
11 matured in the last six months. And before we went camping
12 my partner had taken me into the bathroom -- and my
13 partner, he labels my son as a pedophile/rapist, that's how
14 he refers to him. He doesn't understand. And he pulls me
15 into the bathroom, and he goes, "[S.M.], we need to fight
16 for him. Let's not leave him at your sponsor's anymore.
17 He needs to be home with family, let's move." And it was
18 like my dreams finally came true. Everything I've worked
19 hard for my entire life.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** And -- and we all went camping,
22 my oldest met us there, and I had all five of my kids and
23 didn't have to be approved by a social worker, or, you
24 know, this was all me, and we were all together, and the
25 very next day it was taken away.

1 And now my family is super broken. My kids
2 can never be together -- like, I can never have my older
3 one around any of my younger ones ever again, and, you
4 know, who -- who's held accountable for this.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm -- m'hm.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know,
7 because --

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Who would you like to see
9 held accountable?

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** [Child and Family Agency 1].

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, not once did they
13 believe me.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** Not once. They continued to put
16 my son back into that home.

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** The home where he was
18 being...

19 **MS. [S.M.]:** Abused.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** Physically abused, sexually
22 abused.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]:** Brainwashed. Told bad things.
25 And, yeah, it just -- even the doctors, like...

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** Why did they let his father take
3 him out of those programs? Those very crucial programs
4 that I had him in?

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** This -- this all could have been
7 prevented. I worked very -- not one social worker helped
8 me get any of those supports in place that I had for my
9 kids. I did it. I searched for those people. I got him
10 on the wait list. I fought for him. And his dad just
11 continued to take him out of these programs and the social
12 workers didn't follow up with it. They didn't believe me.
13 [S.M.] doesn't know what she's talking about.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm -- m'hm.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I'm living in this cycle all
16 over again. It's hard to -- I'm scared to go back to my
17 addiction because it -- I just so -- I just
18 -- I don't want to go back into that lifestyle and into
19 that suffering and pain. I don't want to be raped and
20 abused and -- I don't want to die.

21 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course.

22 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I'm so messed up now, and
23 it's so hard to -- to keep this -- keep strong when I don't
24 have anybody. It just -- it hurts so much. And I'm really
25 scared --

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** (Indiscernible).

2 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- for my daughter because now
3 she's been exposed.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]:** You know, how can I protect and
6 love my son when I have three other children at home that I
7 have to protect. And I, kind of -- I let my guilt cloud my
8 judgment for my son and I have put my other children at
9 risk.

10 You know, when I was on the streets, in my
11 addiction, I think it was -- because I wasn't addicted to
12 heroin that -- that I, kind of, filtered through the men
13 that tried picking me up on the streets. I could never go
14 with like a really old, ugly, nasty man. And Robert
15 Pickton -- he tried picking me up one time.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

17 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I was really hurting for
18 drugs and he had said, "You know, I'll -- we can pick some
19 up before we go to my place."

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** And usually I would have been
22 all for it because, you know, I needed my drugs in order to
23 take my clothes off for men.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

25 **MS. [S.M.]:** He was so ugly and so scary

1 looking --

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

3 MS. [S.M.]: -- that I had -- I had turned
4 him down, and I'm so grateful that I just had a little bit
5 of decency left in me or else I'd be on that farm too. I
6 don't know. I feel like God had protected me on the
7 streets.

8 When I turned 18 I received a lot of money.
9 I can't remember how much. But I thought it was because I
10 was 18 and my Band had sent me money, but it wasn't. It
11 was because I was raped by, like, four men and left to die
12 in Queen Elizabeth Park.

13 I've lived a horrible life on the streets.
14 I've been raped multiple times. I sold my soul for \$20 at
15 some points.

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: (Indiscernible).

17 MS. [S.M.]: When I walked away from the
18 streets without HIV, without Hep C, and very few scars.

19 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

20 MS. [S.M.]: But my heart is scarred forever.
21 You know, if -- if there was more resources available for -
22 - for women today --

23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

24 MS. [S.M.]: -- we wouldn't be having this
25 conversation.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. What resources
2 would -- would you like to see from (indiscernible).

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** I have a girlfriend right now, I
4 -- I was taking care of her daughter for about six weeks,
5 up until about three -- about -- about three or four weeks
6 ago.

7 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

8 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because my girlfriend had
9 relapsed after five years.

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

11 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because the Ministry didn't
12 fucking put any supports in place and she had just moved
13 out on her own for the first time ever.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** No, like, supports in place and
16 --

17 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** -- and she was staying with her
19 street dad who was lives right across the street from me.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** And since she's left we've had
22 play dates -- this is a 64-year-old man, and we just sit
23 and talk while the kids play. He's a really knowledgeable
24 man too, and I became quite close to him.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: And he called me one day said
2 that he was in the hospital and if I could take care of his
3 granddaughter. He needed to have surgery.

4 It turns out the surgery is the most invasive
5 surgery that Vancouver General Hospital has, and this man
6 almost died. And I watched him in the ICU -- and I have
7 watched him with deliria. And he's -- he's -- he's
8 surprisingly made a full -- well, almost a full -- he's
9 still on dialysis, but they're thinking about even taking
10 the dialysis away. And this man is just incredible. He's
11 an incredible fighter.

12 And I've had this little girl and, you know,
13 I see her mom on the streets and I say to her, "What are
14 you going to do?" Like, she's trying get into detox,
15 there's no detoxs available. There's a wait list.

16 And, you know, when you're an addict and you
17 want to get clean it needs to be right now because
18 tomorrow's a different day. And that's not available for
19 anybody. And there's, like, Onsite and I think there's one
20 other detox place, and there's hundreds of junkies in the
21 world, so, you know, she's -- my -- my girlfriend's still
22 alive surprisingly.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]**: With the fentanyl going around,
25 but she can't get into detox and, you know, there's just

1 nothing available.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So you would like to see
3 more detox centres?

4 **MS. [S.M.]:** Oh, for sure, for sure, and not
5 a huge long wait list and --

6 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** And these facilities need to be
8 programmed in a way that works with people.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** Not against people. You know --
11 you -- you take smoking out of a facility like this and
12 nobody's going to go. You know, you can't just give
13 someone a patch and say, "Here, quit your drugs and, oh,
14 you got to kick smoking too." Like, they're making it so
15 hard.

16 I haven't been to a detox in many -- many
17 years, but things have changed and it's very -- very
18 different now and it's -- it's not accessible.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** It wasn't accessible for my mom
21 and it's not accessible for my friend. I -- I work in the
22 Downtown Eastside, and I hand out syringes and condoms and
23 crack pipes every single day.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

25 **MS. [S.M.]:** And I mean, I've had to Narcan

1 people. And I hear people's stories. And, like, I believe
2 that my job is what keeps me sane today.

3 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: What is your job?

4 MS. [S.M.]: Because -- I'm a shelter
5 resource worker.

6 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

7 MS. [S.M.]: So I see these people coming in
8 and every day and they're suffering. And it's -- it just --
9 -- it -- it makes me realize that that's not where I want to
10 be today.

11 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

12 MS. [S.M.]: But, you know, you hear the --
13 there's -- you hear the -- you hear these people's stories
14 and how they ended up being homeless
15 and --

16 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

17 MS. [S.M.]: -- you know, trying to put a
18 plan in place for them. There just -- there isn't anything
19 available and you wonder why people continue to live on the
20 streets and self-medicate. They feel like, you know, the
21 poor stay poor and the rich get rich.

22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

23 MS. [S.M.]: (Indiscernible) our -- I don't
24 know, I feel like our -- our society today has taken away
25 services.

1 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

2 MS. [S.M.]: And it's taken away more
3 services and it's harder on the streets.

4 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

5 MS. [S.M.]: I -- I couldn't imagine where
6 I'd be -- I don't even think I'd be alive if I was still
7 out there.

8 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

9 MS. [S.M.]: They're -- they've taken away so
10 many resources for youth.

11 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

12 MS. [S.M.]: For women. That the death toll
13 just keeps rising.

14 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

15 MS. [S.M.]: And -- and the death toll of
16 these people just gets younger and younger.

17 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Does -- does that feel
18 complete for you in terms of recommendations for the
19 Commissioners, or do you (indiscernible)?

20 MS. [S.M.]: Yeah, you know, I feel like -- I
21 feel like -- I feel like services for women need to be put
22 back into place.

23 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

24 MS. [S.M.]: Not just the Women's Centre
25 downtown can't handle it all. There needs to be services

1 that can meet people's needs, working with people on where
2 they're at in their life at that time.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

4 **MS. [S.M.]:** We need to protect our youth
5 more. These services for youth is a fucking joke. You
6 know, they're willing to pay \$2,000 to some random group
7 home staff, but they won't give my sponsor, who has quit
8 her job to take care of my really -- my really sick son.
9 They want to give her \$500?

10 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah.

11 **MS. [S.M.]:** I'm going to slap your face.
12 Like, she doesn't want money, but it requires money to take
13 care of him.

14 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** And you're going to give some
16 random group home staff, who doesn't give a shit about my
17 son, probably just has to write a quick report, \$2,000 but
18 you can't help my sponsor out, who loves and cares for him
19 and is willing to go that extra mile? What is wrong with
20 our system? You know it's -- it's -- it's a paycheque.

21 And -- and I'm about to -- I was about to
22 lose -- I -- I have given the Ministry a perfect plan on
23 summer -- I did their fucking job for them and say still
24 can't meet his needs.

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

1 **MS. [S.M.]**: After everything he's been
2 through, it's -- they're given her vouchers to go to -- to
3 get food? You know, like, what's wrong with this system?
4 It's fucking broken.

5 And if a social worker can tell me that the
6 system is broken and they're very -- very sorry they can't
7 help me, then there's something seriously wrong with our
8 world today.

9 And, you know, I feel like the Ministry and
10 Children and Families, especially [Child and Family Agency
11 1], their policies and their procedures, they're a hundred
12 years old, don't meet the individual families that they
13 have to support, their policies and procedures are far from
14 it. They work completely against these families, including
15 myself. I have been fighting with them for so many years.
16 And I sit here now and go, who's going to be held
17 accountable?

18 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

19 **MS. [S.M.]**: You know. And they work against
20 you, not for you. I'm surprised that I -- I've gotten this
21 far. And I'm tired, I'm really tired of fighting. I can't
22 do it anymore.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD**: M'hm.

24 **MS. [S.M.]**: And they really need to look at
25 that. You know, if -- if [Child and Family Agency 1] had

1 supported my mother 20 years ago.

2 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** Maybe she'd still be alive
4 today, but they didn't. They made it extremely difficult
5 for her, for myself, and I'm still standing here.

6 I've been kicked out of their office numerous
7 times. They said I need mental health, my addiction, blah,
8 blah -- I'm all worked up, I can't control this. There was
9 a reason why I was all worked up and really upset and it
10 was because I wasn't being heard.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm -- m'hm.

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because my stories or my -- my
13 reports wasn't valid for them. I didn't know what I was
14 talking about. I was overwhelmed with my visits, so they
15 took them away because my son was acting like this. And I
16 told them, "He's not acting like this because he's in my
17 care. He's acting like this because he feels comfortable
18 in my home. There's something wrong. Can you help me?"

19 No. They just made it worse. Took my visits
20 away and I had to just fight harder.

21 At the end of the day I'm still sitting here
22 except my son is the one that struggling more than ever
23 now. Now, he's old enough to be charged. And he's
24 suicidal. And he struggles with mental health.

25 And, you know, still there's no change for

1 anything. I really hope that my story is taken serious.
2 And I hope that whoever is listening looks -- looks at the
3 source and looks at the overall picture, instead of taking
4 away services that you could put them in place, or our
5 children are going to keep dying, and our mothers and
6 sisters and daughters are keep -- aren't going to keep
7 getting raped, abused, and tortured. And people are just
8 going to continue to get away with it.

9 I really hope we can have change. And I
10 really hope that I didn't just waste my time, bring up all
11 my feelings and --

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yeah. I -- I do have one
13 question in regards to your mother's death. Was there a
14 police investigation?

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** I believe so.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And what was the outcome
17 and the police department? Was it VPD?

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** Yeah. I don't really know. I -
19 - I was 18 at the time.

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** They might have just called it
22 an overdose and called it a day.

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

24 **MS. [S.M.]:** Who knows? I'll never really
25 know what happened.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Have you ever asked for
2 her files, or asked to have access to...

3 **MS. [S.M.]:** I've been really closed off with
4 this.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** It wasn't 'til a year ago that I
7 decided to put her on the list.

8 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

9 **MS. [S.M.]:** It's taken me a long time to
10 accept the fact that my mother is dead.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Of course.

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** Somebody murdered her. Whoever
13 gave her those drugs and it's why I made many changes in my
14 life today. I don't sell drugs anymore.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]:** Living off the misery of others.
17 I think the police just -- yeah, they just called it an
18 overdose and one less person to worry about.

19 You know, I don't know if you know [D.D.].

20 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Yes.

21 **MS. [S.M.]:** [*Identifying information*
22 *redacted - one line*].

23 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

24 **MS. [S.M.]:** And --

25 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** He's a police officer.

1 MS. [S.M.]: He was.

2 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

3 MS. [S.M.]: He's a retired police officer.

4 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

5 MS. [S.M.]: He's the one that told the
6 police that these women are missing.

7 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: Okay.

8 MS. [S.M.]: And he made the list.

9 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

10 MS. [S.M.]: And he retired because he
11 betrayed the Vancouver Police Department.

12 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

13 MS. [S.M.]: And the
14 corruption --

15 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

16 MS. [S.M.]: -- that was going on there. And
17 I remember I got picked up one time by a police officer --

18 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

19 MS. [S.M.]: -- and he put a gun to my head
20 and said if I didn't give him a blow job he would take me
21 to jail.

22 MS. TERRIEA WADUD: M'hm.

23 MS. [S.M.]: There's a lot of corruption in
24 the Vancouver Police Department and they get away with it
25 because they have badge. Or I've been -- I've been beaten

1 by the police and then charged with assault on a police
2 officer because after they dropped me down a flight of
3 stairs in handcuffs in front of two of my children.

4 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

5 **MS. [S.M.]:** Because of a family -- it was my
6 grandfather's funeral, la da da, they handcuffed me and
7 dropped me down a flight of stairs and I started bleeding
8 from my face and I was panicking and I spit in his face
9 because nobody else was wiping the blood out of my face.
10 So they said that I spit in his face and I was charged with
11 assaulting a police officer through the RCMP.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

13 **MS. [S.M.]:** And they -- they -- they came to
14 court and they lied under oath. And at the hospital as
15 they it -- first they tried taking me to the police
16 station, put one of them said, "You can't bring her here
17 looking like that. So they had to take me to the
18 hospital."

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** They -- they laughed at me.
21 They stomped on -- they stepped on me and assaulted me and
22 I was the one that was charged. The whole world is fucking
23 corrupt, the police, the Ministry of Children and Families.
24 It's been really hard to keep moving forward and trusting
25 people.

1 You know, [D.D] gave me a photo of my mom
2 when she was about 18 years old.

3 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So he knew your mother?

4 **MS. [S.M.]:** Very well.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay, m'hm. That's very
6 special.

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** And -- and he also supported me
8 during the -- the Frank Kim trial. I don't know if you --
9 maybe you can google him. He -- ten days before I had my
10 baby I was almost on -- in court, and he was his own lawyer
11 and he had put a gun to my head and raped me multiple times
12 and I was really young and [D.D] helped me get through it.
13 And there was multiple children that were involved, and I
14 just -- just had it. I just -- I couldn't let this piece
15 of shit hurt me anymore. And -- I -- I told police, and he
16 was charged with -- I can't remember, but he's never
17 getting out of jail, a dangerous offender.

18 And, you know, he might be in jail, but I
19 still live in fear all the time because he's got money and
20 I know if somebody put me in jail for the rest of my life I
21 would make it my life's goal to hurt that person. And I'm
22 the one that put him there.

23 And I know he's locked up and he can't have
24 access to computers and blah -- blah -- blah, but I -- you
25 know, I have to live in fear because I spoke up and put him

1 in jail, it's scary. I don't -- I don't know -- yeah, he
2 was a pretty crazy man too, like, the things he had done to
3 us.

4 [D.D] was really supportive. He was really
5 supportive and I was really young when -- I think I was
6 actually the oldest of the group, I was like 16, but
7 there's five or six of us kids and the things that this guy
8 did to us was horrifying and -- yeah.

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** And yet you --

10 **MS. [S.M.]:** I'm all over the place.

11 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** That's okay. And yet
12 you went to court and testified against him, like,
13 that's...

14 **MS. [S.M.]:** And they put him in jail for the
15 rest of his life.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Wow. That takes
17 incredible strength.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** And he sat there and he tried to
19 tell the Court, "Did you or did you not try to stab me?"

20 And -- and it's like he's so lucky that I
21 missed. You know. Yeah, you know, I managed to get out of
22 his house through a bathroom window, and the police had
23 seen me running down the street.

24 This guy was -- he was -- he was really sick.
25 He would read the Bible to us in his underwear and tell us

1 that he was God and that we were, you know, nothing and we
2 were drug addicts and slaves to the drugs. And he would
3 have sex with me for hours, and I let it happen because I
4 needed more crack.

5 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** It's 11:53. You -- you
6 had mentioned that you need to get to your --

7 **MS. [S.M.]:** Yeah, (indiscernible) and, I
8 don't know, I think the police are corrupt. The RCMP are
9 corrupt. It's hard to go turn to people that are supposed
10 to be there to help you. Instead, you know, I've had
11 experiences with police lying to protect themselves.

12 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

13 **MS. [S.M.]:** Charging me with assault on
14 them.

15 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

16 **MS. [S.M.]:** I've had them take advantage of
17 my body and they need to look into that too because, you
18 know, it's hard to turn to somebody that you trust.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** When they've taken all that
21 trust away. Yeah. All over the place here.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** M'hm, that's okay.
23 You've done an amazing -- amazing job. Does that feel
24 complete for you today?

25 **MS. [S.M.]:** Yeah -- yeah.

1 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** Okay. I just want to
2 thank you again, [S.M.]. It's been an absolute honour
3 holding space for your story and to hear about your special
4 relationship with your mother and how she lives through you
5 in such incredible strength.

6 **MS. [S.M.]:** I should have brought a picture
7 of her. I just I've got so much going on in my personal
8 life that...

9 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** There's still an
10 opportunity to scan the picture even and send to us for --
11 for your file.

12 **MS. [S.M.]:** Okay.

13 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** If that's something you
14 want to do.

15 **MS. [S.M.]:** Sure.

16 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** I would love to have a
17 picture.

18 **MS. [S.M.]:** She was a very beautiful person.

19 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** I hear that.

20 **MS. [S.M.]:** And she would never hurt
21 anybody, except for herself.

22 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** I hear that.

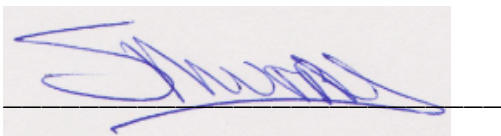
23 **MS. [S.M.]:** But thanks.

24 **MS. TERRIEA WADUD:** So the time is now 11:55
25 a.m. and we are finishing up with [S.M.]'s statement.

1 --- Upon adjourning at 11:55 a.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Shannon Munro

September 9, 2018