

Video 5.3 I'd like to suggest that safe sport is not just one fight, but part of a long intersectional struggle for better sport. I derive two lessons from this. In the first place it should give us confidence that we are part of a long historical process to bring about better, safer, more inclusive sport and we can draw from the efforts of others. And secondly, it reminds us that that our struggle for safe sport must be fought alongside struggles for access in other ways and to support and to gain allies from those other struggles. The second major argument I want to make is that there are no guarantees that this long these long processes will in fact bring about the results we want when we want them. On the other hand, and this is encouraging, as Martin Luther King said: "The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice." And we have seen many important victories in Canadian sport; the creation of AthletesCAN, the creation of the SDRCC, gender equity policies across the board, and there are many other examples, but on the other hand specific struggles often prove unsuccessful and even decisive victories can be rolled back and we have to be concerned about that. Peter and I talked about the campaigns against abusive coaching that we've studied in Canadian and world sport... there were strong campaigns in the 1920's, there were strong campaigns in the 1970's, and yet overall, they made but a dent on the actual practice. Why were these campaigns reversed or silenced?