

FLAG is a web based project that is meant for mobiles. It acts as one reference that survivors can use to act upon a previous micro to macro-aggression. In the first place, the app provides resources for various communities. Secondly, the platform allows users to anonymously flag (report) a previous aggression. To submit a flag, the user minimally needs to enter a location and a/some flag(s), acting similarly to hashtags. Lastly, the project acts as a database for these reports that is able to be visualized by detentors of a valid code. Flags are portrayed visually on a map and by list. The whole project is structured and style by HTML/CSS. The animations and computations are written in JavaScript (JQuery and other libraries). The form data is submitted, processed and stored in a database with PHP through AJAX.

“Because of the anonymity and the personalization, the objective is to create an inclusive and safe environment that is meant to identify patterns of aggression in individuals/spaces/locations and to, hopefully, prevent future incidents.”

By accessing the platform, the user is directed to the homepage. This one contains a brief of the project, direct links to other pages, land acknowledgement and different references to emergency services, professional and immediate help and links to informative websites. It also provides a contact email address to get in touch with me. To access this page, the user can always touch the **FLAG** link at the top-left of the mobile screen.

FLAG



FLAG is a web-based project that allows users to anonymously flag or report an individual for a time-specific and/or ongoing aggression. Because the users can choose or create their own flags (acting in the same principle as tags), the reports can be specific and can encompass micro to macro aggressions.

FLAG



To add protection to the flaggers, the visualization of the flags is restricted to users detaining a valid code. The codes are for now distributed by mouth-to-ear, so to allow access to trusted individuals.

[Submit a FLAG](#)

[Access the Database](#)

FLAG

FLAG acknowledges that this platform's creation and maintenance is on the traditional island of Tiohtiá:ke (commonly known as Montreal), territory of The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. You can find more information on the stolen Lands and how to help decolonize at:

[Native Land](#)

[Reconciliation Canada](#)

[Quebec Native Women Inc.](#)

FLAG



Denouncing a traumatic experience on this platform event can be relieving and empowering. Yet, this platform should not be the only tool you refer yourself to. **Please go seek help from a professional.** Here is a list of some ressources based in Montreal:

24H EMERGENCY LINES

FLAG

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QUEBEC 24H HELP LINES

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre Helpline

[1 888 933-9007](tel:18889339007)

Suicide Action Montreal

[1 866 277-3553](tel:18662773553)

Aide aux Trans du Québec

[1 855.909-9038 #1](tel:18559099038)

Tel-Aide

[514.935-1101](tel:5149351101)

FLAG

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S.O.S Violence Conjugale

[1 800 363-9010](tel:18003639010)

Drugs: Help and Referral

[1 800 265-2626](tel:18002652626)

SUPPORT/INFORMATION

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre

Montreal LGBTQ+ Community Center

Quebec Native Women Inc.

Secretariat à la Condition Féminine

Quebec Native Women Inc.

FLAG

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Secretariat à la Condition Féminine

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any suggestion, comments or questions.

flag@example.com

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ABOUT

RESOURCES

SUBMIT

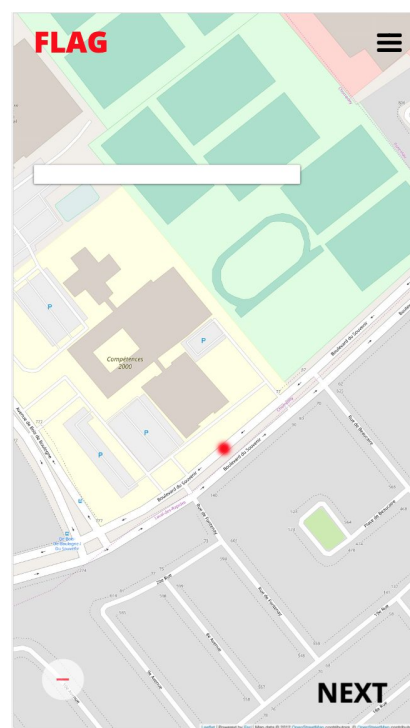
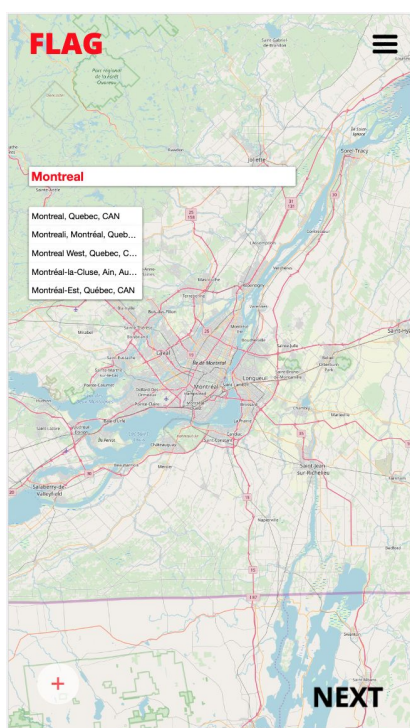
ACCESS

CONTACT

To go to other pages or to quickly access a section of the *home*, the user can always press on the menu icon at the top-right of the screen. This will append a minimalistic and clear overlay menu with the different sections of the tool.

When the user reaches the *submit* section, they are first directed to a map over Montreal and search box. The users can search for a city or a specific space in the search box, in or outside of Montreal. They also can zoom/unzoom and move the map the same way they would do it with other map platforms on mobile. When the user is satisfied with the map view, they can press on the **+** icon. This enables the marking of the map, which means that the next place they will press on the map will be marked by a small red feathered circle. This is meant to represent the location of the incident. If the user wishes to change the location of the marker, they can do so by pressing again on the previous icon (that is now **-**). The marker will be deleted and the user can repeat the adding process.

The map and its interactive features are provided by the **leaflet.js** library. It encompasses the map, the marking and latitudes/longitudes tools. For the search tool, the **Esri-Leaflet** library is also included for using ArcGIS services with leaflet. ArcGIS is a geographic information system maintained by Esri to work with maps. This is the tool that contains the different geolocalisation data needed to search for a location. The CSS has been modified to fit the platform's needs. Also, the add/delete option and animation is designed and implemented by me through jQuery/CSS.



Once satisfied with the marker's location, the user can press the **NEXT** button to access the next section. This one section is facultative, so can be filled entirely, partially or not at all, depending on the information known by the user. The form is created in HTML/CSS. When the user is in an input section, the label of this section animates (shrinks) to add some interaction. Upon submission, the user can also press **PREV** to go back to the previous section to view or modify the information.

FLAG	≡
INDIVIDUAL/GROUP	
Name(s)/Nickname(s): Unknown	
Age: _____	
Occupation: _____	
Physical Description: _____	
Where you met: _____	
PREC	NEXT

FLAG	≡
Occupation: _____	
Physical Description: _____	
Where you met: _____	
INCIDENT	
Date: jj/mm/aaaa _____	
Time: _____	
This is what happened: _____	
PREC	NEXT

The next section is the one including flags. The user can enter a flag, which is similar to a hashtag to tag the interaction. There is an autocomplete tool that allows the user to select a tag previously used by other users. These are **GET** from the flags table in the database. If the user's input is not already in the database, the user can still add the flag. When the user's input is complete, they can press on the **+** sign to append the tag. The flags that are appended are displayed in line as black boxes under the input section. The user can add as many flags desired. If the user wishes to remove an appended flag, they can do so by pressing on the **x** symbol inside the black bubbles.

FLAG

FLAG(S)

Enter a FLAG:

Inti

Intimidation

PREC **NEXT**

FLAG

FLAG(S)

Enter a FLAG:

Intimidation

Test

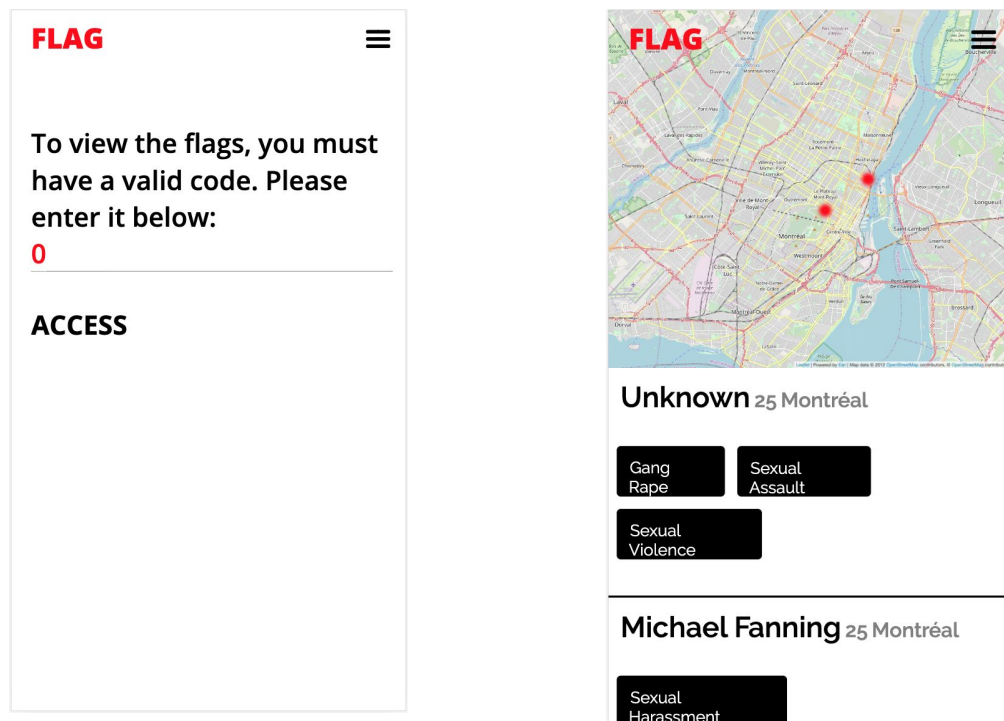
PREC **NEXT**

If the user presses **NEXT** again, a verification page appears. This is to warn the user that it is they're last chance to modify the information inputted before submitting. If the user decides to submit (**SUBMIT** button), the information about the submission is stored in the database. More precisely, the marker's location data (latitude, longitude and city) is inserted with AJAX/PHP in the **flagSubmission** table in the database. In the same table is stored any information (even if empty) inputted in the form section (name, age, occupation, physical description, where they met, date, time, story). Also, if the user created new flags (flags not already present in the database), they added to the **flags** table and will be available for the next users.

At submission, the user can read a validation message followed by a direct link to the homepage. At this point, the user is back to explore the platform freely. It is important to note that the user can also quit and come back to the submission section without losing the inputted information **before** submitting. This is due to the fact that, except for the access section (post valid code), the sections are from the same one php/html file.

If the user has a valid code, they can view all the submitted flags from the database. The access section debuts with a user prompt for a code. If the inputted code is valid, another php/html file is imported in a div of the current file. The imported PHP file contains the HTML structure and the PHP - database manipulations. The PHP file accesses the

database to import the different submissions in the **flagSubmission table**. There are two sections for visualization: the map and the posts. The map (leaflet) is the first half of the screen and contains all the marked locations. It is also possible to zoom/unzoom and move the map. Scrolling down, the flag submissions are listed from old to new. Only the name, age, city and flags are previewed for each.



The project achieved is a good starting base for my intention to make this platform a long-term one. To do that, there are lots of things I would like to improve and implement. The first main concern I need to address is the one of security. For the access codes, they first are distributed by mouth to ear. Also, I would implement a *request a code* option that would require the user to submit their facebook/instagram account to verify the profile of the user and to link it to the code provided. If the audience grows, then I would probably need the help other developers to monitor the project and secure the database. This is all to maintain the platform as a safe space. On the other hand, the geo-localization of the markers should be encompassing a bigger span than an exact latitude-longitude point. This is to also ensure that, on the other hand, there could be no aggression towards the persons flagged. For usability, the platform should also be translated into an application available on android and iphone. This would make more sense since the project is made for mobile devices. Another important aspect to implement before launching the app to the grand public is to add filters and manipulations that the user can make prior and

while viewing the flags. This would be done with the creation of a third table into the database, linking each flag to the posts. This would allow the users to filter the results not only by the information located in the **flagSubmission table** (location, name...) but also by flags. It is important that the user can choose what they wish to see and not see, to create a content warning and filtering. Also, in the future, I would like to let users create thread to talk with each other. Discussing anonymously could also be a good way to make people heal. Lastly, there should be more information about how to use the app at each stage. Hopefully, this could become a safe space for survivors to call out their abusers, even at the stage of micro aggression. All to observe paths in people and locations.