

# Welcome to our Learning Network & Knowledge Hub Webinar

## Understanding immigrant women's experiences and responses to intimate partner violence: looking beyond the 'cultural' framing

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, October 30, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:15 PM EST


- All attendees are muted during the webinar.
- If you are experiencing issues, please type into the chat box.
- If you have a question for the webinar speakers, please type into the Q&A box and we will spend 15 mins near the end on Questions and Answers.
- There will be an evaluation link in the chat box at the end of the webinar, please fill out the form as your feedback will guide our future webinars.
- Once you complete the evaluation form, you will be directed to a website where you will be prompted to enter your full name and email address. A certificate of attendance will be generated and emailed to you.
- The webinar recording will be posted on our website within the next few days:

<http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/ln-kh-webinars>



*Financial contribution from*

Public Health Agency of Canada    Agence de la santé publique du Canada



Understanding immigrant  
women's experiences and  
responses to intimate partner  
violence

Beyond the 'cultural' framing

# Focus

- Immigrant women's experiences of intimate partner violence post-migration and the numerous ways in which they are shaped by immigration policies in Canada
- The determinants of immigrant women's risk and vulnerability
- Barriers to help seeking and leaving abusive relationships
- Our role in advocating for immigrant women and their communities' issues in public and policy venues



# Introduction

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." (1)

**Intimate partner violence** refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

**Sexual violence** is "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object."

- [World report on violence and health](#)

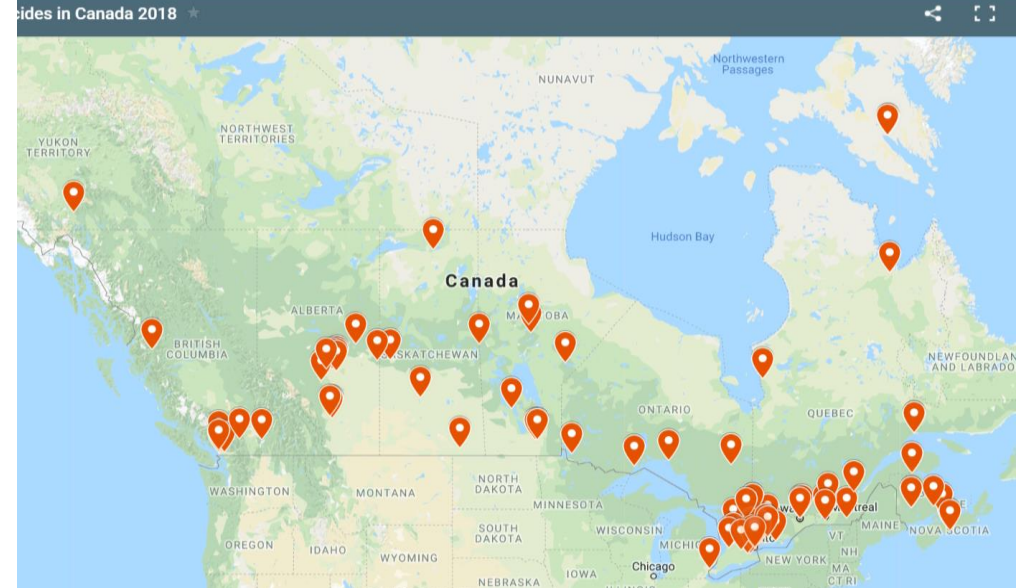




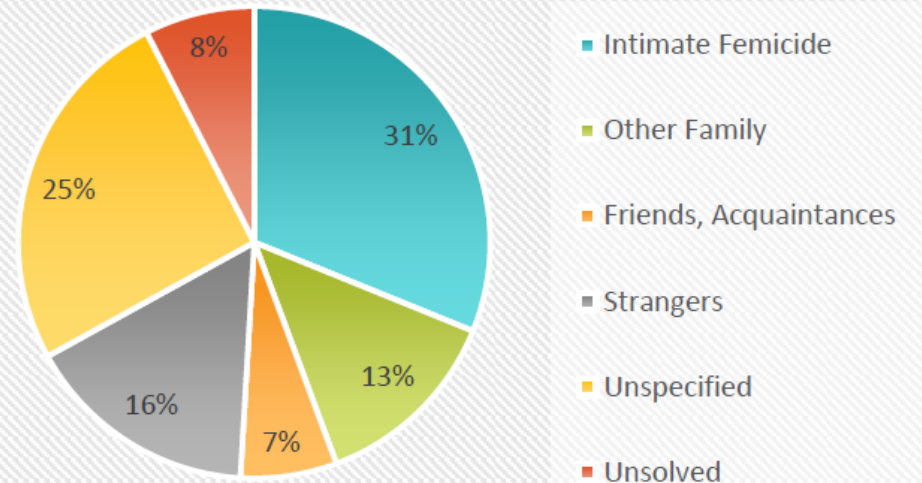
Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability

Observatoire canadien du féminicide pour la justice et la responsabilisation

## 106 Women and Girls Killed by Violence: Eight-Month Report by the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability



**Figure 3: Victim-Accused Relationship  
(N=106)**



# Immigrant women's experiences of intimate partner violence

**Table 2** Weighted analyses of any intimate partner violence (IPV), and severity of IPV reported by immigrant and Canadian-born women who were in contact with a current or former partner in the previous 5 years

	Immigrant		Canadian-born		p Value
	Weighted (N)	Per cent	Weighted (N)	Per cent	
Any IPV	256	17.5	1069	20.3	0.06
Type of IPV					
Emotional	225	15.3	961	18.2	0.04
Financial	53	3.6	240	4.5	0.18
Physical/sexual	75	5.1	362	6.9	0.04
Severity of IPV*					
Experienced 1 type of abuse	200	69.9	741	62.1	0.06
Experienced 2 or more types of abuse	86	30.1	453	38.0	

\*Among those reporting any IPV.

Du Mont J, Forte T. (2012). An exploratory study on the consequences and contextual factors of intimate partner violence among immigrant and Canadian-born women  
*BMJ Open* 2:e001728. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2012-001728

“ The consequences and implications of engaging in the immigration process are important when considering the risk and protective factors of domestic violence”  
(Wells, et al, p.12)

Wells, L., Abboud, R., & Claussen, C. (2012). Domestic violence in ethno-cultural communities: Risk and protective factors. Calgary, AB: The University of Calgary, Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence.

**ONE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE MIGRANT WORKER GROUPS ARE DOMESTIC WORKERS, WHO ARE OVERWHELMINGLY WOMEN**



MIGRANT WORKERS  
44.3% WOMEN



DOMESTIC WORKERS  
80.1% WOMEN



MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS  
73.4% WOMEN



**57 PER CENT**  
OF DOMESTIC  
WORKERS HAVE  
NO LIMITATIONS ON  
THEIR WORKING  
HOURS.

**WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE**

SHARE BY SECTOR



SERVICES  
61.5%



INDUSTRY  
13.5%



AGRICULTURE  
25%



**We need to empower women migrants.**



**Women send home a higher percentage of their earnings than men.**

**Yet women migrants often face more restrictive labour policies and employment customs than men.**



**Find out more:**  
<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-com>

**Source:** Report of the Secretary-General, *Making Migration Work for All*, 12 December 20

# Harnessing Knowledge on the Migration of Highly Skilled Women



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Under-utilized immigrant skills cost 11.4 billion CAD in 2006

Cost is twice as large for women (CAD 7.4 billion) compared to that for men (CAD 4 billion)

Reitz, J., J. Curtis and J. Elrick. (2014) Immigrant skill utilization: Trends and policy issues. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 15(1):1–26.





Canadian Council of Muslim Women  
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

## CCMW Position on Femicide (Not Honour Killing)

Position Paper | January 2012



“The Canadian Council of Muslim Women is strongly opposed to the use of the term ‘honour killing’ to describe the murder of women and girls”

CCMW, 2012

<http://ccmw.com/ccmw-resources/ccmw-position-papers/ccmw-position-on-femicide-not-honour-killing/>



# Putting an end to intimate partner violence.

At Interval House, we help women rebuild their lives after abuse.

[Donate Now](#)



## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN

Immigrant and refugee women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) face numerous barriers and challenges to disclosing and reporting abuse, accessing supports and services, and navigating intersecting legal processes and social support systems.<sup>1</sup>

*"Not all women are oppressed and/or subjugated in the same way or to the same extent, and violence against women and its impact are not borne equally by all groups of women."<sup>2</sup>*

It is essential to recognize that immigrant and refugee women hold *many intersecting identities* (e.g. sex, gender, education, religion). These intersections will greatly impact intimate partner violence, but also their experience of it (e.g. justice, housing). Women who are face structural violence by different systems (e.g. racism, sexism) may find it difficult to believe, accessing support, and finding safety.

### This issue on immigrant and refugee women will:

- Counter common misconceptions related to IPV
- Examine experiences

## Working with immigrant and refugee communities to prevent violence against women

June 2017

A guide to engage immigrant and refugee communities in violence prevention activities



MULTICULTURAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

## Immigration Policies and Immigrant Women's Vulnerability to Intimate Partner Violence in Canada

Vathsala Jayasuriya-Illesinghe

## RACE, GENDERED VIOLENCE, and the RIGHTS of WOMEN WITH PRECARIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS

November 2017

This resource was created by Deepa Mattoo as is part of the Community Leadership in Justice Fellowship of Law Foundation of Ontario at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. This residential fellowship is in community partnership with the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic and the Rights of Non-Status Women's Network.

ONLINE FIRST

national integration



## Domestic Violence in Ethno-Cultural Communities: Risk and Protective Factors



Narratives throughout this issue



# Thank You

*If any information presented today caused you distress, please connect with someone.*

*Consider a friend, colleague, supervisor or a distress line.*

*Information about distress lines in your area is available at Your Life Counts – [www.yourlifecounts.org](http://www.yourlifecounts.org)*

*Ou [Ressources – Aide, support et références au Québec](#)*