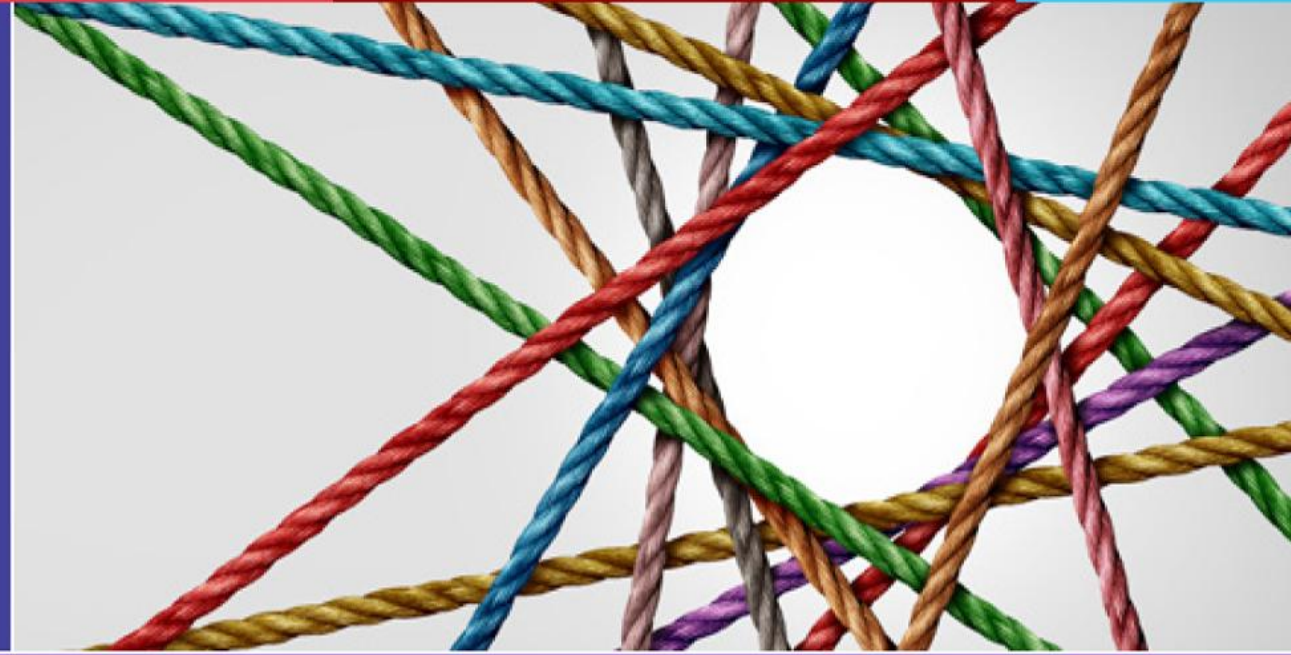


Gender-Based Violence Settlement Sector Strategy

Building Capacity & Collaboration



What is Gender-Based Violence?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is defined as violence that is committed against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. In this report, we use GBV as a broad-based term that includes distinct patterns and forms of violence, including sexual violence, violence against women, family violence, intimate partner violence, violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, and human trafficking.

Gender-based violence knows no bounds.

It takes place in every community, every culture and every sector of society - it crosses all socio-economic backgrounds, races, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and occupations. GBV affects everyone. Newcomers and refugees continue to experience structural barriers to accessing supports.

Why is a GBV Settlement Sector Strategy needed?

Gender-based violence is not unique to any community but rather affects all communities. Diverse newcomer, immigrant, and refugee communities in Canada represent an underserved population when it comes to GBV awareness and supports. Capacity building in these areas will enhance culturally responsive interactions and reduce the risks and effects of violence for newcomers and refugees who continue to experience structural barriers.



Strategy Purpose

This strategy sets out priorities and activities for responding to GBV for newcomers and refugees by building the capacity of service providers in both the settlement and anti-violence sectors.



Working Together Across Sectors

Service providers who engage with diverse communities are often the first point of contact so it is essential to have culturally responsive knowledge and skills to be able to effectively support clients. Collaboration is key as it fosters collective ownership of the process, more and better information sharing, conversations and relationship building. Working together in partnership increases our ability to serve individuals and families experiencing violence.

Strategic Priorities

While there is much work to be done to prevent GBV, this strategy focuses on five key priorities for the settlement sector in collaboration with the anti-violence sector in Canada.

1.

Increase access to accurate, clear, and consistent information and resources for newcomers, immigrants and refugees about GBV

2.

Challenge victim-blaming attitudes and beliefs

3.

Enhance client-centred services that recognize the intersectional needs and experiences of newcomers, immigrants and refugees

4.

Establish a common base of knowledge that service providers can use to increase skills, improve competencies, and incorporate best practices for responding to GBV

5.

Engage men and boys in GBV awareness, education and allyship strategies



Our Support

The priorities are supported by our needs assessment research, where we consulted with stakeholders across the country. Our project partners worked collaboratively to identify goals and strategic actions to support each priority, followed by consultations with GBV experts across Canada to finalize the strategy.



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