

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

GBV IN FOCUS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

Welcome to our Newsletter #11. Here you can find updates about the GBV-MIG project (p. 1), the most recent news on women migrants and refugees from around the world (p. 2), and news from our community and across Canada (p. 3).

Subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with our project findings, reflections and news; learn about our research team members and their work, and find resources about Gender-Based Violence and migrants /refugees



NEWS ABOUT THE PROJECT

Violence against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Response takes an intersectional approach and analyzes how discriminations and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and age interact to make certain women more vulnerable to GBV and less able to access support and services for survivors than others. In September, the GBV-MIG Team presented two panels at the International Metropolis Conference in Berlin focusing on *Policy responses to gender-based violence in the context of migration* and on *Women's experiences of and resistance to gender-based violence in the context of migration*. We have completed the interview phase with survivors and frontline workers and are currently coding and analyzing these interviews. We also are enthusiastic about sharing two additional sets of relevant data which have become available to the GBV-MIG project for secondary analysis. One is on *Yazidi Women in Canada*, and the second is from the *Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP)*.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

NEW RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

We are thrilled to welcome two new Research Associates members to our team. Dr. Devjani Sen, joining us from Ottawa, supports us with the data coding and analysis. Dr. Shiva Nourpanah will support us with knowledge mobilization.



Dr. Devjani Sen

To know more, please visit our [website](#).

GBV-MIG Canada is now on Twitter! If you are on Twitter too, please consider following us, and if you would like us to share something, do not hesitate to let us know! Our Twitter handle is: [@GBV_MIGCanada](#)

FEMICIDE IN CANADA



FEMICIDE-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

Dr. Myrna Dawson wrote an article for [The Conversation](#) titled "[Canada's shadow pandemic: Femicide.](#)" Dawson calls attention to a request to the federal government to add femicide to the *Criminal Code of Canada* that the London Police Services Board is preparing. Several other organizations and individuals are in support of this initiative, calling on the federal government to recognize femicide as a distinct crime.



THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

In 40 years, Canada has seen almost daily killings of women and girls. High-profile cases across Canada have made it challenging to avoid the topic of violence against women and girls in the news. A "shadow pandemic" of violence against women and girls was made more evident than before as COVID-19 restrictions exacerbated violence against women and children. This situation followed the 2019 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report calling for justice to address this grave travesty of injustice ([Dawson, 2022](#)).

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

IDENTIFYING FEMICIDE

According to Dawson, bringing to public knowledge violence against women and girls is fundamental to identifying, comprehending and ultimately preventing and eradicating femicide.

The Latin American Model Protocol and the Inter-American Model Law are two key pieces of legislation that can serve as models through which it is possible to identify the context and circumstances in which femicide occurs.

Femicide has its origins in sex discrimination and patriarchal notions that often overlap with other identities such as race, religion, sexuality and ability. Women killed by their intimate partner is one of the most common contexts identified. As a result, there is often an "intimacy discount," a downplaying of the act in courts. Another frequent circumstance is when victims have suffered repeated physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence.

Other countries, moving beyond these ideas, capture other expressions of unequal power relations or inequalities that contribute to femicide, such as when the victim refuses to have a relationship; the victim is involved in human trafficking; when there is evidence of hatred of women; sexual coercion or harassment; the victim is pregnant; and contexts of humiliating, degrading injuries or mutilation ([Dawson, 2022](#)).





WORLD NEWS ON WOMEN, GBV, AND MIGRATION

Photo YASIN AKGUL/AFP or licensors



Iran Revolution, “Woman, Life, Freedom!”

Protests by Iranian women and girls were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody on September 16. Morality police detained her on September 13 after being accused of violating the country's conservative dress code. For over three weeks, widespread protests have rocked the country. State media says 40 people have died since the start of demonstrations mid-September. Human Rights group Amnesty International says at least 52 have been killed. Over 1,000 people, including journalists and artists, are believed to have been detained. The numbers are not officially confirmed.

Iran's protests are the first Counter-Revolution run by women in the country. The rallying cry 'Woman, Life, Freedom' has become popular, and videos and photos were shared worldwide to show the extent and fury of the protests. They seem intent on exposing the weaknesses of a clerical regime extensively accused of corruption, arbitrary detentions and even mass executions.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



Photo Getty Images

War in Ukraine

The UN has released a [new policy document](#) on the devastating impacts of the war in Ukraine on women and girls. It's been more than seven months since Russia attacked Ukraine, generating internal displacement of almost 7.7 million people, and nearly 7.3

million fled the country, most of them women and children. Ukraine has seen alarming increases in gender-based violence, transactional sex for food and survival, sex exploitation and trafficking, and early child and forced marriage.

The impact is not just in Ukraine, as the report highlights that the global implications for food, energy and finance disproportionately affect women and girls worldwide. Rising prices for food and gas and food shortages due to the war widened the gender inequality gap.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

Venezuelan women face increasing GBV

Over six million people have fled Venezuela in recent years because of massive human rights violations. Colombia and Peru received more than 50% of all those who fled Venezuela together.

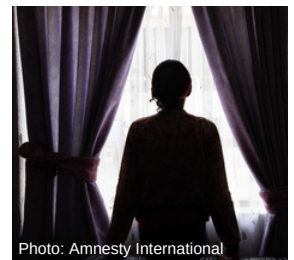


Photo: Amnesty International

Venezuelan refugee women face violence and discrimination in all aspects of their lives in Peru and Colombia because of their gender and nationality. They face attacks, economic, patrimonial, physical, and sexual violence, labour exploitation, and sexual exploitation (Amnesty International).

The Colombian and Peruvian states are largely absent when it comes to guaranteeing, protecting and respecting the right to a life free from violence and discrimination for Venezuelan refugee women.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



Photo UNICEF

Pakistan's floods

In August, devastating conditions were triggered by heavy monsoon rains that have killed more than 1,500 people and left close to 8 million displaced. Nearly 600,000 people live in relief sites as many parts of the country remain underwater, especially in the southern Sindh province.

Additionally, Pakistan is home to some 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees, an estimated 800,000 of whom are hosted in more than 45 'calamity hit' districts out of 80 affected locations.

As schools were destroyed and families displaced, children are not having access to education. Also, the healthcare system is in crisis, further aggravating the situation, especially for children and women.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

CANADA & COMMUNITY NEWS

FUNDING SUPPORT TO ADDRESS GBV

In May, the Government of Canada announced funding support for *Fédération des Communautés Culturelles de l'Estrie*, Sherbrooke, Quebec. The project aims to reduce violence experienced by immigrant women and girls by developing and implementing a collaborative, intersectional support strategy for them.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

GETTING SAFE IN CANADA WHEN LGBT+

Vancouver Council candidate Morgane Oger, a trans mom of two, always advocates for the inclusion of everyone in society, especially those who do not conform to traditional sexual orientations and gender identities. Oger released a guide for people fleeing persecution worldwide because they are lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans. In the guide, Oger identifies four "legal ways" to get into Canada, and she explains how.

[TO ACCESS THE GUIDE, SEE HERE](#)

CERC MIGRATION PANEL ON FEMINIST PROTESTS IN IRAN

A panel titled "*Iran feminist protests: Transnational connections and solidarities*" was delivered on October 11 by CERC Migration (The Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration). They discussed the potential for transnational solidarities and connections emerging between various migrant, diasporic and transnational communities mobilized by the figure of Mahsa Amini.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



SECULARISM LAW IN QUEBEC

A new survey has found that religious minorities in Quebec feel less safe, less accepted and less hopeful since the province passed its secularism law (Bill 21) three years ago. Muslim women reported more significant impacts. Within this group, over 70 percent said they felt less safe, and over 80 percent said they felt less hopeful for the next generation.

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

IMMIGRANTS DETAINEES IN PROVINCIAL JAILS

Nova Scotia is joining British Columbia and has given Ottawa 12 months' notice to cancel its immigration detention agreement with the Canada Border Services Agency.

Nova Scotia's decision is an important step forward for the human rights of refugees. It is a victory for refugee advocates and their call on the federal government to enact robust legislative and regulatory changes to stop rights violations across the country.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

CONTACT US



<https://smu.ca/gendernet/welcome.html>



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