

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

GBV IN FOCUS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

Happy 2023! Welcome to our Newsletter #12.

Here you can find updates about the GBV-MIG project (p. 1), news on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (p. 2), and national and international news on women and migration (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 OUR 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. The project is currently continuing with coding and preliminary analysis of the migrant and refugee women GBV survivors' interviews.

For more information

VISIT US



OCTOBER

The international team developed a [Short Policy Brief for responses to gender-based violence in the context of migration](#).

Dr. Catherine Holtmann presented a poster from our project at the [Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research \(MMFC\) "Research Day"](#).

Dr. Evie Tastsoglou gave a presentation at the [Gender-Net Plus International Workshop](#) in Paris.

The GBV-MIG Team presented at the [26th Biennial Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Conference](#). Our team policy poster was also displayed in a poster session at the same conference.

[The Halifax Examiner](#) interviewed Dr. Evie Tastsoglou on our project.

The GBV-MIG Canada Team produced one more [brochure on Policy Responses to GBV and Migration](#).

Dr. Lori Wilkinson gave a presentation on our project at the [Metropolis Americas conference](#) in Tijuana, Mexico.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is a global campaign that begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on December 10, Human Rights Day.

The 2022 theme was “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls,” and it encourages everyone to take action to end violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. The campaign shows support and solidarity for women’s rights activists and resisting the rollback of women’s rights.

In Canada, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is observed during the 16 Days to honour the victims of the Polytechnique Montréal tragic mass shooting of December 6, 1989.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



Supporting gender equality by addressing barriers to employment

The Canadian government has announced plans to renew up to \$5.8 million in funding until 2025 for ten projects related to the Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot, which is part of the country's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. IRCC’s Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot provides targeted employment-related settlement services, such as job placements, mentorships, and counselling, to help racialized newcomer women find employment and advance in their careers in Canada. It supports organizations that address barriers faced by these women, including gender- and race-based discrimination, unstable employment, and lack of affordable childcare.

New WAGE Funding programs for women and gender equality

Canada released funding for programs to address systemic barriers to women's equality and violence against women. One of them, the Gender-Based Violence Program aims to support organizations working in the GBV sector in developing and implementing promising practices to address gaps in support for Indigenous and underserved groups of survivors in Canada. Organizations can apply for funding through targeted calls for proposals or a continuous intake process.

To find more information, [please visit here.](#)

Quick facts

✦ Racialized newcomer women have the lowest median annual income of all newcomer groups at \$26,624, compared to non-racialized newcomer women (\$30,074), racialized newcomer men (\$35,574), and non-racialized newcomer men (\$42,591).

✦ The unemployment rate of racialized newcomer women (9.7%) is higher than that of racialized (8.5%) and non-racialized (6.4%) newcomer men, based on the 2016 Census.

✦ The pandemic greatly worsened pre-existing obstacles in the job market for racialized women who recently immigrated and created additional difficulties for them. Data from the Labour Force Survey between January and June 2021 reveals a significant disparity in unemployment between immigrant women (15.2%) and Canadian-born women (8.0%).



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

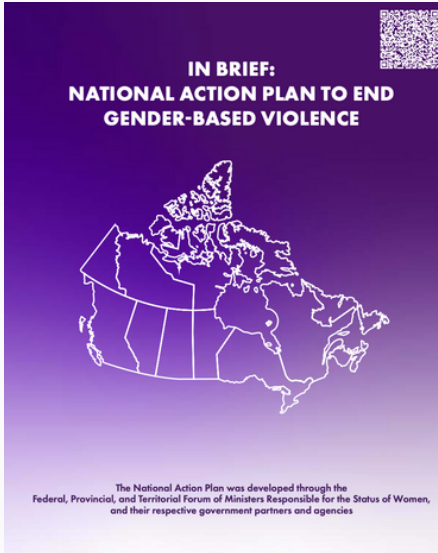
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END GBV

On November 9, 2022, Canada released [the 10-year National Action Plan \(NAP\) to end GBV](#). According to the Government of Canada, the vision for the NAP is a Canada free of gender-based violence that supports victims, survivors, and their families, no matter where they live. This plan is based on five pillars as follows:

- 1 – Support for victims, survivors, and their families
- 2 – Prevention
- 3 – Responsive justice system
- 4 – Implementing Indigenous-led approaches
- 5 – Social infrastructure and enabling environment.

Women's Shelter Canada, a national advocacy organization that previously developed the [Roadmap for the National Action Plan on GBV](#), positively highlights the document's intersectional approach. However, they remain critical of the limited national-level actions. They are also concerned that key recommendations are missing, with limited focus on systemic change, including law and policy reform related to immigration and refugees, no mention of meaningful accountability and independent oversight, and a lack of commitment to sustained and escalating investment.

While it is recognized that this framework will make considerable progress for survivors, it is fundamental to ensure that systemic issues are addressed at a systemic level with national-level actions. The hope is to build sustainable systemic changes needed in the long term to prevent and end GBV.



[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

RESPONSES FROM WHO TO GBV ON THE ONGOING REFUGEE CRISIS IN MOLDOVA

Women and girls fleeing Ukraine lack access to quality GBV services, reproductive and sexual health care and psychosocial support. Moldova, one of the neighbouring countries that have received Ukrainian refugees since February 2022, already had a high prevalence of GBV. To tackle the lack of quality services and provide better support to survivors, the World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the Government of Canada, plans to train healthcare providers in the Republic of Moldova's border regions on GBV response. The training will provide practical guidance for health workers, with a focus on identifying signs of GBV, communicating with survivors with empathy, offering initial psychosocial support and referral pathways, and providing quality clinical care for survivors.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



UN EXPELS IRAN FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS BODY

After months of protests following the death of Mahsa Amini and the harsh measures by the Iranian government, Iran has been removed from the United Nations (UN) women's body. The United States has pushed this move as the Iranian government continues to repress protests across the country.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

NETFLIX BIODRAMA DRAWS ATTENTION TO REAL-LIFE REFUGEE-TURNED-OLYMPIAN

In late November, Netflix released a biographical drama on Yusra and Sara Mardini, two refugees from Syria's civil war in 2015. All their bravery propelled Yusra to compete in two Olympic games. The Swimmers give voice to all refugees as they show their dignity, resilience, and great potential. The Swimmers is a step towards the perception shift of refugees. Yusra was confident that the biodrama would help educate people on the potential and value of all refugees, reminding them "we have to treat everyone the same."

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

