

# IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

## GBV IN FOCUS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 • ISSUE 13

### WELCOME

Welcome to our Newsletter #13.  
Find out here what we present in this edition:

<a href="#"><u>News about our project</u></a>	01
<a href="#"><u>Team activities</u></a>	01
<a href="#"><u>Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes</u></a>	02
<a href="#"><u>National and International News</u></a>	03



### 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 continues with coding and preliminary analysis of the migrant and refugee women GBV survivors' interviews.

Evie Tastsoglou gave a presentation on "Violence Against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Response" to the Metro Interagency Committee on Restorative Conversations and Family Violence in February 2023 and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Reimagining Peace and Peace-Building in Relation to Gender and Security" in the Research Network Women, Peace and Security Symposium in Halifax, on March 9, 2023.

**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.

### TEAM ACTIVITIES

#### New Books

[The MMFC](#) at the University of New Brunswick is pleased to announce the publication of [Ending Gender-Based Violence: Harnessing Research for Social Change](#) by Captus Press Inc. Cathy Holtmann, our co-investigator, is one of the editors, with Sue O'Donnell and Linda Neilson. The book presents some of the most recent research findings on gender-based violence in three content areas: (1) foundational issues related to GBV research and methods of inquiry; (2) GBV interventions; and (3) perspectives on how systems and institutional structures influence GBV experiences, responses, and resolutions.

We are also thrilled to announce the forthcoming book "[The Routledge International Handbook of Femicide and Femicide](#)," edited by Myrna Dowson, our research co-investigator, and Saide Mobayed Vega. This handbook provides an in-depth exploration of femicide and femicide in Canada and worldwide.

#### New Chapter

Evie Tastsoglou and Lori Wilkinson's new chapter, "Gender-Based Violence and Citizenship in a Migration Context," will be available soon in the [Research Handbook on Intersectionality](#), edited by Mary Romero and Reshawna Chapple. Stay tuned!



# THE IMPACTS OF THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKES ON WOMEN AND REFUGEES



Two powerful earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.5 struck southeastern Türkiye and Northern Syria on February 6, 2023, causing extensive damage to homes and infrastructure and claiming thousands of lives. 13 days later, two more earthquakes hit the same region with magnitudes of 6.4 and 5.8, further aggravating the situation. The affected region in Türkiye has a population of 15 million people, including 1.7 million Syrian refugees. Specifically, Gaziantep, a city in southern Turkey with a large Syrian refugee population, has been hit hard by the recent earthquake, bringing back traumatic memories of war and displacement. Refugees who thought they had found safety in the city are now grappling with the aftermath of the disaster. Many have fled the city, and those who remain are struggling to find shelter and support amidst the ongoing aftershocks. The traumatic experience will have long-lasting effects on many who have already endured so much. The earthquakes have exacerbated the already fragile situation in Syria, compounding the largest refugee crisis of our time. The earthquakes have left as many as 5.3 million people homeless in Syria, including many refugees who have already struggled to find safe homes in Turkey. The impact on children is particularly significant, with schooling disrupted and many forced into child labour or child marriage. Humanitarian teams are on-site, but access is challenging due to earthquake damage. Canadians are encouraged to support survivors, especially children, who are most vulnerable to the crisis.

READ MORE: [UNHCR | World Vision](#)

## Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women need help

Over 226,000 pregnant women in Turkey and 130,000 in Syria urgently need access to reproductive healthcare after the earthquakes that hit Turkey. Many have lost their homes and possessions, friends and family, and are struggling to access health care and basic necessities.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

## She escaped war-torn Syria, then Turkey's earthquake

Zahra Alshwikkh, a Syrian refugee living in Turkey, has been waiting for her travel documents from the Canadian government since July 2022. She narrowly escaped death twice, fleeing war-torn Syria and surviving the recent earthquake in Turkey. Human rights groups are calling on the Canadian government to act urgently and fast-track refugee applications.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

✦ [Sign the petition created by the Turkish Society of Nova Scotia.](#)

They are calling on the Federal government to ease and expedite the family reunification application for people affected by the earthquake disaster in Türkiye

✦ [Support Kirkayak](#)

Kirkayak is an organization in Gaziantep that delivers aid to refugees and ethnic minority groups affected by the earthquake in Turkey.

✦ [Donate](#)

[Red Cross of Canada](#)

[The Turkish Society of NS](#)

[Ummah Mosque and Community Center in Halifax](#)

[Molham Volunteering Team](#)

# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

The global theme for International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March 2023 is "[DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.](#)" Women human rights defenders and feminist movements are using digital technology to mobilize and bring about social change, such as the repeal of near-total bans on abortion in Colombia and Ireland and protests against fundamentalism in Sudan. However, women and girls still face gender-based violence, misogynistic attacks, and digital exclusion.

Despite efforts, the IWD 2023 was marked by gender-based violence, including transphobia. Amidst this scenario, the [honourable Prime Minister Trudeau Twitted](#) how disturbing the rise in anti-transgender hate in Canada and worldwide was and highlighted that "Trans women are women." OCASI (Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants) also stated how the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the deeply-rooted inequalities in our society, particularly for Indigenous, Black, and racialized women, refugees, migrants, and women without immigration status. They emphasized that despite calls for systemic change, society appears to return to business as usual. The fight for economic and social justice began with women workers, and this struggle continues today. Women, trans, and non-binary individuals are at the highest risk for gender-based violence. Indigenous, Black, and racialized women are over-policed, over-represented in the criminal justice system, and have poor life outcomes. Women are disproportionately targeted by anti-Muslim and anti-trans hate. Borders often deny refugee and migrant women the right to asylum and safety. Women at the intersections of identity experience the highest levels of violence, poor health, poverty, and gender wage gaps.

For OCASI, collective action is necessary for gender, racial, and migrant justice. Governments must deliver on promises of gender equity and provide safe housing, healthcare, and services for all women, regardless of immigration status. Canada's government must implement an inclusive immigration status regularization program that does not leave any woman behind.

### [FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

### WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE STILL SUFFERING IMMENSE HARDSHIP AS THE WAR IN UKRAINE PASSES ONE YEAR MARK

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its second year, millions of women, girls, and young people are suffering severe disruptions in livelihood opportunities and essential services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare. UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, has warned of the continuing devastating impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war on women and girls. Attacks on hospitals, roads, and energy infrastructure have caused widespread blackouts and disrupted essential services, putting thousands of pregnant women in added danger. The war and the mass displacement have also increased women and girls' risks of violence, including sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse. GBV is pervasive but underreported.

#### [FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



### INCREASED FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS IN NS

Nova Scotia Government has announced that it will allocate \$8 million to support organizations that assist women who have experienced gender-based violence. This funding will help these organizations address the growing service demand and manage the rising operations costs.

#### [FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

### INCREASE IN ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Asylum seekers from Roxham Road (Quebec) are being redirected to Nova Scotia, resulting in an unprecedented influx of refugees in the province. The number of refugees expected in the future is uncertain as decisions are being made on a weekly basis.

#### [FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

### GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS PROJECT TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS ABUSE IN THE ATLANTIC

The Government of Canada has announced \$598,272 of funding to the University of New Brunswick to support women in midlife and older from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island who experience intimate partner violence. The project aims to adapt and test the effectiveness of an advocacy intervention program to support survivors of family and gender-based violence. The funding comes at a critical time when the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk of elder abuse due to social isolation and mental health challenges. Older adult abuse is associated with severe health consequences and is expected to increase over the next two decades as the population ages.

#### [FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



GET IN TOUCH WITH US



**CAMILA REIS**  
EDITOR  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY