

**EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP
To the Canadian Team**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Violence Against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analysing Causes and Effective Policy Response is a 3 year, collaborative project, supported by funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the GENDER-NET Plus initiative (GENDER-NET Plus ERA-Net Cofund: Promoting Gender Equality in H2020 and the ERA <http://gender-net-plus.eu/>).

This major research project will be undertaken across Canada, Israel, France, Austria, Ireland, Turkey, and Norway. The Canadian research program will be carried out by an academic team of researchers from four institutions: Saint Mary's University, University of New Brunswick, University of Guelph, and University of Manitoba. The Expert Advisory Group will be composed of leading service providers, policy makers, community leaders, and activists with an expertise in gender and migration and/or gender-based violence (hereafter GBV).

Project Information

Violence Against Women Migrants and Refugees aims at a systematic and comparative analysis of the ways in which (a) various policy frameworks, social, and cultural attitudes to migration, as well as the migration process itself, combine to increase vulnerabilities to GBV and (b) government, NGOs, or regional and international policy-making institutions could help to mitigate risks, protect women, and provide better services to survivors.

This project will take an intersectional approach to understand GBV in migration, analysing the ways in which discrimination and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and other identities interact to make certain women more vulnerable to GBV and less able to access supports and services for survivors compared to other groups. We will consider all categories of migrants, including documented and undocumented migrants, those who have claimed asylum and are awaiting a decision, and those who have been recognised as refugees and granted international protection.

This research program aims to bring new knowledge and analysis to NGOs and policy makers involved in migration and refugee issues and those working in GBV support and prevention. The comparative nature of this research, looking at different national contexts and political cultures, will help point out ways in which migrant and refugee women become vulnerable to GBV as well as positive examples of policies, practices, and programs that reduce women's

vulnerabilities and programs that offer support to survivors of GBV. By paying attention to the practices of migrant women themselves, this project will also highlight the sometimes invisible work of these women and recommend ways in which their activities could be better supported.

Core Research Activities

This project will employ secondary and primary research methods. In order to identify knowledge gaps, we will conduct a background literature review, including scholarly literature relating to gender and migration, relevant grey literature, existing statistical data, and policy analysis. We will map migrant and refugee women's associations to identify organizations working to engage in the prevention of GBV and to provide support to survivors.

The core research activities will be qualitative interviews. We will conduct semi-structured interviews with key informants, such as policy makers and settlement service providers to understand their experiences and opinions of working with migrant and refugee women who have experienced GBV, how this might be prevented, and how services could be improved. We will be interviewing migrant and refugee women across Canada, with the aim of exploring the ways in which they understand GBV and how they respond –namely gathering first-person narratives that may highlight their agency and the strategies they use to prevent GBV and how/where they access support after experiencing violence.

Purpose of Expert Advisory Group (EAG)

Overall Aim

- The EAG will advise, comment on, and respond to plans for research activities and knowledge mobilization. The Expert Advisory Group will meet twice a year, on a virtual basis. Members may occasionally be asked to join a smaller, regional meeting. During meetings, the academic team will update the Expert Advisory Group members on the project's progress and findings.

Commitment: The EAG may or will:

- provide advice in the event the project encounters challenges and opportunities that would benefit from expert input.
- provide feedback on various aspects of the research process.

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- provide help with the recruitment of research participants (both key informants and migrant and refugee women) by suggesting and enabling us to connect with community partners such as settlement organizations.
- provide suggestions and connections for knowledge mobilization to maximize the impact of project findings.

In return for your involvement in the advisory group, the academic team will:

- Ensure members have early access to research findings
- Acknowledge the role of the Advisory Group in supporting the project by naming its members in every meeting and public forum

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