



## About Us

**Project Title: "Violence against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Responses"**

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**We study policies, social and cultural attitudes to migration, the migration process, and make recommendations on government, NGOs, or regional and international policy-making institutions that may help protect women, and provide better services to survivors.**

# Gender-Based Violence and Migration: An Overview from Canada

## Decolonize Migration!

**We need to understand the colonial history that continues to marginalize Canada's Indigenous peoples. Canada's racist past is part of the society that newcomers to Canada enter today. This discrimination of marginalized, racialized people is gendered: both migrant and Indigenous women and men face different forms of gender-based violence. The intersection of gender and Indigenous status exacerbates the vulnerabilities of racialized migrant women today.**

For more information, please visit our website.



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**GBV-MIG Canada  
Research Programme**

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## Immigrants: Crucial to Canada

Canada is home to a large immigrant population, with 21.9% of the Canadian population born overseas. Of the two contributing factors to population growth, natural increase and migration-related factors, immigrants are crucial to sustaining Canada's population growth. In 2018, immigration accounted for 82.5% of the population growth. Between 2009 and 2018, over 2.7 million immigrants entered the country, and current initiatives plan to welcome annually close to 1% of our population as a strategy for maintaining population.

## Policy and Legal Frameworks

Colonialist assumptions about certain types of gender-based violence as characterizing cultural groups persist in government documents and political/media narratives. More recently, gender-based violence is described as an effect of historically rooted inequalities, and though all groups may experience it, certain groups are more vulnerable. Solutions are proposed or enacted as changes to the legal-judicial system, delivered by legal amendments and funding initiatives. The role of activists, informal networks and support organizations fighting racism, sexism, patriarchy and the systemic discrimination and social problems they give rise to is minimal in government policy.

## Migrant Women and Violence

Women have a hard time seeking help for gender-based violence due to stigma, victim-blaming, financial inequalities, and the fact that it often occurs in private. The situation of migrant women is complicated by immigrant status, gender, ethnicity and class. Their pre-migration experience and socioeconomic inequality can exacerbate these factors. There are efforts to provide information to newcomers on family violence, including when to seek help, but that does not guarantee access to the information or acting on it.

## Where do immigrants come from?

Canada receives newcomers from over 200 countries, and with a rate of naturalization at 82.7%, most become citizens. Between 2011 and 2016, the countries of origin contributing the largest Canadian newcomer groups were the Philippines, India, and China. Canada generally categorizes newcomers into three groups: (i) Economic Class, (ii) Family Reunification Class, and (iii) Refugees, Protected Persons, and Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) Class.