

BUILDING A BLUEPRINT TO ADDRESS GBV AGAINST NON-STATUS, REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT WOMEN ACROSS CANADA

Working together to advocate and develop promising practices to address GBV against non-status, refugee and immigrant (NSRI) women grounded in survivor-led and community-based advocacy models.

OUR JOURNEY LEADING UP TO THE CONFERENCE



We are a growing network of non-status, refugee and immigrant women service providers, organizational leaders, community advocates and academic researchers working together on a national project focused on **Building Leadership Capacity to address Gender-Based Violence against non-status, refugee and immigrant women across Canada**. Led by OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants in partnership with organizations across Canada, this project builds on decades of community-based advocacy efforts and initiatives to address GBV within and against immigrant and refugee communities in Ontario.

In the fall of 2019, we conducted an environmental scan to gain a deeper understanding of existing community-based advocacy initiatives and survivor-led programs across Canada. We also conducted a needs assessment to gain a further understanding of the needs and experiences of diverse NSRI communities. We used community-based research methods to help us brainstorm with NSRI communities about "leadership", "advocacy" and "survivor-led" initiatives. Over the summer, we were reporting on the



differential impacts of COVID-19 on NSRI women across Canada. Providing critical awareness concerning how immigration status, gender and race intersect to inform the experiences of COVID-19 among non-status, refugee and immigrant women. During these conversations, speakers from multiple organizations and community partners discussed the importance to centre the unique experiences and challenges non-status, refugee and immigrant women were facing in the context of COVID-19. They also highlighted the need to centre NSRI women's lived experiences as part of our response planning and advocacy towards addressing GBV against NSRI women.

We are building on these conversations and this conference is an invitation for non-status, refugee and immigrant women, community members, service providers, organizational leaders and advocates to join and discuss the following:

- ➔ Join us as we work towards building a **national network** to strengthen ongoing work addressing GBV against NSRI women.
- ➔ Participate in collective discussions that will help **inform advocacy plans** at a national and regional level.
- ➔ Develop meaningful relationships and partnerships to **expand our collective understanding of GBV** against racialized, non-status, refugee and immigrant women.
- ➔ Support equitable opportunities that **centre the knowledge and expertise of NSRI women** to further improve access to supports and healing for GBV across Canada.
- ➔ **Deepen our collective knowledge, responsibility and solidarity with Indigenous communities** in Canada and our initiatives to address GBV against NSRI women.

Join us to hear about the details of our national project, the importance of working together to build a blueprint to address GBV against NSRI women, and how you can be a part of this blueprint building to bring about change and support your own communities!

BUILDING A BLUEPRINT TOGETHER!

DAY 1 – LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TOWARDS INDIGENOUS-MIGRANT SOLIDARITY AND HEALING TO ADDRESS GBV

1:00 - 1:15 PM	Welcome and Conference Opening Debbie Douglas, OCASI
1:15-1:45 PM	Land Acknowledgement & Acknowledgement for Indigenous Peoples Mary Ann Shoefly, Indigenous Healer
1:45 - 2:05 PM	Opening Remarks by Minister Maryam Monsef Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
2:05 - 2:10 PM	Coffee Break
2:10 - 2:20 PM	Project journey: Building Leadership Capacity to address GBV against NSRI women across Canada Margarita Pintin-Perez & Nira Elgueta, OCASI
2:20 - 3:20 PM	Solidarity between Immigrant, Refugee and Indigenous Peoples: A focus on Gender-Based Violence Doris Rajan, Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society(IRIS) and Quinn Saretsky, Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba
3:20 - 3:30 PM	Coffee Break
3:30 - 4:15 PM	Arts-based activity: a reflection on working towards building Indigenous-Migrant Solidarity Jess De Vitt, Visual Arts Associate of Sketch Working Arts
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Closing Reflection with Indigenous Healer

AGENDA: BUILDING A BLUEPRINT TOGETHER!

DAY 2 – BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TO ADDRESS GBV AGAINST NSRI WOMEN

1:00 - 1:05	Welcome & Opening Land Acknowledgement
1:05 - 1:25 PM	<p>Peer Champion and Community Advocacy Network Model (PEER-CAN): How leadership and advocacy come to life in addressing GBV against non-status, refugee and immigrant women</p> <p>OCASI Team, Rights of Non-Status Women Network (RNSWN), Immigrant & Refugee Communities Neighbour Friends & Families (IRCNFF) Peer Champions, South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO)</p>
1:25- 2:00 PM	<p>Regional breakout session: Co-learning and developing our work collaboratively by region Edmonton, Fredericton, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver</p> <p>The aim of this regional breakout session is that people build relationships, identify the resources/assets each brings to the group and start to discuss what they anticipate as roadblocks (challenges) in adopting the PEER-CAN model in their region. After this activity, participants practice co-learning and identifying potential actions for building Indigenous-Migrant solidarity in their regions. Regional partners and Peer Champions for each CAN will leave the session with concrete ideas about practical steps they can take locally towards building Indigenous-Migrant solidarity around Gender-Based Violence.</p>
2:00-2:05 PM	Coffee Break
2:05-3:05 PM	<p>Regional breakout room: Envisioning our future work as a region using theatre by region Edmonton, Fredericton, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver</p> <p>Guided by artists from the Mixed Company Theatre this session asks us to envision our hopes and dreams for future work grounded in community advocacy and survivor-led models. During this session we will use our imaginations to think of our collective work expanding over a year: imagine we meet again in November 2021, what does our group look like, how did we unite and organize together and what impacts did we have? What metaphor best describes our first year working collaboratively together?</p>
3:05 -3:10 PM	Coffee Break
3:10 - 3:45 PM	<p>Plenary: What comes next? Visioning exercise to help us think of our future national work</p> <p>With support by artists from the Mixed Company Theatre, in this session, we weave together the metaphors and images that emerged in the regional envisioning sessions. We do not need to build one image or vision, but instead see the opportunities to learn from each other and weave together our visions. The idea is to weave our national vision - during this session, we will use our imaginations to think of our collective work expanding over a year: imagine we meet again in November 2021, what does our national network look like, how did we unite and organize together and what impacts did we have? What metaphor(s) best describes our first year working collaboratively together?</p>
3:45 -4:00 PM	Closing Reflection