Resources and Supports for Survivors

#4ImmigrantWomen
Sexual violence occurs in every country and every community.

Sexual violence happens to LGBTQIA+ community members.

Sexual violence happens to immigrant and refugees.

It’s not ok.
**Myth**
Sexual violence happens in immigrant and refugee communities due to their “culture”

**Fact**
Sexual violence happens in ALL communities. It is racist and xenophobic to say that immigrants have more violent cultures.

*Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of foreigners.*
Am I being sexually abused or harassed?

Sexual abuse or harassment is any behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwanted and happens without your consent.
Giving consent = voluntarily agreeing to engage in sexual activity.
Consent:

• should never be assumed or implied

• is not silence or the absence of “no”

• can never be obtained through threats or coercion

• can be withdrawn at any time
Consent:

- cannot be given if the perpetrator abuses a position of trust, power or authority

- cannot be given if the person is unconscious or incapable of consenting due to the use of alcohol or drugs

Source:
What Are My Rights?

Ontario has a Sexual Violence and Harassment Plan Act (Supporting Survivors and Challenging Sexual Violence and Harassment) which protects and supports survivors of sexual violence and harassment, as well as provides access to justice for victims of sexual harassment in Ontario. In addition, this act includes information and protection related to workplace harassment and workplace sexual harassment.

For more information on the Sexual Violence and Harassment Plan Act: www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/S16002
If you have experienced sexual violence, it is not your fault.

You deserve to live free from sexual violence.
We can all play a role in preventing & addressing sexual violence against immigrant & refugee women.
Immigrant and refugee women may face barriers that make it difficult to get support such as:

- Fear of deportation
- Social isolation
- Fear of police
- Language barriers
- Poverty
- Racism and discrimination
How Can I Report?

You can report to the police, a legal support organization, sexual assault support centre, or a settlement agency.

Get support:

Sexual Assault Centres: www.sexualassaultsupport.ca/support

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres in Ontario: www.satcontario.com
If you are concerned about reporting because of your immigration status contact Legal Aid Ontario at 1 800 668 8258 or your local settlement agency.
For additional legal advice, contact the toll-free Independent Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors line at 1-855-226-3904.
How Can I Be Safe?

Your safety is important.

In order to plan for safety, you can:

- Speak with someone you trust
- Write down or document what has happened, as a record
- Connect with a community organization especially if you need shelter, support with children or legal issues

Nobody, including your husband has the right to abuse you.
How can YOU support someone who has been sexually assaulted or abused?

- Believe them.
- Listen to them.
- Find resources.
- Know it’s their choice to take action.
Where Can I Get Support?

Assaulted Women’s Helpline
1 866 863 0511 / TTY 1 866 863 7868

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
www.sexualassaultsupport.ca/support

Ending Violence, Getting Help
(Ministry of the Status of Women):
www.women.gov.on.ca

Neighbours, Friends & Families
www.immigrantandrefugeenff.ca
for information and support about intimate partner violence.

Shelter Safe Ontario
www.sheltersafe.ca/ontario
To learn more about sexual violence & this campaign, visit www.ocasi.org/campaigns/4ImmigrantWomen