

# Violence Against Immigrant and Refugee Women

Unique Barriers and Solutions for Serving Immigrant and  
Refugee Women in North Carolina

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# Outline

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- Definitions
- Where Violence Occurs
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- Types of Barriers
- Solutions
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  - Local
    - InterAct & Kiran

# Narratives



These women are facing complex issues relating to violence that intersect at many levels.

# Why Immigrate?

- War
- Oppression in Current Country
- Social and Political Issues
- Economic Reasons
- Better Future for Children

# Definitions

**Immigrants:** leave home primarily for economic or social reasons.

**Refugees:** flee due to war or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social or political reasons.

# Living With Violence

- At Home
- In Transit
- In Refugee Camps
- In the Destination Country

# Violence in Transit and in Refugee Camps

- Violence in Transit and in Refugee Camps
  - Trafficking
  - Survival sex, rape, sexual exploitation
  - Security Issues: robbery, hostile hosts, etc.





# Violence in Destination Country

- Honor Killing
- Work Place Violence
- Domestic Violence





# What Barriers do Immigrant and Refugee Women Face in seeking help?

- Fear of Deportation
- Lack of Knowledge of Legal Rights and Resources
- Lack of Support Systems
- Cultural Differences
- Lack of Education
- Discrimination
- Language/Communication Issues

# Power and Control Tactics Used Against Immigrant Women



# Solutions/National

- VAWA
- New Immigration Policies



# Solutions: Local

- InterAct
  - Legal aid services and education
  - Collaboration with service providers
  - Address mistrust of legal system
  - Provide client assistance with obtaining visas
  - Create a dialogue with immigration officials
- KIRAN





# Solutions: You

- Immigrant and refugee women face unique issues surrounding language, fear of deportation, lack supports and lack of knowledge regarding the legal system of their adopted country.
- InterAct and Kiran are two organizations in NC who have successfully managed to address these issues.
- You can be part of the solutions by starting to volunteer with any of these organizations.