



Violence Against Women And Domestic Abuse in Newcomer Families

Presented by

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TRIGGER WARNING

This presentation includes discussion of sexual violence, domestic abuse, and sexual assault. Overall, this presentation may be emotionally challenging and potentially triggering to listen to.

Attendees are welcome to leave and come back as they wish.



Agenda

1. Introduction: FCJ Refugee Centre
2. Understanding Violence Against Women: DV and HT
3. Immigration & VAW
4. Resources



SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION

- Shelter for women & children
- Refugee Housing Hub
- Women's services
- Food distribution
- English Classes
- Clinic
- Youth
- Access to Education

IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

- Refugee process
- Immigration orientation
- PRRA (risk assessment)
- Refugee appeal
- H&C (Humanitarian & Compassionate App.)
- Sponsorship
- Work permit
- Etc.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Migrants Workers Mobile Clinic
- Direct services to trafficked persons
- Migrant Women's Counter Trafficking Alliance
- Youth Alliance Against HT

PUBLIC EDUCATION & NETWORKING

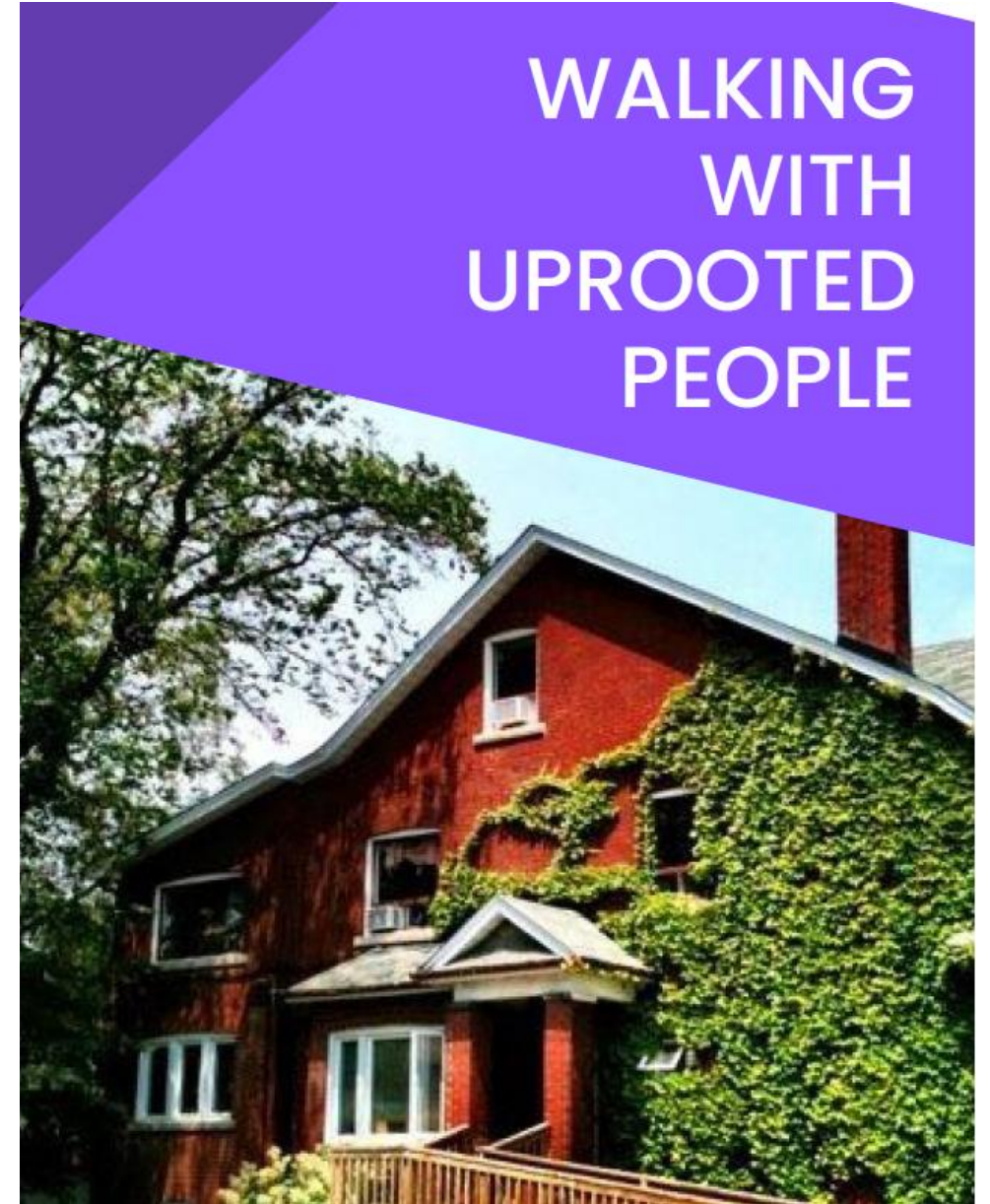
- Webinars & training sessions
- Borderless Voices podcast
- YouTube channel
- Resources
- Country research
- Newsletter & annual reports

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FCJ Refuge

WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG

Who We Are

Non-profit organization that serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status...





Understanding Violence Against Women

Understanding Violence Against Women (VAW)

“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women



Global Scope

- Violence against Women is one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world.
- Globally, almost one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both.



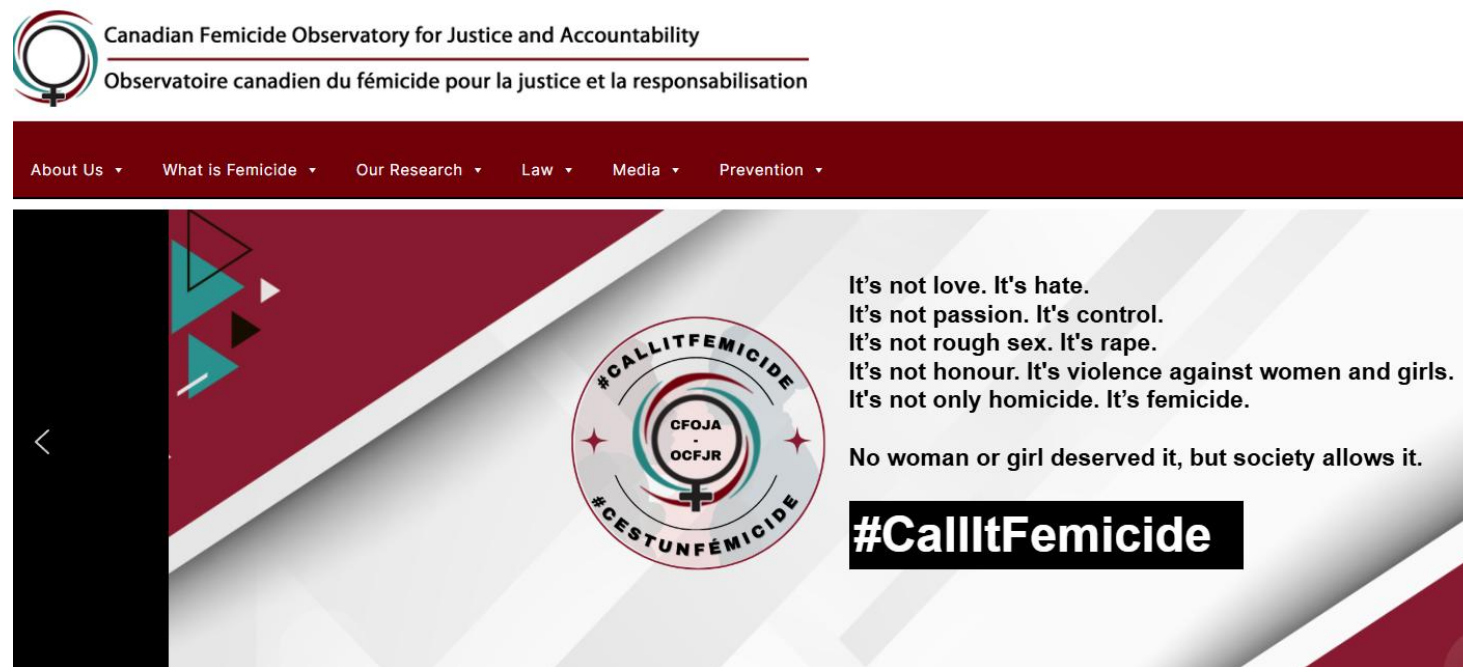
Global Scope

- For at least 51,100 women in 2023, the cycle of gender-based violence ended with one final act—their murder by partners and family members. That means **a woman was killed every 10 minutes.**

These are the reported numbers, but the reality is far worse. Violence against women remains largely hidden, as many survivors do not come forward due to impunity, silence, stigma, and shame.

In Canada

- In 2024, 186 women and girls were killed in Canada because they were women and girls.



- This means that every other day a woman is killed in Canada, mostly by a man and most often by a current or former partner.
- ***#Call Femicide – Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability***



TYPES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

It can manifest in physical, sexual and psychological forms, encompassing:

- Sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, street harassment, stalking, cyber- harassment);
- Domestic abuse (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);
- Human trafficking (domestic servitude, slavery, sexual exploitation, forced marriage).



Domestic Abuse

What's Domestic Abuse?

Intimate Partner
Violence (IPV)

Domestic Violence (DV)

Family Violence (FV)

TYPES OF IPV/DV

Physical Violence

Sexual Violence/Marital Rape

Verbal/Emotional Abuse

Financial Abuse/Control

Coercive Control

Femicide

COERCIVE CONTROL

COERCIVE CONTROL

An ongoing pattern of domination where abusive partners engage in psychological and emotional violence while using intimidation, deprivation, isolation and humiliation. Can include cycles of physical and sexual violence, but not always.

- Controlling someone's everyday life – where they can go, who they can see, what to wear
- Gaslighting – making a person question themselves/their sanity
- Withholding money
- Tech surveillance
- Litigation abuse

DISCUSSION:

How can we tell the difference between coercive control and behaviors that may simply look like a “bad marriage”?



HEALTHY & UNHEALTHY BEHAVIOURS IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

- Trust
- Open communication
- Mutual respect
- Comfort
- Support

Discussion:

What do safe and comfortable relationships look like to you?



UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BEHAVIORS

- What do unhealthy relationship behaviors look like?
 - Excessive control
 - Isolation
 - Intense jealousy
 - Manipulation
 - Physical Violence
 - Other forms of abuse: verbal, mental, emotional, sexual...



RELATIONSHIP RED FLAGS

What are some red flags?

EXAMPLES OF RED FLAGS

- No respect for individuality
- No admission of fault
- Gaslighting
- Love Bombing
- No respect for boundaries

Assessment & Safety Tools

- [STEAR APP: Support Tool for Economic Abuse Recovery](#)
- [Healthline, What Does Sexual Coercion Look Like?](#)
- [Yourtoolkit.com, Coercive Control Self-Assessment Tool](#)



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES



Assessment & Safety Tools

- [CLEO Steps to Justice, My Safety Plan](#)
- [CREVAWC, Safety Planning for People who Experience DV](#)



Neighbours, Friends and Families

Western Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children

ABOUT ▾ LEARN ▾ ONLINE COURSE ▾ RESOURCES ▾ BLOG ▾ GET HELP ▾

Home > Get Help > Safety Planning for Survivors/Victims

Get Help

Safety Planning for People who Experience Domestic Violence

Are you experiencing abuse by your partner, but aren't sure how to protect yourself or how to leave?

This information describes the actions you can take to protect your safety and the safety of your children, and describes how you can develop a plan to leave. If you are not ready to leave, you can still contact a women's shelter for help with safety planning. You don't need to stay there to access their services.

- [Developing a Safety Plan](#)
- [Getting Ready to Leave](#)
- [Leaving an Abusive Partner](#)
- [After Leaving](#)
- [If You Need Help](#)

The background features a gradient from light purple on the left to light green on the right. There are several decorative elements: a thick purple curved shape in the top left, a multi-line purple arc in the top right, and another thick purple curved shape in the bottom right.

Human Trafficking

TRENDS AND DATA

- As a multibillion-dollar industry, human trafficking is more lucrative than guns or drugs: traffickers can make over \$280,000 per year by controlling one person. (CISC,2008)
- According to CCTEHT, the most common form of human trafficking in Canada is sexual exploitation (69% of all cases identified by the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline.) (CCTEHT, 2023) It is highly gendered, disproportionately impacting women and girls
- (Statistics Canada, 2022; UNODC, 2021.)
- Most trafficking incidents reported to the Canadian Hotline occurred in large urban centres in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec. (CCTEHT, 2023)



The International Definition of Human Trafficking



Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.



FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Forced Labour

Domestic Servitude

Sexual Exploitation

Forced Marriage

Removal of Organs

Impact of Globalization and the Internet

- The role of digital technology during recruitment
- Digital technologies as a means of control: isolation, language barrier, lack of information & surveillance
- The misuse of technology and digital content (e.g., sextorting)

Opportunities: Access to information, remote support and referrals, overcoming language barriers, digital evidence and advocacy

Resources



IMMIGRATION AND VAW



Precarious Status Migrants

People who do not have permanent or guaranteed legal status in a country, such as:

- Non-status migrants,
- refugee claimants,
- sponsored family members,
- seasonal and temporary migrant workers,
- closed work permit holders,
- live-in caregiver program applicants,
- international students.



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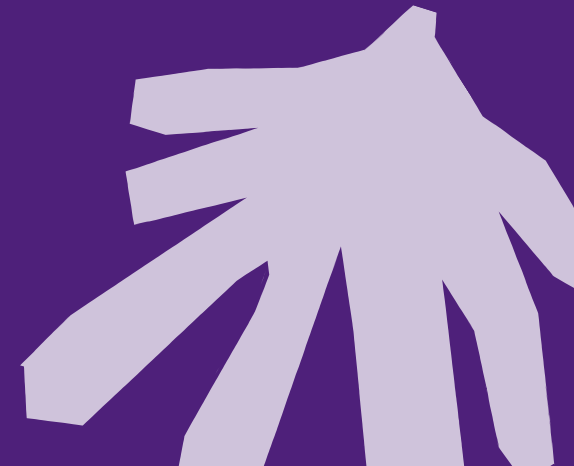
INTERSECTION OF GENDER & IMMIGRATION STATUS

Migrant women in Canada face unique obstacles that intersect with their gender and immigration status, making them particularly susceptible to exploitation and violence. These include:

- Spousal sponsorship dependency
- Workplace power imbalance (e.g., closed work permits)
- Threats of deportations as a means of control
- Lack of access to resources, as well as risks Immigration responses, albeit limited, do exist



**I am an immigrant or
refugee woman.
I am being abused.
What are my rights and options?**



I am a Permanent Resident...

- You **cannot lose** your PR status if you leave an abusive relationship
- Your **abuser cannot** have you deported
- **Safety First!** Access shelter services or alternate living arrangements
- You **are entitled** to Legal Aid and Ontario Works social assistance



I have
Convention
Refugee
status...

Convention refugees are not at risk of removal when separating from an abusive partner even if she is still waiting to receive permanent residency. She may also receive welfare benefits.



I am a Refugee Claimant...

While you are a refugee claimant you have the same rights as a permanent resident:

- You **cannot lose** your status if you leave an abusive relationship
- Your **abuser cannot** have you deported
- **Safety First!** Access shelter services or alternate living arrangements
- You **are entitled** to Legal Aid and Ontario Works social assistance

Speak to an immigration lawyer or immigration/refugee centre to help clarify your entitlements.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A JOINT REFUGEE CLAIM WITH MY ABUSER?

- If you are a refugee claimant and have made a claim for refugee protection based on your abuser's situation, it may be difficult.
- You may be able to make your own claim for refugee status in Canada based on your own fear of persecution in your country.
- Consult an immigration lawyer right away.

SAFETY FIRST!



IF MY CLAIM IS DENIED

You can make an application based on Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) grounds.

Domestic violence will be taken into consideration.



Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) Application

- **What is it?**

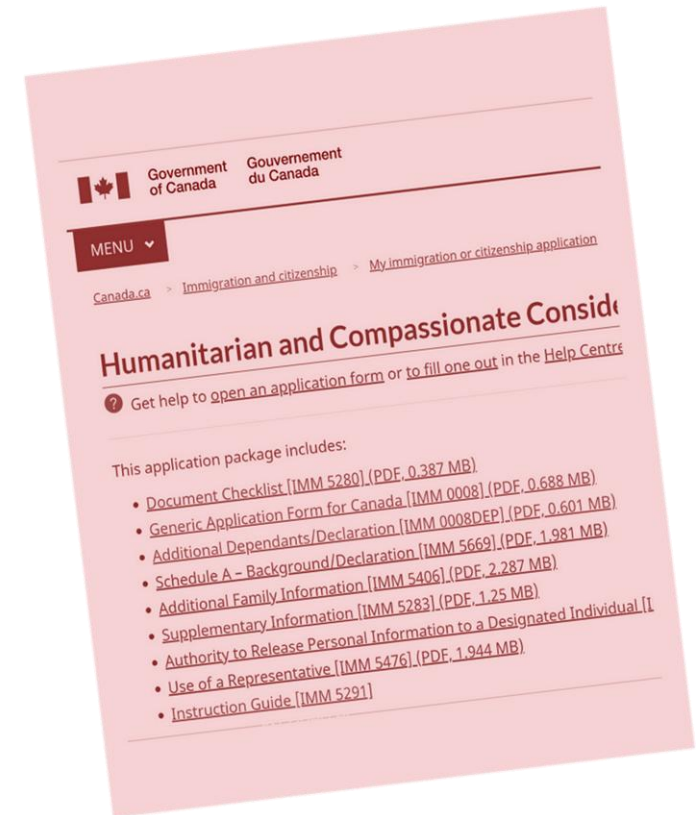
- Application for permanent residence
- When it is justified by humanitarian and compassionate considerations, considering the best interest of any child affected
- Highly discretionary

- **Eligibility**

12-month bar for failed refugee claimants (excepting medical & BIOC)

- **Fundamentally, it's about demonstrating that it's all about HARDSHIP**

- Establishment in Canada, hardship in CoO, best interest of the child/ren



Sponsorship: My sponsor is abusing me

- A sponsor cannot make IRCC remove you
- A sponsor can cancel their sponsorship, but IRCC don't expect you to remain in a relationship where there is abuse: **SAFETY FIRST!**

Temporary Resident Permit for Victims of Family Violence

+

H&C Application

(DV will be considered)





Immigration Recourses

Refugee Claim

Temporary Resident Permit for Victims of Family Violence

Temporary Resident Permit for Victims of Human Trafficking

Temporary Resident Permit

Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers

Permanent Residence, Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) Grounds

Permanent Residence, Permit Holder Class

**What are some ways we can
combat violence against
women?**

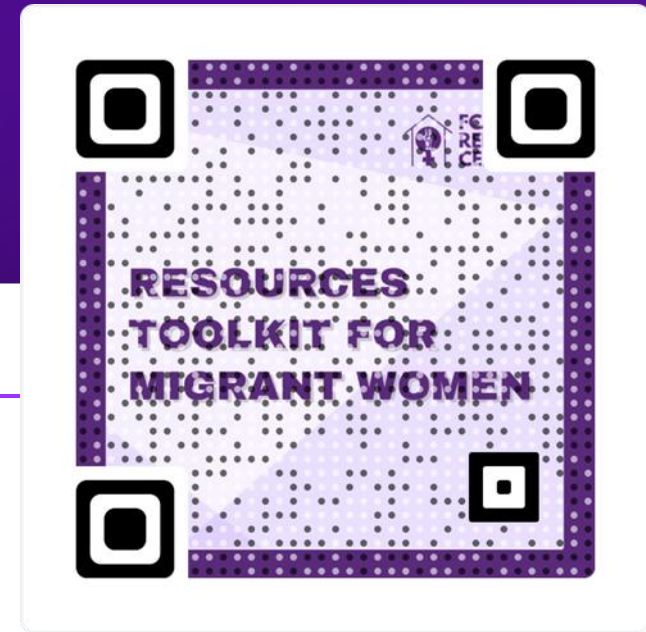


- Learn about violence against women
- Raise awareness, start conversations
- Take action in your community, work with others to create protective factors
- Support ethical business practices that are free of slavery
- Find out what your representatives are doing to address violence against women and human trafficking in your community and across Canada, and advocate for policy change
- Be there for people at risk.



Resources: Migrant Women's Alliance

Online Resources Toolkit for Migrant Women and Service Providers Supporting Them



Ensuring Equity: Advancing immigration pathways for women with GBV and trafficking experiences

Best practices report for service delivery to women who have lived through human trafficking

Resources: Healthy Relationships & VAW

WATCH/LISTEN

Pop Culture Detective
Stalking for Love

Ted Talk
*The Difference Between
Healthy and Unhealthy Love*

NPR
*The Sexual Assault
Epidemic No One Talks
About*

Swoon
*Sexual Communication for
Couples*

FOLLOW

@unapologeticallysurviving
Trauma survivor community

@consentparenting
Abuse prevention education

@taranajaneen
Tarana Burke, MeToo Founder

@PREVnet
Youth violence education

@CASW_ACTS
*Association of
Social Workers*

READ

Assistance Aux Femmes
Am I a Victim of DV?

Healthline
*What Does Sexual Coercion Look
Like*

Pulp
*How We've Normalized Sexual
Coercion and How to Flip the
Script*

Allure
*How to Make and Maintain
Healthy Sexual Boundaries*

Aura Freedom
GBV Resource Centre

Resources: Human Trafficking

Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, [Are You a Victim?](#)

Aura Freedom, [Human Trafficking Info Hub](#)

Luma and Bloom: [A Podcast to Empower and Enlighten](#)

Joy Smith Foundation, [National HT Education Centre](#)

Canadian Council for Refugees, [Because I am Human](#)

If you or someone you know need assistance, contact the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010

Crisis & Counselling Resources

Name	Contacts	Notes
Canadian National Human Trafficking Hotline	1 833-900-1010	24/7, Crisis Line
Assaulted Women's Helpline	1 866-863-0511	24/7, Crisis & Emergency Shelter
Barbra <u>Schlifer</u> Commemorative Clinic	416-323-9149	Legal, Counselling, Interpretation
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	416-363-1006	Counselling, Settlement
FEM'AIDE	1.877.336.2433	24/7, French Crisis Line
City of Toronto's Central Intake (Shelter)	416-338-4766	24/7, Emergency Shelter

Other Resources

Name	Contacts	Notes
Women's Support Network	905-895-7313 (crisis line)	Sexual violence support
Women's College Hospital	76 Grenville St Ground, Toronto	Acute ambulatory care unit
IWHC Toronto	416-323-9986, iwhctoronto.com	Sexual health clinic, by appointment only
Toronto Rape Crisis Centre	416-597-8808, info@trccmwar.ca	Sexual violence support
FCJ Refugee Centre	416-469-9754 info@fcjrefugeecentre.org	Settlement, immigration assistance



FCJ Refugee Centre

Walking With Uprooted People

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



Connect with us:

 **416-469-9754**

 **437-217-3786**

 **info@fcjrefugeecentre.org**

 **fcjrefugeecentre.org**

 **@FCJRefugeeCentre**

 **@fcjrefugeecentre**

 **@RefugeeCentre**

 **FCJ Refugee Centre**

