



Preventing & Responding to Domestic Abuse against Newcomer, Immigrant, Refugee and No Status Women

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Training Curriculum

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Preface

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All materials for Preventing and Responding to Domestic Abuse against *Newcomer, Refugee, No Status, & Immigrant Women project* are the property of Government Canada and Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS). You can download a curriculum report and other resources via www.vircs.bc.ca

Contact Keri Greenidge, Engagement Coordinator at VIRCS at: (250) 361 9433 x.202 or keri@vircs.bc.ca for more information.

Acknowledgements

The Board and Staff at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society would like to acknowledge the support of the *Department of Justice Canada* for their financial assistance funding *Preventing & Responding to Domestic Violence against Newcomer, Refugee, No Status, & Immigrant Women project*.

In addition, thank you to the community partnership that made this project possible. The Steering Committee representatives were from: Bridges for Women Society, Victoria Women's Transition House, Cridge Centre for the Family, Margaret Laurence House, and Victoria Coalition to Stop Torture.

The team included:

- ❖ Victoria Pruden – *Executive Director, Bridges for Women Society*
- ❖ Jenny Holder – *Program Director, Bridges for Women Society*
- ❖ Alyssa Collister - *Women's Counsellor, Victoria Women's Transition House*
- ❖ Candace Stretch – *Assistant Manager of Women's & Family Services, Cridge Centre for the Family*
- ❖ Julie McKee - *Managing Counsellor, Margaret Laurence House*
- ❖ Melanie Smart - *Managing Counsellor, Margaret Laurence House*
- ❖ Alvaro Moreno – *Director of Settlement Programs, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society*
- ❖ Keri Greenidge – *Project Coordinator, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society*
- ❖ Sonia Chauhan - *VIRCS Legal Information Clinic Coordinator*
- ❖ Erin Murray – *Graphic Design Artist*

About VIRCS

The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society's (VIRCS) is a registered charitable not for profit agency that assists in the settlement and adjustment of newcomers (immigrants and refugees) in Canada. Its mandate is to provide services designed to increase participation in Canadian society by assisting the newcomer to overcome barriers.

VIRCS has 26 years of experience in providing comprehensive settlement services to immigrants, refugees, and their families. VIRCS's high quality and outcomes-driven settlement and integration services serve over 2000 clients yearly including youth, women, seniors, families, and people with disabilities. Through VIRCS, clients develop community connections through support for inter-sectoral involvement, supported access to other institutions, cross-cultural awareness through guided referrals to mainstream organizations, access to innovative and creative programs, and confidence to independently access services.

In terms of justice issues, VIRCS provides legal information and residency application clinics for clients and also provides violence awareness workshops for victim service providers and immigrants, refugees, and their families.

Project Introduction

Preventing & Responding to Domestic Violence against Newcomer Women-Refugee, No Status, & Immigrant Women (PRDV) is a Department of Justice Canada initiative.

This project was delivered by VIRCS in partnership with women serving agencies and lawyers based in Greater Victoria from June 2016 to May 2017. The partnership included community agencies such as: The Victoria Women's Transition House, The Cridge Centre for the Family, Margaret Laurence House and, Bridges for Women Society, and the Victoria Coalition to Stop Torture (VCST).

The project deliverables included: a training curriculum for frontline employees of agencies that work with women leaving abusive relationships, a legal information booklet, and this curriculum report. The overall learning outcomes for participants were:

- To understand the unique experiences of immigrant women who experience domestic violence,
- To identify how immigration status affects the provision of services to immigrant women experiencing domestic violence and,
- Discuss recommendations to improve service to immigrant women and address community service gaps.

If you would like to learn more about this project and to request training for your agency, please contact Keri@vircs.bc.ca.

Who should attend this training?

This curriculum training is appropriate for anyone who works with immigrants particularly immigrant women. This includes employees of transitional housing agencies, immigrant serving agencies and volunteers of ethnic associations, employees of the justice system such as the police, students taking social work, child and family, law, health care, gender studies and immigration law.

What curriculum topics are covered during the training?

There are 7 topics on *Immigrant Women & Domestic Abuse* which includes:

- ❑ Defining abuse
- ❑ Dynamics of domestic abuse specific to immigrant women
- ❑ Risks and challenges faced by immigrant women
- ❑ Cultural competence
- ❑ Migration and settlement issues
- ❑ Case scenarios specific to immigrant women
- ❑ Strategies to improve services

There are 5 topics on *Legal Issues* faced by immigrant women leaving abusive relationships:

- ❑ Legal and social history relating to the current immigration issues of immigrant and refugee women
- ❑ Overview of Canadian immigration system
- ❑ Immigration options and how they relate to women
- ❑ Dangers specific to immigrant and refugee women
- ❑ Role of front-line workers with women who have legal issues

Training Approach

PRDV project curriculum offers two days of workshops, each with 6 hours of training for employees of transitional housing agencies and other community organisations that work with immigrant women fleeing from domestic abuse. It is designed for large group facilitation of up to 30 - 40 participants.

The PowerPoint presentations included in this curriculum can be delivered by experienced facilitators in the area of violence against women and legal professionals with experience in domestic abuse, family law and immigration law cases of immigrant women.

Training Requests

For those who request training at their organisations, for more information, please contact:

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Curriculum Instructions

This training curriculum has been designed and tested by VIRCS tow workshops in Victoria, BC in March and April 2017. It covers materials used for 6 hours of training per workshop. Each workshop has a **Facilitator's Agenda** and **PowerPoint Presentations**. They are the road maps to deliver each workshop. Below are more the instructions to Facilitators.

- ❑ We encourage facilitators to create their own times and dates for workshops, as well as find qualified guest speakers for the legal information workshop.
- ❑ We recommend including a panel discussion during both workshops. We also encourage facilitators to come up with their own questions for the panel and to create bios for the panelists.
- ❑ Facilitators will have to create their own event posters, introduction exercises, and evaluation forms for both workshops.
- ❑ Extra time will be needed to set up and clean up the room and refreshments depending on the venue.
- ❑ Make sure to provide a territorial acknowledgment and address hospitality items like washrooms, confidentiality, parking during the beginning of the workshop.
- ❑ If possible, the room set up recommended is in a semicircle to facilitate small group interaction, and large group engagement.
- ❑ Also, check to ensure there is an Internet connection to play video links within the PowerPoint presentations.

Curriculum Materials

Four different types of materials are part of the curriculum package. These include:

- **Handouts-**
Read all the material carefully before running a session. Make sure you have printed out all the handouts identified for each workshop. Make one copy for every participant, unless the facilitator's agenda says differently.
- **Facilitator's agenda -**
Everything a facilitator needs to know is in this agenda. This information serves as a guide to deliver the training. Read it carefully before running each workshop.
- **Microsoft Powerpoint Presentations -**
The presentations support each workshop. Print one copy of each presentation per participant. Place 2 or 3 slides per side of each page so that the material is easy to read.
- **Case Scenarios -**
These scenarios support the presentations for each workshop by providing a small group activity. Prepare adequate copies to be shared within small groups of four or five.

Workshop 1 - Immigrant Women & Domestic Abuse

Learning objectives

- To give front-line workers a general understanding of domestic violence.
- To demonstrate how domestic violence impacts newcomer women specifically.
- To describe the barriers immigrant women face that prevent them from accessing services or reporting abuse.
- To demonstrate how settlement and migration experiences can affect domestic abuse.
- To demonstrate how inter-agency collaboration enhances prevention.
- To demonstrate how to collaborate with partners effectively through referrals.
- To identify local resources for front-line staff and clients.

Agenda

- ▶ Community Asset Mapping / Introductions
- ▶ Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Newcomer
- ▶ Barriers Newcomer Women face in defining abuse
- ▶ Barriers Newcomer women face that may prevent them from accessing services
- ▶ LUNCH BREAK
- ▶ Panel Discussion: Cultural Awareness (VIRCS Staff Members)
- ▶ Settlement and Migration (VIRCS)
- ▶ Strategies to improve services – using promising practices
- ▶ Wrap Up and Evaluation

Materials - **Use VIRCS Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence PowerPoint, laptop, projector, extension cord, mouse or portable mouse clicker, panel questions. Paper or note pad for taking notes, flip chart paper and markers

Handouts – Workshop 1

Provide the following handouts and prepare a copy for each participant–

- ❑ Handout #1 - [Canadian Council for Refugees Glossary](#),
- ❑ Handout #2 - Building Supports Promising Practices - *print slide 12 of PowerPoint*,
- ❑ Handout #3 - Immigrant Women Power Control Wheel by National Centre on Domestic and Sexual Violence– *print slide 14 of PowerPoint*,
- ❑ Handout #4 - Immigrant Women Power Control Wheel by National Centre on Domestic and Sexual Violence – *print slide 15 of PowerPoint*,
- ❑ Handout #5 - Lenore E. Walker Cycle of Abuse – *print slide 18 of PowerPoint*,
- ❑ Handout #6- Alternative Cycle of Violence - Coiled Spring of Violence – *print from slide 19 of PowerPoint*
- ❑ Handout #7 - Case Scenarios

Detailed Facilitator's Agenda – Workshop 1

1. Registration and Refreshments Materials – table, registration sheet, pens, brochures, poster, signs, banners, name tags	9:15am to 9:25am
2. Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgment	9:26am to 9:29am
3. Project Acknowledgments, Learning Objectives, Language Clarification, Settlement Materials – Powerpoint, projector, laptop, handout #1- CCR Glossary	9:30am to 9:55am
4. Community Asset Mapping/Introductions Materials - flip chart paper and tape, rectangular sticky note, activity instructions	9:56am to 10:00am
5. Working across Differences (Iceberg), Promising Practices Framework Materials – Powerpoint, projector, laptop, handout #2	10:01am to 10:25am
6. Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Immigrant Women Materials – Powerpoint, projector, laptop, handouts #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6	10:26am to 10:46am
<i>Break</i>	10:47am to 11:00am
7. Barriers to Accessing Services (Includes “Between Worlds” video) Materials – Powerpoint, projector, laptop, speakers, handout #7 - case scenarios	11:01am to 12:15pm
<i>Lunch Break</i>	12: 16pm to 12:55pm
8. Panel Discussion on Cultural Awareness Materials – Create bios of panelists, Create questions for panelists, Create a Word doc with panel questions, name tags, water	1:00pm to 2:00pm
<i>Energizer Break –Pass the Maracas</i> Materials – maracas	2:01pm to 2:10pm
9. Migration and Settlement (Includes “Culture Shock & Domestic Violence” video) Materials – Powerpoint, projector, laptop, and speakers	2:11pm to 2:40pm
10. Small Group Strategies and Recommendations for Building on the Community Asset Map Materials – small group activity, post it notes, sticky flip chart paper	2:40pm to 3:10pm
<i>Break</i>	3:11pm to 3:15pm
11. Report back to the Large Group Materials –post it notes, sticky flip chart paper	3:15pm to 4:05pm
12. Evaluation and Closing Materials – handout #8 - evaluation forms, pens/pencil	4:06pm to 4:10pm

Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation - Workshop 1

VIRCS Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence PowerPoint is used to support this workshop. It also includes a video link, so be sure that there is an Internet connection. Print one copy of each presentation per participant. Print 2 or 3 slides per side of each page so that the material is easy to read. Contact Keri at VIRCS for instructions to access this presentation

Case Scenarios - Workshop 1

Agenda item #7 in the facilitator's agenda, three case scenarios are used for this small group exercise. Participants to form groups of 5 and are assigned a case scenario to review with 15 minutes to complete the activity. A large group debrief after exercise.

Client A (1):

- ▶ In your small groups please read over the scenario and have a discussion focused on the following questions. **Refer to handouts for Coiled Spring of Domestic Violence, Immigrant Power and Control Wheel, Life Time Spiral of Gender Violence and the Promising Practices.**

Client A (1):

Client A (1)

Police were called by neighbors to intervene in the domestic assault of Client A. Client A and her child were escorted from their home in to the back of a police cruiser. Client A has no working knowledge of English, was just violently assaulted, and is holding her child. She is terrified and has no idea if she is being arrested, or what will happen to her. In her home country, police are not always trustworthy. Her husband has never shared her immigration status with her, and has threatened her with deportation in the past, should she try to leave with her child. Police try their best to communicate nonverbally in a reassuring manner. Client A and her child are driven to Transition House.

Record on your flip chart paper:

- 1) **What forms of abuse are being perpetrated against the woman?**
 - 2) **What factors make it difficult to report the abuse or leave the relationship and why?**
 - 3) **What strategies and promising practices can be used to support this woman and her children?**
- ▶ ****Report back to the large group a summary of your discussion. If your group is sharing in the second round of the scenario please add new thoughts to the discussion in the interest of time.**

Client B (1)

- ▶ In your small groups please read over the scenario and have a discussion focused on the following questions: **Refer to handouts for Coiled Spring of Domestic Violence, Immigrant Power and Control Wheel, Life Time Spiral of Gender Violence and the Promising Practices.**

Client B (1) recently left her abusive partner due to threats of further violence. She came to Canada sponsored by her husband. MCFD social workers were called to assess the situation, and the father of the children has been awarded temporary primary custody. She has lost her role as primary caregiver to her children and does not understand why her partner is being given “preferential” treatment when she was assaulted violently over a period of time. She has been granted weekend visitations with the children. She is spiraling further into depression and anxiety, and her trauma is highly activated. She feels the pressure of having gone against cultural norms by leaving her family, which is compounded by the loss of full time custody of her children. She wonders if she should return to the relationship to make it all go away.

Record on your flip chart paper:

- 1) **What forms of abuse are being perpetrated against the woman?**
 - 2) **What factors make it difficult to report the abuse or leave the relationship and why?**
 - 3) **What strategies and promising practices can be used to support this woman and her children?**
- ▶ ****Report back to the large group a summary of your discussion. If your group is sharing in the second round of the scenario please add new thoughts to the discussion in the interest of time.**

Client C (1)

- ▶ In your small groups please read over the scenario and have a discussion focused on the following questions: **Refer to handouts for Coiled Spring of Domestic Violence, Immigrant Power and Control Wheel, Life Time Spiral of Gender Violence and the Promising Practices.**

Client C (1)

Client C entered transition house pregnant, and she has no legal status in Canada. She entered Canada on a Student Visa which has now expired. She has now given birth to a daughter, who is not considered a Canadian Citizen. She is terrified. She has made the choice to leave her violent relationship to escape fatal injury, and she wonders if she should have stayed in the relationship or done something differently. She is suffering from severe depression. It’s clear that she needs double the support of a “usual” client.

Record on your flip chart paper:

- 1) **What forms of abuse are being perpetrated against the woman?**
 - 2) **What factors make it difficult to report the abuse or leave the relationship and why?**
 - 3) **What strategies and promising practices can be used to support this woman and her children?**
- ▶ ****Report back to the large group a summary of your discussion. If your group is sharing in the second round of the scenario please add new thoughts to the discussion in the interest of time.**

Workshop 2 - Legal Issues faced by Immigrant Women leaving Abusive Relationships

Learning objectives

- To familiarize participants with the Canadian immigration system.
- To define and describe the various immigration options and demonstrate how each one relates to women specifically.
- To familiarize participants with legal dangers specific to immigrant women.
- To bring attention to the legal, political, & social history relating to newcomer women throughout Canadian history.
- To provide legal information to participants so they can be effective in working with immigrant women who have legal issues.
- To discuss strategies for interagency collaboration and advocacy

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction energizer
- ▶ Overview of Canadian immigration system
- ▶ Immigration options and how they relate to women
- ▶ LUNCH BREAK
- ▶ Lawyer Panel Discussion with: Peter Golden, Roberto Alberto, Beatriz Contreras and Carrier Graham with Justice Access Centre
- ▶ Dangers specific to immigrant and refugee women
- ▶ Role of front-line workers with women who have legal issues
- ▶ Strategies to improve services – promising practices
- ▶ Wrap Up and Evaluation

Materials - **Use *VIRCS Legal Information Workshop Part 1 & 2 PowerPoint*, laptop, projector, extension cord, mouse or portable mouse clicker, flip chart paper for questions, bios of panelist, panel questions.

Handouts – Workshop 2

Provide the following handouts-

- ❑ Handout #1 - VIRCS Legal Information Booklets 2017
- ❑ Handout #2 – Participant Agenda
- ❑ Handout #3 - VIRCS Legal Information Workshop – Part 1 (*print 2 or 3 slides per page*)
- ❑ Handout #4 - Workshop #2 Case Scenarios 2 & 3,
- ❑ Handout #5 - VIRCS Legal Information Workshop – Part 2 (*print 2 or 3 slides per page*)
- ❑ Handout #6 - Workshop #2 Case Scenarios, 1 & 4
- ❑ Handout #7 - Evaluation forms

Detailed Facilitator's Agenda – Workshop 2

1. Registration and Refreshments Materials – table, registration sheet, pens, booklets, brochures, poster, signs, banners, name tags	9:15am to 9:25am
2. Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgment	9:26am to 9:29am
3. Participants' Introduction Energizer Materials – questions to form groups	9:30am to 9:55am
4. Learning Objectives and Day's Agenda Materials – handouts - #1VIRCS Legal Info Booklet and, #2 –Participant Agenda Flip chart paper for 1) questions for panelist and 2) strategies to improve services Talk about the project, its focus and what will be accomplished for the day	9:56am to 10:00am
5. What is Legal Information versus Legal Advice	10:01am to 10:25am
6. Overview of the Canadian Immigration System Materials –VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Pt 1, projector, laptop, handout #3 – VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Pt 1 (print 3 slides per page)	10:26am to 10:46am
<i>Break</i>	10:47am to 11:00am
7. Immigration Options Materials –VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint, projector, laptop, handouts #4- case scenarios 2 & 3	11:01am to 12:15pm
<i>Lunch Break</i>	12: 16pm to 12:55pm
8. Panel Discussion on Legal and Immigration Information to support Immigrant leaving Abusive Relationships Materials – Bios of panelists, Questions for panelist, flip chart paper with questions	1:00pm to 2:00pm
<i>Energizer Break –</i> A short group energizer break is suggested at this point	2:01pm to 2:10pm
9. Role of Front-line Workers Working with Women Who have Legal Issues Materials –VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Pt 2, projector, laptop, handout #3 – VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Pt 2 (print 3 slides per page)	2:11pm to 2:40pm
10. Dangers Specific to Immigrant & Refugee Women Materials –VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Pt 2, projector, laptop, handout #6 – case scenarios 1 & 4	2:40pm to 3:10pm
<i>Break</i>	3:11pm to 3:15pm
11. Organisational Strategies to Improve Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group discussion Materials –post it notes, sticky flip chart paper, markers	3:15pm to 4:05pm
12. Evaluation	4:06pm to 4:10pm

13. Closing and Next Steps

4:11pm to 4:15pm

Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation - Workshop 2

VIRCS Legal Information Workshop PowerPoint Part 1 & 2 are used to support this workshop. It also includes a video link so be sure that there is an Internet connection. Print one copy of each presentation per participant. Print 2 or 3 slides per side of each page so that the material is easy to read. Contact Keri at VIRCS for instructions to access this presentation

Case Scenarios - Workshop 2

Case Scenarios in the Morning

For **Agenda item #7** in the facilitator’s agenda, two case scenarios are used for this small group exercise. Participants to form groups of 5 and are assigned a case scenario to review with 10 minutes to complete the activity. A large group debrief after exercise.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS ON CASE SCENARIOS #2

PART I- PLEASE GO INTO GROUPS OF 5 INDIVIDUALS

PART II -DISCUSSION AMONG GROUPS (10 MINUTES)

Please take 10 minutes to review Case Scenarios #2 with your group and develop two main areas of concern and a list of 3 questions that you feel a case worker would have in order to help Samana

PART III - Please choose one person in your group to engage in feedbacks and posing questions

Case Scenario #2

Samana, an Ethiopian woman was sponsored to come to Canada after agreeing to marry a man 25 years her senior. He had lived in Victoria for 15 years, was well established financially and retired. He knew a lot of people in the community. The husband was very controlling and abusive- not letting her have her own money and making her dependent upon him for everything, even for grocery money. He was physically abusive to her in front of her daughter. The husband would also not let her go out alone and he took her everywhere with him (shopping, doctor, etc). She had been in Victoria for 2 years.

When the husband left the house he would not allow her to have a key and locked her in the house. If she left she would not have been able to get into the house. After a while it became an impossible situation and she felt trapped. Through community activities she found out about VIRCS and one day

after her husband left for the day she left with her daughter and took the bus and came to the centre.

A VIRCS worker was able to have a police escort take her back to the house and take all the clothing and belongings for herself and her daughter. VIRCS arranged for her to go to transition house and she contacted her husband to let him know she and their daughter were safe. She was very worried about going out as her husband knew a lot of people who would report her whereabouts. Her husband is threatening to have her deported.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS ON CASE SCENARIO #3

PART I- PLEASE GO INTO GROUPS OF 5 INDIVIDUALS

PART II -DISCUSSION AMONG GROUPS (8-10 minutes)

Please take 10 minutes to review Case Scenario #3 with your group and develop two main areas of concern and a list of 3 questions that you feel a case worker would have in order to help Safia

PART III - Please choose one person in your group to engage in feedbacks and posing questions

Case Scenario #3

Safia is a Saudi citizen living in California and is married to Hussein, an Iranian citizen also residing in California. Together, they are parents to a 4 year-old son named Mark. They have been married for 6 and a half years and Hussein has been emotionally, sexually, and physically abusive to her.

Hussein is currently under a deportation order from the United States. They come to Canada and claim refugee status at the port of entry in Vancouver. Hussein is the main applicant and Safia and Mark come as his dependants. The violence becomes worse as Safia and Hussein wait for the hearing about whether CIC accepts their refugee claim. It gets to an unbearable point and Safia leaves her husband Hussein, and takes their son with her to a transition house. Safia speaks little English and has trouble communicating with transition house staff.

Hussein seeks advice from an immigration lawyer. The lawyer states that Hussein's refugee claim should be separated from Safia's since there has been a breakdown in the marriage and Hussein is interested in filing for divorce.

Safia will no longer be considered the dependant on his claim and decides to make a refugee claim on her own. At the same time, Hussein applies for custody of Mark and they are awarded 50/50 access in Family Court with no mention of custody. Eventually, Hussein's refugee claim is accepted, while Safia's is rejected. She now has a deportation order and is waiting for a removal order.

Case Scenarios in Afternoon

For **Agenda item #10** in the facilitator's agenda, two case scenarios are used for this small group exercise. Participants to form groups of 5 and are assigned a case scenario to review with 10 minutes to complete the activity. A large group debrief after exercise.

PART I- PLEASE GO INTO GROUPS OF 5 INDIVIDUALS

PART II -DISCUSSION AMONG GROUPS (8-10 minutes)

Please take 10 minutes to review Case Scenario #1 with your group and develop two main areas of concern and a list of 3 questions that you feel a case worker would have in order to help Jaspreet

PART III - Please choose one person in your group to engage in feedbacks and posing questions

Case Scenario #1

Jaspreet initially arrived in Canada two years ago on a six month visitor visa to participate in work related training. She has now been in Canada for eight months and has no status in Canada. While Jaspreet was in Canada, she began a relationship with a Canadian man whom she began living with. This man is abusive towards her-physically, emotionally, and sexually. He is also the father of the child that she will give birth to in five months. Jaspreet has spent most of her time with this man and has been ostracized by her family for being in a relationship with a Canadian man. She no longer has any ties to her family and she does not have any friends. She occasionally worked as a farm labourer, but stopped due to her pregnancy.

When Jaspreet tries to leave her partner, he threatens her by telling her he will go to immigration authorities and let them know that she has no legal status in Canada. Jaspreet is afraid to return home pregnant and would rather have her child grow up in Canada. She has little money and does not believe she can financially support herself and her child if she was to leave her partner. Neighbours have made several calls to the police complaining about noise and abuse; however when police arrive, Jaspreet denies any abuse.

Most recently, Jaspreet's doctor noticed bruises on her arm when she went in for a pregnancy check-up. When the doctor was alone with her, he asked her about abuse. She denied any abuse, but he let her know about a transition house in the area and explained how she would be able to stay there if she chose to leave.

One week later, Jaspreet checked into a transition house.

Record on your flip chart paper:

1. What is an important first step in helping Jaspreet?
2. List some potential dangers and legal issues faced by the client.
3. What is your understanding of the barriers faced by the client in this scenario?
4. What community resources and agencies would you recommend to Jaspreet?

PART I- PLEASE GO INTO GROUPS OF 5 INDIVIDUALS

PART II -DISCUSSION AMONG GROUPS (8-10 minutes)

Please take 10 minutes to review Case Scenario #4 with your group and develop two main areas of concern and a list of 3 questions that you feel a case worker would have in order to help Salma

PART III - Please choose one person in your group to engage in feedbacks and posing questions

Case Scenario #4

Salma is currently staying at a transition house. She came to Canada through sponsorship via a man she

married through an arranged marriage.

Quickly after arriving in Canada, Salma's husband began to physically and sexually abuse her. During the most recent incident, neighbours were called to the home by police and Salma was removed by the police. Because Salma is now staying at a transition house and no longer living with her husband, she violates the two year conditional residency requirement and may face deportation.

Salma says she cannot go back to Morocco, her country of origin, because she is no longer a virgin. She fears for her safety if she is sent back.

1. What is an important first step in helping Salma?
2. List some potential dangers and legal issues faced by the client.
3. What is your understanding of the barriers faced by the client in this scenario?
4. What community resources and agencies would you recommend to Salma?

Outcomes to Date

PRDV Project was completed successfully in Victoria, BC, between June 2016 and May 2017.

About 40 participants registered for each workshop delivered on March 3rd and April 28th 2017. The attendees represented various community service organisations which included, The Victoria Women's Transition House, The Cridge Centre for the Family, Margaret Laurence House and, Bridges for Women Society, Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria, Victoria Police Department, Counselling Centre for Refugees, Spousal Assault Victim Support Program, Regional Domestic Violence Unit, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, Community Mirco Lending Victoria, Victoria Coalition to Stop Torture and students from the University of Victoria.

The project facilitation team included Jenny Holder, Programs Manager and Victoria Pruden, Executive Director at Bridges for Women Society, along with Keri Greenidge and Alvaro Moreno from VIRCS. Roberto Alberto from *Alberto Law*, Beatriz Contreras from *Contreras and McLennan Law* and Peter Golden from *Golden and Golden* facilitated the Legal Information workshop.

Workshop participants provided invaluable feedback on improving future activities, which reflects their engagement in understanding the legal and justice issues of immigrant women fleeing from domestic abuse, and their interest in seeing this project continued in the future.

The VIRCS website (www.vircs.bc.ca) is the main source for tracking training requests for this project.

Appendix

Panel Discussion Questions - Workshop 1

Panelists from the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society –

- Amarjit Bhalla – Skills Connect Program Manager,
- Asuka Hirai – Wraparound Case Manager for Adults and
- Idalid Diaz-Posada – Counselling Services Coordinator

Moderator – Keri Greenidge, Project Coordinator

- Please introduce yourself and your role at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society

You will have 15 minutes each to answer the following 3 questions:

- Briefly, describe what an ideal marriage and family looks like in your culture?
- In your experience what are the cultural perceptions about domestic abuse and violence against women?
- What barriers immigrant women face when considering leaving or actually leaving an abusive relationship? Especially in context of a city like Victoria

Extra Questions if there is time

- What worked well in helping immigrant women find safety in abusive relationships?
- What factors make it difficult for an immigrant woman to report or leave an abusive relationship?

Panel Discussion Questions - Workshop 2

Panelists –

Peter Golden, Barrister and Solicitor from Golden & Golden Law Firm

Roberto Alberto, Lawyer from Alberto Law

Beatriz Contreras, from Contreras and McLennan Law Firm

Carrie Graham, Family Counsellor from Justice Access Centre

Moderator – Alvaro Moreno, Director of Settlement Programs

- Introduce yourself and your profession and work with immigrant women or immigrants in general
- Questions from the audience: Moderator collects questions from the audience as generated in the morning session of the event and presents them to the panel.
 - How long does the refugee claim process take?
 - Can a person seek welfare assistance if her sponsor refuses to support her after they have separated?

- What are the major players (ministries, depts. ,boards ,etc) involved in Canada's immigration system?
- How long does it take to receive legal documentation after separation has taken place?
- Do you work with legal aid services?

Back up questions:

- In your experience, what works best in offering legal advice to immigrant women who are leaving an abusive relationship?
- Briefly, describe what are some of the challenges immigrant women face when they take legal action against their abuser?
- In your experience what are the most common legal and social barriers that immigrant women face after reporting abuse? Especially in context of a city like Victoria?