

## NEWCOMER WOMEN & TFGBV

According to WHO, "30% women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime" of which certain communities are more vulnerable. Amidst this prevalence, recent studies have revealed that newcomer women face unique circumstances that increase their vulnerability to gender-based violence. 20% of Canadians are foreign-born, with 27.3% residing in British Columbia. The discussion on newcomer women and violence is critical in order for systemic changes to be implemented so that newcomer women can live free from violence.

### WHAT IS "TFGBV"?

Technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence (TFGBV) is one form of VAW that has increased across Canada.<sup>3</sup> BCSTH defines TFGVBV as the "spectrum of activities and behaviors that involve technology as a central aspect of perpetuating violence, abuse, or harassment [...]" against women and girls. This can include restricting or limiting usage or access to technology, monitoring/surveillance, criminal harassment (stalking), impersonation, and distribution of non-consensual Intimate Images.

"There is still unawareness about [TFGBV]. Newcomer women don't know it exists, so when it happens to them, they're lost" – Anti-Violence Worker

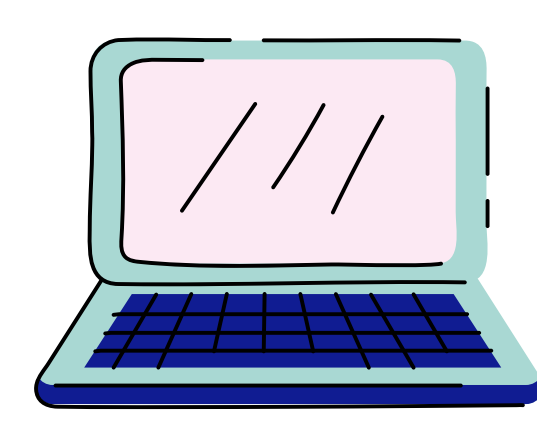
### NEWCOMER WOMEN<sup>4</sup> AND VAW FACTS

- From 1994 to 2009, newcomer women were overrepresented as 40% of domestic fatalities in B.C.<sup>5</sup>
- Immigrant women were far more likely than immigrant men to experience sexual assault (20% versus 6%, respectively).<sup>6</sup>
- Newcomer women from developing nations are more likely to experience violence than Canadian born women.<sup>7</sup>
- Those who immigrated after the age of 30 are 216% more likely to experience violence than those who arrived before 30.<sup>7</sup>

#### WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?

- Connectivity
- Legal
- Immigration Status
- Language
- Cultural awareness

#### BARRIERS TO NEWCOMER WOMEN ACCESSING SUPPORT TOLD BY BC'S ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKERS

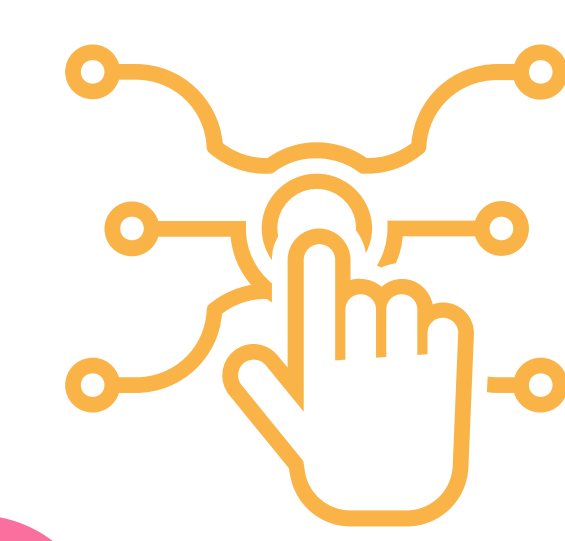


Service user's limited access to a device is one of the largest struggles of using technology to communicate with clients



79% of anti-violence workers revealed lack of access to a device had negatively impacted clients ability to seek violence support

40% indicated they need support in guiding women with various legal status'



89% stressed limited connectivity decreased women, children, and youth's ability to seek support

55% said the lack of technology made service delivery much more difficult for clients



32% said language was a barrier in newcomers seeking support

45% indicated digital literacy training was needed for newcomer women

46% suggested legal aid services for newcomer women

#### WHAT IS NEEDED FOR NEWCOMER WOMEN EXPERIENCING TFGVBV?

##### 1. Increased Connectivity

- Affordable devices and plans for newcomers and anti-violence programs to ensure services.
- Increased digital literacy through free courses, sessions, information sheets in anti-violence programs.
- Accessible knowledge on digital privacy (ex. how to change).
- Sufficient infrastructure (broadband, download speed, etc) for newcomers in rural/remote areas.



##### 2. Reduced Barriers

- Accessible language programs (ex. day and night classes, transportation accommodations, low costs).
- Translated material & translators in anti-violence programs.
- Knowledge on B.C rights and freedoms (ex. posters, infosheets, videos) in anti-violence programs.
- Cultural sensitivity training for frontline workers, law enforcement, and legal advocates who support newcomer women experiencing violence.
- Legislative changes (ex. consistent and updated cyber laws, affordability).

"We can't just give out devices, there needs to be digital literacy, financial security, legal support to make a real change" – Anti-Violence Worker

"Not only do newcomer women need affordability and access to the internet and devices, but so do [workers] in anti-violence centers" – Anti-Violence Worker

1. World Health Organization. (2021). Violence against women. World Health Organization.

2. Statistics Canada. (2018). Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada. Ministry of Industry. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.cfm>

3. CBC Radio. (2021). Rise in deadly violence against women 'the horrible tip of the iceberg' in CANADA: Expert. CBCnews. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-march-22-2021>

4. Newcomer women is an umbrella term for women who have come to Canada under various legal statutes. This includes immigrants, migrant workers, refugees, international students, and non-status women.

5. [https://endingviolence.org/files/uploads/IWP\\_Resource\\_Guide\\_FINAL.pdf](https://endingviolence.org/files/uploads/IWP_Resource_Guide_FINAL.pdf)

6. Cotter, A., & Savage, L. (2019). Gender-based violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2018: Initial findings from the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces. Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00017-eng.htm>

7. Brownridge, D. A., & Halli, S. S. (2002). Double Jeopardy?: Violence Against Immigrant Women in Canada. *Violence and Victims*, 17(4), 455-471.