



IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Newsletter of the GBV-MIG Canada Research Team



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PROJECT NEWS

Greetings from the GBV-MIG Canada Team!

As we continue with analyzing our data, writing and publishing our work in traditional academic venues, we have intensified our effort for knowledge mobilization by presenting short reviews or policy briefs that are more accessible by a non-academic general public, NGOs and government.

Besides project news, events and opportunities in the field of GBV in migration contexts, the current newsletter highlights short research pieces, socio-legal developments in the EU, but also relevant national and international news, including our regular column "From the Aegean Observatory".

We are grateful to all our graduate and undergraduate students who continue to be working diligently with us in producing this newsletter: they are the Editorial Board of this newsletter and we are proud of them!

Evie

Principal Investigator: **Dr. Evie Tastsoglou**

Co-Investigators: **Dr. Myrna Dawson, Dr. Catherine Holtmann and Dr. Lori Wilkinson**

TEAM ACTIVITIES

Winter 2025

Evie Tastsoglou wrote “Gender-Based Violence in a Migration Context: Health Impacts and Barriers to Healthcare Access and Help-Seeking for Migrant and Refugee Women in Canada”, to appear in **Societies**, Special Research Topic on **The Social Politics of Gender-Based Violence: A Critical Canadian Health Perspective, 2024** edited by V. Zawilski, A. Ning and J. Fairbairn, (Open Access; in production).

Büsra Yalcinoz-Ucan, Evie Tastsoglou and Myrna Dawson, “Tracing Individual Experiences to Systemic Challenges: The (Re)Production of GBV in Migrant Women’s Experiences in Canada”. The article has just appeared in **Frontiers in Sociology**, in Special Research Topic on **Gender and the Continuum of Violence in Migration**, edited by E. Tastsoglou, M. Dawson, J. Freedman, C. Holtmann. Vol. 10, 2025. (Open Access).

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Red Dress Alert Consultation** is a public safety initiative aimed at raising awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ (MMIWG2S+) in Canada.

**February
27th, 2025**

Winnipeg,
MB, Canada

**March
13th, 2025**

New York
City, NY, USA

Femicide: A Global Crisis. A Conversation with Women Activists from Haiti, Congo, Ivory Coast, Senegal during the 69th CSW in New York. This is a free event.

The European University Institute is offering the **Migration Summer School**, a course that adopts a global perspective, exploring various topics with contributions from professors and researchers at the Migration Policy Centre.

**June 16–
27th, 2025**

Florence, Italy

Infographic from the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability



Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability
 Observatoire canadien du fémicide pour la justice et la responsabilisation

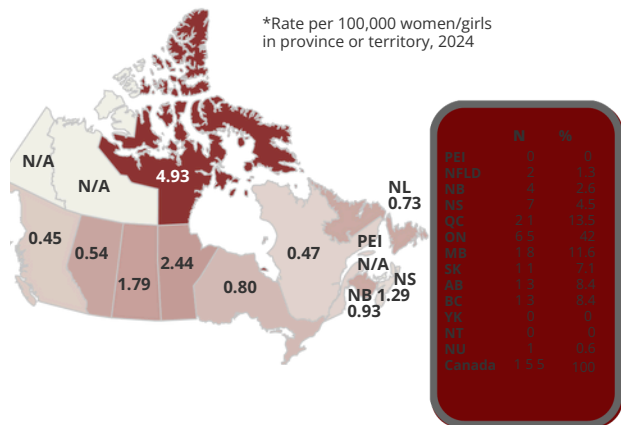


#CallItFemicide 2024 Report

187 women & girls violently killed in Canada in 2024, involving 155 primary or sole male accused (93%) where accused identified (N=167)

Rate and number of women & girls killed involving male accused*

*Rate per 100,000 women/girls in province or territory, 2024



Overview

Geographic patterns

NU, MB, SK and NS had the highest rates of killings of women & girls involving male accused.

46% of victims were killed in rural areas/small towns

- 25% in rural (<10,000 population)
- 21% in small town/cities (10,000-49,000 population)

Situational factors

77% of women/girls were killed in a private location, such as their own home, home of the accused, or the home they shared with the accused; 14% killed in a public area; 9% killed in unknown locations.

When information was known (41%), the two most common methods of killing were stabbing (51%) and shooting (33%).

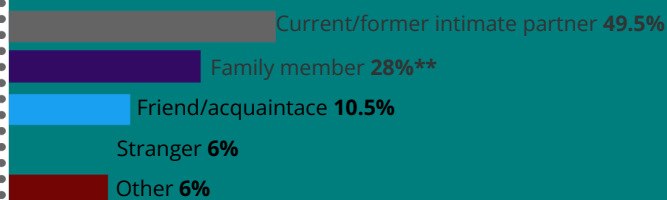
Age Distribution of the Victims*

Women and Girls Killed | General Population

Age Group	Women and Girls Killed	General Population
<18	11%	18%
18 to 34	31.5%	23%
35 to 54	31.5%	26%
55 +	26%	33%

*Age unknown for 16 victims

Victim-Accused Relationship*

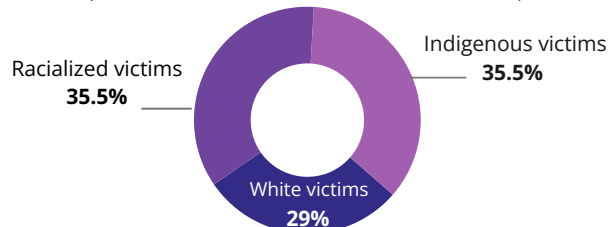


*Relationship not yet specified for 34% of victims.

**55% of which involved accused who were sons of the victims.

Race/Ethnicity

(Based on information available for 29% of victims)



Women aged 18 and older overrepresented as victims

Average age of victims
41 years old

Youngest
< 1 year old

Oldest
86 years old

FROM THE RESEARCHER'S DESK

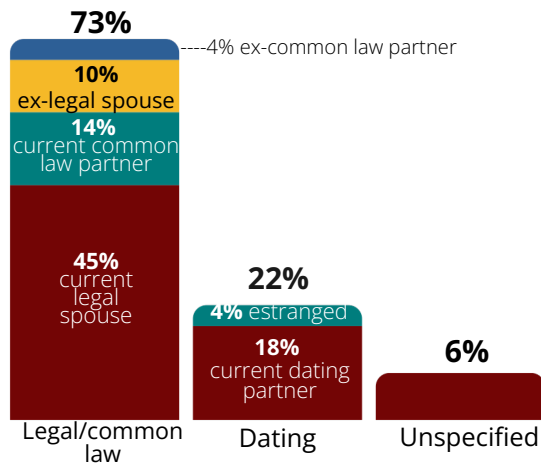


Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability

Observatoire canadien du fémicide pour la justice et la responsabilisation



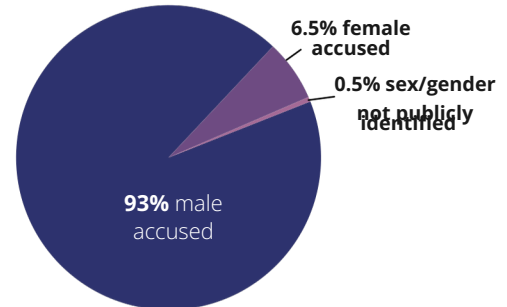
Intimate Partner Femicide Victims



Impacts on Children

- At least **154** children left without a mother
- **2** women killed were pregnant
- **10** children killed alongside their mothers

Primary or sole accused identified



20 cases remain unsolved

Focusing on male accused only:



Accused Suicide

- **17%** of all male accused died by suicide
- **31%** of males accused of intimate partner femicide died by suicide

26% increase in killings of women & girls involving male accused from 2019, pre-pandemic year, to 2024

Total number of women and girls killed violently in Canada, 2018-2024.

Year	Annual number (as of Dec. 31 each year)	Yearly increase in number over time *	Current Annual Number (as of January 24, 2024)
2018	148	21	169
2019	137	16	153
2020	160	13	173
2021	173	8	181
2022	184	7	191
2023	189	4	193
2024	187	12**	199(projected)

* Numbers increase over time as investigations are completed, suspicious deaths become homicide, or new deaths are recorded.

** Projected increase based on average increase over previous six years.

Understanding Gender-Based Violence and Citizenship in a Migration Context

Written by: Khatereh Salimi and Romulo Schembida

How do inequalities affect immigrant women's access to state legal protection from GBV through public services? What does this suggest about citizenship as practice? A recent paper, "Gender-Based Violence and Citizenship in a Migration Context", written by Evangelia Tastsoglou and Lori Wilkinson sheds light on the challenges faced by migrant and refugee women (MRW) in Canada who experience gender-based violence (GBV). Published as a book chapter in the edited collection, *Research Handbook on Intersectionality*, [i] and drawing upon the experiences of 48 key-informants, [ii] the article describes how these women face systemic barriers that make it harder for them to access essential services and legal protection. This increases their vulnerability and makes it more difficult for them to feel a sense of belonging in Canadian society. This work presents an in-depth feminist intersectional analysis of how GBV affects MRW and the ways in which their status in the country contributes to their struggles. It also highlights their resilience and efforts to overcome these barriers.

The authors argue that "incomplete/diminished citizenship" intensifies the vulnerability to GBV for MRW. Citizenship, in this study, is not just about having a passport or legal status; it is about social, economic, political, and psychological participation. Unfortunately, many MRW face exclusions at all levels, making them more vulnerable to GBV and less likely to seek help. The study adopts an intersectional approach, analyzing how different factors—such as gender, immigration status, race, and class—interact to shape the experiences of MRW.

One of the key findings is that the Canadian legal and social system often fails to protect MRW adequately. Many organizations that help victims of GBV struggle with a lack of funding and resources, making it hard for them to provide adequate support to migrant and refugee women. At the same time, many women hesitate to reach out to the police or social services because they fear deportation, losing their children, or facing discrimination.

An important factor is the lack of access to necessary information to assist them in recovering from and escaping GBV. Language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and unfamiliarity with Canadian systems make it even harder for them to navigate available resources. Some organizations do not provide interpretation services, leaving these women without the ability to communicate their needs effectively. In many cases, they do not even know that shelters exist or that they have rights in Canada, which prevents them from taking steps to protect themselves.

Immigration status plays a significant role in determining the level of protection MRW receive. Women who are in Canada on a temporary visa, awaiting refugee status, or without legal status are at a heightened risk. Many women in abusive relationships are afraid to leave because their spouse is their sponsor and has the power to withdraw sponsorship, potentially leading to deportation. Others face legal barriers that prevent them from accessing public services, such as healthcare, financial assistance, and housing.

[i] E. Tastsoglou and L. Wilkinson, 2023. "Gender-Based Violence and Citizenship in a Migration Context", in Mary Romero, editor, *Research Handbook on Intersectionality*. Northampton, Mass: Edward Elgar Books, pp. 292-312.
<https://www.elgaronline.com/display/book/9781800378056/9781800378056.xml?rskey=jGKW8u&result=1>

[ii] Key Informants are defined in this study as individuals who are in direct or indirect contact with MRW survivors of GBV and thus they can speak from their professional knowledge and perception of protection from, as well as experience with, GBV of MRW in Canada.

FROM THE RESEARCHER'S DESK



MRW also face prejudices from service providers, law enforcement, and society in general. The study highlights that stereotypes about race and culture influence how these women are treated when they seek help. For example, some service providers may dismiss MRW's experiences due to preconceived notions about their cultural background, assuming that GBV is a "normal" part of their community. This kind of prejudice creates deep mistrust in authorities and discourages women from reporting abuse. Additionally, the legal system often favors white, middle-class, Canadian-born women as the "ideal victim." This means that MRW may not receive the same level of protection or assistance when they report violence. Discriminatory practices within the police force and legal system make it even harder for MRW to get justice.

Another major challenge is social isolation. Many MRW have left behind their families and support networks, making them more vulnerable to GBV. Perpetrators of domestic violence often use isolation as a control tactic, preventing women from learning the language, finding employment, or building new relationships. Digital isolation is also a concern, as some abusers control access to phones and the internet, preventing MRW from seeking help or staying in touch with loved ones.

Despite these challenges, MRW demonstrate resilience and agency in overcoming obstacles. Many women form informal networks of support within their communities, offering safe spaces and sharing information about resources. Some have even established organizations to raise awareness about GBV and also advocate for better policies. The study highlights several inspiring examples of women who have escaped abusive situations, pursued education, and created support systems for others facing similar challenges.

MRW also participate in citizenship "practices," meaning they actively engage in advocating for their rights and challenging the barriers they face. This challenges traditional notions of citizenship and highlights the importance of social justice movements in expanding rights for marginalized groups.

The paper emphasizes the need for systemic changes to improve protection for MRW. It calls for increased funding for shelters and support services, better training for law enforcement and service providers on cultural sensitivity, and policy reforms that prioritize the safety of all women, regardless of immigration status.

The authors access the experiences of MRW with GBV only indirectly, relying on interviews with 48 key informants. While these informants provide critical insights—given their close work with MRW, their expertise, and their understanding of systemic barriers—depending solely on their perspectives may not be as effective as directly interviewing MRW themselves. This indirect approach could limit a full understanding of MRW's lived experiences. Nevertheless, the research represents an important step toward identifying and addressing the barriers MRW face in Canada. By recognizing the intersection of GBV and citizenship, we can work towards creating a more inclusive society where all women have the right to safety and security.

About the authors



Khatereh Salimi is currently a graduate student in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba.



Romulo Schembida is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Manitoba. His current research focuses on Immigration and Employment in Canada.

Trauma and Its Aftermath: Yazidi Women's Experience with C-PTSD and Absence Seizures

Written by: Lori Wilkinson and Chenyu Liu, University of Manitoba

The kidnapping, torture, and sexual slave trade experienced by Yazidi women in Iraq during the most recent genocide have been well documented ([EL-Masri 2018](#); [Jaffal 2020](#)). In our own study of Yazidi refugee women, all the participants reported either experiencing or witnessing sexual and physical assault in addition to reporting that family members had been killed and that other family members remained missing ([Wilkinson et al. 2018](#)). In addition to the pre-arrival trauma, the Yazidi women had significant post-arrival traumatic experiences. The most common concern was reuniting and locating missing family members. The story of twelve-year-old Emad Tamo is both heartwarming and traumatic. Emad was kidnapped by Daesh as an 8-year-old and forced into war. When he was rescued by the International Red Cross in 2018, he could not remember his address or other important details about his family, so the agency released his photo internationally. As chance would have it, his mother, father and siblings had resettled in Winnipeg 18 months earlier. He was quickly identified and flown to Winnipeg a week later ([Malone 2018](#)). His experience gives hope to the thousands of Yazidis praying for similar reunifications.

Those reunifications, however, rarely occur. Almost all women who arrived in Canada in 2017 reported that some of their children or spouses' whereabouts remain unknown. Silda, aged 31 and a widow with six children living in Toronto, tells us:

"I have gone through too much. I have lost 35 people in my family. I lost my husband and my children to Daesh and one of my sons died in my arms. You think I will ever lose that image in my head?"

While the stories of murder, sexual assault, separation and fear that family members had been killed are common among all refugee groups, the Yazidi are unique.

Unlike other refugees, their journey to Canada was different. Most refugees spend 7 to 9 years, sometimes much longer, in refugee camps or countries of secondary displacement ([Devictor 2019](#)). While this does not mean that they arrive to Canada free of mental health concerns, even for the most traumatized person, that time gives most refugees space and distance to make sense of their experience so their trauma would be considered acute rather than chronic (see [Wilkinson and Ponka 2017](#)).

When the Yazidi refugee women and their children began to arrive in Canada, most had just been released from DAESH captivity—some mere weeks prior to their arrival. In psychological terms, these women were in the acute phase of their trauma—the time immediately after the traumatic experience ([Kizilhan, Steger, and Noll-Hussong 2020](#)). Specialists in Canada, both in the medical and refugee resettlement field, had, until this time, limited experience and training working with refugees in the acute phase of trauma. They have significant experience in helping refugees deal with chronic trauma, but the two are different. In the Yazidi case, their acute trauma received significant attention in the news media. Yazidi women suddenly fainting or experiencing convulsions caused great concern among the resettlement and service provider communities. In time, these episodes were identified as absence seizures, pseudoseizures, or dissociative seizures ([CBC Radio 2018](#); [Kizilhan et al. 2020](#); [Hussan et al. 2023](#)). Physicians refer to them as psychogenic non-epileptic seizures, and they cause sufferers great pain in their daily lives. Students experiencing these seizures have been asked to leave school because the events distress other language learners. Our own research reveals that the women experiencing these episodes are unable to work because they happen frequently and without warning. Hassan and her colleagues (2023) report that children also experience these types of conditions.

FROM THE RESEARCHER'S DESK

Hassan and her colleagues (2023) suggest that to better assist this group of survivors, healthcare professionals and settlement service providers need more opportunities to train with experts who have more experience with this type of trauma. Culturally sensitive medical services are also required. In our study, many women refused to be seen by a male medical professional for obvious reasons. They also did not want to talk to someone in Arabic as it was the language of Daesh. These situations can be easily avoided by providing the settlement workers and health care professionals with information about the trauma, who was responsible for it and how the community may react. One good way of doing this quickly is to consult with the ethnocultural community already in Canada. They would have some good resources and information that may be in short supply among the professionals who work with thousands of refugees every year.

Sadly, given the escalation of world conflict, increases in terrorist activity and global insecurity, the arrival of refugees in the acute phases of trauma will continue to rise in the coming years. The need to evacuate refugees faster will continue if Canada wants to maintain its high performance in refugee resettlement; we must provide support and training for the people who provide vital human services. We must also be aware that secondary trauma—the trauma experienced by caregivers of refugees—is also a consideration, an idea considered in our next newsletter.

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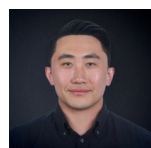
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The Aegean Observatory

Fatal Losses in the Aegean: Two Incidents

Reported by: Eva Kazakou

The Aegean Sea witnessed two major disasters at sea in recent days, underscoring the ongoing dangers faced by migrants attempting to reach safety. On February 19, a shipwreck occurred as a boat carrying 33 people sank while en route from Turkey to the Greek island of Samos. The distress call came at 04:03 AM from the vessel, which was located northwest of the Turkish city of Kuşadası.

The boat, which had started to deflate and take on water, prompted an immediate response from Turkish authorities, who deployed four ships and a helicopter to assist. Rescue teams managed to save 20 people, while seven others were pulled from the sea. Tragically, six bodies were recovered during the operation. The boat, which had been heading toward Samos, sank within Turkish territorial waters.

While the identities of the victims and survivors have not yet been released, reports suggest that a significant number of children were aboard. There are no additional reports of missing persons connected to the wreck.

Just days later, on February 23, another deadly incident unfolded off the coast of Lesvos. Early Sunday morning, the body of a young female migrant was discovered inside a boat that had crossed from Turkey to the southern area of Agios Fokas. Initial reports indicate the woman may have been of Afghan origin. Authorities also found 18 other migrants aboard the vessel, who were promptly transferred to the Reception and Identification Center in Kara Tepe, Mytilene. The woman's body was sent to Mytilene hospital for forensic examination.

The recent tragedies in the Aegean Sea highlight the ongoing dangers migrants face while attempting to reach safety. The incidents off Samos and Lesvos serve as reminders of the risks involved in overcrowded and unsafe boat journeys. These events stress the importance of continued efforts to improve safety and support for those making the perilous crossing.



About the author

Eva Kazakou is a PhD student student in Political Science and Global Development Studies at Saint Mary's University.

EU Council Reaches Agreement on New Law Against Migrant Smuggling

Reported by: Eva Kazakou

On December 13, 2024, the European Union Council approved a proposal for a law to combat migrant smuggling. The legislation aims to establish uniform definitions and penalties across member states. Before it is finalized, further negotiations with the European Parliament are required.

The proposed law mandates that EU countries criminalize intentional assistance to non-EU nationals in entering, transiting, or residing in the EU for financial or material gain. While it excludes purely humanitarian aid, the broad definition may encompass cases involving indirect financial benefit.

The legislation introduces stricter penalties: basic smuggling offenses carry a maximum prison sentence of at least three years, while cases involving organized crime or violence could lead to up to eight years. If smuggling results in a migrant's death, the minimum sentence would be ten years. Companies found guilty of facilitating smuggling may face fines of up to €40 million or penalties based on revenue.

Despite calls for stronger safeguards, the law references a humanitarian exemption only in a non-binding recital[EK1] . This leaves enforcement to the discretion of individual member states, raising concerns that aid workers, volunteers, or family members assisting migrants could still face prosecution.



While the law establishes minimum standards, it permits member states to impose stricter measures. This flexibility means that some governments may continue prosecuting assistance even when no financial or material gain is involved. The legislation replaces the 2002 Facilitators' Package, which was widely criticized for its vague wording that led to the prosecution of migrants, their families, and aid workers. Although the new framework seeks to address these concerns, its failure to explicitly protect humanitarian assistance may allow similar issues to persist.

Moreover, the law does not clearly exempt migrants from prosecution for irregular entry. While the text states that migrants should not be criminalized for being smuggled, this provision remains non-binding. Earlier drafts, which offered stronger protections for family members assisting relatives, were also weakened in the final version.

The European Parliament is expected to discuss its position on the draft in 2025. The Council and Parliament will then need to reconcile their respective positions before approving the final text.

Pylos Shipwreck: Findings and Response

Reported by: Eva Kazakou

On February 3, 2025, [the Greek Ombudsman issued a press release](#) regarding the findings of its report on the Pylos shipwreck, a major sea disaster that occurred on June 14, 2023, when over 500 people died after a migrant vessel capsized off the coast of Greece. The report highlights critical omissions by senior officers of the Hellenic Coast Guard, pointing to possible criminal liability under Article 306 of the Greek Criminal Code for endangering the lives of those aboard the Adriana fishing vessel.

The investigation was conducted by the National Mechanism for the Investigation of Arbitrary Incidents after the Hellenic Coast Guard declined to initiate an internal disciplinary inquiry. The 148-page report is based on extensive evidence, including approximately 5,000 pages of documentation, sworn testimonies, expert assessments, and official records. It [identifies significant gaps](#) in the handling of the shipwreck and raises concerns over withheld evidence, such as communication records and surveillance footage, which were not disclosed despite repeated requests.

The findings have prompted calls for further judicial investigation and accountability for those responsible. Survivors and legal representatives have petitioned the Piraeus Maritime Court to ensure transparency and justice. The Ombudsman's report marks the first comprehensive independent inquiry into the tragedy, underscoring the urgent need for reforms in maritime search and rescue operations.

Despite the Ombudsman's thorough investigation, [the Greek government's reaction](#) has been met with strong criticism for attempting to dismiss the findings and shift responsibility.



The Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy defended the Hellenic Coast Guard, emphasizing their role in border protection and search and rescue while accusing the Ombudsman of selectively prioritizing testimonies that questioned the Coast Guard's actions. However, [this criticism disregards the Ombudsman's legal role](#), which is not to investigate migrant smugglers but to evaluate whether state institutions uphold legality and protect citizens' rights. By portraying the report as an unjust attack on the Coast Guard and redirecting attention to criminal networks, the government undermines the Ombudsman's independence and avoids accountability, raising concerns about transparency and respect for fundamental rights.

At the same time, [the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O'Flaherty](#), has criticized Greece's handling of migration and human rights, particularly in light of the Pylos shipwreck. During his visit to the country (February 3-7), he met with the Greek Ombudsman, survivors, legal representatives, and NGOs to discuss the investigation's findings. Survivors claim the Coast Guard attempted to tow the vessel, causing it to capsize, and responded too slowly to those in the water. O'Flaherty called for full accountability and voiced concern over continued reports of illegal pushbacks, stressing the need for independent monitoring and a zero-tolerance policy.

The EU's Response to Hybrid Threats

Reported by: **Eva Kazakou**

On December 11, 2024, the [European Commission](#) released a [Communication](#) aimed at helping EU countries counter hybrid threats, particularly the weaponization of migration. [Hybrid threats](#) refer to actions by state or non-state actors that exploit the EU's vulnerabilities using a coordinated mix of diplomatic, military, economic, and technological measures, while staying below the threshold of formal warfare. These tactics include disinformation campaigns, manipulating social media, and radicalizing or directing proxy actors. The Commission emphasized the need to strengthen security at the EU's external borders, viewing these measures as part of a broader strategy to counter Russia's efforts to destabilize Europe.

Since Russia's military aggression against Ukraine began in February 2022, migration has been increasingly used as a tool to pressure EU borders, with Belarus playing a key role. Irregular migration, particularly along the Polish-Belarusian border, has surged, with a 66% increase in 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Belarusian authorities have been involved in facilitating these crossings by allowing access to the border area and even providing migrants with tools like ladders. Many of the migrants are traveling with Russian-issued student or tourist visas, a trend also seen at the Finnish-Russian border in 2023. A recent agreement between Russia and Belarus on mutual visa recognition could make it even easier for migrants to move between the two countries, potentially increasing illegal border crossings into the EU. This situation highlights the growing use of migration as a geopolitical strategy, raising serious concerns about security along the EU's borders with Russia and Belarus.

The European Commission warns that this orchestrated migration crisis threatens to divide the EU and weaken its solidarity with Ukraine. However, EU leaders have made it clear that such tactics will not be tolerated. The European Council's conclusions from October 2024 reaffirm the importance of Member States standing together, securing EU borders, and adhering to international law.

To address these challenges, the Commission has allocated over EUR 170 million through the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) to enhance border monitoring and management in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Norway. This funding is intended to support efforts to manage increasing irregular migration from Belarus and Russia.

At the same time, [the EU's legal framework provides clear guidelines for securing external borders](#) while upholding fundamental rights. Under the Schengen Borders Code, Member States are responsible for preventing unauthorized crossings, combating cross-border crime, and managing the entry and removal of non-nationals. Border management must also comply with international human rights obligations, particularly the principle of non-refoulement. Established under the 1951 Geneva Convention, its 1967 Protocol, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and customary international law, this principle prohibits returning individuals to countries where they could face torture or inhuman treatment. While the Geneva Convention allows exceptions in cases involving national security threats or serious criminal offenses, any restrictions must be lawful, and proportionate to ensure fundamental rights are protected.

As hybrid threats continue to evolve, the EU remains fully committed to both security and its core human rights values, no matter how delicate a balancing act this may be in practice. The situation at the EU's external borders with Russia and Belarus highlights how migration is being weaponized as a geopolitical tool. In response, the European Commission continues to support Member States in managing these challenges while ensuring compliance with EU and international law. Border security measures must reinforce national defense and territorial integrity while also safeguarding the right to asylum and fundamental rights—principles that hold the same legal weight as the EU Treaties.

New Amnesty International Report Exposes Labour Exploitation of Migrant Workers in Canada

Reported by Sarah Delorme

A [report](#) made by [Amnesty International](#) exposes the impact of **Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Programme (TFWP)** and how it has been facilitating abuse and discrimination of migrant workers. The TFWP allows employers to hire migrant workers across various sectors, but also ties workers to a single employer who have control over their migration status and labour conditions.

Migrants who have worked under the programme have reported being forced to work long hours without rest and received lower pay than agreed. They were also assigned tasks not included in their contract and suffered physical, sexual and psychological abuse. Many of them worked in unsafe conditions, lacked access to adequate housing and healthcare, and experienced discrimination at work. Since many of those working under the TFWP live in remote locations, this means they also depend on their employer for accommodation and access to health insurance and/or transportation to get medical care. If they fall sick, suffer injuries or are no longer considered fit for the job, they may face termination of their contracts and a swift repatriation.



Many workers choose to not report the abuses they suffer due to fear of reprisals such as unfair dismissal, non-renewal of their contract and/or repatriation. Those who choose to speak up have to face Canada's complex enforcement system, which is not designed to protect individuals with precarious status. "Low-skilled" and racialized workers are also at higher risk of labour exploitation for prolonged periods of time, with lower chances of obtaining a more secure status, due to the tendency of Canada's immigration system to privilege "high-skilled" workers for permanent residence.

Manitoba

The Manitoba government is providing \$811,000 through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to support programs that empower men to end gender-based violence (GBV). This funding supports five different programs across Manitoba focused on men and boys. It is part of bilateral funding agreement under the 10-year [National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence](#) and contributes to support various initiatives. These programs provide "spaces for men to reflect, connect and redefine masculinity" in order to "break cycles of silence, violence and isolation".

Alberta Illegal Migrant Crossing

Reported by Sarah Delorme



In the early morning of February 3rd, a potential border incursion occurred near Coutts, in which four adults and five youths were travelling on foot, carrying suitcases. The weather conditions were described as “terribly cold” and the individuals attempting to cross the border were not appropriately dressed for the Canadian winter. All nine of them were handed over to the CBSA for processing.

On February 4th, another border incursion attempt resulted in the death of one man, following a car chase with the RCMP near Alberta’s border with the U.S. The American man was reportedly attempting to enter Canada near Coutts, where he was referred to a secondary inspection area. Once he got there, he drove away from the port of entry, at which point the RCMP and the Lethbridge Police Service were notified. The man was also believed to hold a gun which led the police to deploy a tire-deflation device, forcing the vehicle to come to a stop. The driver then fled by foot while being pursued by officers and proceeded to shoot himself, where he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Find out more about the two Alberta incursion attempts [here](#).

Donald Trump’s return as the U.S. President brings new security implications for the Canada-U.S. border. His threat to impose tariffs on Canadian imports if irregular migration and illegal drugs are not curtailed has put pressure on the Canadian federal and provincial governments to use new border enforcement resources.

Research has shown that tighter border policies do not decrease the amount of migration. In reality, it forces migrants to go through more remote and dangerous crossing points, where they must more heavily rely on human smuggling operations. This entails an increase in human suffering and death.



Migrants may face many dangers when crossing the Canada-U.S. border irregularly, including drowning and hypothermia. Some people die in encounters with border patrol agents. Unfortunately, many deaths often remain invisible since border enforcement agencies do not track the number of deaths along the Canada-U.S. border. This is problematic as potential migrants are not made aware of the dangers of irregular crossings. Experts believe that Trump’s return in the Oval Office will lead to an increase in irregular migration between Canada and the U.S.

Find out more about migrant deaths at the Canadian-U.S. border [here](#).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: ALBERTA

List of Women's and Family Violence Shelters

Provided by: Kezia Wong

- **Bow Valley Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-760-3200
 - Phone: 1-(403)-762-3560
 - support@ymcabanff.ca
 - Banff, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Cantara House**
 - Crisis line: 1-(403)-793-2232
 - crisis@cantarahouse.net
 - Brooks, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Awo Taan Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-531-1972 or (403)-531-1976
 - Calgary, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-234-7233
 - 1509 Centre St S, Calgary, AB T2R 1N9
- **YW Sheriff King Home**
 - Crisis line: (403)-266-0707
 - Phone: (403)-263-1550
 - 2003 16 St SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5B7
- **Camrose Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (780)-672-1035 or 1-(877)-672-1010
 - crisiswork@camrosewomenshelter.org
 - Camrose, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Stepping Stone Crisis Society**
 - Crisis line: (780)-594-3353
 - info@steppingstonesociety.ca
 - Cold Lake, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **WIN House**
 - Crisis line: (780)-479-0058
 - Phone: (780)-471-6709
 - info.winhouse.org
 - Edmonton, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Lurana Shelter and Support**
 - Crisis line: (780)-424-5875
 - Edmonton, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (780)-523-4357
 - Phone: (780)-523-2929
 - screekwes@gmail.com
 - Enilda, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Crossroads Resource Centre and Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (780)-835-2120 or 1-(877)-835-2120
 - Fairview, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Unity House Emergency Shelter**
 - Family violence crisis line: 1-(780)-743-1190
 - Sexual trauma support line: 1-(780)-791-6708
 - Phone: 1-(780)-743-4691
 - info@waypointswb.ca
 - Fort McMurray, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Grande Cache Transition House**
 - Crisis line: (780)-827-1791
 - Phone: (780)-827-3776 or 1-(866)-957-3776
 - teahouse@hotmail.ca
 - Grande Cache, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Odyssey House**
 - Crisis line: (780)-532-2672
 - Phone: (780) 538-1332
 - admin@odysseyhouse.ca
 - 10101 97A St, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6Y1
- **Safe Home**
 - Crisis line: (780)-926-3899 or 1-(888)-926-0301
 - safehome@telusplanet.net
 - High Level, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Rowan House Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-652-3311 or 1-(855)-652-3311
 - Phone: (403)-652-3316
 - High River, AB (specific location unavailable)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: ALBERTA

- **Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women**
 - Crisis line: (780)-865-5133 or 1-(800)-661-0937
 - Phone: (780)-865-4359
 - info@yeswomen.ca
 - Hinton, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Hope Haven Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: 1-(866)-727-4673
 - Phone: (780) 623-3100
 - Lac La Biche, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **YWCA Harbour House Women's Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-320-1881 or 1-(866)-296-0447
 - Phone: (403)-329-0088
 - inquiries@ywcalethbridge.com
 - 604 8th Street South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 2K1
- **Spark Foundation of Lloydminster**
 - Crisis line: (780)-875-0966
 - Crisis text: (780)-808-1777
 - Phone: (780)-808-5282
 - admin@sparklloydminster.ca
 - Lloydminster, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Ermineskin Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (780)-585-4444 or 1-(866)-585-3941
 - Maskwacis, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Phoenix Safe House**
 - Crisis line: (403)-529-1091 or 1-(800)-661-7949
 - Phone: (403) 527-8223
 - Text: (587)-850-5885
 - info@mhwss.ca
 - Medicine Hat, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-881-2000
 - Phone: (403)-881-2025
 - ENCrisis@stoney-nation.com
 - Morley, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Peace River Regional Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: 1-(877)-624-3466
 - Peace River, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Association**
 - Crisis line: 1-(888)-354-4868
 - Phone: (403)-627-2114
 - info@pcshelter.ca
 - Pincher Creek, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter**
 - Crisis line: 1-(888)-346-5643
 - Phone: 1-(403)-346-5643
 - ClientCommunications@cawes.com
 - Red Deer, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Mountain Rose Women's Shelter**
 - Crisis line: (403)-845-5339 or 1-(877)-845-4141
 - ceaston@mrwsa.net
 - 4708 46 St, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1C5
- **Northern Haven Support Society**
 - Crisis line: (780)-849-4418 or 1-(877)-214-4418
 - Phone: (780)-843-6391
 - northernhaven@hotmail.com
 - Slave Lake, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Capella Centre**
 - Crisis line: (780)-645-5195 or 1-(800)-263-3045
 - Phone: (780)-645-5132
 - support@capellacentre.ca
 - St. Paul, AB (specific location unavailable)
- **Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge**
 - Phone: (403)-653-3946
 - Stand Off, AB (specific location unavailable)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: ALBERTA

- **A Safe Place**

- Crisis line: (780)-464-7233 or 1-(877)-252-7233
- Phone: (780)-464-7232
- helpline@asafeplace.ca
- Sherwood Park, AB (specific location unavailable)

- **True North**

- Crisis line: (403)-934-6634 or 1-(877)-934-6634
- general@truenorthab.com
- Strathmore, AB (specific location unavailable)

- **Safe Haven**

- Crisis line: (403)-223-0483
- Taber, AB (specific location unavailable)

- **Neepinise Family Healing Centre**

- Crisis line: (780)-891-3333
- Phone: (780)-891-3905 or 1-(877)-891-5322
- Wabasca, AB (specific location unavailable)

- **Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre**

- Crisis line: (780)-778-6209 or 1-(800)-467-4049
- 511651 Ave, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1A1

- **Maskan Shelter**

- Phone: (403)-971-2774
- Toll-free: (800)-471-3789
- info@maskanfamily.com
- 4231 109 Ave NE Unit 1015, Calgary, AB T3N 2B1

- **Jessie's House Shelter**

- Toll-free crisis line: 1-(866)-939-2850
- support@jmmf.ca
- Morinville, AB (specific location unavailable)



Kezia Wong is a Master of Arts psychology student at the University of Manitoba.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Reported by: Sarah Delorme



Changing Together is currently the only immigrant-serving agency in Edmonton with a mandate to focus on immigrant women.

The Centre is mainly operating by immigrant women for immigrant women and their families. Their services include: English classes, computer courses, volunteer support programs, settlement employment counselling, family support services (including help with family violence cases), health and legal services, seniors program and more. They offer free help to immigrant women through non-therapeutic counseling and resources regarding financial issues, legal issues, immigration issues, etc. In partnership with the City of Edmonton, they offer drop-in support group for women victims of abuse.

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