



IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: GBV IN FOCUS



Stay connected!

PROJECT NEWS

We are pleased to be able to continue with our seasonal newsletter in 2025 as well. The present issue features a number of research and news items from our students across the institutions

participating in this project. In addition, our first “knowledge mobilization” piece, based on this team’s published academic work, appears in the form of a review by our regular contributor, Jihad (Rosty) Othman, a Ph.D. student at the University of Manitoba. It is entitled, Review: The Continuum of Gender-Based Violence experienced by Migrant and Refugee Women in Canada: Perspectives from Key Informants. We look forward to being able to similarly “translate” for broader audiences, in upcoming issues, results that we have already published in various academic venues. Finally the present issue has a special focus on New Brunswick regarding resources for migrant and refugee women victims / survivors of gender-based violence.

With warmest wishes for the New Year,
On behalf of the GBV-MIG Canada team,

Evie Tastsoglou

Principal Investigator:
Dr. Evie Tastsoglou

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Project News	1
Events and Opportunities	2
From the Researcher’s Desk	3
International News	8
National News	9
Local News	10
Community Resources	13
Community Resource Highlight	14

NEW!

GBV-MIG Newsletter Editorial Committee



Abdul-Bari
Abdul-Karim



Eva Kazakou



Johnny Liu



Sarah Delorme



Rosty Othman

Student Achievements!

Rosty Othman, a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba, was selected as a delegate from Manitoba/Canada to attend the upcoming Global Youth Peace Summit hosted by the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand this January.

Kezia Wong, a Master of Arts psychology student at the University of Manitoba, was selected for a SSHRC Master's scholarship to continue her studies.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

January 30–31st, 2025

 *Krawków, Poland.*

Forum on Migration, Diasporas, and Settlement.

March 13–15th, 2025

 *Toronto, ON, Canada.*

27th National Metropolis Conference, Resetting Canada's Immigration Plan and Program for a New Era.

May 14–16, 2025

 *Lake Louise, AB, Canada*


National Citizenship and Immigration Conference.

January 29th, 2025

 *Krawków, Poland.*

International Forum on Holocaust Memory and Learning in an Age of Manipulated Information: Marking the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

February 5th, 2025

 *Fredericton, NB, Canada*
at the University of New Brunswick.

Nels Anderson Lecture 2025



Sacred Snaps: Lived Religion in Action

One response to widespread Islamophobia, antisemitism and anti-immigrant discourses is to build bridges of understanding between people of different faiths and the nonreligious. This is possible through the lens of our cell phone cameras, inviting us to see and engage with religion, diversity and inclusion in an innovative way.

Dr. Roman Williams

Visual Sociologist and founder of Interfaith Photovoice®

Free copies of Sacred Snaps: Photovoice for Interfaith Engagement (Taylor & Francis, 2024) co-authored by Roman Williams, Cathy Holtmann and William Sachs will be given away.

Wednesday February 5th, 2025

3:30 pm in Tilley 223

April 9–12th, 2025

 *Cape Town, South Africa*

17th IAWJ Biennial Conference, "Resilience: Women in Leadership to End Gender-Based Violence & Femicide".

Stay connected!   

Lived Memories: Indian Sikh and Muslim Immigrants' Experiences of Collective Violence and the Aftermath

Written by: Misha Maitreyi

On June 18, 2024, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh activist advocating for Khalistan (a separate state for the Sikhs) was killed in Surrey, BC (Aljazeera, 2023). Three years earlier, on June 6, 2021, a Muslim family was deliberately struck by a truck in London, Ontario, killing four members of the family (Dubinski, 2024). While the latter incident was remembered by one of my research participants while sharing their memories of the 2002 anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat, the 1984 anti-Sikh violence is interrelated to the demands of Khalistan by some of the Sikh community in Canada and India, consequently connecting it to the 1984 anti-Sikh violence of India.

Among many other things, my doctoral research revealed that individual and collective memories of violence are not transient memories that are confined to the past but are lived in everyday life, stay as reminders in other ethnic-religious conflicts and terrorist attacks, impact identities, relationships and sense of belonging. It also showed that violence does not need to be embodied for a group to be hurt and traumatized.



Locals in Delhi read news of Gandhi's assassination, which sparked riots. Image retrieved from [BBC](#)/Getty Images.



Image retrieved from [BBC](#).
The 2002 riots killed more than 1,000 people

I explored the composition of individual and collective memories of violence for Canadian-Indian Sikh and Muslim immigrants who experienced collective violence in India. The anti-Sikh violence of 1984 was mass-scale violence against the minority Sikh community in North India after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards. The anti-Muslim violence of 2002 occurred in the northwest state of Gujarat after a train burning incident occurred in a small town of Godhra that led to the burning of train compartments carrying Hindus. This culminated in large-scale violence against the Muslim community of the state.

Across both cases, my participants recalled the deeply gendered nature of violence – mobs used fire as a weapon, and women were targeted with sexual violence as a means of dishonouring and humiliating entire communities.

These gendered atrocities were not just horrific in their immediate impact on those who experienced it first-hand but revealed that those who had only second-hand knowledge of these events through family stories, neighbours, and acquaintances were profoundly affected.

FROM THE RESEARCHER'S DESK

Memories of 1984 and 2002, compounded by incidents like the killings in Surrey and London, have reshaped how participants view India and Canada. While both cases differed in periods and targeting of minority religious communities, it is essential to remember that Sikhs and Muslims remain minority religious communities in Canada. For some of the participants, Canada represented a safe place recognizing religious freedom and equality. Others, however, shared growing discomfort towards rising global and domestic ethnic-religious tensions and violence. Some participants voiced disillusionment with India, sharing their disappointment towards the state's failure to provide justice to the families affected by the collective violence. Yet, others felt a sense of fear and concern when speaking against the state power as their families still resided in the country.



Image retrieved from [BBC/Getty Images](#).

Rioters in Delhi targeted Sikh-owned shops, resulting in widespread violence and damage to property.

These experiences show that immigration does not erase trauma. The trauma endured from experiencing collective violence, travels with individuals, becoming a lens through which they interpret new acts of hate or discrimination while becoming a reminder of their own experiences of violence. While moving to Canada can be a fresh start and some of the survivors of collective violence can see it as a new beginning, my research highlights the critical importance of understanding the collective memories that immigrants bring with them. I emphasize the importance of support systems to go beyond simply recognizing cultural differences; they must reflect on and address the specific impacts of collective violence and trauma.

This means fostering interdisciplinary collaboration between academics, service providers, counsellors, and therapists to create a balanced approach that combines individual and collective support systems.

Additionally, ethical practices that prioritize consent, confidentiality, and sensitivity to cultural and religious norms need to be strengthened. By focusing on the collective memories of immigrant communities, the settlement process for immigrants and refugees can become holistic, acknowledging the past, supporting healing in the present, and building a sense of belonging for these communities.

References

Al Jazeera. (2023). Who was Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Sikh leader killed in Canada? Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/19/india-canada-row-who-was-hardeep-singh-nijjar-what-is-khalistan-movement>

Dubinski, K. (2024). London, Ont., truck attack left family, community in mourning 3 years ago. CBC News. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/veltman-muslim-family-conviction-killing-1.7121217>

About the author:



Misha Maitreyi successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, *Remembering Collective Violence: A Study of the Memories of Violence for Indian Sikh and Muslim Immigrants in Canada*, in October 2024. She earned her PhD from the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick.

Currently, she serves as a Senior Consultant with the Crime Prevention and Program Development Branch of the Department of Justice and Public Safety, in the Government of New Brunswick.

Addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth in Canada

Written by: Abby Lafond

Many believe that human trafficking does not happen in Canada; however, Canadians are not immune to human trafficking. Generally, in North America, the majority of victims are domestic persons, meaning that Canadians are most often being trafficked within Canada (Baird & Connolly, 2023). Due to systemic inequalities and power dynamics, women and girls make up the majority of sex trafficking victims worldwide. Statistics from 2009 to 2016 illustrate that 95% of human trafficking victims were women and girls, 26% of whom were girls under the age of 18 (Canada, 2019). The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) reported that from 2007 to 2013, all victims of prosecuted domestic sex trafficking in Canada identified as female (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2014). Girls from vulnerable populations such as children and youth who are in the child welfare system are being targeted.

Sex trafficking is defined as a form of human trafficking "consisting of the recruitment and exploitation of an individual through the use of threats, force, coercion, deception or abuse of power for the purpose of a commercial sex act" (Baird & Connolly, 2023, p. 189). The perpetrators of sex trafficking – known as traffickers – are often the ones recruiting/entrapping victims by using a multitude of tactics. Traffickers will usually prey on vulnerable people – such as children and youth – and their needs. Two of the vulnerabilities that increase the risk of the sex trafficking of children and youth are the need for financial support and the desire for love and affection. Due to these vulnerabilities, it is important to address the sex trafficking of female youths using an intersectional lens. Because of the colonial and structural inequalities in Canada, women and girls of marginalized groups such as those who identify as Indigenous, women and girls of colour, those in the child welfare system, women and girls of low economic status, and those identifying with the LGBTQ+ community are considerably more at risk (Canada, 2019; Selig, 2018; Tyler & Johnson, 2006).

Considering the implications of the colonial and structural inequalities that increase the susceptibility of domestic sex trafficking for young girls in Canada, a call for action is needed; especially in communities that are the most impacted by this issue. For example, education in addition to precautionary policies and initiatives should be put into place within Indigenous communities since they are specifically targeted by sex traffickers.

Moreover, the educational system should be educating youths on healthy romantic relationships as well as what sexual exploitation and sex trafficking can look like. Additionally, as illustrated by McDonald and colleagues (2023; 2024) new models of care focusing on wraparound services, internal case management, specially trained and supported caregivers, workers, and homes, and harm reduction approach to parenting and positive caregiver-child relationship should be implemented in child protection services in order to protect and support children and youth at risk of trafficking. Overall, due to Canada's unique geography which facilitates domestic sex trafficking, and due to both colonial and structural inequalities, a call to action as well as more initiatives to combat the sex trafficking of young girls is needed.

In view of this, I am currently working on my undergraduate honours research which identifies the gaps in the policies and legislation in New Brunswick regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth in the child welfare system. This research explores different models of care designed to prevent and protect children and youth in child protection services from sex trafficking. Finally, this research will identify how other provinces, such as Manitoba, are closing these gaps with their respective legislations and policies.

References

- Baird, K., & Connolly, J. (2023). Recruitment and Entrapment Pathways of Minors into Sex Trafficking in Canada and the United States: A Systematic Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(1), 189–202. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380211025241>
- Canada, Public Safety (2019, September 4). National Strategy To Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2019-ntnl-strtyg-hmnn-trffc/index-en.aspx>
- Canadian Women's Foundation. (2014). "No More" ending Sex Trafficking In Canada—Report of the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada. <https://www.canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/No-More-Ending-Sex-Trafficking-in-Canada.pdf>
- McDonald, K. P., Fisher, R., & Connolly, J. (2023). Building a specialized model of care for youth involved in sex trafficking in child welfare: A systematic review and interviews with experts-by-experience. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 135, 105987. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105987>
- McDonald, K. P., Fisher, R., & Connolly, J. (2024). An exploratory evaluation of a model of care for youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. *Child & Family Social Work*, 29(3), 648–656. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.13124>
- Selig, E. (2018). Statistically Speaking: The Overrepresentation of Foster Youth in Sex Trafficking Featured Practice Perspectives. *Children's Legal Rights Journal*, 38(1), 84–87.
- Tyler, K. A., & Johnson, K. A. (2006). Trading Sex: Voluntary or Coerced? The Experiences of Homeless Youth. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 43(3), 208–216.



About the author:

Abby Lafond is a 4th year student at the University of New Brunswick and is currently doing a joint honors degree in Sociology and Gender and Women's Studies.

Review: The Continuum of Gender-Based Violence experienced by Migrant and Refugee Women in Canada: Perspectives from Key Informants.

Reviewed by: Jihad (Rosty) Othman

Sisic, Tastsoglou, Dawson, Holtmann, Wilkinson and Falconer (2024) address the pressing issue of gender-based violence (GBV) and the unique vulnerabilities migrant and refugee women (MRW) encounter due to their legal migration status, gender, race and social positioning in Canada. Drawing upon the “continuum of sexual violence” theory (Kelly, 1987; 2012) and an intersectionality approach, the authors make a case for an expanded range of the continuum of violence against MRW. This necessitates a broadened definition of violence which includes the aggravated threats and consequently amplified vulnerabilities as well as the unique, non-physical forms of violence that can and often do target MRW specifically.

The present paper derives from the Canadian GBV in Migration Program which, in turn, is part of a larger international project focusing on *Violence against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Response*.^[1] Through in-depth, qualitative interviews, the present paper aims to identify the primary forms of GBV among MRW in Canada, according to the perspectives of “key informants”. The latter consisted of service providers in the immigrant settlement and anti-violence sectors, with some being government workers and others NGO staff.

[1] The Canadian GBV program (<https://www.smu.ca/gendernet/welcome.html>) includes researchers at four institutions (i) Saint Mary's University, (ii) University of New Brunswick, (iii) University of Guelph, (iv) University of Manitoba. The research program has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at each of the four institutions. The Canadian program, funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, is part of the international project on Violence Against Women Migrants and Refugees: Analyzing Causes and Effective Policy Response (GBV-MIG), a winning project of the Gender-Net Plus Consortium (<https://gbvmigration.cnrs.fr/>)

The interviews were audio recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed to identify key themes relating to the experiences of GBV among MRW. The authors state the study's limitations, such as their focus on the perspectives of key informants about gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of migration in Canada rather than the migrant and refugee women; the limited forms of violence key informants spoke about (IPV by male partners against cis-MRW) and the limited demographic of MRW that key informants spoke about (cis-MRW, of variable migration statuses and national origins).

While there are several commonalities with Kelly's “continuum” experienced by the broader population of women, such as the non-physical forms of violence accounting for most of the violence, the interlinking of physical and non-physical forms, and the de-legitimation of the non-physical forms in everyday life, when it comes to MRW, the present study uncovers a different range of the “continuum” of GBV against MRW in Canada, necessitating an “amendment” of the original theory to include the experiences of MRW. The authors' findings reveal unique or more impactful forms of violence or risk factors precipitating violence, such as using social isolation to gain or maintain control over women, threats of child apprehension, threats against extended family, language barriers and legal status barriers (e.g. refusal to sponsor a woman, withholding paperwork; threats to undermine a MRW status in Canada).

FROM THE RESEARCHER'S DESK

While the first three of these forms (i.e. social isolation, threats of child apprehension or threats against extended family) may impact Canadian-born GBV victim/survivors, they appear to amplify or aggravate the legally / socially induced vulnerability of MRW. Finally, the last two forms (i.e. language and legal barriers) appear to uniquely affect MRW. The findings show that we need to broaden the scope of “the continuum” of violence” if we want to include MRW, as well as utilize an intersectional lens to understand the additional forms and vulnerabilities to GBV for MRW. Important policy implications follow from these findings, such as the need to develop a more inclusive understanding of GBV in Canadian society, as well as the need to take into account legal migration categories, social, gender and ethno-cultural positionalities and identities of MRW survivors of GBV in Canada.

The authors demonstrate the complexity of GBV when it comes to the MRW as their data shows the implications of gendered and intersectional discrimination for increasing vulnerabilities and compounding the GBV experiences of MRW in Canada. Nevertheless, the differential impact of GBV needs to be looked into closer and with a fresh eye to address each group’s GBV separately rather than taking them as a homogenous group. As a result, better preventative policies, and interventions can be initiated based on the needs of MRW survivors.

Overall, the study's findings contribute to a more comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding GBV among migrant and refugee women. By integrating concepts of the continuum of violence and intersectionality, the study highlights the complexities of migrant and refugee women experiences and shows the need for nuanced approaches in both academic discourse and practical policy interventions.

References

Kelly, L. (2012) “Standing the Test of Time? Reflections on the Concept of the Continuum of Sexual Violence.” In *Handbook on Sexual Violence* edited by J. M. Brown and S. L. Walklate, xvii-xxvi. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.

———. (1987) “The Continuum of Sexual Violence.” In *Sexualities: Critical Concepts in Sociology* edited by K. Plummer, 127–139. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.

Sisic, M., Tastsoglou, E., Dawson, M., Holtmann, C., Wilkinson, L., & Falconer, C. (2024). The Continuum of Gender-Based Violence experienced by Migrant and Refugee Women in Canada: Perspectives from Key Informants. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2024.1420124>



Jihad (Rosty) Othman is a Ph.D. Student at the Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Manitoba

The Aegean Observatory



Image retrieved from Candiadoc.

Shipwrecks Near Gavdos and Rhodes Mark the End of 2024

Two tragic shipwrecks in Greece have underscored the dangerous journeys of refugees and migrants attempting to cross the Aegean in late 2024.

Gavdos Incident

On December 14, 2024, a boat carrying approximately 80 people capsized 12.5 nautical miles southwest of Gavdos Island. Despite an overnight rescue operation involving nearby vessels, the Hellenic Coast Guard, and military helicopters, the toll was devastating.



Image retrieved from [News 24/7](#).

Thirty-seven people were rescued, one person was confirmed dead, and at least 40 remain missing. Later recoveries included two bodies found northwest of Gavdos on December 16 and a decomposed body discovered on December 23 at Agios Ioannis Beach.

Rhodes Incident

Just days later, on December 20, another tragedy unfolded near Rhodes. A speedboat carrying migrants and refugees capsized, resulting in eight deaths and eight injuries. One of the injured required intubation at the hospital due to the severity of their condition. Adding to the heartbreak, a father reported his four-year-old daughter missing.

A Sobering Reminder

These incidents serve as grim reminders of the dangers faced by those seeking safety and the urgent need for stronger international measures to protect lives at sea. As we begin 2025, the loss of life in these two shipwrecks highlights the human cost of ongoing migration challenges.

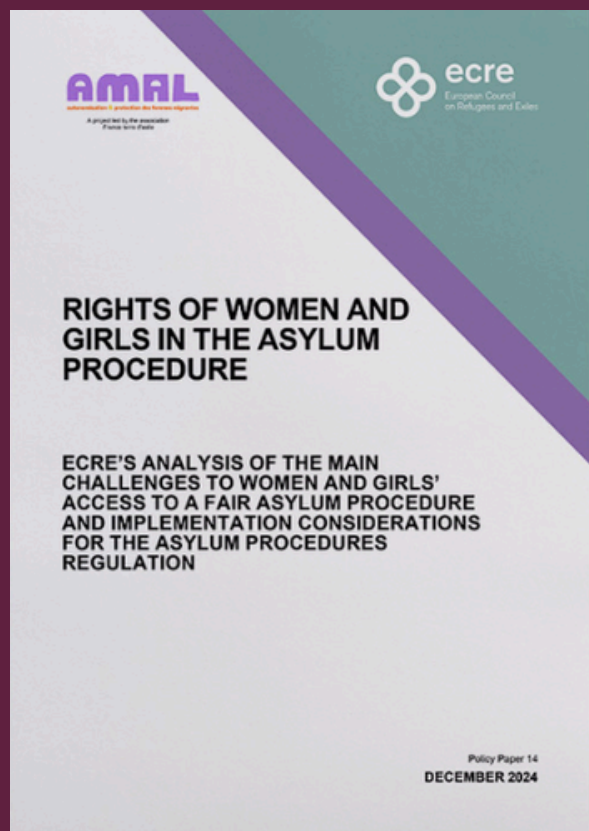


About the author

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

ECRE Policy Insights: Ensuring the Rights of Women and Girls in Asylum Procedures

Reported by: Eva Kazakou



The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) has published a comprehensive policy paper addressing the rights of women and girls in asylum processes. Released in December 2024, the document highlights critical gaps and offers targeted recommendations to promote gender-sensitive practices in line with international human rights obligations and EU legislative frameworks, including the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

Addressing Gender-Specific Vulnerabilities

Women and girls face unique challenges during migration, such as exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination, and exploitation. These vulnerabilities are often overlooked or inadequately addressed within asylum systems. ECRE's policy paper underscores the importance of implementing gender-specific measures to ensure fair and safe treatment throughout the asylum process.

One key aspect is the recognition of GBV, such as domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual violence, as legitimate grounds for international protection. Despite the inclusion of such provisions in EU directives—notably, the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (Directive 2013/32/EU), and the newly adopted Asylum Procedures Directive (Regulation 2024/1348)—implementation remains inconsistent across Member States. ECRE emphasizes that authorities must adopt a trauma-informed approach to interviewing, documenting, and adjudicating asylum claims by women and girls.

Recommendations for Reception Conditions

Reception facilities must safeguard the safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls. The policy paper highlights recurring issues, such as overcrowding, insufficient healthcare, and the absence of gender-segregated spaces. While the Regulation 2024/1348 on asylum and migration management obliges Member States to maintain high standards of care, ECRE calls for more specific safeguards to prevent GBV in reception centers and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Procedural Reforms

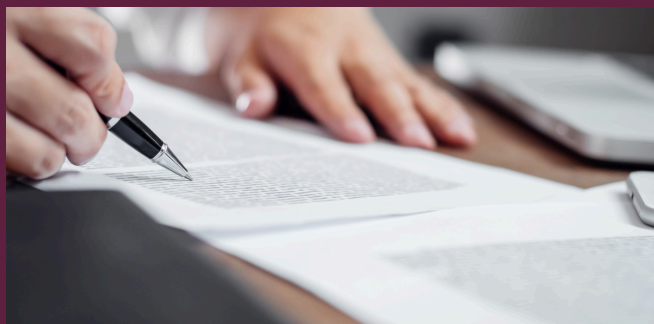
To uphold the rights of women and girls, ECRE advocates for key procedural reforms, including:

- **Training for Asylum Officials:** Specialized training on gender-sensitive interviewing and the effects of trauma is crucial for decision-makers, interpreters, and caseworkers.
- **Access to Female Interviewers and Interpreters:** Women applicants often prefer female interviewers, especially when discussing experiences of GBV. Ensuring their availability fosters a more supportive environment.
- **Tailored Timelines:** Survivors of GBV may need additional time to provide evidence or recover from trauma. Flexibility in procedural timelines can accommodate these realities.



Legal Frameworks and Alignment

Existing legal instruments, such as the Istanbul Convention and EU directives, provide a robust foundation for addressing these challenges. However, gaps in implementation hinder progress. ECRE urges Member States to adopt binding measures for gender-sensitive asylum practices within CEAS reforms, supported by stringent monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance.



Call to Action

ECRE's recommendations align with broader EU objectives, including commitments under the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. However, addressing the systemic issues affecting women and girls in asylum procedures requires coordinated action at all levels—local, national, and European. By prioritizing gender-sensitive measures, Member States can move closer to fulfilling their legal and moral obligations, ensuring that women and girls seeking protection receive the dignity, safety, and justice they deserve.

This policy paper serves as a vital reminder that the asylum process must account for gender-specific vulnerabilities. Only by embedding gender-sensitive practices into asylum systems can we hope to achieve a fair and equitable approach to international protection for all.

Reported by: **Eva Kazakou**

Holiday Spike in Intimate-Partner Violence: The Case of the Halifax Murder-Suicide

Reported by: Sarah Delorme

At 10:35 p.m. on New Year's Eve, [Halifax Regional Police](#) responded to a report of an injured woman on Gottingen Street. The police found 40-year old Cora-Lee Smith and her father, 73-year old Bradford Downey, both unresponsive inside a vehicle after being shot.

Hours later, at 1:30 a.m., police was informed that the man responsible for the murder was located near the Halifax Common, next to the Emera Oval.



Image credits: [Vanessa Wright/CTV Atlantic](#).

The suspect, 39-year old Matthew Costain, was found dead at the scene and is presumed to have shot himself. While he did not have a criminal record in Nova Scotia, Costain did use an alias.

This represents the fourth murder-suicide case linked to intimate-partner violence (IPV) in Nova Scotia in three months, where each time, the man murders his female partner before taking his own life.

Learn more about the case [here](#).

Unfortunately, such IPV cases occurring during the holidays are not uncommon. Carla Neto, executive director at Women's Habitat of Etobicoke, says that her organization has seen an increase in calls and an influx of women looking to stay at their shelter during [this time of the year](#).

More victims tend to report incidents during the holidays for a number of reasons, the main one being financial stress.

Priya Shastri, director of programs at Woman Abuse Council of Toronto, explains that according to survivors, "the increased cost in living is resulting in abusers using the circumstances to manipulate women and coerce them to do certain things in order to get access to financial resources".

The rise in reported violence around the holiday season is also magnified by the stress caused by expenses such as buying gifts, as well as societal pressure to host or attend events. This may lead survivors to interact less with friends and family, or even avoid gatherings whatsoever.

Within the first two weeks of December, Toronto Police received 689 reports of intimate partner violence, which represents 90% of all cases reported in the entirety of December 2023.

Many individuals isolate themselves, cancel on events, or express anxiety, nervousness and depression, especially near the holiday season, which highlights how crucial it is to recognize signs of gender-based violence before physical abuse begins.

New Shelter in Sussex for Women Survivors of Intimate-Partner Violence

Survivors of intimate-partner violence living in the Sussex region finally have access to affordable temporary housing after eight years of planning and one year of construction.

The [Sussex Vale Transition House](#) is an emergency shelter for women and children and is considered “second-stage housing” for survivors who need time to find employment. This new building, which contains a children’s play room, a common area with a kitchen, laundry equipment and office space, represents a safe space where people will be able to stay up to two years.



Image retrieved from [CBC](#).

In order to be eligible, women have to apply or be referred. They also need to participate in every part of the program, which includes one-on-one counselling sessions and weekly group support meetings.

Julie Matthews, executive director of Sussex Vale Transition House, said that \$2.8M were needed for this project, where more than \$1M was raised from the community, a fundraising that started in 2016.

Saint John Man charged with 2nd-degree murder for Christmas Eve Femicide

Diego Alejandro Osorio Angarita, a [26-year old man, is accused of killing Nicsy Arboleda Rodriguez](#), his 30-year old wife on Christmas Eve.

At 4 a.m. on December 24th, 2024, emergency crews were called to Lancaster Avenue, where they found Nicsy, unconscious on the side of the road.

The accused made his first court appearance on January 10th, 2025.

Calls to declare intimate-partner violence an epidemic in New Brunswick

Following recent legislations adopted by provinces like Nova Scotia and Ontario to declare intimate-partner violence (IPV) an epidemic, many organizations and communities are calling on the New Brunswick Government to follow their lead.

During the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women, [The New Brunswick Federation of Labour \(NBFL\)](#) has made a statement urging the provincial to pass a similar bill. [Unifor](#) has also published a letter to Premier Holt, asking the provincial government to rapidly address this issue by declaring IPV an epidemic.

Reported by: Sarah Delorme

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: NEW BRUNSWICK



Domestic violence resources can be found through the Government of New Brunswick's **Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign**:



Website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/biling/Violence.html>



X/Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LoveShouldNB>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/loveshouldnthurtNB/>

New Brunswick Directory of Services for Victims of Abuse

Domestic Violence Association of New Brunswick

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick

Government of New Brunswick Support Services for Victims of Abuse

New Brunswick Multicultural Council's Gender-Based Violence resources

Settlement Services for Newcomers to New Brunswick

Saint John Newcomer Centre Legal Clinic for Newcomers

Other resources

- [New Brunswick Government: Sexual Violence](#)
- [Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in New Brunswick: A Framework for Action](#)
- [New Brunswick Government: Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence \(DIPV\) Key Concepts and Statistics](#)



Sexual Violence New Brunswick

SVNB provides support for those living in the Fredericton region affected by sexual violence and offers services and programs that can provide help, information and options. Some of their services include counselling, group support, school based prevention programs, public education, and advocacy.

Provided by: Sarah Delorme

COMMUNITY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT



Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research (MMFC)

Reported by: Sarah Delorme

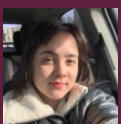
Nearly celebrating its 40th anniversary, the **Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre (MMFC)** was created in 1985 along with the establishment of the Fergusson Foundation, a charitable organization. The need for a preventative approach to family violence made it evident that protective services for survivors were necessary, which is why members of the foundation have worked to raise funds towards these services. The MMFC was established within the Faculty of Arts in 1993, as a collaboration of efforts between the University of New Brunswick and the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Foundation. The research centre emerged out of the necessity to have collaborative action-oriented research on family violence and violence against women and children. The MMFC is a member of the Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Gender-Based Violence which includes other research centres such as the [RESOLVE](#) groups, [CREVAWC](#), [RAIV](#) and the [FREDA](#) Centre.

The MMFC undertakes activities that contribute broadly to the elimination of family violence and provide an Atlantic Canadian perspective on family violence research while actively seeking the participation of researchers from across the country and around the world. They value bringing together diverse perspectives on family violence issues which is why their research conduction is in collaboration with personal from various academic disciplines, government departments, and community organizations. Their research findings are used to inform changes to policymaking as well as for educational purposes and training programs.

The MMFC offers formal and informal education opportunities for students and professionals including conferences, workshops, training programs and events, resources, as well as a Family Violence Issues (FVI) Certificate program as an undergraduate specialization.

Dr. Evie Tastsoglou is a Research Fellow of the MMFC and Dr. Catherine Holtmann is the Academic Chair of the Religion and Violence Research Team at the MMFC.

Found out the various ways to [get involved](#) with the MMFC.



Sarah Delorme
Newsletter Assistant Editor
Student at Saint Mary's University