

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association  
(CIWA)  
&  
Islamic Family Social Services Association  
(IFSSA) Edmonton

presents:

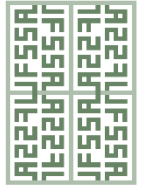
**Ethno-Culturally Diverse  
Communities, Newcomers &  
COVID-19**

**Presenters:**

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ISLAMIC FAMILY  
& SOCIAL SERVICES  
ASSOCIATION



**CIWA**  
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Defining domestic violence**
- **Factors leading to DV within immigrant/refugee families**
- **Impact of Covid-19**
- **Relaunch/preparing for future**
- **Q and A**

# Defining Domestic Violence



Client perspective

Frontline worker perspective

# Defining Domestic Violence

The CDVC defines domestic violence as:

“The attempt, act or intent of someone within a relationship, where the relationship is characterized by intimacy, dependency or trust, to intimidate either by threat or by the use of physical force on another person or property. The purpose of the abuse is to control and or exploit through neglect, intimidation, inducement of fear or by inflicting pain. Abusive behavior can take many forms including: verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and economic and the violation of rights. All forms of abusive behaviour are ways in which one human being is trying to have control, exploit and/or have power over another.”

# DV in the Ethnocultural Population

## Types and Causes of Violence

- Situational
- Coercive control

## Barriers for the Victims

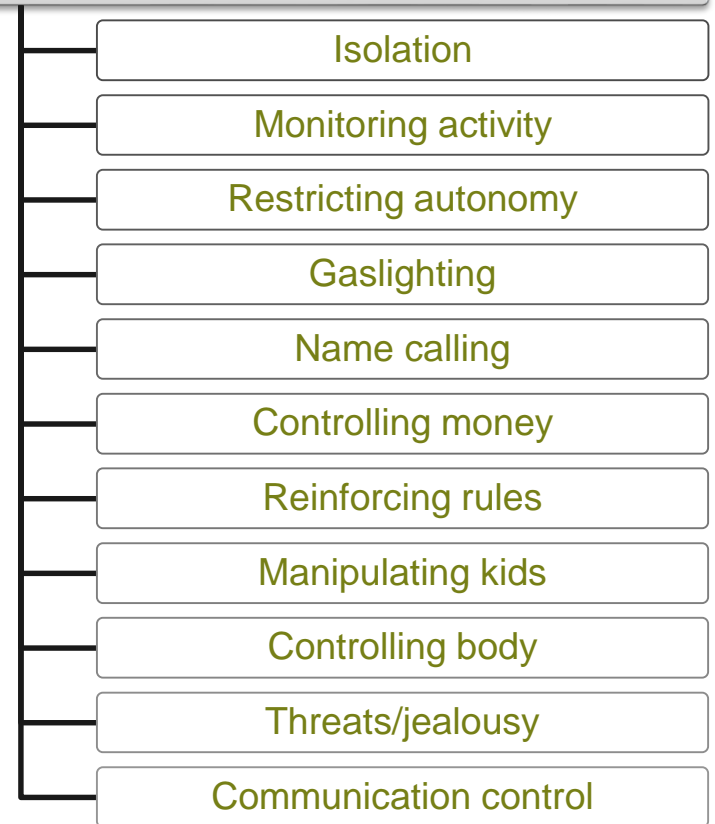
- Collectivistic versus Individualistic
- Cultural Safety

# Types of violence

## Situational Violence



## Coercive Control



# Barriers for ethnocultural victim to leave

**I can't leave...**

Canadian laws  
and community  
services (lack of  
knowledge)

Divorce?  
Separation!!  
This will bring  
shame to the  
family.

You didn't listen to  
the husband. It's all  
your fault. How can  
you be so selfish?  
(Collectivistic  
cultural upbringing)

Calling police??  
What will the  
community say?  
Here ... and back  
home?

My father says,  
"Accept your  
destiny. Stay  
with your  
husband".

Security from  
family and  
community?

PR Sponsorship??  
I will lose my  
permanent  
residency (fear)!!

# Barriers for ethnocultural victim to leave

## Collectivistic versus Individualistic culture

- The collectivist values put priority on family and community
- A complex and multi-dimensional family system
- IDENTITY is closely tied to family and community



# Barriers for ethnocultural victim to leave

## Cultural Safety

- Concept introduced in New Zealand by nurses in 1980s
- Recognize and Respect the cultural identities of others, and safely meet their needs, expectations and rights
- Culturally unsafe practices are those that "diminish, demean or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual"

(Nursing Council of New Zealand 2002, p. 9).

# Typical service provision gaps

## ❖ Shelters:

- space
- language barrier and cultural sensitivity
- lack of long term support (housing)

## ❖ Family support:

- support for immigrant men
- support for immigrant children/secondary victims of violence
- perpetrator engagement in education

## ❖ Specialised culturally sensitive counseling

- unaffordable for low income families
- gender specific counselors

## ❖ Lack of special considerations

- religion
- spirituality

## ❖ Service coordination/Case management



# Impact of Covid-19

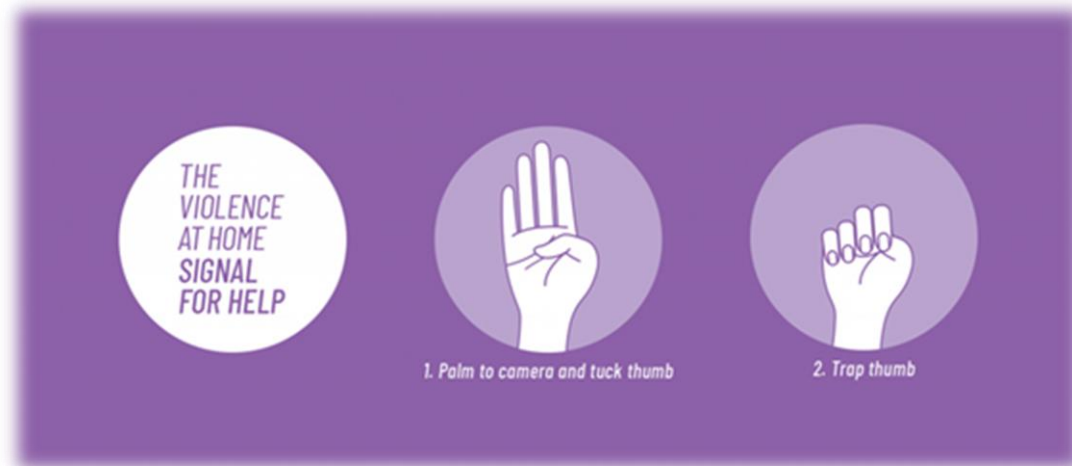
## Increased risks:

- Technology control
- Assessing “real” safety
- Safety planning
- Family setting
- Fear of virus
- Emergency housing
- Added stress factors

# Preparing for future

## Adjusted ways to mitigate the new risk factors

- Revisit safety planning
- Gauge who else in family is around (in-laws, partner); during greetings ask about everyone in the family staying at home
- Video calls to be preferred way of virtual service delivery (to assess casually that their physical space is safe and secure)
- Educate clients about the signals for help



# Engaging men and boys

- Providing customized support for males
- Creating a safe place
- Male support groups
- Gender equity workshops
- Group sessions focusing on prevention and awareness



# Moving forward with best practices

## ❖ Counseling support:

- individual/couple/group
- first language (interpretation and translation)
- culturally sensitive
- support groups (men/women/couples)
- rebuilding lives (family)

## ❖ Strategic partnerships

- shelters
- police service
- children's services
- foodbank
- collaborative efforts (e.g. CDVC)
- health Services

## ❖ Evidence based tools

- Risk and protective factor survey

## ❖ Customised supports

- emergency housing support
- emergency food
- transportation support
- childcare provision
- parenting after violence
- accessible service locations
- in-home support

## ❖ Outreach

- Community education/awareness

## ❖ Engaging men and boys

- active networks (e.g. MAN-C)
- support groups
- gender equity workshops
- healthy relationships sessions

# Questions



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