



Framing violence prevention in meaningful ways for migrant and refugee communities

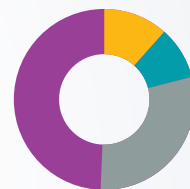
This tip sheet was developed for workers by Multicultural Centre for Women's Health with support from DVRCV.

Migrant communities are often marginalised but we are not marginal.

In fact, 49% of Australians are born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas.

Preventing violence means promoting gender equality.

Any discrimination against women and girls contributes to their inequality, so preventing violence includes challenging racism, ableism, homophobia and class or age discrimination* as well as sexism.



- One parent born overseas
- Both parents born overseas
- Born overseas
- Both parents born in Australia

Tips to make violence prevention more meaningful for migrant communities

Remember, there's more to migrants

A person or group cannot be defined by a single category: we are more than our labels.

Birthplace isn't the most important thing you need to know about us, and it's definitely not the only thing.

Think about what it means to 'represent a community'

As migrants and refugees, we are often seen to represent our entire community. No individual speaks for a whole community. Communities should not be stigmatised or stereotyped because of the actions or opinions of individuals.

Challenge 'cultural' explanations for violence

Violence against women and gender inequality exists across all Australian communities. Assumptions about 'cultural' attitudes to women or violence can lead to harmful stereotypes and stigma. Prevention is not about changing 'migrant cultures': it is about changing the culture of violence across all Australian communities.

Embrace not being the expert

Culture is complex. Being 'culturally competent' or 'culturally appropriate' isn't a tick box. Learning how to negotiate cultural difference is an ongoing process and the only experts are community members themselves. So:

- Make sure communities have ownership of the process
- Consult with specialist organisations
- Value migrant and refugee women's expertise and experience.

See cultures as complex and changing

We are all shaped by the cultures we live in. We are not defined by them. Cultures change over time and place, are experienced differently by different people, and are characterised by differences and oppositions within them.