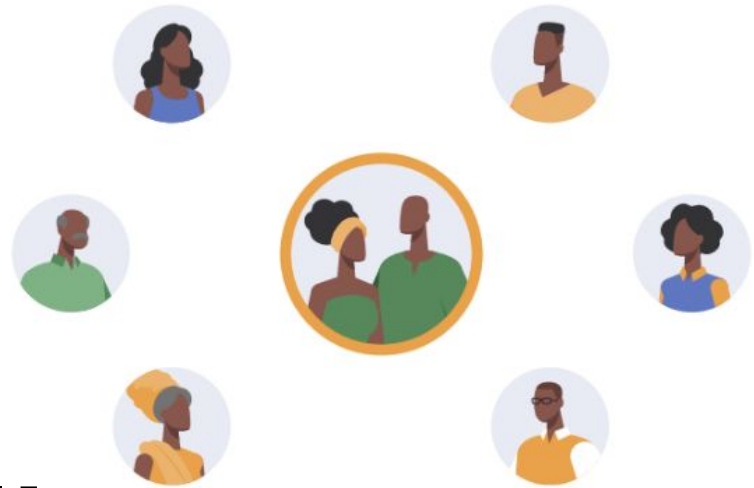




Partnership for African Newcomers

PRAN

le partenariat avec les nouveaux arrivants Africains



Enhancing Gender Equity Program

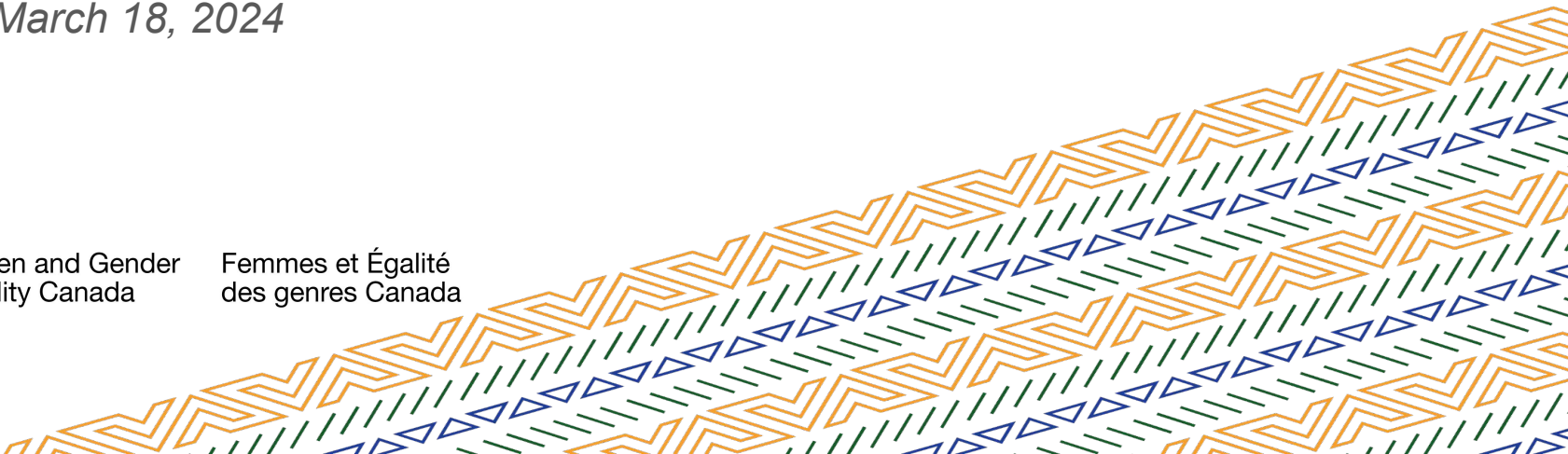
IPV Prevention Toolkit

Monday, March 18, 2024



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



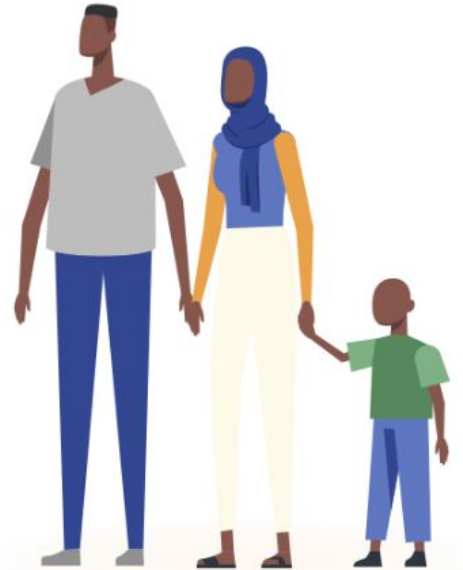
Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 6, 7, and 8. Namely: the Blackfoot Confederacy – Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika – the Cree, Dene, Sauteaux, Nakota Sioux, Stoney Nakoda, and the Tsuut'ina Nation and the Métis People of Alberta. In hosting a webinar addressing intimate partner violence prevention, we recognize that this issue transcends cultural boundaries and affects individuals from all communities, including those of Indigenous descent. We acknowledge the disproportionate impact of intimate partner violence on Indigenous peoples in Canada, stemming from historical trauma, socio-economic disparities, and systemic inequalities. By acknowledging the interconnectedness of our struggles and committing to collaborative efforts toward healing and reconciliation, we aim to foster a community where all individuals, regardless of background, can access the support and resources needed to thrive. We offer this acknowledgment as a gesture of reconciliation and gratitude to the Indigenous peoples whose lands we inhabit.



Contents

- Introduction (housekeeping, questions, etc)
- Overview
 - Team Members
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 - Working Group
 - Key Pillars
- Project Implementation
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 - Interactive Sessions
 - Podcast
 - Videos
 - Pamphlets
 - Framework report



Project Leads



Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika is a Full Professor in U of A's Women's and Gender Studies Department. Her areas of expertise include Gender and International Migration; Gender and Development in the Global South. She is the Director of the Partnership for Research with African Newcomers, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)



Dr. Sophie Yohani is a registered psychologist and professor of Counselling Psychology at the University of Alberta. Her current research examines African and Middle Eastern migrants' mental health, psychosocial adaptation, and community-engaged practices.



What Makes this Project Unique?

- Integration of a crucial African perspective— a communal problem
- Evidence-based: University-Community partnership
- Attention to language and approach— healthy gender relations
- Meaningful inclusion of men
- Participation of informal, community-based, and mainstream agencies

Building from Research

- *Addressing Domestic Violence in Post-Migration Gender Relations: A Prerequisite for Building Sustainable, Resilient Immigrant Communities* 2018
- Scoping Review— Intimate Partner interventions within immigrant populations across the G7 nations, 2021
- Participatory Action Research study on gender relations in African immigrant families in Alberta, 2017-2021
- *Intimate Partner Violence: A Rapid Narrative Review Focused on Black Canadian Populations*, 2022
- Focus Group Discussion, 2022



Key Pillars

**GENDER
RELATIONS**

PARENTING

**EMPLOYMENT,
EDUCATION &
TRAINING**

**FINANCIAL
LITERACY**



Project Team



**Halima Mohamud - Program
Manger (Africa Centre)**



**Yawa Idi - Program
Coordinator (Africa Centre)**



**Anne Mckinnon-Yeoman -
Research Coordinator (UofA)**



Working Group

- Convened community members, stakeholders, academics and front line workers to be a part of the working group
- **Calgary and Edmonton**
- **Activities**
 - May - Intro Meeting
 - June - Workshop
 - September - Activity implementation
 - May - August 2023: Feedback



Community Engagement



Community Partner Collaboration



- Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
- Ubuntu- Mobilizing Central Alberta
- Somali Canadian Society of Calgary
- Bright Light for Africa
- Hands Lifting Hearts
- Ruth's House
- Maskan CPSG

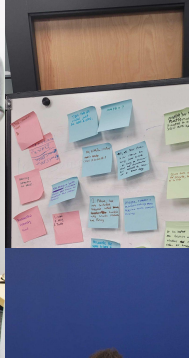


Interactive Sessions

- April 2023 to March 2024
- Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer
- Impacts of IPV in the Black community
 - Youth - **4**
 - Wise Women Leaders (French/English)- **5**
 - Financial Literacy - **2**



Youth - Interactive Sessions



Wise Women Leaders (female elder)



Financial Literacy



Podcast + Videos

- *Better than the Cure: Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*
 - 12 podcast episodes that feature a series of guests who discuss and provide insights on gender relations, parenting, education and employment, finances and mental health, within the context of IPV
- Short animated clips derived from the podcast episodes will be circulated on social media to promote the podcast and disseminate information
- French translation closed captioning and subtitles will be provided*

**BETTER
THAN THE
CURE.™**



Pamphlets

- *What is IPV*
- *Gender Relations*
- *Parenting*
- *Bring Men into the Conversation*
- *The Role of Systems*
- *Culturally and Contextually Adaptive Support & Prevention*

All communities, regardless of race or culture, are impacted by Intimate Partner Violence. Violence fractures communities, but empowered and informed community members can create empowered and informed communities. Working together, we can make our communities healthier, safer, and stronger.

What is IPV?

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), also called domestic violence or spousal violence, is a pattern of abusive behaviours within an intimate or romantic relationship. One partner uses abusive behaviours or tactics to control or gain power over their partner. We often think of violence as physical in nature, but IPV can also be sexual, financial, psychological, and emotional.

Some examples of physical abuse:

- hitting, slapping, pushing, and choking.

Some examples of sexual abuse:

- forcing your partner to engage in unwanted sexual activity (touching, kissing, penetration) and refusing to practice safe sex (like wearing a condom).

Some examples of financial (economic) abuse:

- stopping your partner from getting a job, not letting your partner have access to family income, and destroying your partner's belongings.

Psychological abuse attempts to alter or manipulate the way someone thinks. An example of **psychological abuse** is gaslighting.

Why men should be involved?

In many immigrant communities, men have greater potential to influence and intervene when it comes to married couples. It is therefore essential that they are equipped with adequate, appropriate training to recognize and understand IPV, how to build healthy relationships, communicate effectively, and support survivors.

Research shows that when men are included in the conversation, the community integrates intervention strategies at a significantly higher rate.

Finally, research also suggests that increased access to culturally-aware interventions encouraged constructive, long-term changes in how immigrant men viewed and engaged with their partners.

The time has come to build a system of mutual support where there is enough trust present to encourage healthy, respectful relationships between men and their partners!

Some examples of emotional abuse:

- calling your partner names, treating your partner as beneath you, threatening to harm yourself/others, threatening to have your partner deported, shifting blame, stalking, or using technology to track and/or monitor your partner!

In Canada, police-reported data suggests that dating partner violence is more prevalent than spousal (marital) violence. Among youth aged 15-24 experience the highest rates of dating violence at a rate of 520 victims per 100,000.²

IPV and African, Caribbean, and Black Communities

While IPV exists in all communities, we know that factors like racism, ageism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination make it harder for certain victim-survivors to access help or support. For newcomers to Canada, resettlement may deprive them of the kind of support systems they had in their countries of origin. Families may grapple with changes in family dynamics and shifts in gender roles during resettlement. Many might fear deportation if they disclose violence in their homes. Immigrant women may become economically dependent on their partners because of deskilling or underemployment. This dependency can make it impossible for them to report violence.

¹Community Initiatives Against Family Violence, (2020, March 18). Our definition of family violence. <https://cafv.com/about-us/our-definition-of-fv/>. Domestic Violence Awareness Project (2018). <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-care-providers/nursing/npk-national-resource-centre-on-domestic-violence>. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-care-providers/nursing/npk-national-resource-centre-on-domestic-violence/npk-national-resource-centre-on-domestic-violence.pdf>. ²Statistics Canada (2013). Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, no. 88-002-X. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Ministry of Industry 2013.

Role of Systems

Broader social structures — like patriarchy — normalize male dominance over women, which normalizes IPV in many ways. Racism also facilitates IPV. In North America, there are many harmful myths about Black men and women. Often, Black women are characterized as strong and capable of withstanding all trauma and therefore not needing support or care. Black men are characterized as dangerous or prone to violence. People experiencing IPV might fear that talking about IPV will cause more violence in their communities through racism and increased surveillance, or that official support services may blame their culture. However, IPV affects all communities and all people deserve support and care.

Impact

IPV affects mental health — people who experience IPV might struggle with depression, anxiety, or suicide. Children who grow up exposed to IPV struggle in school, with anxiety and sleep difficulties, might engage in aggressive behaviors, and can struggle with conflict resolution. IPV contributes to family dysfunction and the breakdown of families. People who engage in abusive behaviours might feel shame and have difficulty accessing support to change their behaviour. Women who experience IPV may experience poor mental health, which then impacts their parenting. IPV may impact employment stability, thus impacting the family's finances. It may also lead to exposure to the legal system or the removal of children from the home.

Bringing Men into the Conversation

Intimate Partner Violence

Hours:
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Calgary
403-803-8676
Suite# 840 105 12th Ave SE,
Calgary, AB T2G 1A1

Edmonton
780-455-5423



Breaking Barriers, Building Support:

Intimate Partner Violence in Alberta's African, Caribbean, and Black Communities

A Handbook for Service Providers, Supporters, and Leaders



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Website

Access information on the program, project deliverables, and announcements on the AC website



Access information on the research partnership PRAN here:



Challenges

- IPV private vs community issue
- Language
- Engaging specific demographics
- Level of engagement and expectations
- Scheduling
- Funding/ Continued Programming
- Collaboration and Capacity



Successes

- Engaging communities outside the 2 main cities
- Creating a space for the community to talk about IPV
- Lots of interest in the project from service providers
- Opportunity for people in our community to engage with this initiative (community ownership)
- Collaboration
- Inspiration for future projects



Future Directions

- Framework report
- Collaboration with academics and front line workers
- Streamline mental health resources
- Men's Hub
- Wise Women Leaders Cafe's
- New WAGE Grant proposal (building on current project)— Focus on:
 - Engaging and mobilizing men and boys in Black communities to become allies in preventing IPV
 - Addressing culturally responsive service gaps in the sector working to end GBV



Thank you!

Questions?



Questions to Reflect on

1. How do you see yourself or your organization integrating the information in the toolkits into your existing programs or services?
2. What gaps in knowledge or awareness raising regarding IPC exist in your practice that our project has not captured?
3. What are your thoughts on the future directions we have identified:
 - a. Engaging and mobilizing men and boys in Black communities to become allies in preventing IPV
 - b. Addressing culturally responsive service gaps in the sector working to end GBV