

# Promoting Collective Action in Migrant Communities to Address the Structural Violence of Precarious Work and Precarious Status

Rupaleem Bhuyan, Learning Network Forum, October 8

**Slide 2: Gender-Based Violence Work in an Era of Precarious Migration**

**Slide 3: Word bubble with words like cultural, social, women, violence, domestic, words, civilize**

**Slide 4: According to the 2016 Census, 7.5 million foreign-born people came to Canada through the immigration process. They represented more than 1 in 5 persons in Canada.**

**Slide 5: Permanent Residents in 2017**

- Economic: 159,262
- Family: 82,470
- Refugee: 44,747
- Total: 286,479

Government of Canada (2018a)

**Slide 6: Temporary Residents in 2018**

- Students: 572,000
- TFWs: 254,540
- Refugee claimants: 29,435
- Total: 855,975

Government of Canada (2018b)

**Slide 7: Types of Violence**

- Violence from the State
- Immigration Policies
- Systemic Racism and Xenophobia
- Lack of Safe and Affordable Housing
- Migrant Worker Policies
- International Student Policies
- Precarious Work and Low Wages

Ahmad et al, (2018)

### **Slide 8: Vulnerabilities for Migrant Women**

- Risk of Intimate Partner Violence
- Burden of Proof for Abuse/Neglect
- Language Barriers
- Risk of Homelessness
- Social Stigma
- Lack of Family Support
- Lack of Community Support
- Economic Dependence on Partner
- Legally Bound to Partner
- Fear of Losing Custody of Children
- Fear of Losing Permanent Residency
- Fear of Deportations
- Lack of Access to Social Services
- Lack of Access to Legal Services

Bhuyan et al. (2014)

### **Slide 9: Case Studies from Participatory Action Research**

- Caregivers Journeys
- Promoting Collective Action in Migrant Communities

### **Slide 11-12: There are Different Forms of Abuse. Here are examples from our interviews with migrant caregivers**

- Emotional (e.g. accusing you of something you didn't do, not allowing you to talk to your friends or family, being put down or talked to rudely)
- Financial (e.g. giving you an "allowance" instead of a salary, being charged for things broken by the family, not paying overtime hours)
- Physical (e.g. being shoved or pushed, not having enough food)
- Sexual (e.g. saying you are just like their wife, being sexually assaulted by employer, making you touch them in areas of their body you do not want to)

### **Slide 13: We Found that Many Caregivers**

- Do not report abuse
- Have unmet health needs
- Experience prolonged family separation
- Experience isolation
- Are at risk for depression
- Fear losing immigration status

The trauma migrant caregivers face in precarious migration and migrant care work impact their long-term well-being and family relations.

**Slide 14: Caregivers Support Each Other By....**

- Going to church
- Getting together
- Using social media
- Staying in touch with friends and family
- Organizing for rights

**Slide 15: South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO)**

**Slide 16: Key Concerns (SAWRO)**

- Underemployment and precarious work
- Marginalization of racialized immigrant women
- Childcare
- Affordable housing
- Legal Aid

**Slide 17: Current Actions (SAWRO)**

- Precarious work report with policy recommendations.
- Skit to illustrate forms of exploitation for women working with temp agencies
- Public education and advocacy campaigns
- Child care
- Legal aid
- Know your rights
- Cultural and social events
- Commemorating history of Bangladesh's independence

**Slide 18:**

"You come together. You realize that we are all connected. We are all affected by the same issues right? So I think it makes a huge difference when people do participate in collective actions." - Community Leader

**Slide 19: What You Can Do**

- Intersectional & trauma awareness
- Funding
- Engagement
- Space
- Showing up

- Networking
- Language access
- Enabling access to information

## **Slide 20: Migrant Mothers Project**

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## **Slide 21: References**

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