

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

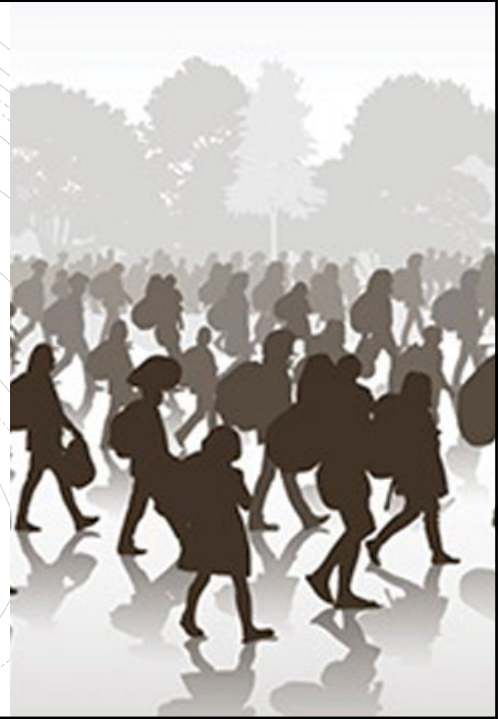
Rupaleem Bhuyan

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Gender-Based Violence Work in an Era of Precarious Migration

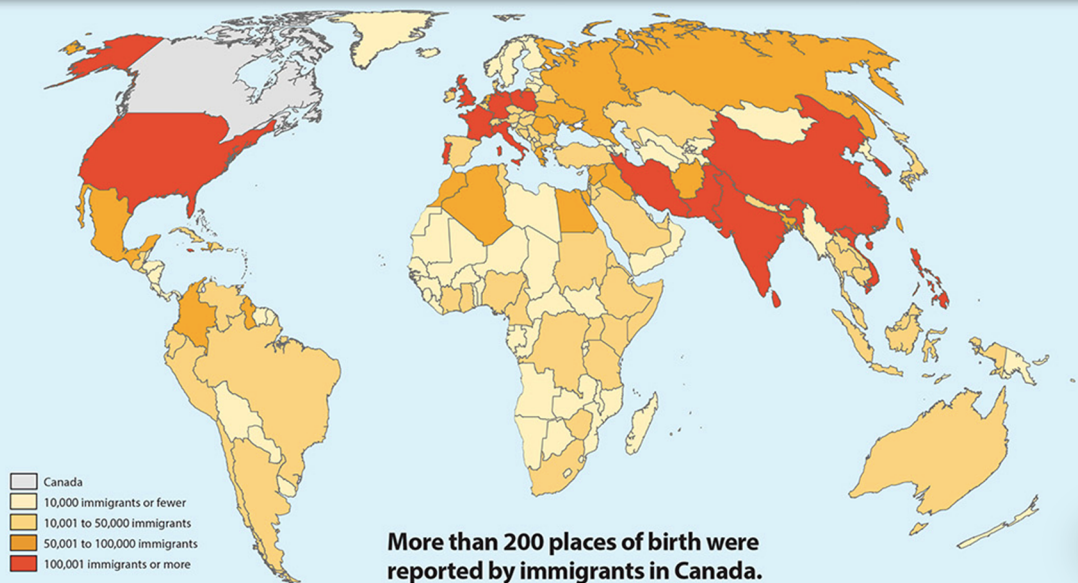
Image from the Independentbd.com





2016 C E N S U S

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.



Permanent
Residents in
2017

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

Government of Canada (2018a)

Temporary
Residents in
2018

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

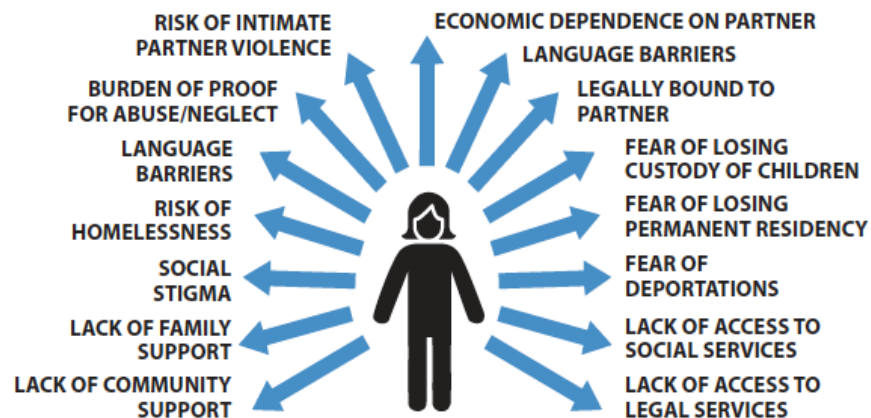
Government of Canada (2018b)

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)

VULNERABILITIES FOR MIGRANT WOMEN



Bhuyan et al. (2014)

Case Studies
from
Participatory
Action Research

CAREGIVERS JOURNEYS

PROMOTING COLLECTIVE ACTION
IN MIGRANT COMMUNITIES



Third-world domestic workers demonstrate in Toronto, November 22, 1981.



1981

2017

THERE ARE DIFFERENT FORMS OF ABUSE.

Here are examples from our interviews
with migrant caregivers.

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

Giving you an
"allowance"
instead of a
salary

Being charged
for things
broken by
the family

Not paying
overtime
hours

EMOTIONAL

Being shoved
or pushed

Not having
enough food

FINANCIAL

Being shoved
or pushed

Not having
enough food

PHYSICAL

FINANCIAL

Saying you
are just
like their
wife

Being sexually
assaulted by
the employer

Making you touch
them in areas of
their body you do
not want to

SEXUAL



We thank all migrant caregivers for sharing their stories with this project.

WE FOUND THAT MANY CAREGIVERS...



do not report
abuse



have unmet
health needs



experience prolonged
family separation



experience
isolation



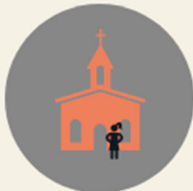
are at risk for
depression



fear losing
immigration
status

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

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT EACH OTHER BY...



going to
church



getting
together



using
social media



staying in touch with
friends and family



Key Concerns SAWRO

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



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

“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



What You Can Do

- Intersectional & trauma awareness
- Funding
- Engagement
- Space
- Showing up
- Networking
- Language access
- Enabling access to information

Migrant Mothers Project



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References

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