

Lawyers Responses that Empower Battered Immigrant Women

EMPOWERING RESPONSES CONFIRMING PRIORITIZING WOMEN'S SAFETY:

HER IMMIGRATION STATUS: Assist her to learn her immigration status in Canada. Provide her with the phone number for Citizenship and Immigration Canada so she can learn her immigration status. Ask her for specific papers to verify her Immigration status. Familiarize yourself with the basic Immigration levels and the implications of each. Connect her with an Immigration COMMUNICATION lawyer, if needed, or an BARRIERS: Ask if she needs Immigrant serving agency.

WOMEN'S SAFETY: Ask if she has a safety plan and connect her with an anti-violence organization to have a comprehensive safety assessment completed. Develop relationships with anti-violence workers. Ask her if she has any safety concerns.

interpretation. Don't use her children to interpret; facilitate access to alternative interpretation. Understand narrative and storytelling styles of communication. Take her concerns seriously. Actively listen to her story. Ask questions. Ask if she needs more clarification. Recognize the complexity of Immigrant women's circumstances and choices. Assist her in identifying legal issues

REDUCING

CONNECTING WOMEN WITH RESOURCES: Provide phone numbers of legal advocates that understand how to work with battered women. Connect her to community resources that offer information on the court process in Canada. Have multi-lingual legal publications available in your office.

Lawyers Responses **TAKING THE VIOLENCE** SERIOUSLY: Communicate through your words and actions that you take her concerns seriously. Actively listen to her story. Encourage her to return to court if she needs to.

FOCUSING ON THE NEEDS OF HER CHILDREN: Demonstrate concern for the safety of her children by putting her at the centre. Recognize the effects that witnessing abuse has on children.

ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC **ASPECTS OF**

BATTERING: Ask whether she needs child support and/or spousal support. Ask if he may be hiding his source of income and family assets. Ask if he owns assets, bonds and/or bank accounts in the home country. Connect her with community resources around housing and financial assistance.

IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON VIOLENT MEN: Ensure

protection orders are in place. Acknowledge and recognize men's abusive behaviours. Understand court-related abuse and harassment and create legal strategies to support women.

The above illustration and information has been adapted from the National Centre on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Judicial Responses That **Empower Battered Women**

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