

25TH NOVEMBER 2021
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
MIGRANT WOMEN
THE INTERSECTIONAL FEATURES OF GENDERED VIOLENCE

Migrant women, as any other woman, around the world experience several forms of gendered violence in their host countries, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, among others. They are not different from national women, but there are additional risks associated with their a) precarious immigration status; b) lack of family/social support networks; c) insufficient knowledge about national legislation and rights; d) insecure housing situation; e) social marginalization; f) communication/language barriers; g) racism, stigma and prejudice (e.g., Duarte, 2012; Esposito, Ornelas, Scirocchi & Arcidiacono, 2019; Silva & Azevedo, 2005). To these, risk factors typically experienced by women survivors of violence are added, such as the fear of losing children, the economic dependency on the perpetrator, and feelings of shame (Albanesi, Tomasetto, Guardabassi, 2021; Di Napoli, Procentese, Carnevale, Esposito, & Arcidiacono, 2019; Esposito, Tomai, Nannini, Giardinieri, & Costa, 2018). Professional and support interventions with migrant women who are survivors of violence must consider these risk factors but also the multiple discriminations arising from the intersection of different power systems (socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, age), which are intertwined with gender inequality (Cardoso & Ornelas, 2021). We collected the voices of migrant women in several EU countries from Research & Intervention Projects:

"not that I had no motivation to take care of my papers, only that I had not ... I lived five years imprisoned (she refers to domestic violence). I didn't understand anything, I didn't know what to do"
Migrant Detention Project (Esposito, Matos & Bosworth, 2020)

"He [threatened me; he] said that if I said it was him [who beat me, since] I was without a residence permit, he would go to the police station and make a report."
Migrant Detention Project (Esposito, Ornelas, Scirocchi & Arcidiacono, 2019)

When I applied for senior positions, the interviewer often looked at me as if I were a disqualified person, despite having my curriculum with him. Once, he said to me "Why don't you go work in cleaning?"
Woman from S. Tomé e Príncipe (Conde, 2021)

"I got pregnant in Greece, and when arrived here I was told that they would take me to the hospital to check-up for everything, but they didn't... for six months, I had no doctor!"
Refugee Project PT(Briozzo, 2021)

I don't want to live with 600€ from Social Welfare...I want to work, my freedom and independence. Congolese
Refugee
Refugees Study Project PT (Briozzo, 2021)

"The employers did not pay me properly, everybody knew... but I was on my own...I had no documents, I couldn't make a complaint, nothing!"
Migrant Detention Project (Esposito, Ornelas, Scirocchi & Arcidiacono, 2019)

[on the acquisition of Portuguese nationality]... "It's a feeling of freedom. Now I already have nationality, as I say...my liberation letter!"
Capeverdian woman
Migration Narratives
Project PT(Conde, 2021)

Organized by: M. Vargas -Moniz ,F. Esposito; C. Albanesi ; E.Briozzo; M. Conde (2021)

25TH NOVEMBER 2021
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
MIGRANT WOMEN
THE INTERSECTIONAL FEATURES OF GENDERED VIOLENCE

Psychological research can contribute to increase the awareness of intersectional gender based violence.

This awareness is critical for professionals who work with survivors because:

Understanding the intersecting inequalities a woman experiences means understanding each woman's specific experience of violence

Understanding each women's specific experience of violence allows professionals and support centers to offer programs and services that can contribute to women's recovery and empowerment

In order to support women survivors of violence in their recovery and empowerment process, community-based partnerships are key.

Community psychologists are specialist in developing community-based partnerships and support networks and they can offer facilitation, monitoring and evaluation.

Community psychologists can support women's centers and help other professionals, especially psychologists, to adopt complex and situated approaches. In this sense, they can facilitate the understanding of the role played by contextual macro, meso and micro factors in gender based violence and intersectional discrimination.

Psychologists play a vital role in developing a better society. Migrant women who have survived gender-based violence cannot be left behind, and psychologists can work to amplify their voices and support their claim for a dignified life, free from violence.

References

- Albanesi, C., Tomasetto, C., & Guardabassi, V. (2021). Evaluating interventions with victims of intimate partner violence: a community psychology approach. *BMC women's health*, 21(1), 138.
- Briozzo, E., Vargas-Moniz, M., & Ornelas, J. (2021). The asylum system and the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Lisbon: Existing disparities, structural problems, and new insights. *Community Psychology in Global Perspective*, 7(1), 127-145.
- Cardoso, R. & Ornelas, J. (2021). *As Mudanças na Área da Violência Doméstica Contra as Mulheres em Portugal*. Doctoral Thesis APPsyCI ISPA - Instituto Unversitário, In press.
- Di Napoli, I., Procentese, F., Carnevale, S., Esposito, C., & Arcidiacono, C. (2019). Ending Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Locating Men at Stake: An Ecological Approach. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(9), 1652.
- Duarte, M. (2012). Prostitution and trafficking in Portugal: legislation, policy, and claims. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 9(3), 258-268.
- Esposito, F., Tomai, M., Nannini, V., Giardinieri, L., & Costa, P. (2018). From Rehabilitation to Recovery: A Self-Help Experience for Regaining Quality of Life after Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Special Education and Rehabilitation*, 19(3-4), 85-104.
- Esposito, F., Ornelas, J., & Arcidiacono, C., Scirocchi, S. (2019). Voices from the Inside: Lived Experiences of Women Confined in a Detention Center. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 44(2), 403-431.
- Silva & Azevedo, 2005.

*Organized by: M. Vargas -Moniz, F. Esposito; C. Albanesi ;
E. Briozzo; M. Conde (2021)*

