

# Key Contacts in Migrant Women's Prevention of Violence

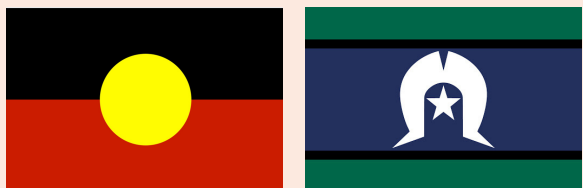


MULTICULTURAL  
CENTRE FOR  
WOMEN'S HEALTH

# Acknowledgement

Always was, always will be

MCWH is proud to acknowledge that the land on which we migrated, work and live always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We pay our respects to traditional owners of country and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their culture, their connection to country and to elders past, present and emerging.




## Multicultural Centre for Women's Health

MCWH is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation led by and for women from migrant and refugee backgrounds. We exist to empower migrant women living in Australia with information to support and promote their health and well-being. MCWH works to prevent violence against immigrant and refugee women in a number of ways, including bilingual community education, cross-cultural and intersectionality training, promoting gender equality in workplaces, providing input into policy and building the evidence-base. All of our programs, projects and partnerships are designed to increase gender equality and to strengthen and promote migrant women's leadership in all aspects of public and private life.



 03 9418 0999

 [reception@mcwh.com.au](mailto:reception@mcwh.com.au)

 [www.mcwh.com.au](http://www.mcwh.com.au)

# Purpose

Migrant and refugee women's organisations and groups are experts in migrant and refugee women's lives. For decades, many of these organisations have undertaken violence prevention and response work with migrant communities, fostering women's leadership and holding men accountable to gender equality work, but many have also been under-represented and under-funded. This list of key contacts in migrant women's health can be used to connect with the experts and learn more about intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination experienced by migrant communities, and to create opportunities to collaborate equitably with services in designing prevention programs.

# Disclaimer

Please note: **This is not a referral directory.** This is a list of potential contacts for creating partnerships, collaborating with or seeking advice in relation to family violence prevention.

For practitioners responding to a disclosure of violence, please see [DVRCV's general guidance](#).

For a list of family violence referral options, please see [Undercurrent's up-to-date info](#).

If the person you are assisting needs an interpreter, call [TIS National](#), which provides interpreting services to services and enables individual non-English speakers to independently access services.

When referring someone to any service, consider the following:

- Have you informed the person of their rights e.g. to be referred or not, to not be discriminated against, to complain? (For more information about rights and responsibilities, please see [The Lookout FAQs](#).)
- What is the history of the organisation?
- What accreditations does the organisation have e.g. Rainbow Tick?
- Does the organisation have plans relating to equity e.g. gender equality policies, a Reconciliation Action Plan?
- Is the location and building geographically and physically accessible to the person?
- Is the service offered in-language or are interpreters available?



# African Family Services

(03) 9602 5160  
0457 329 773  
0412 635 423

@ servicesmanager@africanfamilyservices.org  
africanfamilyservices@gmail.com  
info@africanfamilyservices.org.au

<https://africanfamilyservices.org.au>

## Location

Level 9/ 313 La Trobe St  
Melbourne  
VIC 3000

## Hours

Monday - Thursday  
9AM - 5PM

## Regions Served

All regions in Victoria

## About

African Family Services (AFS) is a not-for-Profit organisation that relies heavily on volunteers. African Family Services engages with individuals or families in an effort to link them to appropriate services. AFS offers a distinct advantage in having developed an authentic understanding of the African cultural complexities and needs that exist; thereby bridging the gaps between the community and existing mainstream services. AFS also offers cross-culture awareness training to officers working in the corporate, government and social work sectors to raise awareness on cultural differences and sensitivities.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Provides case management services for Family Violence victim-survivors
- Runs educational workshops and projects to raise awareness around the issue of Family Violence and its impacts on victims and families, in a culturally sensitive and safe space

## How You Can Partner

- Opportunity to collaborate and co-case manage
- Partnering on projects that could benefit the African-Australian Community
- Linking in youth, women and men with platforms to support integration, career planning, professional development and strategies on how to thrive within the Australian community

# Australian Bosnian Women's Association Žena Ženi

☎ 0412 543 474

@ sanchi2000@hotmail.com

## Location

St Albans  
VIC 3021

## Regions Served

Servicing Bosnian  
women from all over  
Melbourne

## About

Australian Bosnian Women's Association Žena Ženi is a social support group for Bosnian women across Melbourne.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Linking women to Government and other organisations such as Women's Health West, Centrelink, breast screening clinics etc.


## How You Can Partner

- Contact Australian Bosnian Women's Association Žena Ženi at sanchi2000@hotmail.com



AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
*Equality without Exception*

# Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights

 (03) 9481 3000

 [reception@muslimwomenscentre.org.au](mailto:reception@muslimwomenscentre.org.au)

 <https://ausmuslimwomenscentre.org.au>

## Location

Fitzroy North  
VIC 3068

## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9AM - 5PM

## Regions Served

Primary Focus:  
Melbourne and  
surrounding suburbs

Casework: All regions in  
Victoria

## About

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights (AMWCHR) is a collective of Muslim women working to advance the rights and status of Muslim women in Australia. While Muslim women share many common issues with other migrant women, AMWCHR is able to respond sensitively to more specific issues often unacknowledged or misunderstood by mainstream organisations, such as forced marriage. AMWCHR has a strong relationship with community and high service demand.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Family Violence case work and has a Family Safety team
- Programs for parenting, leadership and young women's empowerment

## How You Can Partner

- Partnering to run or facilitate parenting and leadership group sessions for Muslim women and young women
- Training on Islam and on working with Muslims on Family Violence and Forced Marriages



# Australian Vietnamese Women's Association



(03) 9428 9078 (Richmond Head Office)  
(03) 9396 1922 (Braybrook Office)  
(03) 9546 2699 (Springvale Office)



info@avwa.org.au



<https://avwa.org.au>

## Locations

30-32 Lennox St  
Richmond  
VIC 3121

U7/6 - 12 South Rd  
Braybrook  
VIC 3019

19/134 Springvale Rd  
Springvale  
VIC 3171

## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9AM - 5PM

## Regions Served

All regions in Victoria

## About

AVWA was established nearly 40 years ago and its primary aim is to assist Vietnamese migrants' integration into Victoria. It is a registered training organisation, with services for all genders and ages, as reflected by its staff. AVWA was recently awarded for Playgroup of the Year, and its biggest cohort is Aged Services (Home Care Packages, CHSP and Planned Activity Groups). Other services include: prisoner support, drug & alcohol treatment, gambling counselling and prevention, NDIS support, and various community education projects (e.g. sustainability, health and wellbeing).

## Prevention & Response

### Activities


- MOUs with Banyule Community Health, Community Plus, InTouch to deliver FV, financial counselling and legal services at AVWA as one-stop-shop
- Parents' and men's groups
- Cultural support to NGOs, mainstream and ethnic organisations, government departments/services

## How You Can Partner

Contact AVWA, or reach Vietnamese speaking people via:

- Vietnamese media such as SBS Radio, 974 FM, newspapers (e.g. Nhan Quyen, Viet Luan, Viet Times, Viet News)
- Buddhist temples (e.g. Quang Minh, Hoa Nghiem), Catholic/Protestant churches (e.g. Vincent Liem, Tin Lanh)
- Vietnamese schools (e.g. Lac Hong and Springvale Indo-Chinese Vietnamese School)
- Student placements at residential care and children service centres

# Ava

 0423 060 989

 rosa99@tpg.com.au

 <https://www.mcwh.com.au/then-and-now-with-rosa-vasseghi/>

## Hours

Differs according to funding and availability

## Regions Served

City of Whittlesea, City of Darebin

## About

Ava comprises women from over 15 countries. Members are mostly asylum seekers, refugees, women living in isolation and/or survivors of violence. Ava was established as an Iranian Women's Choir and has expanded to a series of free Iranian tapestry workshops that support women's wellbeing, confidence and mental health.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Supports women's capacity building on topics such as women's health, law and services
- Fosters women's confidence and employment opportunities through tapestry workshops

## How You Can Partner

- Contact Rosa Vasseghi on 0423 060 989 to discuss potentially funding or arranging workshops





# Gabriela Australia

☎ 0481 577 670

@ gabaustralia@gmail.com  
amadewingeril@yahoo.com

www <https://www.facebook.com/Gabriela-Australia-1491865197762777>

## Regions Served

Australia

## About

Gabriela Australia is a volunteer-based organisation established over 20 years ago to raise awareness and protect the rights of Filipina women during a time when mail-order brides were prevalent. Gabriela supports women survivors of family violence. Its Chairperson is Nessalie Gavanozo.

## Prevention & Response

### Activities

- Conducts forums
- Delivers education sessions and women's leadership and empowerment training
- Lobbies on issues for women in the Filipina community

## How You Can Partner

- Link with resources to support women survivors who have been sponsored to come here as tourists
- Support in setting up a Gabriela office in Australia



Multicultural Centre  
Against Family Violence

# inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence



(03) 9413 6500 (General Inquiries)  
1800 755 988 (Toll Free number if you are  
experiencing family violence)



admin@intouch.org.au



<https://intouch.org.au>  
<https://intouch.org.au/contact-us>

## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9AM - 5PM

## Regions Served

All regions in Victoria

## About

inTouch is a specialist family violence service providing person-centred, integrated, culturally responsive family violence services to migrant and refugee communities across Victoria. They provide case management, training and capacity building, research, and lead community-based projects to address family violence.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Case Management team provides inLanguage, inCulture family violence support
- Work collaboratively with small in-house community legal centre who provide legal and migration advice to inTouch clients
- Carries out projects with community organisations
- Runs a program for men from migrant and refugee communities who use violence

## How You Can Partner

- inTouch is involved in a range of initiatives from prevention through to post recovery, and is open to partnering with others on new ones through the Sector and Community team



# SHAKTI

## Shakti Australia

☎ (03) 9753 4324 / 1800 SHAKTI (1800 72 584)

@ 1800shakti@gmail.com

www <https://shaktiinternational.org/shakti-australia>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ShaktiAustralia>

### Location

Melbourne

### Regions Served

Melbourne and NSW

### About

Shakti in Melbourne provides counselling and case management to women from a range of migrant backgrounds experiencing family violence, both in English and with multilingual and interpreter support.

### Prevention & Response

#### Activities

- Case management and counselling for women experiencing violence
- Community programs in Dandenong, Hume, Knox, and Wyndham including emotional wellbeing, employment, Australian legal system, and service navigation
- Advocating on issues around forced marriage, under-age marriage, dowry abuse and honour-based violence

### How You Can Partner

- Get in touch to support Shakti's work



# The Silent Witness Network

☎ 0418 389 135

@ melba.marginson@gmail.com

🌐 <https://www.facebook.com/TSWN.Inc>

## Location

Melbourne

## Regions Served

Melbourne

## About

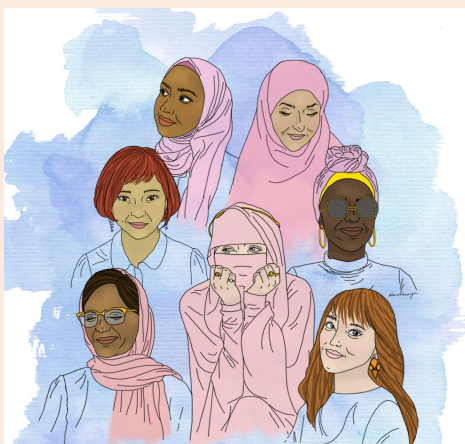
The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) is an organisation of multicultural individuals and groups who are committed to advocacy, community education and training for primary prevention of family violence, using a whole of family and community approach. The organisation works with women and men and young people towards becoming Family Violence Prevention Champions in their communities. They work with men to demonstrate that women's issues are everyone's issues and that everyone has a role to play in prevention.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Conducts forums, community workshops and leadership training for family violence prevention
- Has coordinated a forum on role of men in prevention
- Developing community engagement activities for the Filipino community.

## How You Can Partner

- Collaborate on community leadership training and working with men in prevention
- Cross promote prevention work



# Sisters4sisters

☎ 0434 533 484

@ mshehab67@gmail.com  
iheartus4s@outlook.com

## Location

Melbourne

## Regions Served

Melbourne

## About

The work of Sisters4sisters Support Services is founded on three decades of connection to faith networks. Manal Shehab is founder and director who runs workshops, delivers talks, runs women's empowerment training programs and builds capacity of faith leaders in preventing and responding to violence, and is supported by a team of volunteers from within community.

## Prevention & Response Activities


- Women's empowerment program, delivered to a diverse range of women in public libraries to build women's confidence and help them navigate local services
- Manal delivers talks on strong families and preventing violence in a variety of settings, including schools and Islamic societies
- Recently partnered with WIRE on a family violence conversation kit for multi-faith leaders
- Worked with the Multicultural Commission to address forced marriages, dowry abuse and related legislation

## How You Can Partner

- Contact Manal at 0434 533 484



# Wellsprings for Women

 (03) 9701 3740

 [administration@wellspringsforwomen.com](mailto:administration@wellspringsforwomen.com)

 <https://www.wellspringsforwomen.com>

## Location

79 Langhorne Street  
Dandenong  
VIC 3175

## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9AM - 5PM

## Regions Served

Melbourne Southern  
Region, City of Greater  
Dandenong, City of  
Casey, Cardinia Shire

## About

Wellsprings for Women offers services, support and programs for women to improve education, employment, health and wellbeing and to live life safely and free from violence.

## Prevention & Response Activities


- Education: English literacy, computer literacy and vocational pathway programs; Family Learning Partnership program and Literacy & Numeracy courses for aged care and child care industries
- Women's Support: Case Management to women impacted by mental health, isolation, family violence, poverty and homelessness; including safety plans, supported referrals, emergency relief, material aid
- Women's Health, Safety and Wellbeing: Education on gender equality, prevention of family violence, parenting, self-care, respectful relationships, mental health and physical wellbeing
- Youth and Children's Services: Playgroups, study support, Girls on the Move
- Volunteering: Student placements, work placements
- Business Development: Helping women gain financial literacy and business skills such as Creative Enterprising Women

## How You Can Partner

- Partnering with others or facilitating parenting and leadership programs
- Training with CALD communities to raise awareness on family violence
- Run forums and workshop for community leaders on gender equality



## WIRE

 1300 134 130

 support@wire.org.au

 <https://wire.org.au>

### Location

372 Spencer St  
West Melbourne  
VIC 3003

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
9AM - 5PM

### Regions Served

All regions in Victoria

### About

WIRE provides support, information & referrals to women, non-binary and gender diverse people on any issue.

### Prevention & Response Activities

- Phone support line (1300 134 130)
- Email support (support@wire.org.au)
- Live chat support (<https://wire.org.au>)
- Programs include legal clinic, financial guidance clinic, computer tuition, employment support, information seminars & social connection program

### How You Can Partner

- Secondary consultations
- Project partnerships



# Women's Association South East Melbourne Australia Inc.

☎ 0476 163 036

@ womensassociation.wasema@gmail.com

🌐 <https://www.facebook.com/wasemainc>

## Location

South East Melbourne

## Regions Served

Dandenong, Casey and  
Cardinia

## About

Women's Association South East Melbourne Australia Inc. (WASEMA) brings women together to address current issues affecting women's groups in South East Melbourne and is underpinned by values of inclusion, diversity and strengthening women's pathways to education, employment and business.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Runs 7 Women's friendship cafes across Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia with over 500 participants
- Supports women experiencing family violence through referrals to relevant resources and services in each region

## How You Can Partner

- Contact WASEMA at  
womensassociation.wasema@gmail.com





# Women's Friendship Group Inc.

☎ (03) 9850 5252  
0409 035 045  
@ jurcevic@bigpond.com

## Location

Manningham City

## Regions Served

The Women's Friendship Group assists women from the Manningham area and 20% outside the area.

## About

The Women's Friendship Group Inc of Manningham is a non-denominational, non political, multicultural group for senior women to meet in friendship and harmony. The WFG has 227 members from 40 ethnic backgrounds. The WFG aims to reduce social and cultural isolation for senior CALD women and advocates against elder abuse.

## Prevention & Response Activities

- Holds monthly meetings with presentations on issues pertinent to women
- Runs programs to enhance senior women's lives e.g. Strengthening Exercise programs, Aquatic programs and Craft programs
- Has an International Social Justice program assisting women in disadvantaged countries

## How You Can Partner

- The Women's Friendship Group works with Manningham Council in developing programs.



Are you part of a migrant women's organisation or group?

Do you know of a great organisation doing violence prevention work that people should know about?

Do any details in this document need updating?

Contact us at <https://www.mcwh.com.au/contact>





MULTICULTURAL  
CENTRE FOR  
WOMEN'S HEALTH



MCWH acknowledges the financial support of the  
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