Key Contacts in Migrant Women’s Prevention of Violence
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
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](https://www.dvrcv.org.au). For a list of family violence referral options, please see [Undercurrent’s up-to-date info](https://undercurrent.org.au).

If the person you are assisting needs an interpreter, call [TIS National](https://www.tisnational.gov.au), 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](https://www.lookout.org.au).)
- 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?
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

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, breastscreening 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

(03) 9481 3000
reception@muslimwomenscentre.org.au
https://ausmuslimwomenscentre.org.au

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

Location

Fitzroy North
VIC 3068

Hours

Monday - Friday
9AM - 5PM

Regions Served

Primary Focus: Melbourne and surrounding suburbs
Casework: 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

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
Ava
0423 060 989
rosa99@tpg.com.au

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

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

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 Gavanzo.

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
**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 Australia

(03) 9753 4324 / 1800 SHAKTI (1800 72 584)
1800shakti@gmail.com
https://shaktiinternational.org/shakti-australia
https://www.facebook.com/ShaktiAustralia

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
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
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

About
Wellspnings 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

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
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.

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

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

Location
South East Melbourne

Regions Served
Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia
Women’s Friendship Group Inc.

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

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.

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

Location
Manningham City

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
MCWH acknowledges the financial support of the Victorian Government’s Free from Violence Fund.