

# Women Domestic Violence: A Forgotten Crisis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## 'Safe' At Home

As a result of public safety measures and lockdowns people have been required to follow public safety measures and to stay 'safe' at home. Ironically, these measures have also led to the substantial increase of women domestic violence (DV) and home-related issues. In the case of immigrant females living in Canada, they face the 'double risk' of getting the virus and facing domestic violence.

## A 'Double Risk'

- Previous catastrophes led to an exponential increase in rates of gender-based violence (e.g., Hurricane Katrina, Black Saturday bushfires).
  - Catastrophes have short-term and long-term repercussion → The initial spike in DV rates + a steady amount during the recovery period (Kofman & Garfin, 2020)
  - Low-income and ethnic minority women are affected disproportionately by DV (Black et al., 2011).
- The consequences of the COVID-19 on immigrant women living in Canada may be more than devastating.

## Beyond Gendered Policies and Apps

Nor monetary aids or smartphone apps are enough to solve the issues female immigrants face due to the pandemic –that go beyond an momentary problem. Therefore:

1. The Canadian Government must create policies that protect women considering overlapping labels in face of the pandemic + establish laws and resources that protect immigrant women from future DV scenarios.
2. Future research must focus on long-term byproducts of DV scenarios within the current pandemic.
3. As a long-term solution, people need to question from a micro perspective the underlying gender norms and institutionalized constructs that legitimize violence against women.

## Method

Through a literature review, the research analyzed the impact of the ongoing health crisis as a contributing factor of immigrant female domestic violence in Canada.

Using a feminist perspective, this work addresses **overlapping social categories** (e.g., ethnicity, gender) of immigrant women living in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Resources

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