

OCTOBER 2019

CALLS TO ACTION

We call on the **federal government** to:

1. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on VAW that reflects Canada's obligations under international law and establishes national standards to ensure that all women – including women with precarious status – have access to comparable levels of protection and service across the country.
2. Conduct an intersectional (gender-, race-, disability- and economic status-based) analysis of all immigration policies and legislation and revise policies, legislation, and regulations to ensure they promote inclusion.
3. Train CBSA agents on VAW and ensure they provide resources on shelters and VAW at the border.
4. Remove the undertaking period for sponsored spouses and children.
5. Stop investigating women for misrepresentation and fraud when a sponsorship breaks down due to gender-based violence.
6. Define and implement a process for women trafficked for the sex trade, labour, or forced marriage to become Permanent Residents if they so choose.
7. Develop a clear and specific pathway for **all** Temporary Foreign Workers to become Permanent Residents.

We call on **provincial and federal governments** to work together to:

1. Recognize that shelters play a key role in the settlement process, supporting immigrant, refugee, and migrant families to establish themselves free from violence, and fund them for this work.
2. Ensure immigrant, migrant, and refugee women have full access to legal counsel and skilled assessment of gender-based violence as an aspect of their claim, including by ensuring legal aid covers immigration matters and that the right to counsel is mandated in detention centres.
3. For migrant women workers, provide access to all settlement, integration, health, and other public services and benefits, including access to EI.

We call on **municipal governments** to:

1. Become sanctuary cities so that survivors of violence can access services without fear of being denied service, reported, or deported, or forced to return to the abuse to avoid these harms.

