

## Why men should be involved?

In many immigrant communities, men have greater potential to influence and intervene when it comes to married couples. It is therefore essential that they are equipped with adequate, appropriate training to recognize and understand IPV, how to build healthy relationships, communicate effectively, and support survivors.

Research shows that when men are included in the conversation, the community integrates intervention strategies at a significantly higher rate.

Finally, research also suggests that increased access to culturally-aware interventions encouraged constructive, long-term changes in how immigrant men viewed and engaged with their partners.

The time has come to build a system of mutual support where there is enough trust present to encourage healthy, respectful relationships between men and their partners!



For more information on this project please visit our website:

<https://africacentre.ca/enhancing-gender-equity/>

or

<https://pran-network.ca/knowledge-mobilization/tools/>

For more information on our programs or to get involved please contact us via email at [gender.equity@africacentre.ca](mailto:gender.equity@africacentre.ca)

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Women and Gender  
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# Bringing Men into the Conversation

Intimate Partner Violence



In communities across the world, women experience Intimate Partner Violence at rates higher than men. As a result, interventions focus primarily on women. However, by including men in the conversation, not only are we able to shed light on IPV perpetrated against men, but we are also able to analyze the causes of IPV perpetrated by men and intervene accordingly.

### **The immigration context**

Migrating to a new country can have specific implications for men, which may influence their perspectives of IPV and their engagement with it:

Many immigrant communities - including African ones - generally perceive Canadian culture as more supportive of women and as one that sees men only as perpetrators of violence. This can discourage men from disclosing the problems they might be facing or from reaching out for help.

Men may enjoy a position of power or authority in the community that is taken for granted. Migration challenges this position by shifting gender roles and economic necessities. Men may struggle to find gainful employment in Canada, women often have to seek formal employment because of the increased

cost of living, which may cause decision-making responsibilities about family finances to shift. This could lead to conflicts within the home and, gradually, to IPV.

In addition, we must consider the various external factors faced by immigrant men such as racism, unemployment, underemployment and so on, which can easily turn into stressors and act as triggers for IPV. Folks immigrate to Canada expecting to thrive, however, these external factors and expectations make it difficult for many to merely survive.

### **The current scenario**

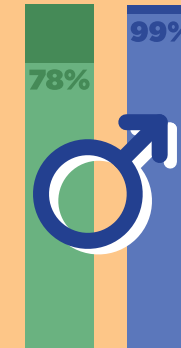
Although men play a significant role in the process of migration and creating new social ties and norms, existing IPV interventions ignore men as agents of change and focus primarily on the experiences of women.

Existing research on IPV in immigrant communities also largely overlooks men, their roles, and experiences. When it comes to long-term IPV prevention, there is a dire need for mental health and other interventions for perpetrators. These are currently scarce and under-researched.

### **What are men saying?**

Research shows that most men believe they have a role to play in preventing violence at home.

In two different surveys, 78% of men and 99% of men saw a role for themselves in creating peaceful and respectful relationships.



Thus, it is not that they do not want to be involved, but that they lack the means to be involved.

# **WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!**

