



Canadian Council of Muslim Women  
Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes

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# Violence against Women: Health and Justice for Canadian Muslim Women

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## Project Overview



## Project's Terms of Reference

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### *Project Overview*

Funded by the Status of Women Canada, this two year project (October 15th 2012-September 2014) aims to explore and analyze issues related to violence against women within Canadian Muslim communities. The knowledge building based initiative seeks to build resources so that women and those who want to assist them, including service providers, community leaders and community members (including men and boys) are empowered and equipped to combat these issue within their respective communities. More specifically the project aims to:

- 1) To strengthen the ability of Canadian women and girls to function fully as equal and empowered citizens by providing them with the tools to understand and address:  
a) Domestic Violence b) Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation (FGM/C) c) Forced Marriages and d) Femicide, through the development of community workshops, a toolkit and a research based publication.
  
- 2) To increase the ability and capacity of community service agencies and professionals to assist clients including Muslim women and others individuals from diverse ethno-racial backgrounds in providing culturally sensitive support to address these forms of violence.

### *Project Outputs and Deliverables*

#### Phase One

- 1) *Final Publication of Environmental Scans:*
  - Physical PDF form and Online version (in French and English) to be distributed to service providers, academics, policy makers, the non-profit sector and members of Muslim communities (religious leaders, men, women and youth).
  - Includes an introduction by Dr. Asma Barlas which provides Islamic based scholarship on these forms of violence
  - Includes four papers on: 1) VAW 2) Femicide 3) FGM/C and 4) Forced Marriage written by legal expert Pam Cross which outline the global and Canadian



- context for these forms of violence. The papers also outline existing legal, policy infrastructures and community initiatives to combat these forms of violence and suggestions for policy makers, service providers and community members
- **STATUS: Completed and ready for dissemination as of September 2013.**

## **Phase Two**

### *2) Toolkit Development and Pilot Sessions*

- A resource which accompanying the scan is intended to empower service providers and Muslim communities so that they are better equipped to address issues concerning VAW through knowledge building and the development of material for community based workshops
- The kits include: an introduction, a workshop facilitation tool, a community workshop agenda, community workshop power point slides, speaking notes for the workshop, case studies and fact sheets.
- The tool will be discussed at Pilot Sessions in Toronto (**September 14<sup>th</sup> 2013**) and Ottawa (**September 21<sup>st</sup> 2013**). Each of these sessions will have 15-20 individuals from Muslim communities, the social service, activists, government officials, those in the field of VAW in order to test the kits and have them ready for the train the trainer workshops where they will be used.
- **STATUS: Completed September 2013**

## **Phase Three**

### *3) Train the Trainer Workshops*

- 3 Sessions will be held across the country Toronto (January 18 2014 ), Ottawa (January 25 2014 ) and Edmonton (February 8th 2014) where women will be trained by Pam Cross to facilitate community workshops on VAW and distribute the project's resources including the scans and toolkits to their respective communities
- **STATUS: Completed January-February 2014**



## **Phase Four**

### *4) Community Workshops*

- 8 local workshops (March 2014-July 2014) on VAW held across the country and lead by women trainees/CCMW Chapter women from the previous workshops. Participants will include men and women and members of the wider community
- **STATUS: April 2014**

## **Advisory Committee Members**

- Barbra Schlifer Clinic
- South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO)
- The Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC)
- Springtide Resources
- Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)
- YWCA
- The Social Services Network
- Indo-Canadian, Women's Organization
- Shield of Athena

## **Consultants**

Legal Consultant and Material Developer: Pamela Cross (LLB)

Project Evaluator: Elizabeth Whitmore (University of Ottawa)

Project Manager: Usma Qureshi (CCMW) email: [u.queshi@ccmw.com](mailto:u.queshi@ccmw.com)

**For project inquiries please contact the Project Manager**

