Throughout the world, women are victims of domestic violence just as there are battered women in the United States. Immigrant and refugee women know that in their countries of origin, women have been tortured with sexual abuse by the army/rebels, kidnapped into prostitution, forced into marriages, killed in honor killings, used for sexual slavery, stoned to death and often experience other gender related abuses. There is a male tendency in some parts of the world to devalue women and view them as property. This has lead to the creation of cruel practices against women including femicide, infanticide, rape, battery, torture, widow burning, veiling, foot-binding, witch-burning, chastity belts, cliteridectomies, and infibulations. These examples of violence are real threats that immigrant and refugee women face if forced to return home.

In addition to these threats, immigrant and refugee battered women in the U.S. have many difficulties accessing legal and social services in a country which is not their own. They face cultural differences and barriers which abusers may use to their advantage. Immigrant and refugee battered women are an underrepresented population because many of the incidents are undocumented. The women believe they have no rights, no way out, and no help.

Violence against women is the most basic example of gender discrimination and oppression. It is the most powerful tool of male domination and control all over the world.

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**Violence in the Home is a Global Phenomenon**

**Immigrant & Refugee Power and Control Wheel**

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**Immigrant & Refugee Power and Control**

**Using Intimidation**
- Making her afraid by using looks or gestures
- Destroying her property here and in her country of origin
- Abusing friends and relatives close to her
- Threatening to throw acid
- Threatening to stone her.

**Using Children**
- Arranged and forced marriage for teen girls
- Valuing male children above females
- Using girls as commodities for bride price/dowry
- Trafficking young girls as prostitutes
- Honor killings
- Forced marriage
- Using young girls to pay debts and/or settle conflicts
- Bonded labor.

**Using Economic Abuse**
- Not allowing her to have knowledge about finances
- Not allowing her to send money overseas, but sending it himself
- Trading women and girls to settle debts
- Using mail order brides as prostitutes
- Not letting her have or earn money.

**Using Emotional Abuse**
- Telling her she's acting like an "American Woman"
- Keeping important family heirlooms
- Forcing her to eat in the kitchen
- Women and girls are not to be seen or heard
- Putting her down, "You're stupid. You can't even read or write English."

**Using Isolation**
- Using cultural expectations to control what she does, who she sees and what she reads
- Screening her mail
- Withholding important papers
- Screening or listening in on her telephone calls to control who she talks to and what she says.

**Using Male Privilege**
- Treating her like a servant
- Making all the big decisions
- Defining men's and women's roles
- Allowed to have more than one wife
- Put tradition and culture ahead of western views
- Use the community to make her return
- Object to cultural and traditional beliefs
- Forced female genital mutilation (female circumcision, cutting).

**Using Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming**
- Making light of the abuse
- Not taking her concerns about it seriously
- Saying the abuse didn't happen
- Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior by saying she caused it
- Saying the system doesn't favor men who are not citizens.

**Using Coercion and Threats**
- Threatening to call immigration to report her, kids and/or family
- Stopping the processing of her Green Card or Work Permit
- Calling the police on her
- Threatening to take the kids to country of origin
- Threatening to report her to welfare
- Threatening to destroy her passport and legal papers.

**Using Emotionally Abusive**
- Not allowing her to have knowledge about finances
- Not allowing her to send money overseas, but sending it himself
- Trading women and girls to settle debts
- Using mail order brides as prostitutes
- Not letting her have or earn money.

**Using Isolation**
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