



DIAGNOSIS ON THE SITUATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE AND MIGRANT WOMEN IN ARUBA



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In Collaboration with
UNHCR
ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

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OBJECTIVE

To illustrate the challenges faced by women, refugees, displaced persons and migrants in their diversity in Aruba, most of them Venezuelan, and aims to identify:

- A) the main structural factors that put migrant and refugee women in a situation of heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence in Aruba
- B) the multiple forms of gender-based violence that affect refugee and migrant women and the main scenarios where they materialize
- C) the challenges these women face in accessing the services available to survivors of gender-based violence.

Methodology

Bibliographic review were conducted on information published by different national and international actors on human rights, women's rights and the situation of the refugee and migrant population in Aruba.

ARUBA

5 IN DEPTH interviews with female survivors of GBV

6 FOCUS GROUPS

- 21 Women- 1 Trans Women
- 3 Men- 1 Trans Men
- 51 surveys by refugee and migrant Women

6 interviews were conducted with organizations/institutions considered key for their work with women survivors of gender-based violence in Aruba.

STRUCTURAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO GBV AGAINST DISPLACED WOMEN, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN ARUBA

- Lack of international protection
- Irregular migration status
- Difficulties with migration regularization processes
- Limited access to information on available services and care pathways for women who are survivors or at risk of GBV
- Residence permits; marriage, concubinage and work

FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ARUBA

- Violence in the domestic sphere; *concubinage permits or by marriage*
- Violence in the workplace
- Prostitution, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence.

CHALLENGES IN ACCESS TO GBV SERVICES IN ARUBA

- Lack of knowledge on Women's Rights
- Services provided by the State
- Barriers in access to Justice
- Barriers in access to Health Services
- Fear of being detained and deported
- Notion of violence as a private matter



REGULARIZATION PROCEDURE : REFUGEE, DISPLACED AND MIGRANT WOMEN



The women who participated in the diagnosis, including the interviews, focus groups and surveys, were mostly Venezuelan, followed by women from Colombia.

This is consistent with the number of women surveyed, where 96% (49 women) were Venezuelan and 4% (only one) were Colombian.

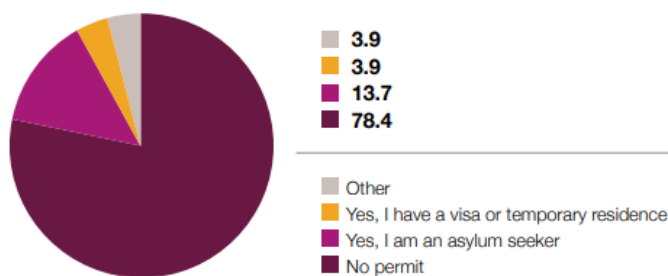


Figure 1

LENGHT OF STAY IN ARUBA: REFUGEE, DISPLACED AND MIGRANT WOMEN

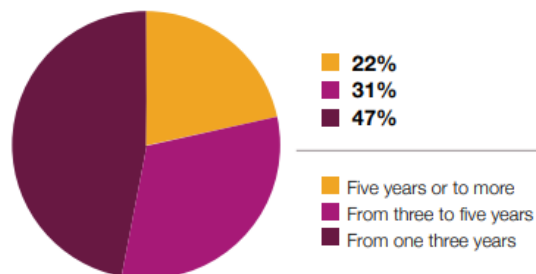


Figure 2

RISK FACTORS FOR GBV : REFUGEE DISPLACED AND MIGRANT WOMEN

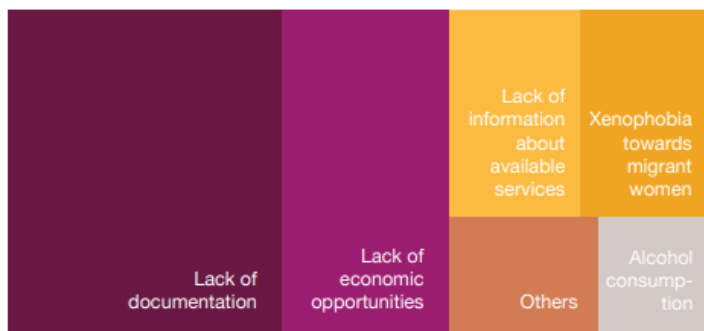


Figure 3

Figure 3 illustrates that 39% of women identify that lack of regular documentation is the factors that exposes them the most, followed by lack of economic opportunities 23%, xenophobia 16% and lack of information on available services with 12%.



LIMITED ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE ROUTED FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OR AT RISK OF GBV

KNOWLEDGE ON GBV RIGHTS AS REFUGEE, DISPLACED OR MIGRANTS WOMEN

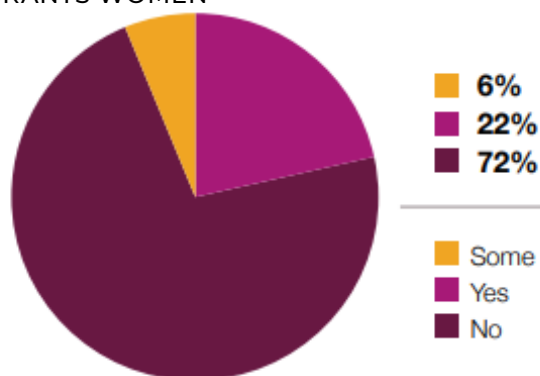


Figure 4

PREFERENCE OF REFUGEE, DISPLACED AND MIGRANT WOMEN FOR SEEKING HELP IF AT RISK OF GBV

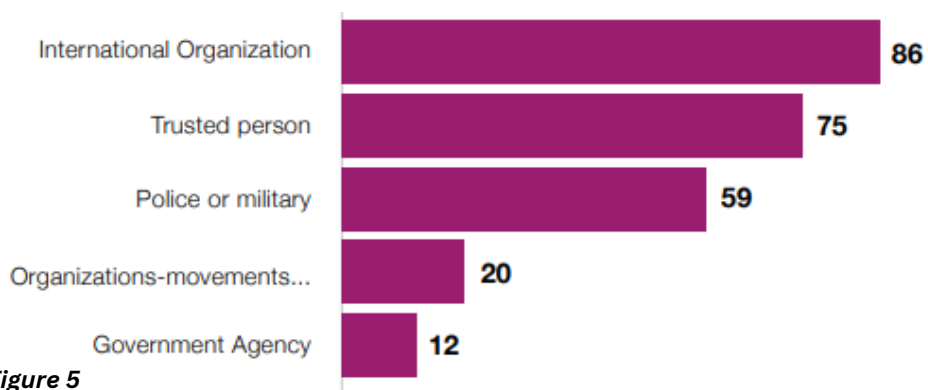


Figure 5

SERVICES IDENTIFIED BY REFUGEE, DISPLACED AND MIGRANT WOMEN

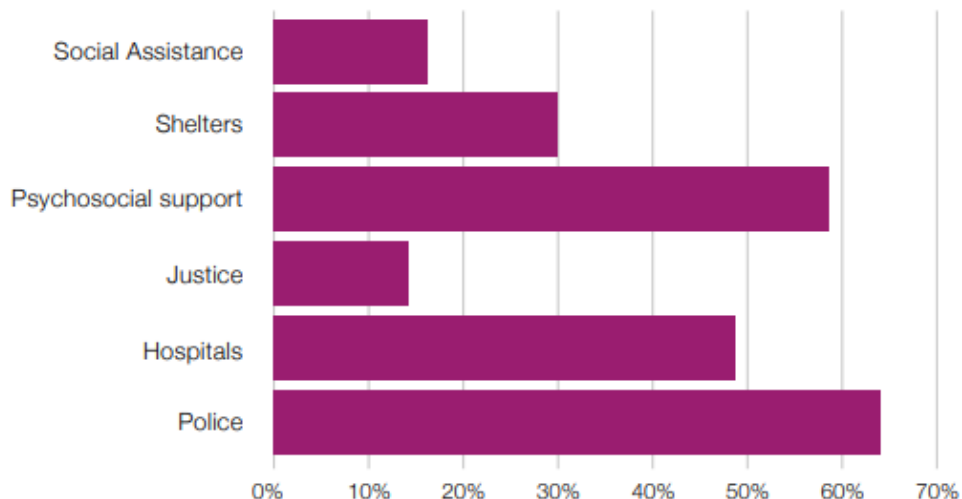


Figure 6



RECOMMENDATIONS

The lack of access to regular immigration status limits the enjoyment of human rights by refugee or migrant women in Aruba including protection and access to justice

1

Advocate to develop, adopt and implement specific regulations on gender-based violence, both for its prevention, investigation, sanction and reparation.

2

Develop and implement a realistic and concrete gender-based violence prevention policy

3

Develop and provide comprehensive care, protection and reparation services, including psychosocial care, to survivors of gender-based violence. In particular, women survivors of sexual and labor exploitation, particularly women in a condition of human mobility.

4

In coordination with State institutions: Disseminate and train on the existence of the Instruction of the Aruba Attorney General's Office on relational violence and the National Gender Policy.

5

Strengthen and promote the establishment of more safe spaces for refugee women.

6

Continue the training and awareness-raising processes of the local teams on the appropriate protocols and minimum standards of care for surviving refugee women, and to guarantee the application of the survivor-centred approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS



7

It is important that humanitarian actors and government institutions continue to develop and expand educational strategies on women's rights that are appropriate and focused on the situation of refugee and migrant women. These strategies, initiatives or materials must be developed in a joint and participatory manner with the same refugee women and host communities. They must be culturally sensitive, and appropriate to the different realities of women in their diversity.

8

Strengthen community-based initiatives, with age, gender and diversity approaches and as a self-care mechanism. The recurring approach with the communities is important to continue promoting support networks among women, where they have access to information about their rights and available services.

9

Articulate at the national level, advocacy strategies for monitoring the human rights of refugees and migrants, with a particular focus on women, with the aim of documenting and presenting reports to the different regional (European) human rights protection mechanism and universal (United Nations), such as the CEDAW Committee, the United Nations Committee on Civil and Political Rights, and the Universal Periodic Review, among others.

10

Strengthening work on the economic empowerment of women is a fundamental line of action not only to address inequalities between men and women as one of the root causes of gender-based violence, but also for women to find different livelihood options.

12

Create a database of local job needs to link them with the skills and professional experience of women and refugees and displaced people to generate real job opportunities that can arise at the local and community level.

13

Continue to strengthen the work with men, adolescents and boys, in the construction of new gender dynamics. Programs and actions of training, education, awareness and psychosocial support directed and oriented towards the construction of positive masculinities are required. It is recommended to develop initiatives with refugee and displaced men.

Source: Diagnosis on Gender-Based Violence Against Refugee and Migrant Women in Aruba (August, 2022)



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