

# OCASI Presentation to the Minister's Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Patients and the RHPA

By Krittika Ghosh, Senior Coordinator,  
Violence Against Women Project

# OCASI Who and Why

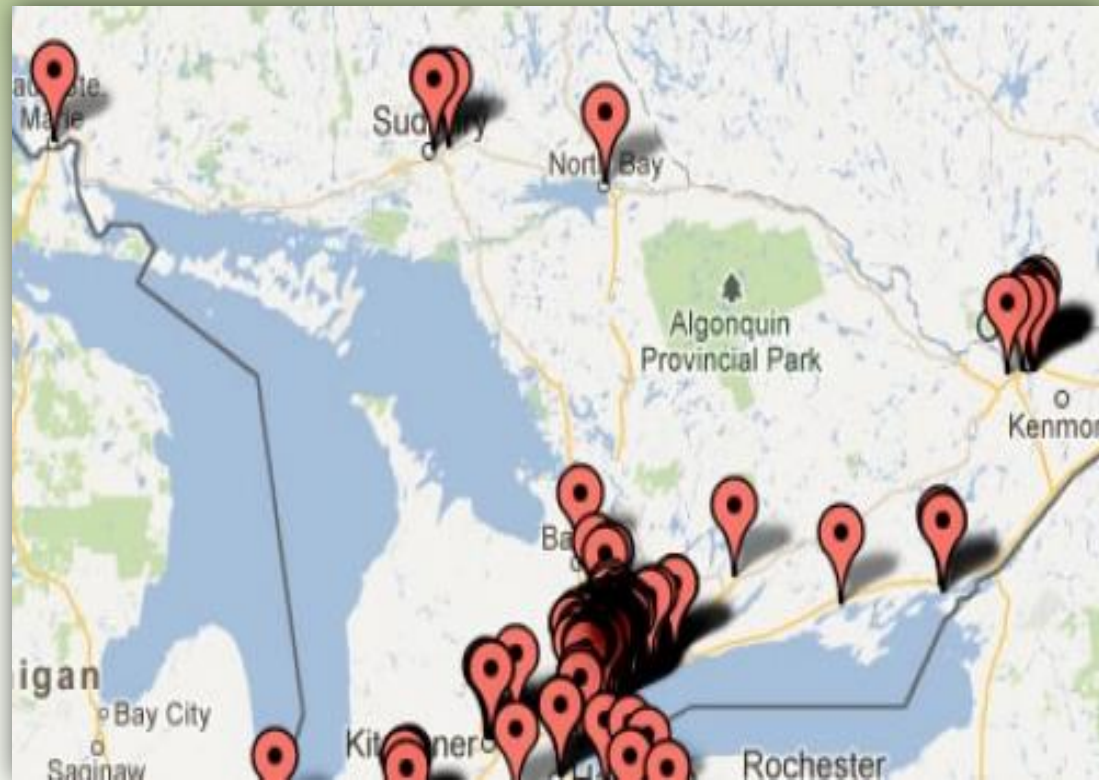
OCASI was formed in 1978 to act as a collective voice for immigrant serving agencies and to coordinate responses to shared needs and concerns.

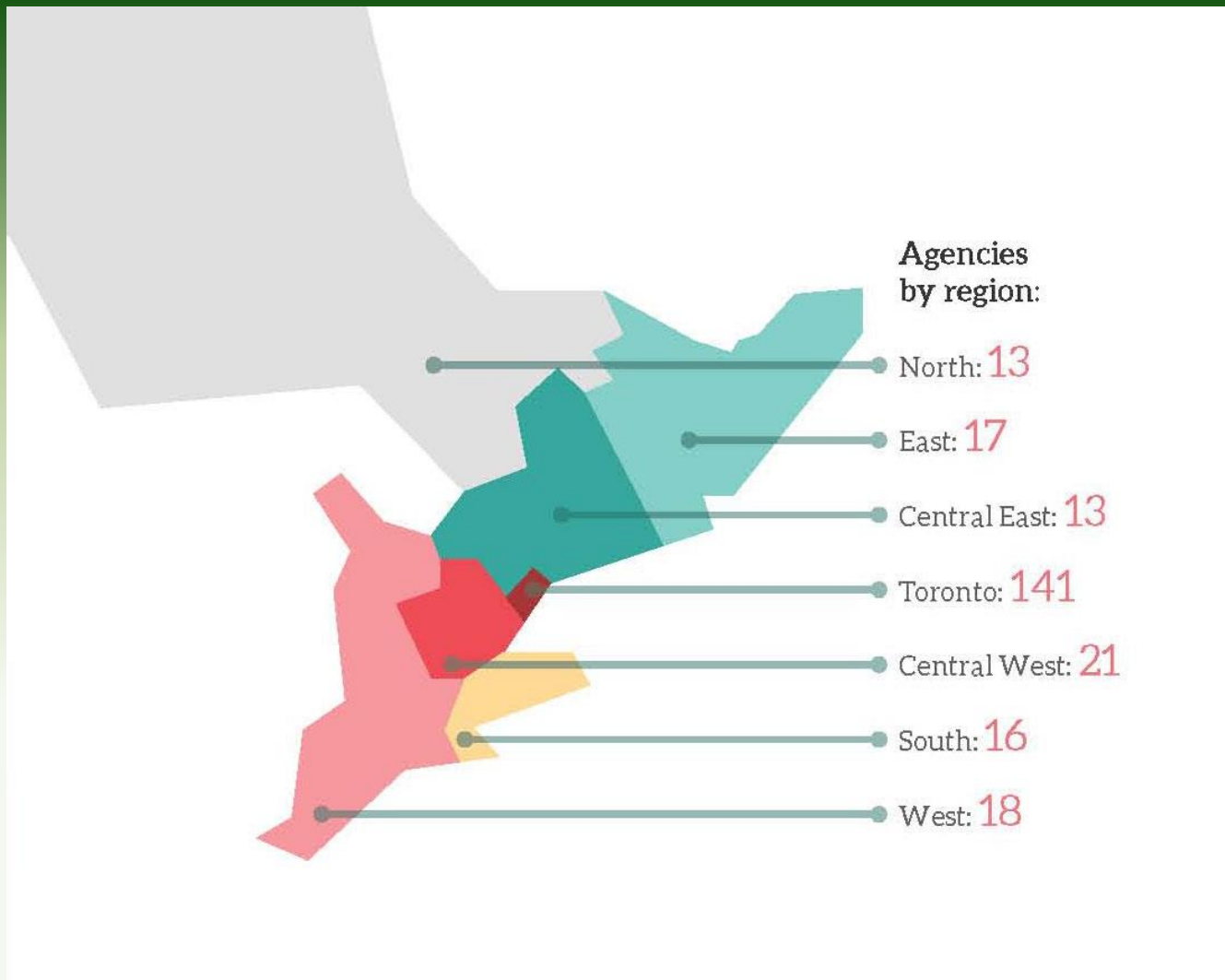
# OCASI Mission

The Mission of OCASI is to achieve equality, access and full participation for immigrants and refugees in every aspect of Canadian life.

# OCASI Member Agencies

- AIDS
- Arts and Culture
- Community Health Centres
- Community Legal Clinics
- Disability-focused
- Employment
- Ethno-Specific
- Faith Based
- Francophone
- Mental Health Service Centres
- Multi Service
- Neighbourhood Centres
- Refugee Houses
- Social Justice
- Social Planning Councils
- Translation & Interpretation Service
- Women's
- Women's Shelters
- Youth





OCASI Member Agencies Across Ontario

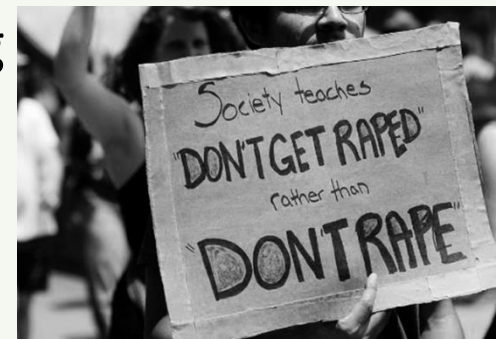
# OCASI's History in VAW Work

- OCASI provides both facilitated and self-directed trainings and support to front-line workers on various intersectional issues. These trainings include:
  - Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities (Self-Directed and facilitated)
  - Family Violence against Immigrant & Refugee Women: Community Development Strategies (self-directed)
  - Family Violence and Refugee and Immigrant Law (Self-directed)
  - Prevention of Domestic Violence against Immigrant and Refugee Women (Self-Directed)

# CHALLENGES FACED BY IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN IN REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

# Challenges Faced by Immigrant and Refugee Women in Reporting SV

1. Immigration Status and Social location: greater vulnerability
2. Inadequate knowledge of patient rights
3. Inadequate knowledge of healthcare system
4. Current definition of SV in the RHPA is narrow
5. Current act doesn't provide recourse for those accessing services by unregulated health care providers
6. General framework of sexual violence as being "shameful" and victim blaming
7. Language Access





# CHALLENGES FACED BY IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE WOMEN IN ACCESSING SERVICES

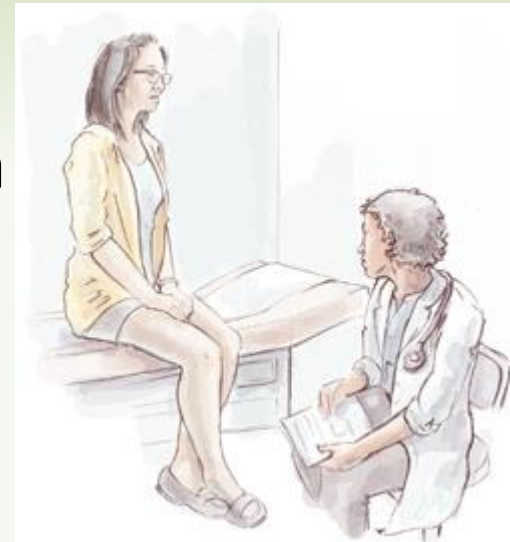
# IMMIGRANT HEALTH

- Deterioration in visible minorities health due to:
  - Discrimination and inequality
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Lack of support and access to services



# Challenging in Accessing Services

- Priorities in Settlement
- Settlement workers not familiar with Patients Rights Information
- Language Access
- Language interpretation and translation
- Stigma in accessing certain services
- Further barriers for LGBTQ community members



# RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Accessible Communication Materials in Multiple Languages including steps to report and support for survivors
- Posters and PSA's on Reporting Sexual Violence
- Materials on Prevention of Sexual Violence



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expansion of the definition of Sexual Violence
- Reporting without fear of detention and deportation
- Mandatory Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence training for service providers
- Strong Deterrent and Regulations

# OCASI's 5 week Sexual Violence Training

- 5 week free e learning training for settlement providers addressing Sexual Violence. Topics include:
  - **Module 1: Framework for Understanding Sexual Violence**
  - **Module 2: Realities of Immigrant and Refugee Women**
  - **Module 3: Responding to Sexual Violence**
  - **Module 4: Creating a Supportive Response**
  - **Module 5: Personal to Social Change**

# OCASI's 5 week Sexual Violence Training

- **Upon completion of the Training you will be able to:**
- Analyze the issue of sexual violence from a gendered and anti-oppression framework.
- Critically analyze the realities of immigrant and refugee women who have experienced sexual violence in the context of structural and systemic barriers.
- Understand the broad range of supports available to survivors of sexual violence.



# OCASI's 5 week Sexual Violence Training

- **Upon completion of the Training you will be able to:**
- Understand the legislative responses to sexual violence in Canada.
- Identify information and tools on how to support survivors of sexual violence including: effectively responding to disclosures, safety planning with women and making effective referrals.
- Identify ways of promoting community and social change by engaging survivors of sexual violence in organizational change, bridging sectors, promoting inter-agency information sharing and referrals, case coordination and public education.

# Contact Information

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# Thank you!!!

