

Faith Leaders for Safer Communities

A Practical Toolkit for
Supporting Women
Experiencing Gender-
Based Violence



Foreword: A Message to Religious Leaders

Religious leaders occupy a position of trust. People may come to you before they approach a lawyer, police officer, social worker, or specialist service.

A woman experiencing violence may tell you something she has never told anyone else. That moment matters.

You do not need to be a domestic and family violence specialist. You do not need to know every answer.

But you do need to know how to respond safely.

Religious leaders often have the heart to help: but compassion alone is not always enough. When a woman comes to us experiencing violence, good intentions without the right knowledge can sometimes cause further harm.

We need both a heart to care and the knowledge to respond safely.

You do not have to know everything, but you do need to know where to turn. This toolkit, offered by Jesuit Refugee Service Australia's Finding Safety Project, is designed to help you do this.



The Finding Safety Project is a specialist initiative supporting refugee women, women seeking asylum, and those on temporary visas who are facing gender-based violence. Operating through the JRS Women's Space, it bridges critical gaps by offering casework, legal referrals, emergency relief, and community leadership training to create safer communities for women facing violence.

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Is Religion Dangerous for Women?

Editorial: Sara Muzamil, Finding Safety Project Manager

It's a confronting question, and it should be.

The women we work with don't speak in theory.

They speak about their lives. About fear and protection. About control, and survival. And this is what we have learned:

Religion itself is not automatically dangerous to women. But when it is practiced through unequal power, it can become deeply unsafe.

Through my work with women on temporary visas experiencing violence, the danger rarely came from personal faith. It came from how religion was interpreted, enforced by religious leaders, and used by perpetrators.

Women have told us they have been:

- Silenced by religious leaders
- Told violence was a private matter, or something to endure
- Pressured to stay quiet for the family, for honour, or for God
- Told that “until death do us part” meant exactly that

Many were advised to pray more, be patient, or submit, when what they really needed was support and protection.

In those moments, religion was not a source of safety. Rather, it became a barrier to it.

Religion becomes dangerous when it is used as a tool of control:

- When it justifies male dominance.
- When women are shamed for asking for help.
- When leaving violence is framed as a moral failure instead of an act of courage.

Note: This reflection was presented by Sara Muzamil at the Finding Safety Project's Insights Forum: Faith in Action II in August 2026. This piece is repurposed from her speech delivered at the Gendered Violence Conference 2026, in response to a prompt about the relationship between violence and religion.

For the women we work with, this was made worse by fear of the community. Women weren't only afraid of their partner. They were afraid of judgment, exclusion, or spiritual condemnation. In these situations, religion felt less like a refuge and more like surveillance.

Our work also showed that religion can be a powerful source of safety.

When faith leaders centre, justice, and true teaching, women can feel supported. Some women found strength in their spirituality. Others found safety in women-led faith spaces.

Many spoke about interpretations of faith that affirmed their autonomy, and their basic human right to live free from harm.

We know that women are safest when their physical, emotional, and legal safety comes before doctrine, tradition, or reputation. And when women's safety is treated as non-negotiable.

Faith-based responses that worked well had clear things in common:

- They believed women without conditions.
- They rejected violence completely.
- They worked alongside secular support services to support women experiencing violence.
- They allowed women to define what safety truly meant for them.

So, is religion dangerous for women? Yes, and no.

My answer is this:

Religion turns dangerous when it is misinterpreted, bent to shield power, excuse perpetrators, and preserve their reputation, while the abused are left unseen. When women's safety is held as sacred, and faith is lived through accountability and care, religion becomes a shelter and a source of hope.

Understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

GBV can include:

- Domestic and family violence
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Coercive control
- Financial abuse
- Immigration facilitated abuse
- Technology-facilitated abuse
- Social isolation
- Stalking
- Forced marriage
- Child marriage
- Dowry-related abuse
- Female genital mutilation/cutting
- Breast ironing
- Trafficking and exploitation
- Spiritual or religious abuse
- Modern Slavery

A person experiencing abuse may gradually lose:

- Freedom
- Financial independence
- Social connections
- Access to documents
- Confidence
- Privacy
- Decision-making power
- Connection with family or community
- Freedom to practise their faith safely

Gender-based violence can affect anyone, but it disproportionately affects women and girls.

Research consistently shows that women experience higher rates of many forms of gender-based violence, including domestic and family violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and coercive control.

Violence is about power and control.

Violence is not simply an argument between two people.



When Faith Can Become a Barrier to Safety

Faith can become a barrier when religious beliefs, traditions or community expectations are used to prevent a woman from seeking help.

Warning signs include:

Silencing

"Don't tell anyone. This is a family matter."

Endurance

"You need to be patient and tolerate this, he will change."

Spiritual pressure

"You need to pray more."

Shaming

"What will people think if you leave?"

Community reputation

"Think about the family's reputation."

Fear of separation

"Leaving your husband is unacceptable."

Misuse of religious teaching

"A good wife must obey her husband."

These messages can increase danger.

A woman experiencing violence should never be made to feel that seeking safety makes her a bad woman, wife, mother, daughter, believer or member of her community.

When Faith Becomes a Source of Safety

Faith communities can play an important role in prevention and support.

A safe faith community:

- Takes violence seriously
- Believes and supports women
- Rejects victim-blaming
- Holds perpetrators accountable
- Protects confidentiality appropriately
- Has clear referral pathways
- Does not pressure women to reconcile
- Does not use religion to justify violence
- Welcomes specialist services

A simple principle:

Faith should never be used to keep a woman in danger



Case Study: Gihan's Story

Our response to victim-survivors can be a matter of life and death.

Gihan Kerollos was a mother of three sons, a hospital worker and a devoted member of her Church community. She was described by those who knew her as a loving mother and a well-liked colleague.

In the months before her death, Gihan experienced escalating abuse and coercive control from her husband. Court material and reporting described controlling and suspicious behaviour, including monitoring her movements, recording her conversations, making repeated accusations about her relationships and installing a GPS tracking device.

Gihan was frightened. She spoke to friends and colleagues about what she was experiencing and expressed concern that her husband was planning something very serious. She also sought support within her church community.

Her husband approached the Bishop, the head of their Church in Sydney, asking him to intervene in their marriage. According to accounts subsequently circulated within their community, Gihan was told by the Bishop to “not make him insecure and show him love.”

Whatever the circumstances of those conversations, Gihan's story raises an important question for every religious community:

What happens when a victim-survivor discloses abuse and the response focuses on repairing the marriage rather than recognising the risk?

On 18 May 2019, Gihan was killed outside Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick after finishing work. The NSW Supreme Court later found that her husband guilty of Gihan's murder.

Gihan's death is a devastating reminder that domestic and family violence is not a relational problem. Coercive control, surveillance, isolation, threats and escalating behaviour can be indicators of life-threatening risk.

Our religious communities must be places of support and safety - because our response to victim-survivors can be a matter of life and death.

What to Do When a Woman Comes to You

If a woman tells you she is experiencing violence, your first response can make a significant difference.

Start by creating safety.

If possible, speak with her somewhere private and safe. Ask:

- “Are you safe to talk right now?”
- “Is anyone monitoring your phone or messages?”
- “Is the person who is hurting you nearby?”

If it is not safe to continue the conversation, do not pressure her to disclose more.

What to Say and What Not to Say

SAY

“I believe you.”

“This is not your fault.”

“You deserve to be safe.”

“We can look at your options together.”

“Would you like help connecting with a specialist service?”

DO NOT SAY

“Why didn't you leave?”

“What did you do to make him angry?”

“You need to forgive him.”

“Be patient, he will change.”

“You need to stay for the children.”

“You need to pray more.”

“A good wife does not leave her husband.”

“You will destroy the family.”

“Let's bring him in and talk this out.”

LISTEN → BELIEVE → SAFETY → REFER → FOLLOW UP

LISTEN

Give her your attention.

Do not interrupt.

Do not pressure her to provide every detail.

You can say:

*"I'm glad you told me."
"You can take your time."
"I'm listening."*

BELIEVE

Avoid questioning her credibility.

You can say:

*"I believe you."
"What is happening to you is not your fault."
"You do not deserve to be treated this way."*

SAFETY

Focus on immediate safety.

Ask:

- Are you safe right now?
- Is the person who harmed you nearby?
- Are there children who may be at risk?
- Do you have somewhere safe to go?
- Does the person causing harm have access to your phone, money, documents or accounts?
- Is there anything that could make the situation more dangerous?

Do not confront the perpetrator yourself. Do not arrange a joint meeting between the woman and the person causing harm.

REFER

You are not expected to solve the situation yourself.

Connect her with appropriate specialist services

Depending on her circumstances, this may include:

- Police or emergency services
- Domestic and family violence services
- Specialist multicultural services
- Legal services
- Migration and immigration services
- Housing and homelessness services
- Financial support services
- Counselling and mental health services
- Child protection services where appropriate

Always consider whether it is safe for her to receive a phone call, text message, email or referral

FOLLOW UP

If it is safe to do so, check in.

You can ask:

“Would you like me to contact you again?”

“What is the safest way for me to contact you?”

“Is there a time when it is safe for you to speak?”

Never assume that no contact means everything is fine.



Understanding Spiritual and Religious Abuse

Spiritual or religious abuse occurs when religious beliefs, teachings, authority or practices are used to control, frighten, shame or manipulate a person

It may include:

- Using religious authority to demand obedience
- Threatening spiritual punishment
- Preventing someone from practising their faith
- Using religious texts to justify violence
- Telling a woman that God requires her to remain in a relationship, even when her partner is abusive.
- Threatening exclusion from a religious community
- Using religious shame to prevent disclosure
- Telling women that seeking help is a sign of weak faith

Religious leaders should ask themselves:

Is my response increasing her freedom and safety or increasing her fear and risk?

Do Not Automatically Tell Her to Leave

Leaving can be one of the most dangerous periods for someone experiencing domestic and family violence

A woman may also face:

- Financial insecurity
- Housing insecurity
- Immigration concerns
- Children and custody concerns
- Isolation from family
- Community pressure
- Disability-related barriers
- Language barriers
- Fear of retaliation
- Threats from the perpetrator

Instead of:

"You need to leave."

Try:

"Let's talk about what would help you be safer."

Allow the woman and specialist services to work through her options and safety plan

Supporting Women on Temporary Visas

Women on temporary visas can face additional barriers to safety.

They may fear:

- Losing their visa.
- Being deported.
- Losing their children.
- Losing access to housing or income.
- Losing their community.
- Not being believed.
- Not understanding their rights.
- Depending on their partner for information or documents.

Do not make assumptions about a woman's visa or immigration options. Immigration circumstances can be complex and individual.

Do not tell her:

"You have to stay because of your visa."

or:

"If you leave, you will be deported."

Instead say:

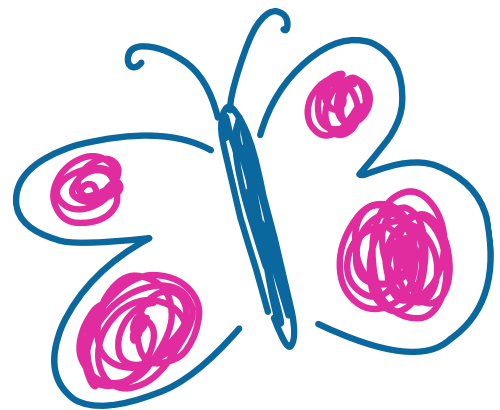
"Let's connect you with a qualified specialist who can explain your options."

Understanding Barriers to Seeking Help

A woman may not seek help immediately.

She may:

- Return to the relationship
- Withdraw from services
- Change her mind
- Protect the perpetrator
- Minimise what happened
- Say everything is fine



This does not necessarily mean she was lying. It may mean she is frightened, financially dependent or trying to survive. Respond without judgment. Keep the door open.

"Whenever you are ready, support is available."

When Children Are Involved

Children can experience serious harm from domestic and family violence, even when violence is not directed at them.

Religious leaders should take concerns about children's safety seriously.

- Do not ask children to mediate between parents.
- Do not use children to pass messages.
- Do not encourage a child to keep violence secret.

If you believe a child may be at risk, seek appropriate specialist advice and follow relevant safeguarding and reporting requirements.

When the Person Causing Harm is Part of the Faith Community

This can be particularly difficult.

The person causing harm may be:

- A respected community member
- A volunteer
- A religious leader
- A donor
- A community elder
- A family member of a prominent person

Their status must never determine how seriously the allegation is treated.

Community reputation must never come before safety.

Do not:

- Protect the person's reputation
- Pressure the woman to remain silent
- Arrange reconciliation without specialist guidance
- Confront the alleged perpetrator yourself
- Remove the woman from the community as the first response

Instead, follow appropriate safeguarding, organisational and legal procedures

Building Safer Faith Communities: Prevention

Prevention begins before a woman discloses violence.

Faith communities can create environments where violence is clearly rejected

Religious leaders can:

- Speak publicly against gender-based violence.
- Teach respect
- Challenge victim-blaming.
- Make referral information available.
- Develop relationships with specialist services.
- Train staff and volunteers.
- Establish safeguarding policies.
- Provide safe spaces for women.
- Ensure women know where they can seek help.
- Challenge harmful interpretations of religious teachings

Consider:

- Women's bathrooms
- Community noticeboards
- Women's groups
- Community newsletters
- Website and social media
- Community events
- Reception areas

Put referral information where women can access it privately.

Preventing violence requires working with men and boys. Religious leaders can use their influence to challenge:

- Entitlement
- Male dominance
- Controlling behaviour
- Victim-blaming
- Normalisation of violence
- Harmful ideas about masculinity
- Silence around abuse

Working With Men & Boys



The message should be clear: Violence is a choice. Responsibility belongs to the person using violence. Men and boys should be encouraged to understand that strength is not control, intimidation, violence, or abuse.

Creating Safe Referral Pathways

A faith community should not wait until a crisis occurs to identify support services.

Build relationships with specialist organisations in advance.

Know:

- Who provides domestic and family violence support?
- Who provides legal assistance?
- Who provides migration advice?
- Who provides emergency accommodation?
- Who provides multicultural support?
- Who supports children?
- Who provides counselling?
- Who can assist with financial hardship?
- Who can help with safety planning?

Referral does not mean handing the woman a phone number and sending her away. Where appropriate and safe, support her to make the connection. A referral directory is available at the end of this toolkit.

**Did
You
Know?**

- 
- In NSW, a woman is killed by domestic and family violence roughly every three weeks.
 - Police respond to more than 140,000 DFV calls for assistance each year, about one call every four minutes.
 - In 2025, almost 38,000 domestic-violence-related assaults were recorded by police, equivalent to more than 100 assaults every day.

Resource: Safety Plan

A safety plan helps someone think about what they can do if they feel unsafe. You may wish to share this plan with a woman who is experiencing violence.

Important: You do not have to make every decision today. Your safety and the safety of your children come first.

1. Am I Safe Right Now?

Ask yourself:

Am I safe right now?

Are my children safe?

Do I feel that the situation is getting worse?

Where could I go if I needed to leave quickly?

Who could I contact for help?

If you or your children are in immediate danger, call 000.

2. Warning Signs That I Need Urgent Help

Take the situation especially seriously if the person using violence:

- Threatens to kill or seriously hurt you or someone else.
- Chokes or strangles you.
- Uses or threatens to use a weapon.
- Becomes increasingly violent or controlling.
- Stalks, follows or monitors you.
- Prevents you from leaving.
- Threatens your children, family or friends.
- Breaks into your home.
- Breaches a protection order.
- Becomes more dangerous when you try to leave.

You do not have to wait until the violence becomes “bad enough” to ask for help.

Safety Plan

3. When I Feel Unsafe

Think about:

When do I feel least safe?

What usually happens before the situation escalates?

Has the violence or controlling behaviour become worse?

Have I been threatened, stalked, choked or prevented from leaving?

Are weapons involved?

Have my children, family or friends been threatened?

If violence starts, do so safely:

- Move towards an exit or safer place.
- Avoid rooms where you could become trapped or where weapons or dangerous objects may be present.
- Keep your phone with you.
- Go to a trusted neighbour, public place or other safe location if you can leave safely.
- Call 000, or ask someone you trust to call for you.

4. People I Can Trust

You do not have to tell everyone what is happening. You can choose one or two people you trust.

The people you may contact for support could include:

- A trusted family member or friend
- A trusted religious or community leader
- A trusted neighbour
- A domestic and family violence service
- Police
- A lawyer or legal service
- A migration service
- A health service
- An emergency accommodation service
- An interpreter

Safety Plan

5. My Code Word

A code word can help me ask for help without alerting the person using violence.

My code word: _____

Who I will use it with: _____

What I want them to do: _____

For example, they could call the police, contact me or come to a safe place.

6. My Children's Safety

Your children are not responsible for stopping the violence and should never be expected to physically intervene.

If it is safe and appropriate, children should know:

- Where they can go if they feel unsafe.
- Who they can ask for help.
- How to call 000 in an emergency.
- Their full names and addresses

7. If I Need to Leave Quickly

If it is safe, I can prepare an emergency bag and keep it somewhere I can access safely.

It should include:

- Passport, visa and identification documents
- Children's important documents
- Medicare and bank cards
- Emergency money
- Medication
- Keys
- Phone and charger
- Important legal documents
- Essential items for my children
- A change of clothes

Safety Plan

8. Money, Technology and Privacy Safety

If it is safe, I can consider:

- Keeping some emergency money somewhere safe.
- Checking who can access my bank accounts.
- Changing passwords and using two-factor authentication.
- Checking location sharing and shared devices.
- Reviewing social media privacy settings.
- Avoiding posting my location.
- Asking friends and family not to share my location, photos or information without checking with me first.
- Keeping a new address private if I relocate.
- Avoiding publicly sharing information about where my children attend school or childcare.
- Blocking or restricting the person using violence where appropriate.

If I think my phone, accounts or devices are being monitored, suddenly changing passwords, settings or access could increase my risk. I can seek advice before making changes.

9. If I Am Planning to Leave

Leaving can sometimes increase the risk of violence.

If you are considering leaving, think about:

- Where you will go
- How you will get there
- Who can help you

10. If You Cannot Leave Yet - You can still make a safety plan

- Keep your phone accessible
- Know where you can go if things become unsafe
- Keep important documents somewhere safe
- Have a code word with someone you trust
- Keep emergency numbers somewhere safe
- Stay connected with someone you trust
- Seek confidential advice
- Think about a safe place you could go if you need to leave quickly

Safety Plan

Staying does not mean you are choosing the violence. Sometimes staying temporarily is part of surviving, protecting children and preparing for a safer future.

11. Keeping Evidence

If it is safe, keep records of:

- Dates and times of incidents
- Threats, emails or messages
- Injuries or property damage
- Witnesses
- Police records
- Medical records
- Other relevant information

Your safety comes first. You should never put yourself at greater risk to collect evidence.

12. Important Contacts

Emergency: 000

Domestic and family violence service: _____

Police/local police station: _____

Legal service: _____

Migration service: _____

Emergency accommodation: _____

Trusted person: _____

The safest place I can go is:

The person I can contact is:

My code word is:

The next safe step I can take is:

**My
Safety
Plan**

Referral Directory

Police / Emergency Services

For immediate danger or an emergency, contact emergency services on 000

Crisis Support in NSW

1800 RESPECT

1800 737 732

Link2Home

1800 152 152

Child Protection Help

13 21 11

DV Line

1800 656 463

Lifeline

13 11 14

NSW Victims Access

1800 633 063

LawAccess NSW

1300 888 529

Mental Health Support

STARTTS NSW

For women on temporary visas, please confirm if SRSS payments are being received or if applicant consents to SRSS assessment.

Making a referral:

Phone intake counsellor: (02) 9646 6800

Email STARTTS referral form to: stts-intakegeneral@health.nsw.gov.au

Further information: <https://www.startts.org.au/services/make-a-referral/>

General contact details:

Phone: (02) 9646 6700

Fax: (02) 9646 6710

Email: stts-startts@health.nsw.gov.au

Website: <https://www.startts.org.au/>

Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health Centre

Address: 6 Prince Street, Blacktown NSW 2148

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9831 2070

Email: info@womensandgirls.org.au

Website: <https://womensandgirls.org.au/>

Cultural Diversity Network Inc.

Contact details:

Phone: 0457 430 279

Email: info@cdni.org.au

Website: <https://cdni.org.au/>

MyStep to Mental Wellbeing

Helps people in the Eastern Murrumbidgee region

Wagga Wagga

Grand Pacific Health Wagga Wagga, Units 1-4, 235-241 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Phone: (02) 6453 4440

Fax: 6453 4444

Email: wagga@gph.org.au

Young:

Grand Pacific Health Young, 147A Boorowa Street, Young NSW 2594

Self-referral service: <https://onlineservices.gph.org.au/GPH/SelfReferralRegistration/Form>

Website: <https://www.gph.org.au/services/mental-health/mystep-to-mental-wellbeing/>

Transcultural Mental Health Centre

Address: 53, Cumberland Hospital Campus, 5 Fleet St, North Parramatta NSW 2151

Contact details:

Phone: 9912 3850

Freecall: 1800 648 911

Email: tmhc@health.nsw.gov.au

Website: <https://www.dhi.health.nsw.gov.au/transcultural-mentalhealth-centre>

NSW Refugee Health Service

Making a referral:

Email: SWSLHD-RHSReferrals@health.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 9794 0770

Fax: (02) 9794 0790

Address: Suite 5, Level 3, 157-161 George Street, Liverpool NSW 2170

Contact details:

General email: SWSLHD-RefugeeHealth@health.nsw.gov.au

Website: <https://www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/refugee/#/>

Cumberland Women's Health Centre

Address: 69 Harris Street, Harris Park NSW 2150

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9689 3044

Email: adminworker@cwahc.org.au

Website: <https://www.cwahc.org.au/>

Merrylands Community Health Centre

Address: 14 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands NSW 2160

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9860 9800

Self-referral service: 1800 600 681

Email: WSLHD-MLCHC-Admin@health.nsw.gov.au

Website: <https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/Integrated-and-Community-Health/Merrylands-Community-Health-Centre>

SydWest Multicultural Services

Services:

- Access to women's support groups
- Housing for Blacktown Local Government Area only
- Financial assistance in the form of electricity vouchers, but evidence of Centrelink payment must be shown

Eligibility:

- Must be a permanent resident

Address: Various locations throughout Greater Western Sydney

Contact details:

Email: info@sydwestms.org.au

Website: <https://sydwestms.org.au/>

You in Mind

For people in South-West Sydney

Services:

- Support from clinicians based in Bankstown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield and Liverpool areas

Eligibility:

- Requires GP referral and a Mental Health Treatment Plan

Contact details:

Phone: 02 9199 6143

Email: healthcare@onedoor.org.au

Website: <https://www.onedoor.org.au/ourservices/clinicalservices/yim>

Financial, Housing and Food Support

Finding Safety Project-Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Address: 10 Victoria Road, Parramatta NSW 2145

Contact details:

Phone: 9098 9336

Email: women@jrs.org.au

Website: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/jesuit-refugee-service/>

Gender based-Violence Specialist Support

The House of Welcome

Address: 197 The Trongate, Granville NSW 2142

Contact details:

Phone: 9727 9290

Fax: 9724 6101

Website: <https://www.houseofwelcome.org.au/>

FINANCIAL: ✓

HOUSING: ✓

Modern Slavery and Trafficking Support

Anti-Slavery Australia

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9514 9660

Phone for legal services: (02) 9514 8115

Email: antislavery@uts.edu.au

Website: <https://antislavery.org.au/>

Salvation Army Additional Referral Pathway (ARP)

Address: NSW Divisional Headquarters, 265 Chalmers Street, Redfern NSW 2016

Contact details:

Phone: 1800 000 277

Website: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/additional-referralpathway/contact-us/>

Australian Red Cross

Sydney address: Level 4, St Andrews House 464 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

See website for other NSW office locations

Contact details:

Phone: 1800 733 276, 1800 113 015

Email: national_stpp@redcross.org.au

Website: <https://www.redcross.org.au/migration/support-fortrafficked-people/>

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights

Contact details:

Phone: (03) 9481 3000

Email: reception@amwchr.org.au

Legal Support

Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS)

Address: Auburn Community Centre, 44A Macquarie Road, Auburn NSW 2144
(Wednesdays)

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 8355 7227

Email: admin@racs.org.au

Website: <https://www.racs.org.au/>

Women's Legal Service NSW

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 8745 6900

Email: legalhelp@wlsnsw.org.au

Website: <https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/>

Immigration Advice & Rights Centre (IARC)

Contact details:

Info line: (02) 8234 0700

Domestic violence priority line: (02) 8234 0777

AAT/Judicial Review line: (02) 9421 4762

Email: info@iarc.org.au

Website: <https://iarc.org.au/>

Legal Aid NSW

General phone: 1300 888 529

General website: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

Domestic Violence Unit phone: 1800 979 529

Domestic Violence Unit website: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-family-or-relationship/domestic-and-family-violence/domestic-violence-support-services/domestic-violence-unit>

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS)

Phone: 1800 938 227

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre (WSCLC)

Website: <https://www.wsclc.org.au/>

Community Legal Centre Program

Phone: (02) 8833 0911

Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

Phone: (02) 8833 0922

Email: cumberland.wdvcas@wsclc.org.au

Western Sydney Tenants' Service

Phone: (02) 8833 0933

Email: tenancy@wsclc.org.au

Home Building Advocacy Service

Phone: (02) 8833 0994

Email: hobas@wsclc.org.au

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC)

Address: 414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9492 6540

Email: halc@halc.org.au

Website: <https://halc.org.au>

Redfern Legal Centre

Eligibility:

- Person must fall within the catchment zone

Address: Redfern Town Hall, Gadigal Land, 73 Pitt Street, Redfern NSW 2016

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9698 7277

Email: info@rlc.org.au

Website: <https://rlc.org.au>

Marrickville Legal Centre

Eligibility:

- Person must live in one of the following council areas: Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Georges River, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Parramatta, City of Sydney, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire

Address: 338 Illawarra Road, Marrickville NSW 2204

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9559 2899

Website: <https://www.mlc.org.au/>

Muslim Women Association

Address: 47 Wangee Road, Lakemba NSW 2195

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9750 6916

Email: info@mwa.org.au

Website: <https://mwa.org.au/services/>

Financial Abuse Support

Arise Foundation

Contact details:

Email: support@arisefoundation.org.au

Website: <https://arisefoundation.org.au/>

Centre for Women's Economic Safety

Contact details:

Phone: 1800 730 031

Email: admin@cwes.org.au

Website: <https://cwes.org.au/>

Dowry Abuse Support

Indian Sub-Cont Crisis Support Agency (ICSA)

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9832 4762

Email: info@icsa.net.au

Website: <https://www.icsa.net.au/>

Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC)

Eligibility:

- Applied for protection
- Do not hold a SHEV, TPV or Protection Visa
- Have not been denied Protection by the Minister

Newtown address: 43 Bedford Street, Newtown NSW 2042

Auburn address: 44A Macquarie Road, Auburn NSW 2144 (Wednesdays only)

Contact details:

Phone: 9078 1900

Website: <https://asylumseekerscentre.org.au/>

Education

Adult Migrant English Program

Website: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/adult-migrant-englishprogram?context=22146>

CORE Community Services

For people living in the Fairfield Local Government Area

Address: Corner Railway Parade and McBurney Road, Cabramatta NSW 2166

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 9727 0477

Website: <https://corecs.org.au/>

IMS

Address: Level 1, 67-69 Market Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

Contact details:

Phone: (02) 4229 6855

Email: info@ims.org.au

Website: <https://www.ims.org.au/>

Refugee Education Special Interest Group

Email: contactus@refugee-education.org

Refugee Education Special Interest Group

Email: contactus@refugee-education.org

University scholarships

Website: <https://refugee-education.org.au/scholarships>

TAFE access for TPV/SHEV and bridging visa holders

Website: <https://refugee-education.org.au/tafe-access>

Other

Jesuit Refugee Service

Address: 10 Victoria Road, Parramatta NSW 2145

Contact details:

Phone: 9098 9336

Email: women@jrs.org.au

Website: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/jesuit-refugee-service/>

Settlement Services International (SSI)

Please refer to website for addresses and phone numbers of NSW offices

Contact details:

Email: info@ssi.org.au

Website: <https://www.ssi.org.au/contact-us/>

Read more in the Safer Futures Toolkit

<https://www.racs.org.au/women-at-risk/toolkit>



Faith Leaders for Safer Communities: A Practical Toolkit for Supporting Women Experiencing Gender-Based Violence