

Hamilton Urban Core Fact Sheet 2

Neighbours, Friends and Families Diverse Immigrant and Refugee Communities Hamilton Campaign

The NFF Diverse (Immigrant and Refugee) Communities Hamilton is a community-based Project, which involves the collaboration of community members, leaders and representatives from diverse communities and agencies serving women and their families in Hamilton. Our approach is based on the knowledge that comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate strategies are needed to reach out to and engage immigrant and refugee women, neighbours, friends and families, who are abused by their husbands or partners. The intended audience of the NFF Immigrant and Refugee Communities is primarily the Minority Roma Czech and Hungarian, the Sudanese Communities and other immigrant and refugee community groups. Together with the Project Coordinator, the Cultural Facilitators representing these communities work to expand the NFF Campaign to raise awareness of the warning signs of woman abuse.

To promote the NFF campaign effectively, NFF staff worked collaboratively with community leaders who best understand their community's needs. Women and their children face multiple barriers, in relation to their gender, culture, language, geographic location, class, ability, faith/spirituality, and immigration status when dealing with violence and accessing supports. As such, implementation of the *Neighbours, Friends and Families Campaign* is rooted in the specific needs and assets of each community.

To raise awareness of the warning signs of woman abuse the NFF Project Staff engaged communities in culturally specific events, knowledge exchanges and information sessions, and provided anti-racism and cultural competence education to strengthen the supports in the mainstream services that provide services to abused immigrant and refugee women and their families.

NFF Hamilton project activities include:

- Outreaching to community members
- Engaging Communities in Forums, Focus Groups, Information Sessions
- Participating in the work driven by OCASI
- Providing Anti-Racism/ Cultural Competence education for NFF Committee members
- Reviewing NFF material to strengthen the effectiveness of the material in increasing the awareness of the warning signs of woman abuse
- Evaluation and documentation of best practices

"Domestic violence causes far more pain than the visible marks of bruises and scars.
It is devastating to be abused by someone that you love and think loves you in return.
It is estimated that approximately 3 million incidents of domestic violence are reported each year in the United States."

Dianne Feinstein