Addressing violence against migrant & refugee women

What can health workers do?

Remember that your timely and empathetic response to women survivors makes an important difference to their health and wellbeing. Violence against migrant and refugee women is never their fault.

Update yourself about legal and policy frameworks and your role in supporting survivors.

Actively look for potential signs and symptoms of violence to identify at risk groups and provide them with support as early as possible.

Facilitate timely access to good quality clinical care, including post-rape care.

Offer first-line support to all survivors of violence without judgement nor discrimination.

Use **LIVES** to remind yourself of the five key steps of first-line support:

- **Listen** carefully with empathy and without judgement. Give her the space to say what she wants to say in a safe and private place to a caring person who wants to help.

- **Inquire** about her needs and concerns. Ask open-ended questions to encourage her to talk about her emotional, physical, social, economic and practical needs.

- **Support** help to connect her with other support services. Ask “What would help her the most if we could do it right away?” and help her consider her options.

- **Validate** show that you believe and understand her. Tell her that she is never to blame for what happened.

- **Enhance safety** discuss how to protect her from further harm and help her make a plan to improve her safety.

For more information visit: www.paho.org/en/topics/violence-against-women