Contagion of Violence: Role of Migration and Displacement

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Outline

- Contagion defined and violence against refugee women (one group of migrants)
- Stages of migration – pre-uprooting to adaptation
- Violence during pre-uprooting, uprooting and transition stages (during flight and in refugee camps)
- Safe spaces, Protective factors & resilience – through life stories and case studies
Types of migrant women: refugees and Contagion

- Refugee women: group most affected by violence
- Physical, sexual and emotional violence
- Environmental conditions that place refugee women at risk for violence and trauma
- Gender issues for girls and young women
- Contagion defined – spread & contributing influence
Stages of migration – pre-uprooting to adaptation

- Pre-uprooting
- Uprooting and flight
- Transition – in Refugee Camps and Countries of First Asylum as self settled refugees
- Resettlement
- Adaptation and Integration into host societies
Violence during pre-uprooting, during flight, and in refugee camps

- Violence from soldiers, police, and others who are supposed to protect the refugees.
- Violence from administrators and staff of refugee camps.
- Occurs in homes/shelters, during flight, and in refugee camps carrying out daily life chores.
- Violence (physical and psychological) from spouses and family members for bringing shame – rejection and blame.
- Where: In outside homes and in privacy of homes.
Safe spaces & Protective factors

- **In Camps:** Health Clinics, Schools, venues of Educational or training programs for women

- **In countries of first asylum:** At mosques and religious or communal gatherings with women who have similar experiences. Promoted by social workers and female community leaders

- **After resettlement:** Churches, mosques, SW and resettlement program leaders; school social workers and among extended kin.
Two case studies

- In-depth case study of Sudanese refugee women in Kenya
- Example from qualitative research study of life histories of refugee Afghan women in Pakistan
Implications

- For further research
- For programs
- For service providers