



**Australian Red Cross –
DVNSW Conference
22nd October 2014
“Support for women without a
Substantive Visa”**

7 Fundamental Principles

- **Humanity** – to prevent & alleviate suffering wherever it may be found...to protect life and ensure respect for the human being
- **Impartiality** – no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions
- **Neutrality** – in order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement must not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature
- **Independence** – while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of governments & subject to the laws of that country, Red Cross must maintain their autonomy so they can act in accordance with the Principles of the Movement
- **Voluntary Service** – voluntary relief Movement not promoted by desire for gain
- **Unity** – can only be 1 Red Cross/Crescent Society in any 1 country & must be open to all
- **Universality** – all Societies have equal status & share equal responsibilities & duties in helping each other



Australian Red Cross

Key areas of work:

- Emergency Services
- International Aid and Development
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disadvantage
- Social Inclusion
- Locational Disadvantage
- International Humanitarian Law
- Migration Support (CAS, CD, ASAS, Trafficking, Forced Marriage, IDP, ER)
- Blood Services
- First Aid, Health and Safety Services

Impact of Migration Sub-strategy

Goal

Red Cross will seek to assist migrants, irrespective of their legal status, whose survival, dignity; physical or mental health is under threat. We will effect change in order to prevent and reduce the vulnerability of migrants, protect them against abuses, exploitation and denial of rights. Through our work we will strengthen the capacity of people impacted by migration to seek opportunities and sustainable solutions for themselves and their families.

Definitions

- **Substantive Visa** – Visa that you have been granted to remain in Australia
- **Bridging Visa** – temporary Visa (range of conditions attached)
- **Family/Partner Visa** – Sub Class 100, 820 , 820 (+ more)
- **Dependent on Substantive Visa** – attached to a Visa granted to remain in Australia

Case Study

- *Sarah came to Australia in 2012 from Bangladesh with her husband and 2 children aged 3 & 5 by plane
- Sarah and her husband had no family in Australia and made limited community connections
- Currently, Sarah and her family are living in Western Sydney in a granny flat paying \$250 per week in rent
- Medicare/Work Rights
- Sarah attended the Red Cross office and met with a Caseworker; during the appointment she disclosed a history of Domestic Violence and a recent separation
- Sarah reported that she has no access to income and her children are unwell
- Sarah reports that she is living with a church member who is asking for rent which Sarah has been unable to pay for the last month; Sarah was asked to leave by her landlord by the end of the week
- Sarah has attended Red Cross to ask for assistance

Visa Status and Supports available

Protection
Visa



- Immigration-funded Programs

Family
Visa*



- Family Violence Provisions
- DHS

Work/
Student
Visa



- ER
- NGO's

* Only for certain types of marriage/spouse visas

Challenges for Supporting Women experiencing DV in the Migration Space

- Limited support services
- Safety concerns in Australia and for family overseas
- Limited income support and access to appropriate services
- Consistent, stable support
- Community marginalisation



Considerations for women experiencing DV in the Migration Space

- Visa status/complexity
- Fear of authority
- Fear of consequences from reporting
- Cultural Relativism
- Trauma



Opportunities

- Raising awareness to increase options for clients to access supports
- ‘The silent voice’





Thankyou

“When someone shows you who they are believe them; the first time” Maya Angelou

Questions?

Migration Support Programs – Referral

Phone: 02 9229 4266