

# 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.**



**Connect survivors to other support, including shelter, protection, legal advice, and others.**



**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 the most if we could do it right away?" and help her consider her options.

# LIVES

## 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.



# Violence against migrant and refugee women can and must be prevented



For more information visit: [www.paho.org/en/topics/violence-against-women](http://www.paho.org/en/topics/violence-against-women)