



SHAKTI

Wellington & Our Services



SHAKTI

Our Mission

We endeavour to facilitate and ensure safety and overall well-being of all women, young women and children through strategic intervention measures aimed at eliminating all forms of oppression and gender-based violence.

Vision

To have a world where women, children and families are empowered to live lives with dignity, free from fear and violence and able to exercise their rights, choices and responsibilities.





Shakti Youth Mission Statement

Step by step, we will work towards empowering all migrants and refugee youth in Aotearoa/ New Zealand to live lives with dignity, free from violence and fear, and to help create safer homes and communities together.





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About Shakti

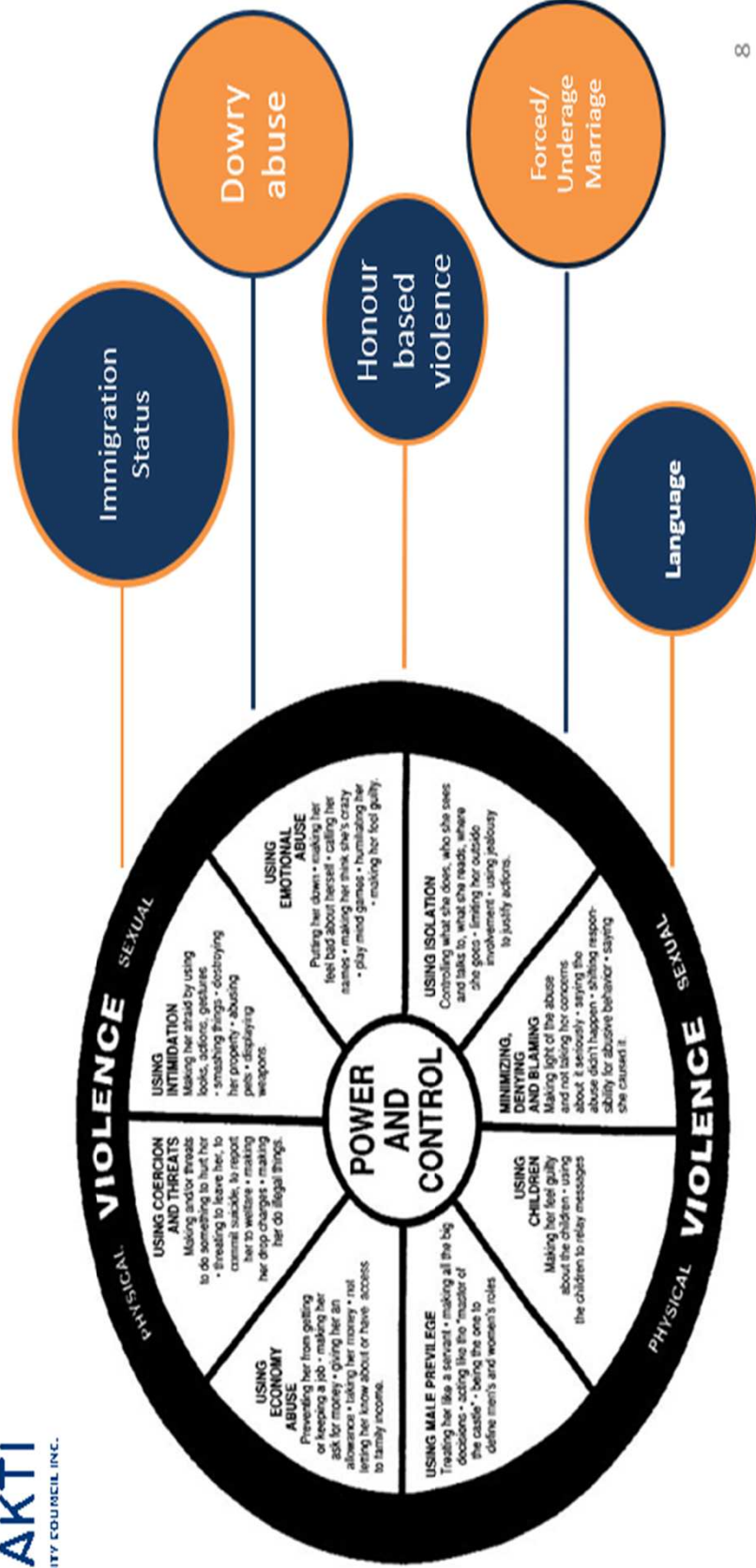
- Culturally specialised intervention, prevention and wraparound services
- Asian, Middle-Eastern and African women and children
- Domestic violence and culturally abusive practices
- 0800 SHAKTI (0800 742 584)
- Specialist refuges / drop-in centres
- Youth Unit - services by youth for youth
- Political advocacy for services





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COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

Additional Elements Specific to Migrants and Refugees





Abuse in Ethnic Communities

- Culturally sanctioned practices
- Normalised and therefore unidentifiable as abuse
- Marital rape - fertility choices
- Barriers to information and services
- Stigma and isolation
- Ethnic group structures - compromised safety
- Patriarchal systems vs. NZ laws



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Abuse in Ethnic Communities

Visa status

- Sponsorship or withdrawal threats
- Coercion and control
- Pathways to get family into the country

Advocacy

- Victims of Family Violence Work Visa
- Welfare benefit for Non-PR clients



Dowry Abuse

Violence that arises from concerns about whether, how, or how much any gifts, goods, money, other property or other benefits are -

- (a) Given to or for a party to a marriage or proposed marriage; and
- (b) Received by or for the other party to the marriage or proposed marriage
- (c) Money, jewellery, gifts, or property brought by a bride to her husband on their marriage; violence occurs around whether dowry is given, or how much it is

Advocacy

- Family Violence Act 2018 amendment now includes dowry-abuse

Forced marriage can sound like:

- "you'll learn to like each other"
- "if you don't do this, it will shame the family"
- "we know what's best for you"
- "either get married, or be disowned"
- "if you don't marry ____ I'll kill myself"
- "if you don't do what we want you'll ruin your siblings' lives"
- "you need to do this for the family"
- "if you love us you'll listen"/"do this for me"



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Honour-based Violence

- Family status directly associated to and influenced by the girl child
- Survey the girl child
- Transgressions from the “honour code”
- Cultural preservation
- Violent or abusive response



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Gaps in Responses

- Culturally responsive and effective services and frameworks
- Visibility to the experience of ethnic women
- Alert practitioners to different forms of coercion and control
- Services to understand common cultural narratives
- Legal support between NZ and home country laws
- Disbelieving youth victims and voices
- Reconciliation and mediation
- Community mobilisation and engagement
- Multi-faceted effects on women & children



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What can you do?

- Promote young people's choices
- Do not be a bystander
- Be an advocate
- Educate yourself
- Learn to recognise risk factors and signs
- Community mobilisation and engagement
- Improving response systems
- Do not disbelieve or dismiss people's concerns



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Contact Us:

FREE 24/7 Crisis Line 0800 SHAKTI (0800 742 584)

Website: <https://shaktiinternational.org/>

Email: wlg@shakti.org.nz