

Women Domestic Violence: A Forgotten Crisis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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‘Safe’ At Home

As a result of public safety measures and lockdowns people have been required to follow public safety measures and to stay ‘**safe**’ at home. Ironically, these measures have also led to the substantial increase of women domestic violence (DV) and home-related issues. In the case of immigrant females living in Canada, they face the ‘double risk’ of getting the virus and facing domestic violence.

A ‘Double Risk’

- Previous catastrophes led to an exponential increase in rates of gender-based violence (e.g., Hurricane Katrina, Black Saturday bushfires).
 - Catastrophes have short-term and long-term repercussion → The initial spike in DV rates + a steady amount during the recovery period (Kofman & Garfin, 2020)
 - Low-income and ethnic minority women are affected disproportionately by DV (Black et al., 2011).
- The consequences of the COVID-19 on immigrant women living in Canada may be more than devastating.

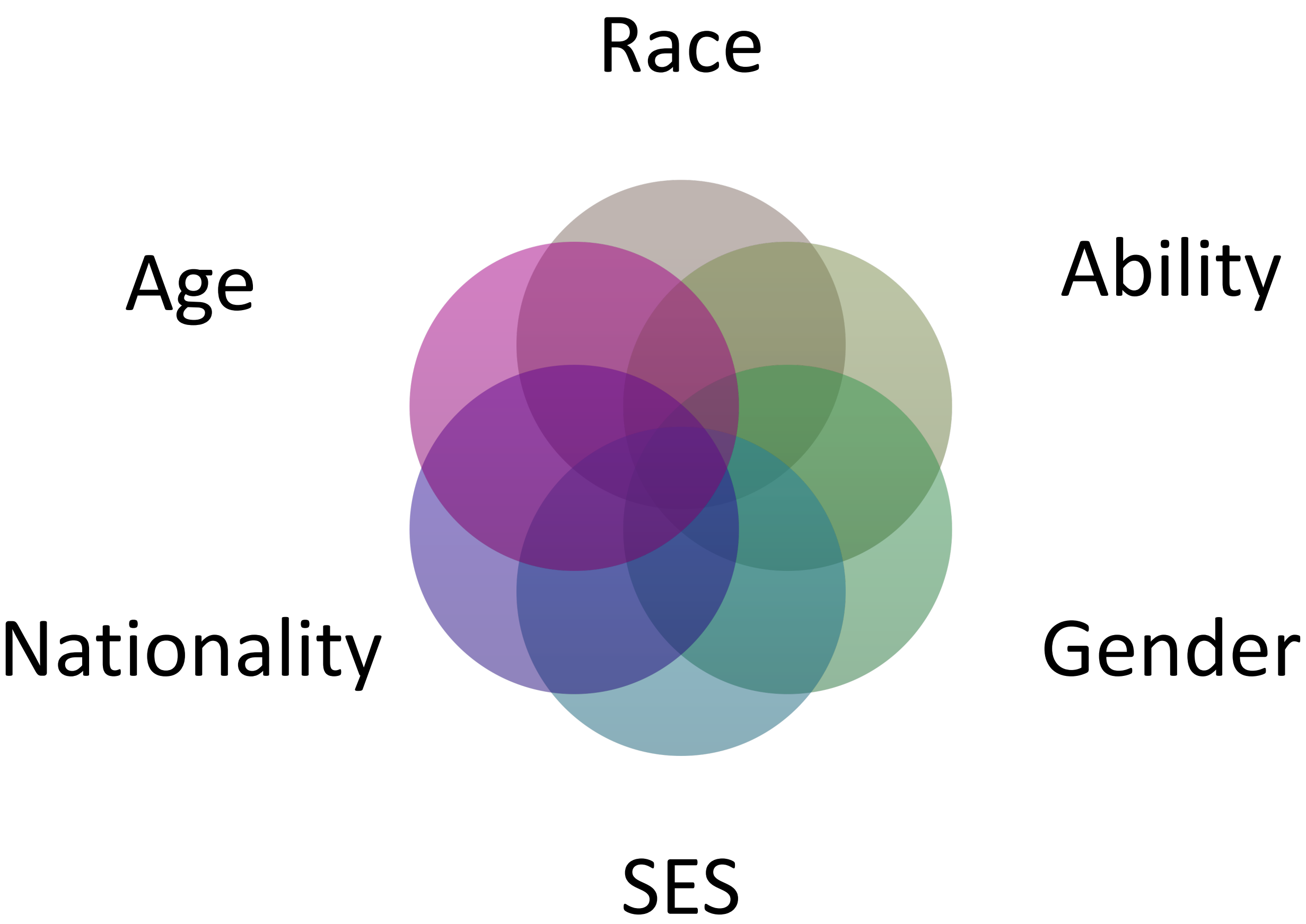
Beyond Gendered Policies and Apps

- Nor monetary aids or smartphone apps are enough to solve the issues female immigrants face due to the pandemic –that go beyond an momentary problem. Therefore:
1. The Canadian Government must create policies that protect women considering overlapping labels in face of the pandemic + establish laws and resources that protect immigrant women from future DV scenarios.
 2. Future research must focus on long-term byproducts of DV scenarios within the current pandemic.
 3. As a long-term solution, people need to question from a micro perspective the underlying gender norms and institutionalized constructs that legitimize violence against women.

Method

Through a literature review, the research analyzed the impact of the ongoing health crisis as a contributing factor of immigrant female domestic violence in Canada.

Using a feminist perspective, this work addresses **overlapping social categories** (e.g., ethnicity, gender) of immigrant women living in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Resources

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