



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

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SPECIAL ISSUE

Refugee Women

This issue of *Refuge* emphasizes gender as a key dimension of the refugee experience.

We begin with a conceptual argument on the importance of gender and suggest the need for qualitative methods to generate action research questions.

We present here a wide range of experiences of refugee women including: the psychological effects of torture, efforts to restructure family life and the search for religious meaning in otherwise shattered lives. Programmes to address problems faced by refugee women are reviewed as well as long-range solutions requiring political lobbying.

It is hoped that such information will sensitize readers regarding the issues and concerns of refugee women, and foster understanding of their plight from different perspectives: individual, institutional, societal and cultural. We hope that this exercise will generate research, programmes and policies that are relevant and sensitive to the needs of refugee women.

Christina Lee
Penny Van Esterik



Isabel Gonzales (centre left), a teacher from Guatemala, her husband Edwin, an electrical engineer, and their daughters Denisse and Karina wait in a Plattsburgh, New York, motel room after being refused entry to Canada as a result of new measures recently announced by Immigration Minister Benoît Bouchard.

(CANAPRESS PHOTO SERVICE)

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