



CAPTIVE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN AND REFUGEES

Focus in FRANCE



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I. Methodology

I.1 Objectives

- **The global objective is:** to understand the specificities of Gender Based Violence of migrant woman and refugees.
- **The specific objectives are:**
 - 1- To identify the types and forms of Gender Based Violence of migrant women and refugees
 - 2- To identify the barriers on access of care services for migrant women who suffered GBV
 - 3 -To identify the approach and the service providers who work in the GBV of migrant woman issue
 - 4-To propose recommendation to improve the welcome and support for migrant women victim of GBV



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I.2-Method of research

- **Data gathering: Gray literature search and report**
 - Sociologic and anthropologic reading material, human sciences doctoral theses, expert report , a report of NGO specialized in support migrant people and NGO's report which work in the Gender Based Violence issue.
 - The Mana qualitative research: « ***Violence and women at the heart of the migration: An exploratory research about gender based violence against migrant women in Bordeaux*** »

Approximately 80 people were met in this research:

- About fifty refugees and migrant women was met through participant observation.
- Semi-directive interviews have been conducted with 8 women: Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Algeria, Benin and Cameroon.
- 17 interviews with professional who work with women or people who suffered violence.



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- **Field data : Anthropologist of the association Mana**

- In the prevention and health mediation, area , in a suburb of Bordeaux
- In the transcultural/cross-cultural therapeutic consultation in the hospital saint André.
- Women from Syria, Angola, Libya, Sudan, Albania, Eritrea, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast. And allowed to collect their real-life violence testimonies.



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I.3.definitions

○ Gender based violence

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence defined

« violence against women » is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life »

• Some data of the GBV in France

Violence within the couple: every year, 216 000 women from 18 to 75 years old are physical and/or sexual victims on behalf of their former(old) or current intimate partner (husband, common law husband)



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○ Migrants

- International Organisation for Migration, IOM, defines “*a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is*”
- The various forms of migration can be distinguished per the motivations or per the legal statuses
- the Geneva Convention of 1951 relative to the rights of the asylum seekers, the refugees and the stateless persons and the Code of Entry and the Stay of the Foreigners and the Right of asylum (CESEDA)



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- The French Service of Protection of the Refugees and Stateless persons (OFPRA) recorded 79 914 applications for asylum in 2015, increase of 23,3 % compared with 2014.
- At the same time as this general increase of the migratory flow, the migration of the women also increases. More and more women take the risk of migrating, with their husband, children or the only one; they represent at present half of the migratory contingent. The women correspond to 51 % of the people arriving in French ground



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In France there are 24 CRA (administrative detention center)
and 13 waiting zone (airport ant train station)

in 2015 , 47 565 are been locked in CRA (Cimade and Anafe)



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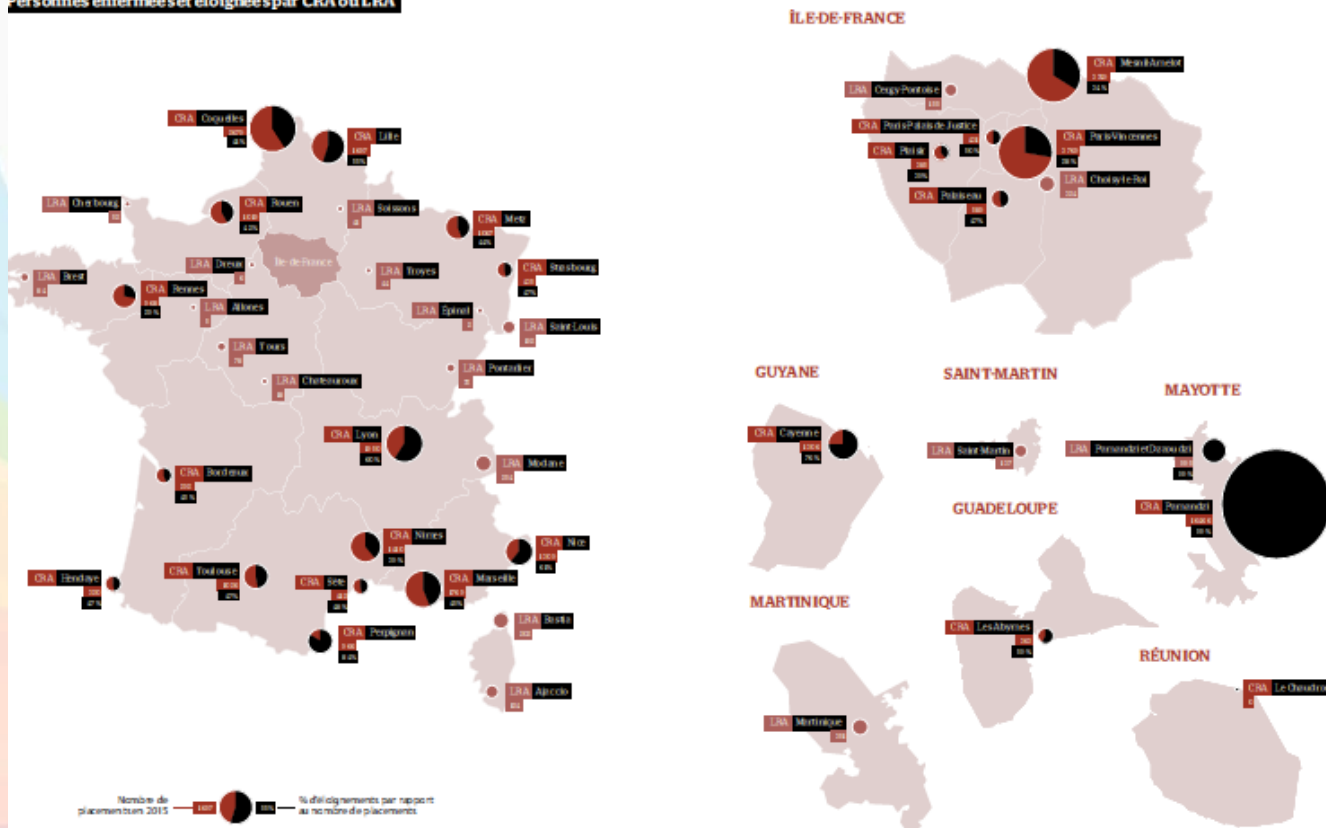
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La rétention en France en 2015
Personnes enfermées et éloignées par CRA ou LRA



II. Mesh of violences

II.1-Gender based violence against migrant women and refugees

○ **Physical violence:**

- In the domestic sphere, they are the expression of domestic violence. Women are dominated, struck, burned, choked.
- In the context of political violence : knocks and tortures

○ **Psychological violence:**

- in the domestic sphere, it can be shown by shouts, insults, daily depreciation, mockeries, blackmail
- in political and social violence context : fear of the death, to be murdered or because a family can be threatened
- To be witness of horror, torture and the murder of close friends is also psychological violence



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○ **Sexual violence**

- sexual violence, and particularly rapes, express several intentions.
- In case of the conjugal, sexual violence is exercised to maintain socially assigned and culturally justified roles and statuses of women: disposal, submission, and reproduction. Issue of honour and community violence.
- the rape in war time is used as " weapon of war and repression ", or as " method of war and repression. to torture, to impose a physical and moral damage, to extort information, to punish, but also to assert the power of the aggressors.
- In conflict with ethnic, religious and political dimensions , used as weapon of war but with an *ethnisation* (ethnic dimension) of the violence

○ **Sexual mutilation:** The most usual sexual mutilation is the excision

- **Forced Marriage:** It is an arrangement between the family of the girl and of the man, sometimes one endow is asked



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○ **Human being trafficking**

- Network in France : Eastern Europe (particularly Russian and Bulgarian), of sub-Saharan Africa (particularly Nigeria and Cameroon) and the Asian networks (China)
- Women accumulated a debt about 40 000 Euros
- In the case of Nigeria, trafficking network is connected with the witchcraft “ Juju”.



II. 2 Specificity of Gender based violence against migrant and women refugees

- **A meshing of violence:** the various forms and types of violence articulate in a particular way to every woman, according to the gender relationship, the migratory situation (context of the country of origin, the administrative situation), to be foreign in a country (relationships of classes and of "race" or interethnic) and the social and political situations.
- **A continuum of violence:** the various forms and type of violence, or the meshing of violence, are present in various stages of the migration; they articulate and accumulate from the country of emigration, during the migratory journey and on arrival in France.

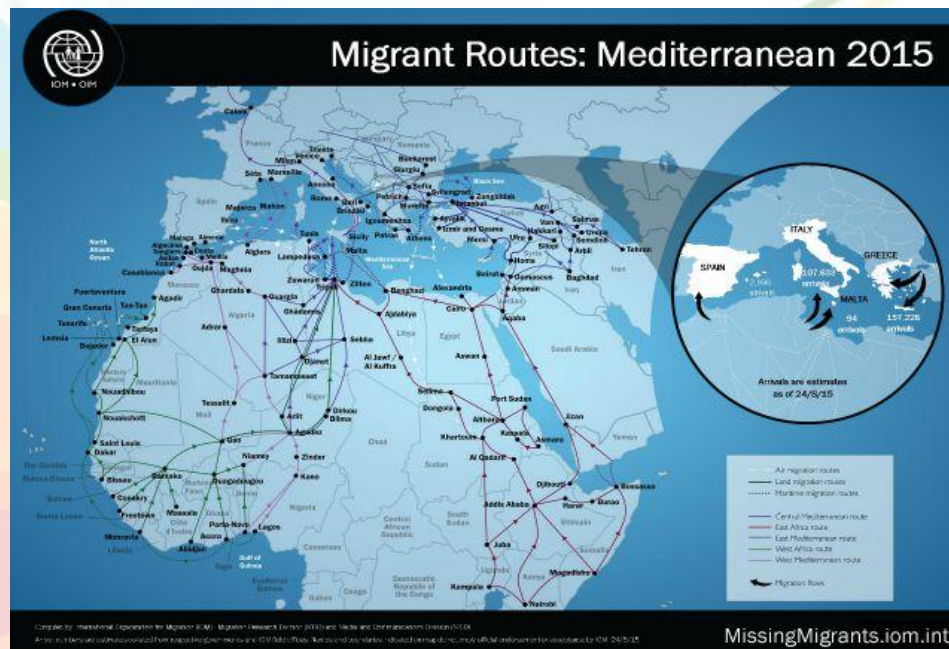


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II. 3 Conditions of accentuation of the violence

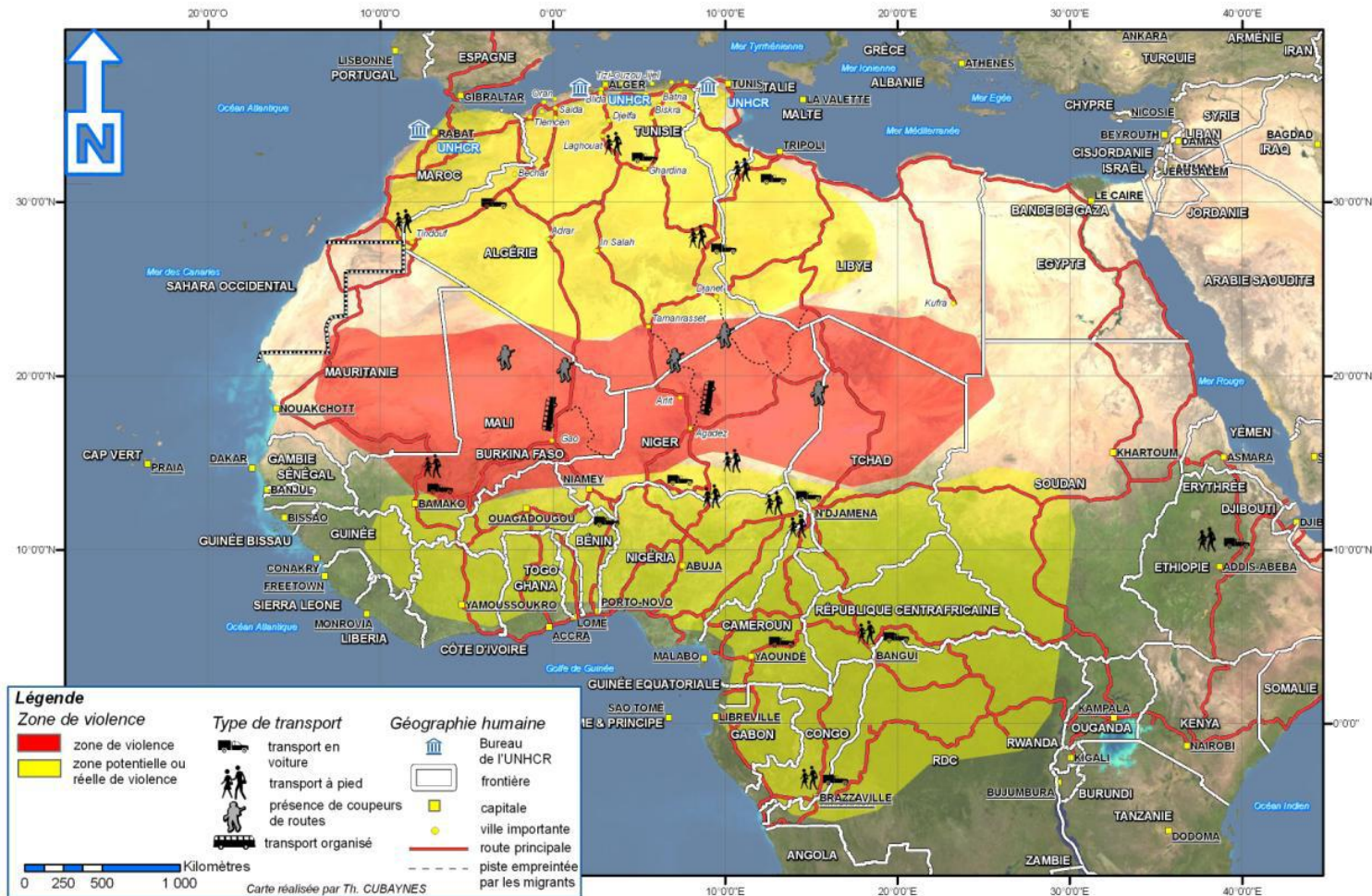
- **The departure** : fundamental variables (the age, the academic level, the health, the sex, the family situation, the nationality, and the place of residence) which act powerfully on the geocultural zone (the Maghreb, the Southern Europe, the Northern Europe) and a context geopolitical and socioeconomic (poverty, civil war, armed conflict, authoritarian regime).
- **The long crossing** : migratory journey are long and dangerous.



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Migrations Internationales vers le Maghreb Carte des espaces de violence



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Mapp : LAACHER Smain, De la violence à la persécution : Femmes sur la route de l'exil, La Dispute, Paris ,2010

○ **Libya**

- self-proclaimed militias " Shield of the desert "and « *thumar* " which take the responsibility of the control of the borders of the South.
- About twenty camps of confinement exists in Libya for the migrants in irregular situation who were governed by no legal rule, without duration limited by detention, or the migrants live in sub-human conditions.

○ **Mount Sinai**

for women from Eritrea : trafficking by Sudan from Egypt, (slavery) with detention house and torture.

○ **In France**

The migrants settle down then in a not formal camp: the jungle (name which comes from " dzanghal " - the pashtun word for forest). In 2015, there are more than 3 000 migrants.



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- The conditions of life and hygiene are dehumanizing and very difficult, with a repression of the French police. There are numerous cases of rapes against the women in the camp and some women died by trying to cross in England, all the time trucks hurt them. No pursuit was committed in this day. In 2016 the camp of Calais was violently emptied; numerous women stay in wandering today in street of Calais.



○ **Wandering journey**

- For the women who survived to the hard conditions of migratory journey, the arrival in France also is difficult.
- The administrative and economic precariousness, increases their vulnerability social and their global health. The wandering between several cities of France or between the services is a very difficult experience for the migrant women.

○ **Limits: how many dead women?**

- 1998-2008, 14 639 immigrants died on the borders of Europe, a Deaths or disappearances mainly caused by shipwrecks (according to Fortress Europe, 7 663 migrants were killed in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean along routes for the Canary Islands), and by the crossing of Sahara (by militiamen and trafficker), by the road accidents (people hidden in trucks in), by the crossing of mountains (Died by fatigue and hypothermia), by crossing minefields of Evros in Greece, and by the violence imposed by the police (in Morocco, in Turkey, in Libya, in Algeria).
- And among these deaths, how much are migrant women?



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II.4 Consequences of violence

- **For the global health of women refugees**
 - Physical consequences: cerebral traumas, headaches, burns, lacerations
 - Emotional consequence to be separated for families and children
 - On the mental and behavioural health: depression and anxiety, post-traumatic stress, disorders of the food and the sleep, the disorder of the attention, the hyperactivity, the behaviour of outsourcing (ex: aggressiveness, noncompliance with rules), suicidal thoughts.
 - On the sexual health: unwanted pregnancies, complication of pregnancies, gynecologically not secure, shady abortions, syndromes painful complexes, chronic pelvic pains, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, bleedings and amenorrhea.
- **The traumas connected with the different manifestations of violence**

The traumas touch the question of the achievement on the human dignity in their medical dimension, and in their social dimension



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- **Somatization/physical expression**

- The women refugee can express the violence through the pains of their body, by the process of somatization which is a medical expression which means the physical translation of a problem or a psychic conflict
- The metaphor " the migration transforms " is embodied: there is a metamorphosis of the woman in migration cause by the exile and the trauma



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II.5 The barriers to the access to healthcare in France

- Language barrier
- Precarious administrative situations
- Symbolic and institutional violence (racism, interview in the OFPRA o CNDA , detention in CRA..)



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III. The initiatives of welcome and support migrant women and refugees

- Structures specialized in the welcome, in the administrative, sanitary, and social support of the migrant populations and refugees as the Cos Pada, the Cimade, Doctor of the World, the ASTI (Association of Support for the migrant workers), the CADA (Reception Centre for Asylum seekers), the CAIO (Centre of Reception, information, and orientation), ANAFE (national association to support migrants in borders)
- Structures developed specific action for the violence. For Promofemmes organize workshop about GBV; the House of the Women welcomed 168 women who suffered violence in 2015; the CIDFF (Information Centre on the Rights of the Women and Families) welcomed and informed 967 women and accompanied 370 women in 2015; the APAFED (Association for the Welcome of the Women in trouble) manage a CHRS (Centre of accommodation and Social Reintegration) for women with 34 places, which are occupied almost always.
- In other side, there is in Bordeaux a structure specialized in the welcome of the victims of attacks, the CAUVA (Unit of Emergency Reception of the Victim of Aggression), the active line consists of 70 % of women which 90 % for domestic violence.



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- There are few associations which consider this double specificity of the gender based violence to the migrant women:
- the GRAF (Group Asylum Women), creates in 2004, in Paris.
- Federation GAMS, is fighting against all the forms of violence against women and migrant girls, and more particularly against the feminine sexual mutilations, the forced marriages and/or premature and the other practices traditional which are determinate for the health of the women and the girls.
- MANA association develops actions of support and therapeutic care with migrant women migrant and refugees who suffered multiple violence.



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Strengths

- Diversity of structures and practices of the support of the migrants or the women, and the victims of violence (migrants, domestic violence, prostitution, reproductive health, trafficking in human beings)
- Invested institutional actors in the fight against GBV
- Mechanism and protective measures in case of domestic violence: remote of the violent spouse, phone big help
- Associative actors and civil society invested in the welcome of the migrants
- Organization of collectives and initiatives of migrant women

Opportunities

- French legal framework concerning violence against women which re-knows the rape and the psychological violence, the law for attribution of a resident's permit in case of domestic violence (law of March 7th, 2016) with a prescription of protection
- Convention of the Council of Europe on the prevention and the fight against the violence against the women and the domestic violence May 11th, 2011: strong incitement in the formation for provider which work with women victims of violence.

Weakness

- Language barrier, use of the "system untangles" and not much appeal to the professional interpreting
- Difficulties on quantificate the psychological violence in ITT to begin a legal procedure of denunciation
- Insufficiency of an intercultural approach in the support of migrant women victims of GBV
- Lack of work in networks around the specificities of the violence against migrant women (between two legal framework).
- Institutional limits in the protection of the women in irregular administrative situation
- Limits in the protection of the women victims of GBV because of the lack of accommodation
- Institutional limits in the protection of the asylum seekers because relatively short deadline for the OFPRA for women who suffered grave violence and traumas

Threats

- Economic casualization of the associative structures which prevents the sustention of the projects, on the time
- Geopolitical conflicts which intensify migratory flow towards France
- Hardening of the migratory laws
- Migratory journey are more dangerous
- Sensitive increase of the racism and the xenophobia
- Sensitive increase of the communitarianism and the religious radicalization



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IV. Recommendations

IV.1 To develop the training

- Considering the specificities of the violence of the migrant women, an anthropological and geopolitical formation would be necessary to approach **the sociocultural determiners** of the violence.
- **Intersectionality approach of GBV** : various systems of domination of gender, class and "race" and geopolitical contexts which entraining the violence.
- **To be trained in identify the various forms and type of violence.**
- **To know and consider the traumas and PTSD in the expression of the violence and in the support.**



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IV.2 Rethinking the practice

- **Develop a global approach** to take care of the women victims of violence, and sensibiliser, inform and formed all the concerned service providers and the communities.
- **Improve the individual multidisciplinary** sanitary and psychosocial support to respond at the complexity and the intersectionality of the GBV of the migrant women, through a multidisciplinary teamwork (nurses, psychologists, doctors, social workers, jurists, and anthropologists). It is a question of building a therapeutic and social journey for the reconstruction of the women, because the reconstruction is a process.
- **Considers the sociocultural determiners of the violence.**
- **Develop an approach from the capacity to act / agency of women.**



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- **Organize collective activities** in the aim to symbolic restoration of the women; it begins with the restoration of the human dignity through the recognition of their experiences of violence, by the possibility of testimony of it and by reconstructing a social relation. All the way of expression is necessary: the verbal, physical, written, artistic or sensory expression.
- **Strengthen the work in network** with the partners to improve the supports by the mediation and so decrease the institutional violence.



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IV.3 Facilitate the access to the information and to the prevention

- **The professional medical and social interpreting :** The recourse to the professional interpreting supposes the respect for the confidentiality, the neutrality, the empathy, and the sensibility.
- **Develop materials of information and raising awareness to the GBV of migrant women,** translated in the languages the most spoken with a consideration of legal frameworks and approaches, to improve the prevention

Thanks Merci



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