

Understanding Violence: the risks for migrants with rising far-right facism

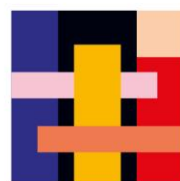
Alexandria Innes, City St George's, University of London

Aya Khedairi, Migrants' Rights Network

Respondent: Gargi Bhattacharyya, University College London



Migrants' Rights Network



VISION

Violence • Health • Society

Violence Against People in Insecure Migration Status

Meta-Analysis > PLoS One. 2024 Mar 27;19(3):e0300189. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0300189.
eCollection 2024.

Prevalence of physical violence against people in insecure migration status: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Alexandria Innes¹, Sophie Carlisle², Hannah Manzur³, Elizabeth Cook¹, Jessica Corsi⁴,
Natalia V Lewis⁵

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 38536804 PMCID: PMC10971783 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0300189

Abstract

Objectives: This study summarised evidence on the prevalence of state physical violence against people in insecure migration status.

Home > Globalization and Health > Article

Experiences of violence while in insecure migration status: a qualitative evidence synthesis

Review | Open access | Published: 23 November 2024

Volume 20, article number 83 (2024) Cite this article

✓ You have full access to this open access article

Download PDF

Save article

BMC

Globalization
and Health

Globalization and Health

Aims and scope →

Submit manuscript →

Alexandria Innes, Annie Bunce, Hannah Manzur & Natalia V. Lewis

Sections

Figures



Review of
International Studies

State violence against migrant women: Ontological security, threat, and legitimacy

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 25 February 2025

Alexandria Innes

Article

Metrics

Save PDF

Share

Cite

Rights & Permissions

Show author details



The Resource:

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/we-keep-each-other-safe/>



The image shows the cover of a workbook titled 'We Keep Each Other Safe'. The cover is light pink with a brown border. At the top, it says 'our strength come(s) from solidarity'. The title 'we keep each other safe' is written in a large, brown, sans-serif font. 'we' has four small upward arrows below it. 'each' and 'other' are connected by a large, brown, hand-drawn bracket. 'safe' is in a smaller font and enclosed in square brackets. Below the title, it says 'Workbook: Migrant Community Insights on Building Safety'. At the bottom, there are five logos: Migrants' Rights Network, UKPRP, VISION, a tree logo, and 'NO ONE LEFT BEHIND'.

“our strength come(s) from solidarity”

we keep each other safe

Workbook: Migrant Community Insights on Building Safety

Migrants' Rights Network UKPRP VISION Violence • Health • Society

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

We Keep Each Other Safe

A practical guide for migrants in the UK on keeping safe from far right violence, co-developed through research with migrants and migrant-led organisations.

we keep

**each
other**

safe

Workbook: Migrant Community Insights on Building Safety

"our strength come(s) from solidarity"

we — keep —
↑↑↑↑↑
each
other
safe

Workbook: Migrant Community Insights
on Building Safety



Language: Dari

"قدرت ما از همبستگی ما میآید"

ما
↑↑↑↑↑
«از یکدیگر»
محافظت
میکنیم

کتابکار دیدگاههای جامعه مهاجر
در مورد ایجاد امنیت



Language: Arabic

"قوتنا تأتي من التضامن"

نحن
↑↑↑↑↑
من نحافظ
على سلامة
بعضنا البعض

كتيب عمل: رؤى مجتمعاتنا حول تعزيز السلامة



Intro to the project

- Small research project speaking to migrant communities in London and Belfast about their experiences of far right violence, and how communities are already keeping themselves and each other safe.
- December 2025 - March 2026, focus groups and workshops with 96 people with experience of the asylum system/no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- Guiding principles: Return to shared experiences, what we are already doing and what we can do together, rather than waiting for the state/ organisations to change.
- Workbook - summary of workshops + addressing gaps identified:
 - Messages of solidarity
 - Scenarios (street violence and housing intimidation in Belfast)
 - Best practice - decompressing after incidents, role of community groups
 - What to expect when contacting the police and accessing public services

My dear sister

Please do not lose hope

Better days are coming.”

“We all have the right to live happily and free from discrimination”

“It is important that we choose who we are,
we choose to stand with those affected of hatred
of all its form(s) because
our strength come(s) from solidarity”

“You are not alone on this journey”

The above are messages of solidarity that were shared in our workshops, addressed to other migrants who may be struggling, for the purpose of strengthening community safety.

Key findings/ themes

- Impact on mental health and change in behaviours
- Role of the state in making migrants unsafe, and low trust in institutions
- Everyone is experiencing it, but no one is talking about it
- We keep each other safe - what are we already doing, and what else can we do together

We Keep Each Other Safe - practices and practical solidarity

“

When I chat with people and I know I'm not alone, that we are many, it gives me encouragement... You know, they're not only targeting me, we are many, we survive together”

“The Home Office is trying to isolate us - move, mix with people, interact with people, learn new things”

“Stop doubting yourself.
You do not deserve this.”

The above are messages of solidarity that were shared in our workshops, addressed to other migrants who may be struggling, for the purpose of strengthening community safety.

Knowing your solidarity structures - learning from Anaka and PPR

“It is clear that we cannot rely on the State or its departments to keep us safe. **We have to rely on each other** and work together to **build alternative systems of support and sustenance in our communities.**”

The UK Home Office aims to isolate people by housing them in institutional settings and refusing to let them work. **It is our role to resist this,** to bring people back into neighbourhoods and to make sure they are known to their neighbours, to offer the resources and trust needed to share their skills, and **to build communities of resistance and care.**

There are no shortcuts to this and at Anaka this looks different to everyone, for some its looking after each others kids in the creche, running an art workshop or cooking a community meal, for others it's resisting a Mears eviction, spending hours on the phone to help, or helping a member to run a fundraiser for their family in Palestine.

It's the weekly **process of showing up, refusing to accept that the cruelty people face is ‘just the way it is’**, and having the craic along the way.”

- a message from an organiser from Anaka collective

For more info on the project, and to access the workbook

Scan the QR code, or access via this short link: bit.ly/WKEOS



Respondent: Professor Gargi Bhattacharyya, University College London

Who is pretending to defend women and children?

The far right is pretending to care about VAWG - and are happy to misuse genuine work and research.

Media discussion of VAWG now descends into racism and incitement most of the time.



Migrants face violence from the state AND the street –
state-centred initiatives against violence may be distrusted by many



The gap between community care and state-centred approaches

VAWG groups and migrant justice groups must think about how to operate alongside each other (including around research and information) in ways that do not open those with irregular status to further violence

