



# SAFETY & FAMILY VIOLENCE

## VISA SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT VICTIMS

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This resource is part of a series about family violence risk and safety produced by Women's Refuge with support from Contact Energy



WOMEN'S REFUGE

# Refuge works with migrant victims

All Refuges work with migrant clients. Clients with diverse ethnicities and languages spoken make up a large part of Refuge’s client base.

## Did you know that...

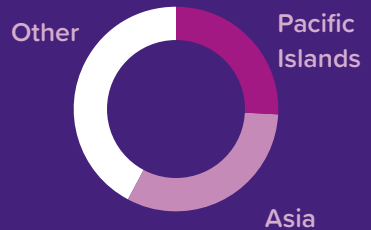


Ethnic communities (including recent migrants) are **20%** of the population of Aotearoa



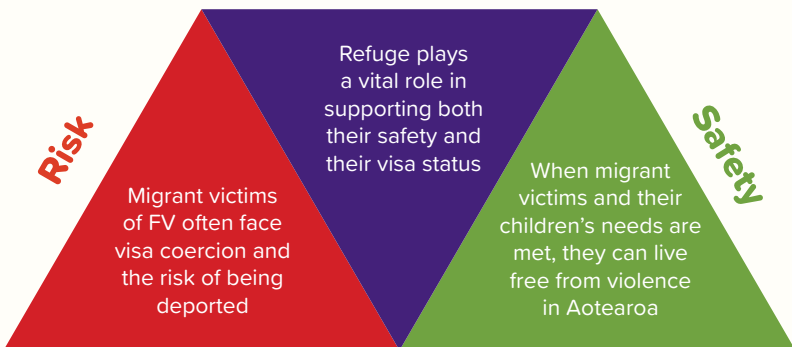
More than **1/3** of births in Aotearoa are from mothers born overseas.

Migrants from Asia (**32%**) and from the Pacific (**28%**) make up half the clients at Refuge who have their visa sponsored by their perpetrator.



This booklet focuses on how Refuge can best support migrant victims of family violence (FV) who are temporary visa holders.

## Support



## Letting migrant clients know Refuge is for them

It's hard navigating seeking safety in a new country. When migrant women call for help, it might be their first time interacting with services such as the NZ Police and Refuge. They may be uncertain about how these services work and worry about what this means for their safety, wellbeing, and immigration status.



### When migrant wāhine reach out for support:

- Let them know Refuge can support them and their children regardless of their visa status, language(s) spoken, or whether they choose to stay with their partner.
- Let them know safe housing is an option regardless of their visa status – and that there will be food to support their religious, cultural, and dietary needs, and somewhere to pray if they need it.
- Tell them about the different support Refuge offers – getting a food parcel, nappies and baby formula, support with family violence visa applications, finding a GP or counsellor who speaks their own language, or access to information about family violence.
- Organise interpreters to support them every step of the way.
- Reassure them that Refuge won't share any information about them or the violence with Immigration without their permission.
- Be upfront with clients about what support Refuge can provide and if any information will be shared with other services - reassure them that no information will be shared with Immigration (INZ) without their permission.
- Ask about their visa status last – fears of involvement from Immigration services can be a big barrier to seeking support.



## Three essential ingredients for support

We asked Refuge advocates around Aotearoa about their tips for supporting migrant women and their children. They shared three essential ingredients for providing safe support:

Being culturally safe



Reducing any language barriers



Being family violence informed

“When Immigration asked for evidence for her FV visa application - I was able to break things down into simple terms so she understood exactly what was expected of her.”

“She could speak English well - but wasn’t confident she could understand everything at court - so I let the Judge know and they let me check in with her to make sure she could understand what was being said.”

“She was afraid that reaching out for help would make things worse and she could be deported without her kids - so I let her know the different ways Refuge could help her and the kids regardless of her visa status.”

“We spoke about his pattern of abuse towards her and let her know that the abuse was not okay - even though he [the abuser] and her church pastor were telling her differently.”

“When she arrived in the safehouse I knew she would feel more comfortable if she could cook familiar food for the kids - so I found a shop close by that had the spices she needed.”

“Getting residency was a long process - so we celebrated all the hard-work she was doing and the key milestones - like when her residency visa was finally approved.”

# Welcoming migrant clients

Before migrant women even arrive, Refuge kaimahi suggested Refuges could:

Connect with other Refuges who have supported migrant victims to share tips and resources, seek advice, and troubleshoot

Provide cultural competency training for staff.

## Increase cultural competency of Refuge staff

Recruit ethnically diverse staff.

Learn about the different forms of abuse that perpetrators use (e.g. visa coercion, language coercion, digital abuse, isolation), and the different barriers and stigma migrant clients might face (e.g. from family and communities, from immigration services).

Provide information aimed at new migrants about their rights in Aotearoa (e.g. that family violence is a crime) and where they can go to get support and rights when they do (e.g. right to interpreters when calling Police and at court).

Include books and posters in other languages in safe house/Refuge bookshelves, including children's books.

## Provide spaces and information for migrants at the Refuge/safe house

Have a quiet/private area where clients can observe prayer times or other spiritual practices.

Provide translated or picture alternatives/aids for posters and materials (e.g. safe house information, client intake forms, and programme resources).

Download Google Translate onto phones to support communication, downloading specific languages (where available) for offline usage in the app.

Learn about local services for migrant and refugee clients, such as settlement support (e.g. through the Red Cross), driving education, English support, and other low-cost community classes.

## Connect with services & groups

Learn about the two family violence visas and how to apply for them.

Connect with Immigration lawyers who (preferably) have experience working with the family court and with family violence.



# Tips for supporting migrant clients

While working with clients - to meet clients' individual, cultural, and language needs - kaimahi suggested Refuges could:

Arrange for female taxi drivers

Ask client preferences for working with kaimahi or having a support person from their ethnic/language group.

Provide dietary alternatives for when they arrive (e.g. non-dairy milk in the safe house).

## Supporting arrival at Refuge

Give welcome packs to clients containing items that support their cultural practices (e.g. mats if they pray).

Provide access to language interpreters or translators every step of the way (e.g. for crisis line, risk and safety planning conversations, for language support in MoJ funded programmes, court, doctors, WINZ appointments) - and avoid using their children as interpreters.

Organise food bank donations that meet client's dietary needs (e.g. halal meat), and provide alternatives (e.g. donations from Good Bitches Baking, or other local free/low cost food initiatives or vouchers/Prezzy Cards) when food parcels do not cater for these.

Learn how to change phone, social media and keyboard settings to client's preferred language (if available).

Celebrate cultural events that are important to clients, and support them to attend cultural events/activities they want to in the community.

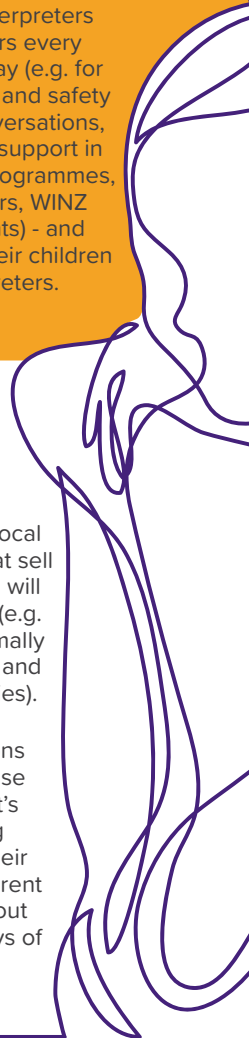
Create communal spaces and activities so clients can choose if they want to cook and spend time together (as this is often culturally important).

## Supporting time at Refuge

Ask professionals (e.g. lawyers, Immigration staff) to slow down, say something in another way, repeat information, or check with clients they understand.

Find out about local supermarkets that sell products clients will be familiar with (e.g. spices they normally cook with, halal and kosher butcheries).

Manage expectations with other safe house clients about client's cultural parenting preferences (e.g. their kids might have different understandings about communal kai or ways of playing inside).



Identify registered professionals who can provide a statutory declaration for a client's family violence visa application (e.g. Refuge advocates, social workers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, counsellors).

Find workarounds for clients not eligible for emergency benefits, housing, legal aid, and child-care due to their visa status.

### Supporting time at Refuge cont...

Let them know they can ask for an interpreter when they call Police, Immigration, and other government services.

Support clients through family court processes (e.g. protection and parenting orders, to get non-removal orders revoked).

Create a list of GPs and health services (including those who provide after hours medical checks/x-rays/statutory declarations for urgent visa applications), lawyers, and counsellors that can provide support in their language and/or provide free or low cost support.

Let them know Refuge will welcome them if they ever need support or advice in the future.

### Supporting time beyond Refuge

Connect them with services in their home country if they decide to return - so they can continue being supported.

Support them to be able to find work or have independence (e.g. getting a driver's license, English classes).



# What does perpetrators' abuse towards migrant women on temporary visas look like?

Migrant victims of family violence who are temporary visa holders face additional risks like visa coercion leading to risk of deportation. Recording all family violence risks and understanding how they impact migrant clients differently supports advocacy. As well as asking about the violence, it might also be helpful to ask specifically about:

## Visa coercion

Perpetrator's threats to have her deported from Aotearoa without the children.

Perpetrator's threats or acts of sharing client information with or withholding it from Immigration.

Making her do illegal things that could put her visa status at risk.

Perpetrator's use or access to client's and their children's log-ins, emails, and/or Immigration information.

Perpetrator's threats to revoke their partnership visa, not to renew this, or not to apply for any visas with them in the future.

Perpetrator's threats to report her to Immigration for minor breaches of her visa.

Perpetrator canceling her sponsored visa while she is travelling overseas - a form of transnational abandonment called "exit trafficking."

Family members/in-laws overseas might withhold sending her documents for visa applications (e.g. if police checks are sent to a registered address in her country).

"If a client's visa might expire soon or has expired due to visa coercion - act on this quickly and seek legal advice - as her risk of being deported without her children is much higher."





## Violence that targets them as migrants

Perpetrator's abuse that targets clients' language (including comfort speaking English), cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs.

Forced/underage marriage (for he or her children), dowry abuse, threats to hurt/kill to "uphold family honour."

Treating her like a servant.

Female genital mutilation/cutting.

Perpetrator's social isolation of clients, such as time (including online) with friends and family.

Perpetrator's control of household finances (e.g. access to shared bank accounts).

Perpetrator's violence or change in behaviour towards them prior to and after migrating to Aotearoa.

Forced to become pregnant or continue/end a pregnancy.

Perpetrator's justification of their abuse based on their household position.

## Violence that targets or involves others

How the perpetrator's violence targets and impacts the children (including treatment of male vs female children).

Involvement of any family members as primary or secondary perpetrators in the abuse (e.g. perpetrator's in-laws).

Responses (or likely responses) from family and community members (e.g. faith leaders, family in country of origin) to the abuse and/or separation from the abuser.

Off-shore violence that targets her friends and family living overseas.

"Modify how you ask about the abuse so migrant clients understand what you mean (e.g. when asking about control, use examples of what this could look like)."



"Write down how the violence impacts her as a migrant (e.g. how a perpetrator preventing her from calling her family in her home country makes her that much more isolated from support in Aotearoa)."



# Family violence visas

Migrant women face additional risks when seeking support, some of these will be exacerbated because of their or their (ex) partner's visa status.

“Some clients have gone back to abusers – the abuser will say ‘if you don’t do this...I’ll call immigration.’”

“While migrant clients are going through family violence, they are not entitled to any benefits because of their visa status.”

“For clients whose visas have expired (as a consequence of visa coercion), often they will have no choice but to go back to the island... Then children end up staying with the perpetrator or his mother– so clients lose complete access to their children.”

“Some clients are more worried about the risks they (or their loved ones) might face in their country of origin than in Aotearoa [because] he could easily bribe police back home to turn a blind eye.”

## Refuge can support migrant women with family violence visa applications by:

**A.**

Asking about visa status



**B.**

Seeking legal support



**C.**

Applying for a family violence visa



**D.**

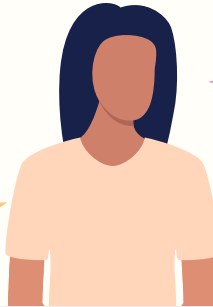
Providing evidence of family violence

The next few pages provide key information for each of these important steps in a client's journey to getting a FV visa.

**A.****Asking about visa status**

Reassure all clients with temporary (or expired) visas that Refuge will NOT share any information about them (or their children) with Immigration without their permission.

As well as asking about her visa - let her know other ways Refuge can help if a FV visa isn't an option for her.



Asking clients about their (and their children's) visa status can help with their family violence visa application and save time and money when seeking legal advice.

For clients who are temporary visa holders - always seek legal advice first before contacting Immigration (INZ).

**To advocate for a migrant client who is (or whose perpetrator is) a temporary visa holder, it might be helpful to know:**

- What country (and city) they are from, what country (and city) their (ex) partner is from, and where their kids were born.
- Their immigration status (e.g. citizen, permanent resident, temporary visa holder), and what visa they are on (e.g. partnership visa, work visa) and when this expires.
- If they have any children or are pregnant.
- Their (ex) partner and any children - including which parent the children's visas are connected to.
- If they want to stay in Aotearoa (temporarily or long-term) or return home with their kids.
- If they have been in touch with a immigration lawyer or migration agent - and any advice they have received regarding visas.
- If any services (e.g. INZ, family court, WINZ) know about the family violence.
- What recent correspondence they have with Immigration New Zealand, including in the last month - and how much time they have to respond, and if Immigration knows they have separated from their partner.
- If they have access to their (and their children's) personal documents (e.g. passport, birth certificates, marriage certificates).
- About any court orders in place or pending (e.g. protection order, parenting order, non-removal orders), and any upcoming family court proceedings.
- Any concerns about returning to their home country/city (e.g. safety, social stigma, lack of social service support, retaliation from family/in-laws).

**Having this information on file can help streamline advocacy later and speed up the visa application process.**



## B.

## Seeking legal support

**Seek legal support first for clients on a temporary visa (or who have children with a temporary visa holder) before calling Immigration or applying for a family violence visa**

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Reach out to your local Community Law centre to get information on the family violence visas and where to seek local legal support or immigration advice.

If your client is in Wellington or the Hutt Valley, contact Community Law's Refugee and Immigration Legal Advice Service (RILAS). Call (04) 499 2928 or email [rilas@wclc.org.nz](mailto:rilas@wclc.org.nz).

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If possible, work with law firms who have immigration lawyers and experience working with family violence.

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Seek lawyers who speak the same language(s) or have the same gender and ethnicity (if the client prefers) (e.g. by using the Law Society's 'find-a lawyer' tool: <https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/for-the-public/find-a-lawyer/>).

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Be aware of unregistered immigration advisors. Find local immigration advisors by searching your location or an advisors name/organisation in the Immigration Advisor's Authority database here: <https://iaa.ewr.govt.nz/PublicRegister/Search.aspx>.

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National Office funds might be available to support some migrant clients who are not eligible for legal aid.

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## C.

### Applying for a family violence visa

A client's visa or immigration status can determine what rights, freedoms, and access to resources they have in Aotearoa. Supporting clients to obtain the visas they need to be safe will help support their access to housing, finance, childcare, and healthcare.

A Family Violence Visa is a good option for many clients who are temporary visa holders. There are two family violence visas:



Ask all clients who are temporary visa holders if a family violence visa application is right for them, and if they need support with the application.

Before applying for a family violence visa, seek urgent legal support first for any clients who are temporary visa holders (including those whose visa may have expired).

It is best to apply for the FV work visa first so there is more time to put together a FV resident application (this can take a couple of months).

Consider an urgent FV work visa application for any clients who are temporary visa holders when they enter Refuge.

Refuge can support clients (and their children) with their basic needs while supporting any visa applications.

Apply for the FV resident visa before the FV work visa expires.

Some applicants may also consider other visa pathways (e.g. work visas) as these may be more suitable for them - more on these later.



# FV WORK VISA

## Time

**6 to 9 months**

A six-month visa (can be extended up to nine months if an application for the FV resident visa is in process).



Visa is **non-renewable**. It can **ONLY** be extended IF awaiting a decision on a FV resident visa application - a new FV work visa will need to be lodged every 5 months in the interim.

Apply for this visa at least 2 weeks before current visa expires - it can take at least 5 days for this to be processed.

## Rights



It gives the applicant work rights.

## Eligibility



The perpetrator can be a temporary visa holder, or a citizen/resident.

## Children



**Children are not included** automatically on their Mums application.



Children need their own applications for separate visas (e.g. student or visitor visas).

## Application





Apply using the Work Visa Application Form INZ 1015.


# BOTH VISAS


## Family Violence Criteria


### Client (“applicant”) has:


A temporary visa (e.g. visitor visa, student visa, work visa, or partnership visa). 

Separated from the perpetrator. 

To have been living together with the perpetrator 


Experienced family violence from the perpetrator (recent or historic). 

Their partnership with the perpetrator has ended due to the family violence. 


**A child cannot be an applicant** - but a parent can be an applicant on behalf of a dependent child if the child is a victim of family violence. 

## Paperwork Requirements

### Both visa applications:

Require official documents (or certified copies) - e.g. identity documents for them and their children: passport (for both FV visas), birth certificate (for FV Resident Visa), and acceptable photos; Police certificates from countries they have lived in for over 12 months during past 10 years (less than 6 months old for FV Resident Visa) - a statutory declaration explaining why there is a delay or difficulty in getting this can be a good interim. 

Require a visa application to be printed and posted to Immigration New Zealand – they can’t be sent electronically. This must be completed in New Zealand, and can be filled out by the client applicant or on their behalf (e.g. by a support person, advocate, translator, immigration advisor). If applying for both visas, send each application separately as they may be processed in different parts of the country. Each application requires it’s own certified and notarised copies of documents. 

Track and courier visa applications/documents – noting down tracking numbers and the date they were sent – so there is proof they were sent on time. 

## Family Violence Evidence

Applications must include evidence of family violence:



Either a full current Protection Order (not a temporary one), a conviction, or a police letter confirming violence.

OR 3x statutory declarations – one from client and two from authorised professionals.



Applications should **NOT** contradict any information the client has previously given to Immigration (e.g. as part of previous visa processes) - as this can be used by Immigration as grounds to deny an application.

## Other Details



Applicants can use some of the paperwork from previous visa applications (e.g. police criminal checks) if these were provided in a previous visa application and were issued less than 2 years ago.



No application fees for the FV visas.



**Required medical exams have a cost** (usually ranging from \$600-\$700 - and must be less than 3 months old for residence).



Chest X-rays and medical certificates need to be done by an approved doctor or radiologist ("panel physicians") - search for these on INZ's website.

## FV RESIDENT VISA

### Time

Permanent, ongoing visa.



### Rights

It gives the applicant and their dependent children full resident rights.



### Eligibility

The applicant is a temporary visa holder, but their **perpetrator must be a NZ citizen or resident.**



It **requires a high threshold of evidence of risk**: the applicant must prove they are **unsafe to return to their home country** (e.g. from social shame/stigma, likelihood of abuse/physical danger from community, lack of social service support or ability to work, known poor prospects i.e. because of war).



### Children

**Dependent children aged 24 years and under** can be included on this visa if they are single and don't have their own children (otherwise applications must be separate).



Proof **might be** required that the applicant has the right to remove the children from their country of origin - INZ will notify if this is the case.



### Application

Apply using the Residence Application Form INZ 1000.



# Contacting Immigration

Contact Immigration New Zealand to get information about the family violence visas, to submit a visa application, or get visa updates on behalf of a client (if they want this).

“I reassured her that any information she shared with me as her advocate wouldn’t be shared with Immigration without her permission.”

“She wanted to know her options but wasn’t sure about the FV visa - so I called Immigration for general advice about the visas without sharing information that would identify her e.g. any names, locations.”



“I let her know that Immigration and other government services (e.g. Police, Courts) had an interpreter service available - and she could request this when she called them.”

“Immigration didn’t have an interpreter available that spoke the client’s language - so (with her permission) I was able to attend calls with her and get updates on her behalf - then put what was being said into words she could understand.”

## Call Immigration:



- Customer Service Centre (if calling from NZ landline): **0508 558 855**
- Auckland: **+64 9 914 4100**
- Wellington: **+64 4 910 9915**
- If calling from overseas: **+64 9 914 4100**

**Note:** There are no direct lines for family violence victims or their advocates and wait times can be long. Community Law and Citizens Advice Bureau do have direct lines

**Make sure information shared with INZ does not conflict with any of client’s previous correspondence to INZ (e.g. previous visa applications; letters sent to INZ for partnership visa).**



## D.

### Applying for a family violence visa

Family violence visa applications must include evidence that family violence has occurred. 'Family violence' is defined by the Family Violence Act 2018. The evidence required is the same for both work and residence visas.

01

**Three statutory declarations** stating family violence has occurred, **OR**

02

**A police letter** confirming that family violence has occurred and that the applicant or their child has been a victim of this (e.g. written confirmation from the local Police Family Harm team), **OR**

03

**Final protection order** against the person who the applicant was in a family relationship with, **OR**

04

**A criminal conviction** (where the applicant or their child was the victim of family violence).

There are four options for evidence. Applications only need to include **ONE** of these (but more may be helpful to strengthen a FV Resident Visa application):



## Key points about statutory declarations:

### 3 statutory declarations are needed

Three statutory declarations stating family violence occurred are required to support the family violence evidence requirements for both FV visa applications. One must be from client/applicant and two must be from authorised professionals (such as a Refuge advocate). These are then given the same evidence weighting as a final protection order would hold.

### 2 must be written by authorised professionals

Authorised professionals who may provide a statutory declaration include:

- Affiliated Refuge staff, experienced Oranga Tamariki staff, or a member of Shakti Community Council.
- Social workers (registered with SWRB; full members of ANZASW; or employed under the State Sector Act 1988), doctors (registered with MCNZ); nurses (registered with NCNZ); psychologists (registered with NZPB); counsellors (registered with NZAC) - professionals need to have a full registration or be full members (declarations from provisional members are not often accepted).

### Option to use a template

You can write a statutory declaration yourself, or fill in the statutory declaration template. Check on the Immigration website for the latest form.

### ALL must be witnessed

A statutory declaration must be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, a lawyer, a registrar/deputy registrar of a district or high court, or a Member of Parliament.

### What does a statutory declaration need to contain?

It only needs to contain:

- The victim's name.
- Confirmation of the abuser's relationship to the victim.
- Confirmation that family violence has occurred, by the person writing the letter based on their professional assessment.
- The credentials and registration details of the person authorised to write the declaration.

**INZ does not need to know the details of the family violence in the letter.**

## Writing a Refuge statutory declaration:

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Refuge advocates can write a statutory declaration to support a client's family violence visa application. This is far briefer than Refuge case notes, and only needs to confirm who the family violence has occurred.

Advocates may use the following template:

Dear Immigration New Zealand,

I am satisfied that [client's (applicant's) name] is a victim of family violence perpetrated by [ex-partner's name]. [Client] separated from [her ex partner/husband] following [include brief mention of recent severe violence - e.g. escalating physical violence] towards her [and her children]. [Client] has been supported by [Refuge name] [in our safe house] for [number of months/weeks].

Kind regards,

[Advocate's name], [their role e.g. Women's Advocate, Manager, Practice Lead], [Refuge employed at], [Social work registration details, if relevant].

## Supporting other authorised professionals to write a statutory declaration:

Many health and other authorised professionals have never written one before and may feel uncertain about what to write or what the burden of 'proof' is. Reassuring them that they are not responsible for investigating but are simply communicating what they have either observed or found out from the client can put them at ease.

They may use the following template:

Dear Immigration New Zealand,

I am satisfied that [applicant's name] is a victim of family violence perpetrated by [e.g. her ex partner's/husband's name if known].

Kind regards,

[Professional's name], [their role], [Organisation employed at]  
[Credentials/Registration details]



# What rights do different visas offer?

## If a client is in Aotearoa and...

Holds a **temporary entry visa** or **temporary permit** (e.g. visitor, student, work visa).

Holds a **Victims of Family Violence Work Visa**.

Holds a Victims of Family Violence Work Visa and has submitted a **Victims of Family Violence Resident Visa** application (awaiting decision).

## They...



Might be able to work - depending on their individual visa conditions.

Have open work rights.

Have open work rights (if they hold a FV work visa).



Are **NOT** eligible for social housing - **unless** they are granted an emergency benefit (EB) (they may granted an EB if they meet the requirements under section 205 of the Social Security Act 2018). MSD also may grant Temporary Additional Support (TAS).

Are eligible for social housing (if on the Special Needs Grant FV (SNG FV) programme - this may require a referral from Immigration to support this application; or are receiving the Emergency Benefit).

Are eligible for social housing (if on the Special Needs Grant FV programme or the Emergency Benefit).



Are **ONLY** eligible for publicly-funded healthcare **IF** they hold a **work visa** and their total duration in Aotearoa (including time on previous visas) is at least **2 years**.

Are **ONLY** eligible for publicly-funded healthcare **IF** their total duration in Aotearoa (including, duration of current FV visa and time on previous visas) is at least **2 years**.

**\*Note:** A medical exam/x-ray is likely required for these visa applications (around \$700 - this is not publicly funded).



Are **unlikely** to be eligible for WINZ support (exceptions - e.g. International Custody Dispute Payment).

Are eligible for the **Special Needs Grant FV programme** (if asset test met and need financial support including for dependent children) - paid at a rate that includes **Accommodation Supplement**.

Are eligible for the **Emergency Benefit** and **Temporary Additional Support**.



Are **NOT** eligible for legal aid to support their visa application (but may be eligible for other legal aid e.g. for family court applications, if they meet the asset test).



May be able to get extra support from local NGOs, food banks etc.

Has **no visa** or their **visa has expired** and/or they have appealed to the Minister under **Section 61 of the Immigration Act 2009** (awaiting decision).

Has submitted a refugee or protection status (asylum) claim (awaiting decision).

Have **NO** work rights.

Have open work rights (if they hold a Special Work Visa for Refugee Claimants).

Are **NOT** eligible for social housing.

Are eligible for social housing (if on the Emergency Benefit).

Are **NOT** eligible for publicly-funded healthcare.

Are eligible for publicly funded healthcare.

Are **NOT** eligible for WINZ support.

Are eligible for the **Emergency Benefit** (if they meet the asset test and are unable to earn sufficient income to support themselves/dependent family) and **Temporary Additional Support**.

Are **NOT** eligible for legal aid.

May be eligible for **legal aid** to support this visa application.

May be able to get extra support from local NGOs.

Can get extra support from NGOs that support asylum seekers.



## Alternative visa pathways

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If a client is not eligible for the Victims of Family Violence Resident Visa, there are some additional pathways advocates can explore. Each of these comes with pros and cons. Seek assistance from an immigration lawyer/advisor before exploring these options.

Applying for an  
**Employment based  
visa or student visa**

**Appealing the decline  
of a FV residence  
visa application to  
the Immigration and  
Protection Tribunal**

Making a **direct request  
to the Minister** of  
Immigration for an  
exception to Immigration  
Instructions

Applying for  
**asylum**

Making a **direct request  
to the Minister** of  
Immigration under  
**Section 61** of the  
Immigration Act 2009  
for a client who does not  
have a current visa/visa  
has expired.





## WOMEN'S REFUGE

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**Made with the generous support of Contact Energy.**

For more information about this booklet contact Elizabeth Ashby (Elizabeth@refuge.org.nz).

For more information about the risk and safety project, contact Dr Natalie Thorburn (Natalie@refuge.org.nz) or Cleo Arathoon (Cleo@refuge.org.nz).

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**womensrefuge.org.nz**

National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges  
Ngā Whare Whakaruruhau o Aotearoa  
2024