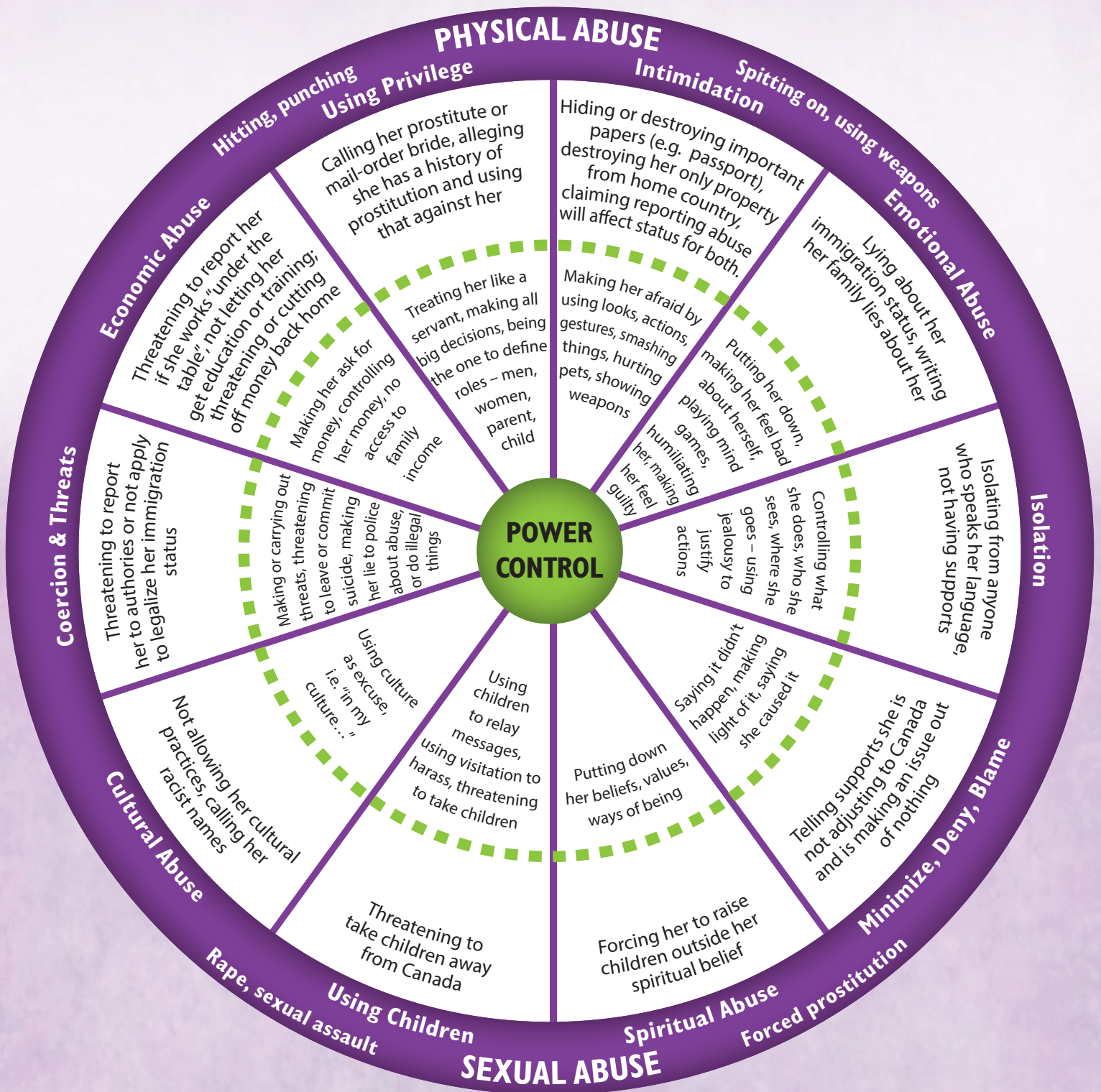


FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT IMMIGRANT WOMEN MAY EXPERIENCE

~ Inner circle applies to women in general; outer circle applies to immigrant women
 ~ Include physical and sexual abuse when using the Power and Control Wheel



SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE INFORMATION FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PEI

Woman abuse occurs in all ethnic, racial, economic, religious, sexual orientation and age groups. A woman may stay because she hopes the relationship will get better, may not want to break up the family, be isolated from friends and family, may fear her family and community will blame her for the abuse or encourage her to stay. She may feel ashamed and blame herself for the abuse, fear for her own and her children's safety, depend upon her partner's income, or suffer from low self-esteem because of her partner's abuse.

Immigrant women experience similar barriers as other women living in Canada (represented by the inner ring of the Power and Control Wheel); additionally they may have language, cultural, religious, legal and immigration barriers (represented in the outer ring).

Immigrant women may fear accessing the legal system because they are unfamiliar with the Canadian legal system, know of corruption or injustice in their country's legal system and fear experiencing injustice in the Canadian legal system. The abuser may recognize that physical and sexual violence is illegal in Canada and use other abusive methods. Women who experience emotional, verbal and financial abuse, but no physical abuse, may not believe they qualify for help.

Immigration/refugee status or lack of status prevents some abused women from seeking help. Those who are sponsored by their husbands and partners are often dependent on them for financial support. Some women fear that seeking help from the police, courts, or hospital, could lead to their deportation or that of the abuser. Women may fear losing their children if they disclose the abuse.

PEI Family Violence Prevention Inc Outreach Services

Queens 902-566-1480

East Prince 902-436-0517

West Prince 902-859-8849

Eastern PEI 902-838-0795

Anderson House

(Shelter for Abused Women and Children)

902-892-0960

Toll Free: 1-800-240-9894

Victim Services

Queens and Kings County:

902-368-4582

Prince County 902-888-8218

PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre

902-566-1864

Toll Free: 1-866-566-1864

Community Legal Information Service and Lawyer Referral Service

902-892-0853

Toll Free: 1-800-240-9798

Child Protection

Toll Free: 1-800-341-6868

PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada

902-628-6009