

Session 6

Harnessing lived experience



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Why is this so important?

Valuing and acknowledging refugee lived experience is an approach that places refugees and their lived experiences at the centre of thinking. This refugee lived experience approach requires that policy, program development, service delivery and decision-making processes ensures refugees can actively participate and influence the outcome of their hopes, aspirations, and dreams. RCOA: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wellbeing-lived-experience/>











Every experience counts!

The people who are recognized as community leaders in refugee situations are not always the ones who would have led the community in the past, and may lack the appropriate knowledge to navigate the context of displacement and alien social structures. Some who take gatekeeper roles revert to old power bases, which often exclude or negatively impact women and girls (Pittaway, Muli and Shteir 2009).



Identifying Barriers to acknowledging lived experience for diverse and isolated women

	Girls 0-12 	Girls 13-18 	Women 19-24 	Women 25-50 	Older women 	LBTI women 	Women with a disability 
<p>What are the major barriers to accessing the lived experience of diverse groups?</p> 							

These are suggested story board questions

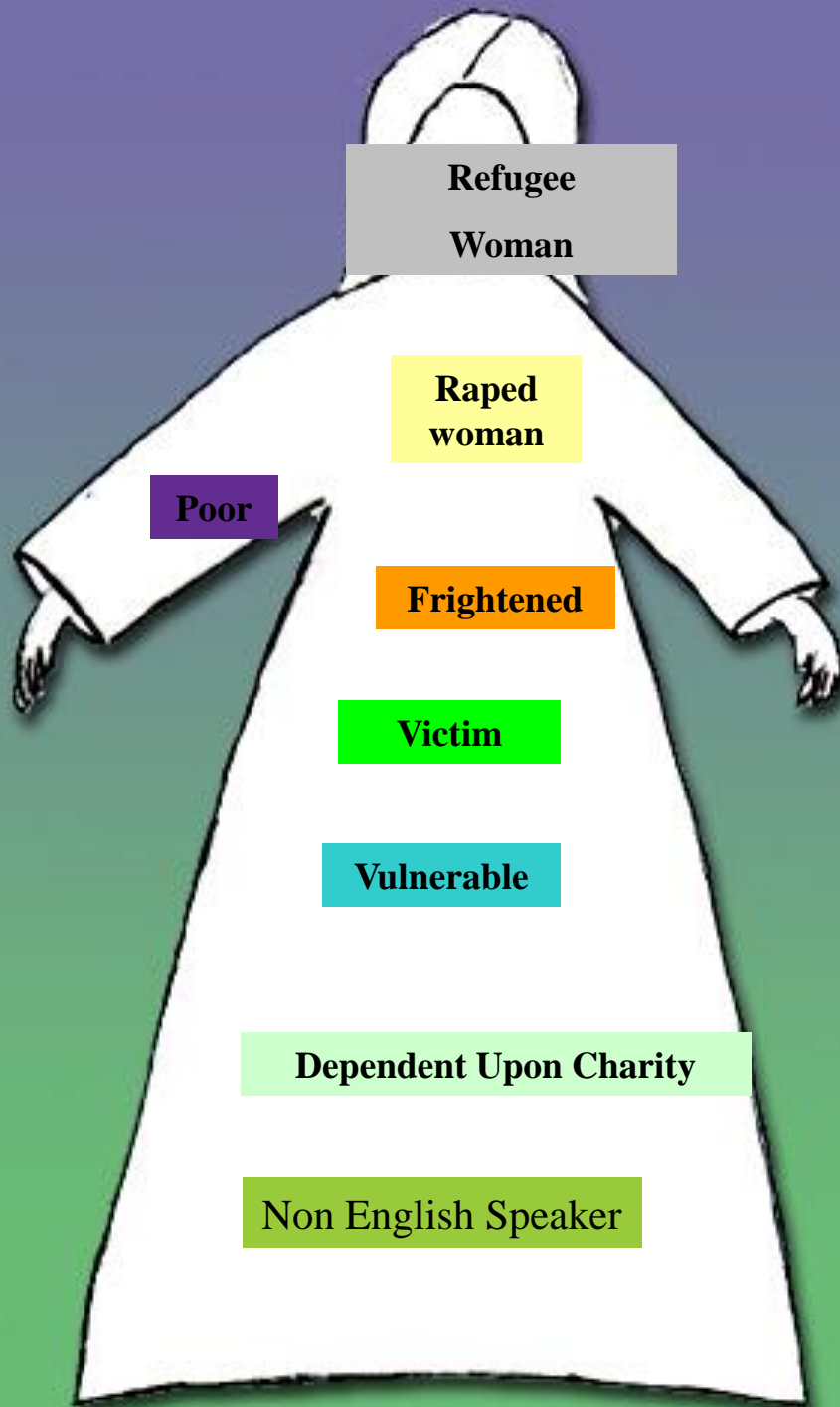
- What are some of the barriers experienced by women and girls in having their voices heard in refugee situations?
- How does this make them feel?
- What is the impact of them not sharing their knowledge and experience?
- What needs to be done to address these barriers? What support, and resources would the groups need to feel confident to speak out?



- Who can help with this?
- What would be the positive outcomes of this happening?



The exercises on Identity Layers and Identity Labels in the AGD Resource kit are also useful to enable stakeholders, including refugees, examine the impact these layers and labels have on the ability of refugee women and men to be included in decision making and have their voices heard.



Refugee

Woman

**Raped
woman**

Poor

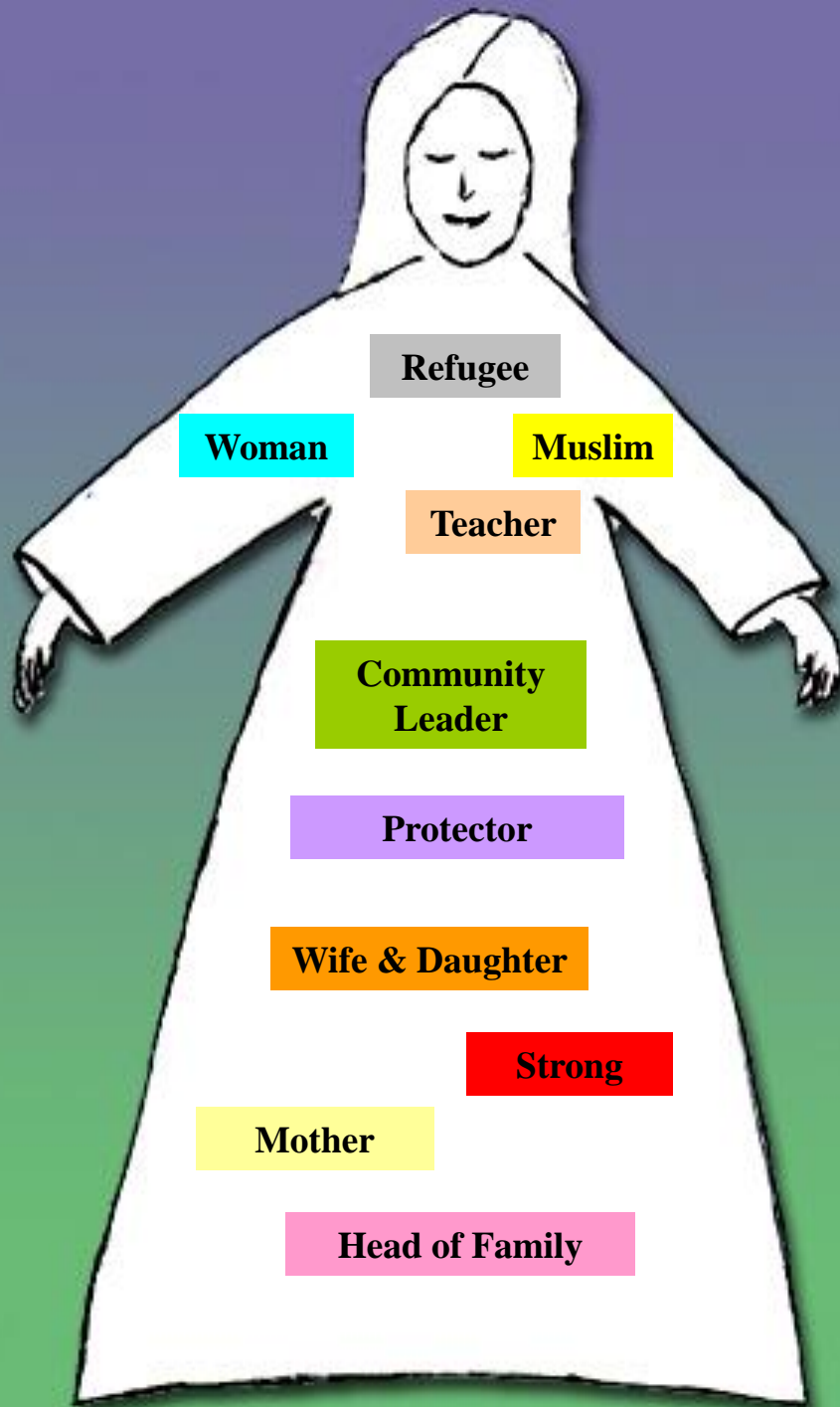
Frightened

Victim

Vulnerable

Dependent Upon Charity

Non English Speaker



Refugee

Woman

Muslim

Teacher

**Community
Leader**

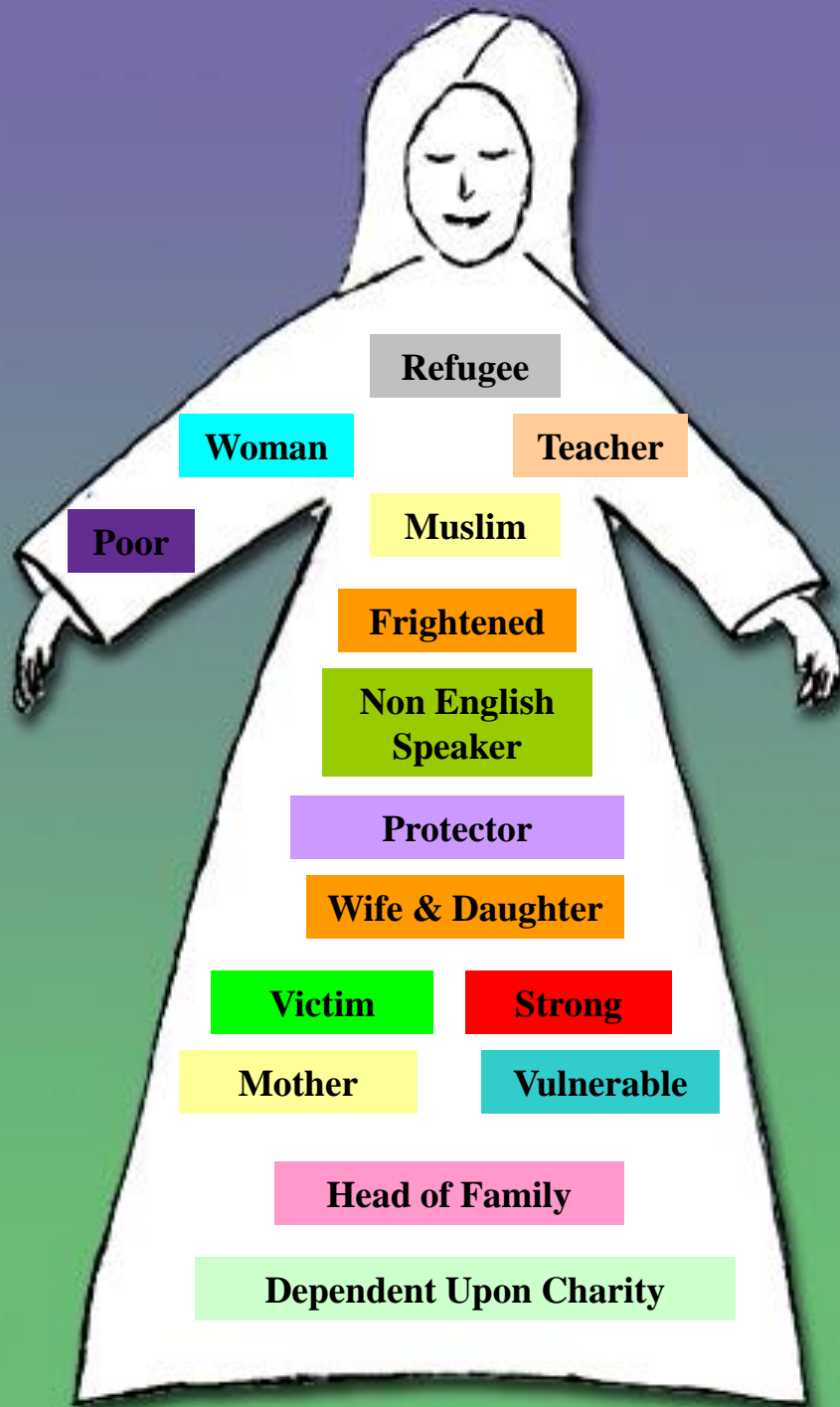
Protector

Wife & Daughter

Strong

Mother

Head of Family



Refugee

Woman

Teacher

Poor

Muslim

Frightened

**Non English
Speaker**

Protector

Wife & Daughter

Victim

Strong

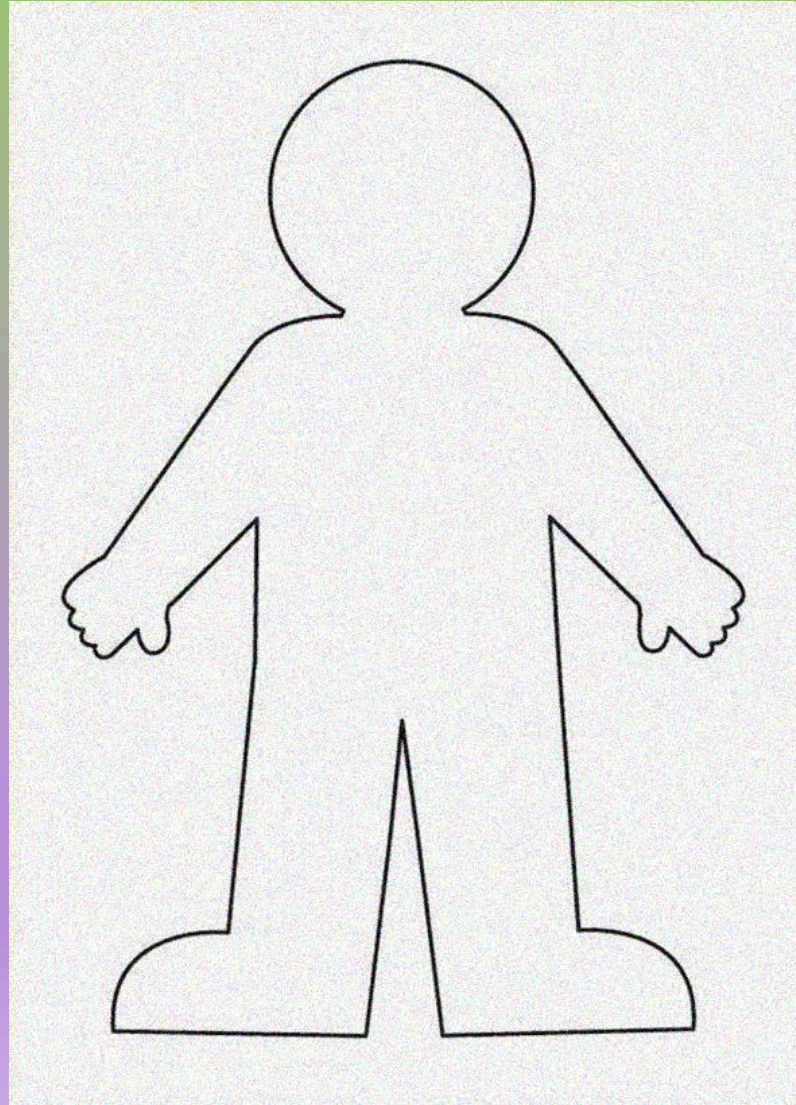
Mother

Vulnerable

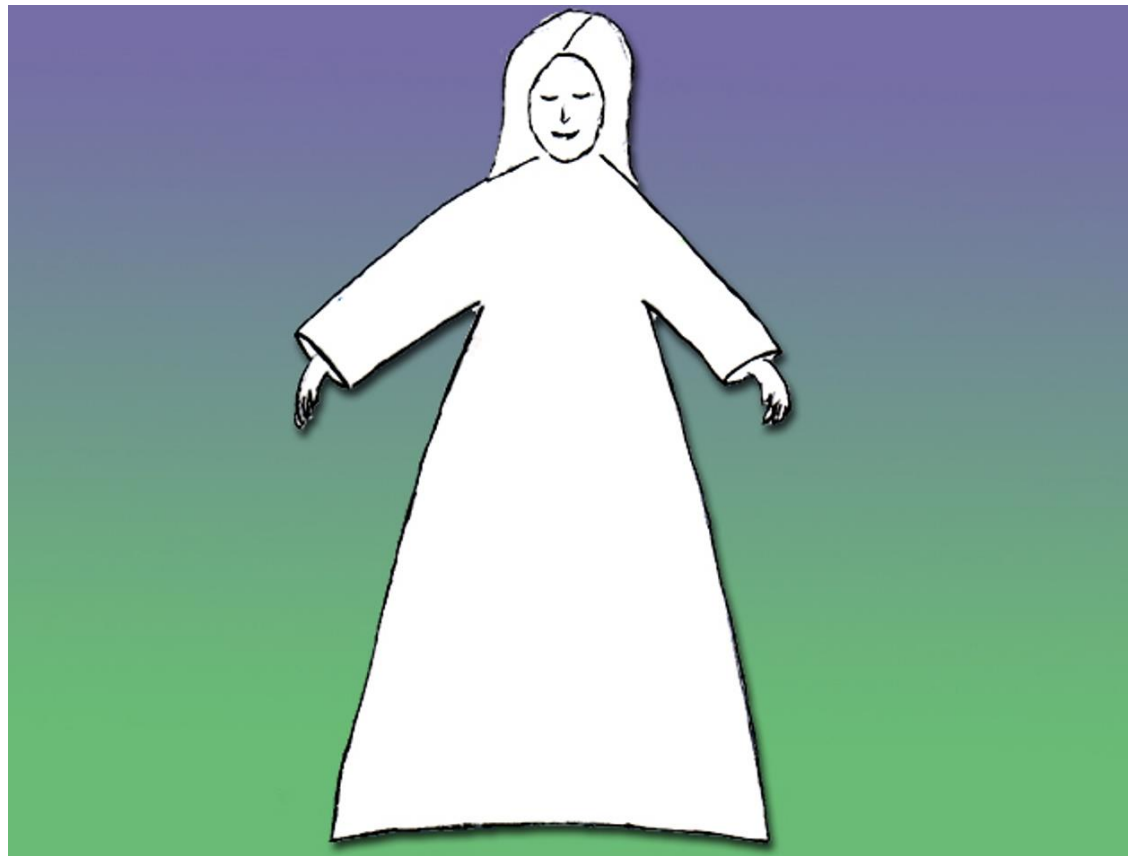
Head of Family

Dependent Upon Charity

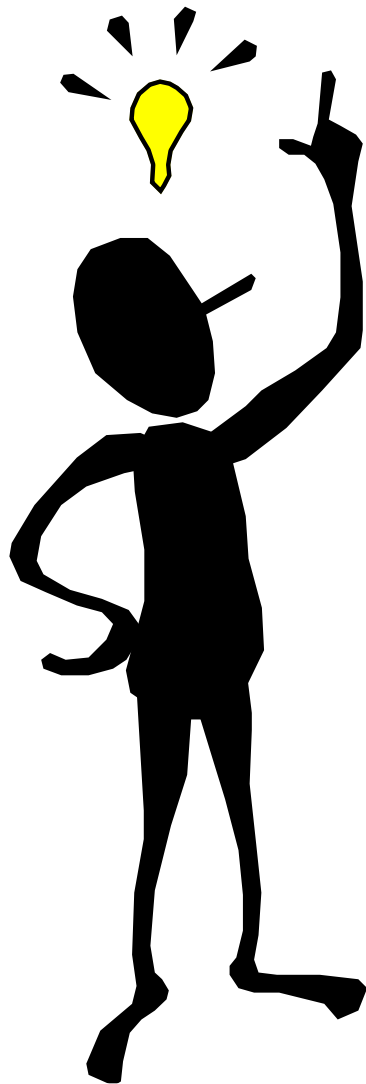
**Do this exercise using these blank outlines
for men and for women**



When they are completed add this to the other data you have gathered, to ensure that you both address all needs, but also respect all of the diverse experience identified.



Question



How can we be sure that we always include the lived experience of very diverse refugee groups?