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MEDIA RELEASE

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InTouch Releases New 11-Point Plan: Embed Migrant and Refugee Voices and Experiences into the National Response to Family Violence

inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence have announced a series of new policy recommendations ahead of what is expected to be a milestone year for the sector.

The recommendations are intended to anticipate the reform environment created by the imminent release of the Second National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children and the upcoming Federal Budget.

InTouch's policy platform comprises of eleven points, which address the complex systemic barriers faced by migrant and refugee women who experience family violence and are informed by inTouch's 37 years of experience in the sector.

"We welcome the significant, multijurisdictional investment being made into prevention and recovery," inTouch CEO, Michal Morris said. "However, we know that family violence occurs across all countries and cultures, and over half of all Australians were born overseas or have a parent that was."

"Any response to family violence must reflect the diversity of victim-survivors and perpetrators alike, and embed culture, language and faith into the way we support and work with the community. We must keep the needs of migrant and refugee women at the forefront of our minds within the kind of dynamic reform environment we will see over the next 12 months. inTouch's policy platform ensures that these women are thoroughly in view."

inTouch's policy platform, "Embed Migrant and Refugee Voices and Experiences into the National Response to Family Violence," calls for urgent funding and support for several key categories-

- 1. Providing culturally safe care**
- 2. Addressing systemic barriers**
- 3. Collaborating with communities**

Embedding culturally safe care into service provision through use of interpreters, specialist training and bilingual/bicultural case management throughout the sector is critical, as is a broad, national investment into specialist services like inTouch.



Additionally, the platform details the many systemic obstacles that women from migrant and refugee backgrounds experiencing family violence can face when seeking assistance. Crucially, inTouch advocates for a special family violence visa with access to health and government services and working rights, refined referral and assistance pathways and data collection, additional training for law enforcement and the judicial system and increased capacity for specialist legal services.

Key to informing the family violence response in communities is consultation and collaboration with these communities, led by women with lived experience.

“If the unique needs of culturally diverse groups are considered and funded as a part of our service system, we really can be empowered to provide a comprehensive response to family violence in this country,” Ms Morris said.

“Migrant and refugee women deserve the same access to support and safety as everyone else- whenever and however they need it.”

#####ENDS#####

About inTouch

inTouch provides culturally informed early intervention, case management, perpetrator programs, legal advice and support, crisis recovery and enhanced capacity-building across the sector and community. We are proud to provide high-level leadership and guidance to all levels of government with our evidence-based, victim-survivor informed advocacy and policy work. We draw upon the specialist expertise of our workforce as well as NOOR, our group of former clients of our service.

We are a unique and vital service, with 37 years of specialist expertise working with people of migrant and refugee backgrounds. This is reflected in our workforce, which is comprised primarily of people who are migrants and refugees themselves – the inTouch team is from over 20 different countries and communities globally.

For more information, visit www.intouch.org.au