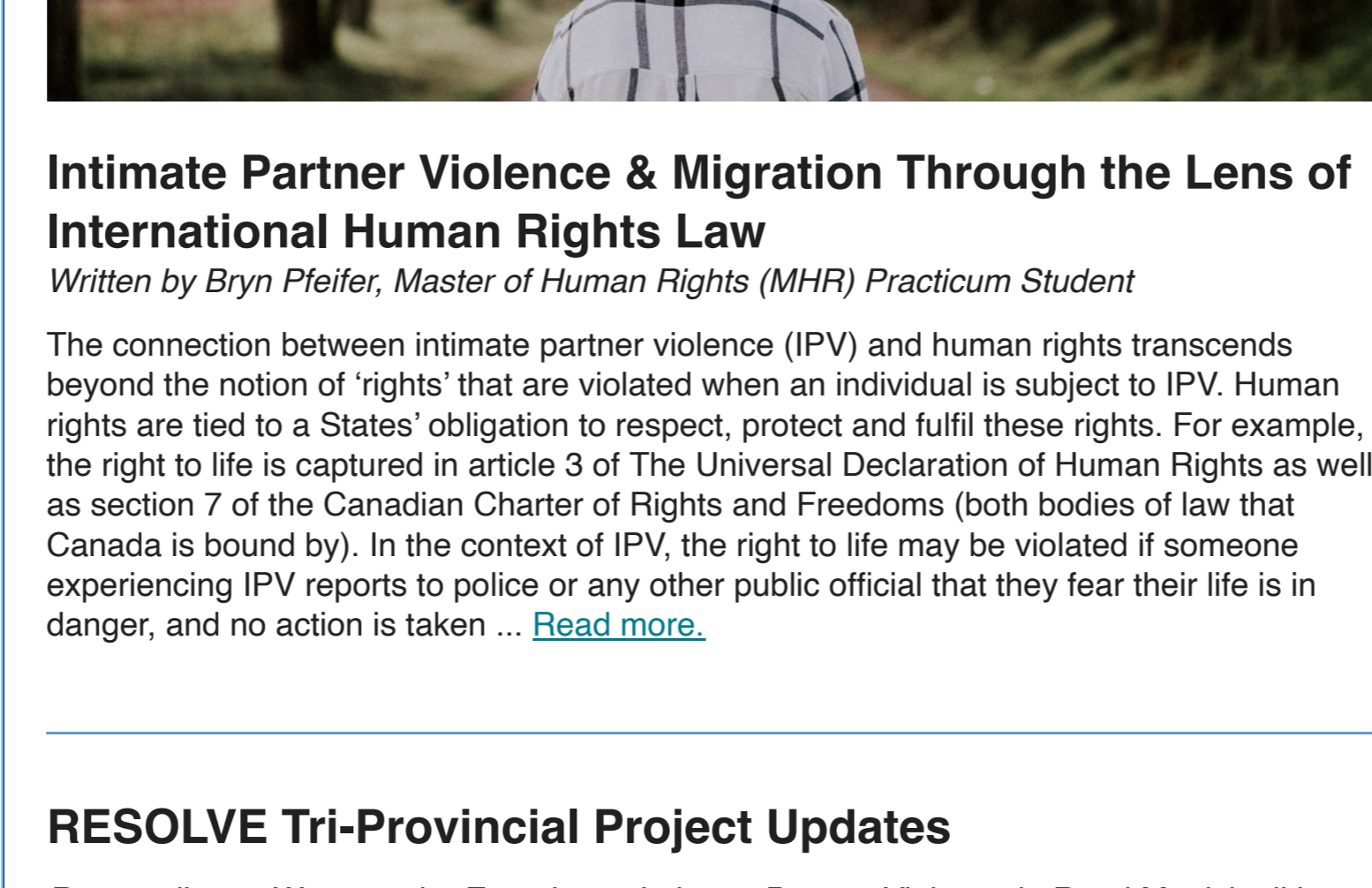




# RESOLVE Network Update



## Intimate Partner Violence & Migration Through the Lens of International Human Rights Law

Written by Bryn Pfeifer, Master of Human Rights (MHR) Practicum Student  
The connection between intimate partner violence (IPV) and human rights transcends beyond the notion of 'rights' that are violated when an individual is subject to IPV. Human rights are tied to a States' obligation to respect, protect and fulfil these rights. For example, the right to life is captured in article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (both bodies of law that Canada is bound by). In the context of IPV, the right to life may be violated if someone experiencing IPV reports to police or any other public official that they fear their life is in danger, and no action is taken ... [Read more.](#)

## RESOLVE Tri-Provincial Project Updates

*Responding to Women who Experience Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies*

Our study explored rural women's experiences of intimate partner violence and help-seeking across the Prairies. A [summary](#) of our findings is now available on the RESOLVE website. Additionally, we have developed two informative briefs:

- 1. **Policy Brief:** This document highlights the key findings that have significant implications for policymakers, providing insights to shape effective policies addressing the gaps and barriers that rural women face in seeking help.
- 2. **Practice Brief:** This brief is tailored to practitioners and service providers, offering findings that can guide their efforts in delivering services to those affected by intimate partner violence in rural areas of the Prairies.

*Examining the Nature & Context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities*

The RESOLVE team presented findings from the research project entitled *Examining the Nature and Context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities* at the Leading Change Summit in Edmonton, Alberta on May 4, 2023. The summit also featured keynote speaker, Jonathan Van Ness (from the Netflix show "Queer Eye"), who spoke about the importance of using platforms, both big and small, to advocate for gender equality. The RESOLVE team also travelled to Reykjavik, Iceland in September to present research findings from the project at the European Conference on Domestic Violence.

*Attachment and Child Health (ATTACH™)*

The ATTACH™ psychoeducational parenting program, co-created by Drs. Nicole Letourneau and Martha Hart, is designed for families vulnerable to toxic stressors such as domestic violence, mental health problems, and low-income. Pilot studies were undertaken with 90 Alberta mothers and their birth to six-year-old children over the last 6 years. Findings have been published, revealing significant positive impacts of ATTACH™ on mothers' reflective functioning, security of children's attachment to their mothers, mother-child relationship quality, mothers' executive function, and children's development, behaviour, and sleep. [Learn more.](#)

*Alliance Against Violence and Adversity (AVA) National Health Research Training Platform*

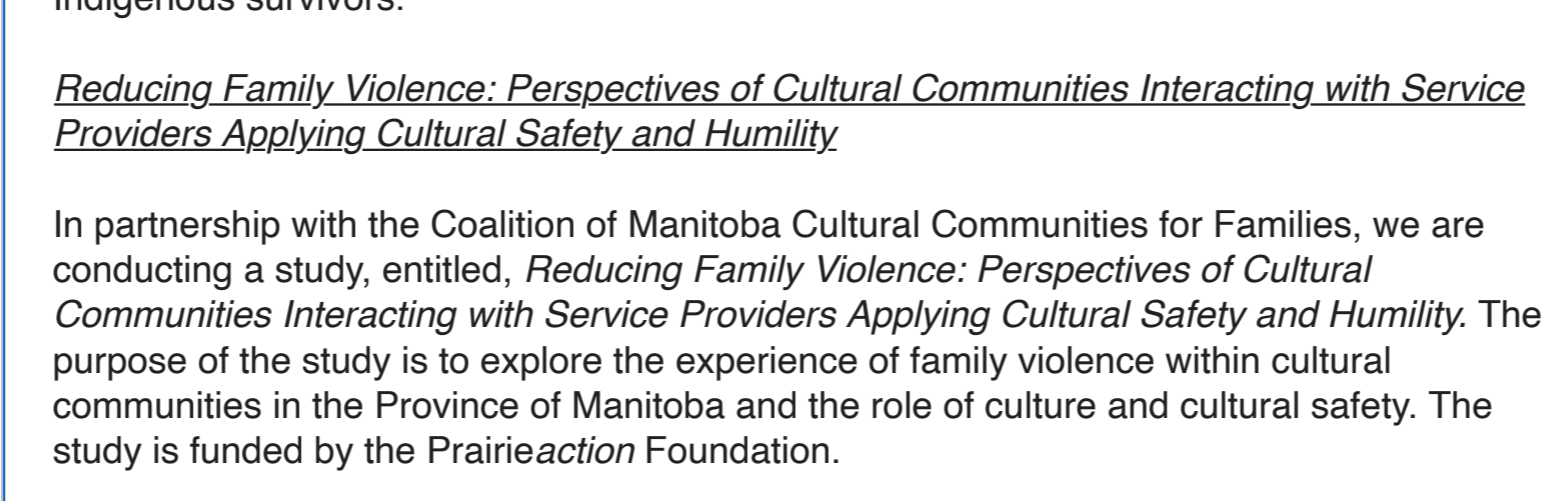
For nearly 30 years, preventing and addressing violence against girls and women has been a priority across Canada, yet this social problem persists with family violence rates increasing and girls and women's health and wellness outcomes worsening.

To address these issues, Canadian Institutes of Health Research funds have been awarded to AVA, a collaborative, innovative, cross-sectoral/interdisciplinary national health research training platform. AVA will train hundreds of Canadian scholars (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows), service providers and academics in the social services/community health field working to address violence and break down silos and barriers of inequity. [Read more.](#)

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## RESOLVE Manitoba Update



## RESOLVE Manitoba Project Updates

*Assessing Capacity to Conduct Indigenous-Based Research and Engage with Indigenous Communities in the Prairie Provinces*

The project aims to examine RESOLVE Manitoba's capacity to conduct community-engaged Indigenous research and develop our current capacity. Given the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry's Calls to Justice, any research relating to issues of family violence and gender-based violence must be conducted in a way that is methodologically sound and inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing, being, doing, and caring. [Read more.](#)

*COVID-19 and the Experiences of IPV Survivors and Service Providers*

RESOLVE has recently finalized the final report for the project entitled *COVID-19 and the Experiences of IPV Survivors and Service Providers*, which discusses findings from the project's online survey with service providers, and in-depth interviews with service providers and survivors of IPV. The report is available on the [RESOLVE Manitoba website](#).

*Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings*

The project has released a number of educational webinars, briefs, and bulletins on important and emerging issues relating to family violence and family law. These issues include mental health and substance use coercion amongst IPV survivors in family court; traumatic brain injury and IPV survivors in family court, family violence and restorative justice, and relocation in the context of family violence. Webinar recordings, briefs, and bulletins are available to view or download on the [RESOLVE website](#). [Learn more.](#)

## New RESOLVE Manitoba Research Grants

*Improving Shelter Experience for Indigenous Women*

Circling Buffalo and RESOLVE Manitoba's proposal to Women and Gender Equality Canada's (WaGE) call for proposals that *Address GBV through Promising Practices and Community-based Research* has been successful. Circling Buffalo Inc. prioritizes 63 First Nations in Manitoba and works to empower Indigenous communities and provide violence prevention services through holistic and community-driven programming. Our collaborative research project aims to contribute to our understanding of Indigenous women's experiences seeking help in Indigenous and non-Indigenous-led women's shelters. We hope the results of the research will contribute to the betterment of shelter experiences for Indigenous survivors.

*Reducing Family Violence: Perspectives of Cultural Communities Interacting with Service Providers Applying Cultural Safety and Humility*

In partnership with the Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families, we are conducting a study, entitled, *Reducing Family Violence: Perspectives of Cultural Communities Interacting with Service Providers Applying Cultural Safety and Humility*. The purpose of the study is to explore the experience of family violence within cultural communities in the Province of Manitoba and the role of culture and cultural safety. The study is funded by the Prairieaction Foundation.

*Awareness to Action: Moving from Screening and Assessment to Developing Appropriate Parenting Plans After Family Violence in the Family Justice System*

Last summer, RESOLVE and its partners in the Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings project received funding to continue their work for another three years through Justice Canada. The work of the Family Violence/Family Law project will continue under a new title: *Awareness to Action: Moving from Screening and Assessment to Developing Appropriate Parenting Plans After Family Violence in the Family Justice System* (referred to as A2A for short). The purpose of A2A is to develop an online guide that will:

- 1. Assist in identifying various forms of family violence
- 2. Describe the impact of that violence on survivors and their children, and develop parenting plans that account for those impacts, address ongoing risks, and keep families safe

The Manitoba Community of Practice committee will continue to meet locally and nationally with other Communities of Practice committees around the country. RESOLVE will also continue to develop educational webinars, research briefs, and legal bulletins on issues relating to family violence and family law.

## New Publications!

*The Healing Journey: A Longitudinal Study of Women Who have been Affected by Intimate Partner Violence*

The following three publications are based on *The Healing Journey: A Longitudinal Study of Women Who have been Affected by Intimate Partner Violence*. Conducted between 2005-2009, this study represents Canada's first longitudinal study on intimate partner violence. *The Healing Journey* was a Canadian tri-provincial research study (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) and examined the nature of partner abuse, physical and mental conditions, disabilities, child abuse history and quality of life. Several publications have been developed over the years and include three new publications:

- 1. [My Parents, My Grandparents Were Through Residential School, and All this Abuse has Come From it: Examining Intimate Partner Violence Against Canadian Indigenous Women in the Context of Colonialism](#)
- 2. ["Your Skin Crawled Every Time He Touched You": A Secondary Qualitative Analysis Exploring Bagwell-Gray's Taxonomy of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence](#)
- 3. ["He Tells People That I Am Going to Kill My Children": Post-Separation Coercive Control in Men Who Perpetrate IPV](#)

To access more publications, visit the [RESOLVE website](#).

## RESOLVE Manitoba Welcomes Bryn Pfeifer, MHR Practicum Student

Bryn Pfeifer is a student in the Master of Human Rights program in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Bryn is completing the practicum stream of the Human Rights program and started her placement with RESOLVE in May 2023. Bryn's research interest areas include international human rights and humanitarian law, public policy and violence against women and girls.

## RESOLVE Thanks Bright Thorsteinson, UM BSW Field Placement Student

This past year, Bright Thorsteinson, was granted the opportunity to work directly with Dr. Kendra Nixon and the staff at RESOLVE on several research projects. These projects included the *Nature & Context of Intimate Partner Violence in the 2SLGBTQ+ Communities, Caught in the Middle: Children's Involvement in the Court Process as it Relates to Intimate Partner Violence and COVID-19 and the Experiences of IPV Survivors and Service Providers*. Following Bright's BSW placement they were hired as a part-time Research Assistant and continues to be involved in multiple research projects.

RESOLVE Manitoba is grateful to continue to have the opportunity to mentor Bright.

## Congratulations to the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research on Family and Gender-Based Violence 2023 Recipients

*Mimi Shamin Brown (Master of Social Work Student, University of Manitoba)*

**Thesis Research:** *Understanding the Wellness and Health of Lived Experience (WHOLE) Staff: What Works for, What Hurts and, What's Missing?*  
Mimi's proposed research aims to respond to the gaps in Canadian research on lived experience staff in the child sexual abuse (CSA) sector. Lived experience staff with a history of CSA experience increased vulnerability to indirect trauma.

*Charlene Hallett (Master of Science in Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba)*

**Thesis Research:** *Rooted in Culture: An Evaluation of the Process to Adapt Evidence-based Programs for Indigenous Mothers & Children Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence in Canada*  
Charlene's qualitative research study will evaluate the experiences of mothers who took part in a new-to-Canada, pilot intervention program for Indigenous partners and their children impacted by intimate partner violence.

To learn more about each recipient's thesis research, visit the [RESOLVE Manitoba website](#).

Applications are now being accepted for the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence  
Deadline to apply is Friday, January 12, 2024  
Completed application forms may be sent to [cynthia.porcher@umanitoba.ca](mailto:cynthia.porcher@umanitoba.ca). The application form may be accessed here.

## Welcome to New Steering Committee Member, Dr. Tamara Taillieu

RESOLVE Manitoba welcomes new Steering Committee member Dr. Tamara Taillieu!  
Dr. Taillieu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, and a Research Scientist at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy.

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## RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update

### Announcing the RESOLVing Violence Podcast!

In line with RESOLVE's goal to disseminate knowledge and bridge the gap between research and practice, RESOLVE SK launched the RESOLVing Violence Podcast in September!  
The province of Saskatchewan is home to a vibrant research community and hundreds of organizations and service providers working to prevent, respond to, and assist with recovery from violence and abuse. Through our podcast episodes, we hope to facilitate that transfer of knowledge from the research community to these applied stakeholders and people with lived experience, to make staying up to date on current research that much more accessible and efficient.

We'll be sharing more information on our social media, so be sure to follow us at [@resolvesk](#) on Twitter/X or [resolvesask](#) on Instagram to stay in the loop!

## What is the Saskatchewan Anti-Violence Research Network?

One of RESOLVE SK's biggest upcoming projects is the development of the Saskatchewan Anti-Violence Research (SAvR) Network. This is a three-phase project involving:

- 1. A provincial scan of stakeholders working against gender-based violence;
- 2. Research needs assessment with participating parties, culminating in a co-developed research agenda on gender-based violence (GBV); and
- 3. Invitation to participating parties to be founding partners in a province-wide SK Anti-Violence Research (SAvR) collaboration tool (i.e., the SAvR Network)

The goal of this project is to build a community among GBV agencies and collaboratively develop research priorities to better address the needs of the province. In doing so, we hope to take yet another step towards fulfilling RESOLVE's mandate of supporting anti-violence research in all its forms.

## Update on Upcoming Indigenous Intercultural Skills Retreat

Registration has now closed for the Indigenous Intercultural Skills for Mental Health Professionals retreat to be held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park this Fall. Developed with Indigenous helping professionals, this program is designed to help participants learn to create a safer space within their practice for Indigenous clients, families, and communities.

While registration may have closed for this particular session, this program is the first in a planned series of professional development offerings for mental health professionals to develop Indigenous intercultural skills. RESOLVE SK will be sharing information about future programs in this series on our website under [Learning Opportunities](#).

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## RESOLVE Alberta Update



## "Getting You and Your Clients Back into the 'Groove' When Stuck in a 4F+ Stress Response

Written by Dawn McBride, Ph.D., Registered Psychologist, University of Lethbridge

All humans experience 4F responses (fighting, fleeing, fawning, and/or freezing actions) when faced with a life-or-death situation. However, these survival mechanisms can also emerge when we misinterpret a stressful situation. For example, imagine your boss, or even your child's teacher, unexpectedly requests an urgent meeting. You may make an inaccurate interpretation and respond with:

- Fight, e.g., "They are going to blame me for something, so I will find fault in them first!"
- Flee, e.g., "I just won't show up and avoid their calls, so I don't have to deal with it!"
- Fawn, e.g., "I need to make sure they really like me, so I have to say all the right things and give them lots of compliments so they will protect me!"
- Freeze, e.g., "I don't know what to do - my brain just shuts off. I don't feel much, and I can't think how to problem solve this!"

These hard-wired responses are appropriate when our lives are actually in danger, or we are living in toxic environments where we were under constant stress. [Read more.](#)

## Introducing RESOLVE AB Research Assistant, Stefan Kurbatfinski

Stefan Kurbatfinski (he/him) is currently a student at the University of Calgary pursuing a doctorate degree in Community Health Sciences specialized in Population/Public Health. His research interests have changed significantly since his Environmental Undergraduate degree and now include early childhood adversity, parent-child interactions, child and adult mental health, family violence, intimate partner abuse (IPA), intersectional frameworks, and sexual and gender minority (SGM)-specific phenomena (Figure 1). As a member of the Child Health Implementation and Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Studies Program, led by his primary supervisor Dr. Nicole Letourneau, Stefan has contributed to several projects focused on family health and violence. [Learn more.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

Webinar in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Manitoba  
November 16, 2023  
11:30 pm CT  
November 16, 2023



DR. AMANDA MCCORMICK



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