

c) Would the applicant's return to her country of origin be a mere "inconvenience" or would it result in "severe economic and/or educational disruption to the person or to any family remaining in Canada?"⁴

d) Can the applicant expect to receive assistance in her home country to help in resettlement?⁵

4. Discriminatory Nature of Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations

These criteria fail to recognize the reality of women's lives. Women who have been the targets of abuse are commonly isolated from others. Their husbands may prevent them from making contact with others in the community, pursuing further education, or getting a job. Lack of official authorization and lack of the necessary language skills may also hamper women's ability to work or study. It is thus because of these women's vulnerable position that it would be less likely for their return to the country of origin to result in severe economic or educational disruption. This is not, however, a reason to deport these women. To do so would give weight to abusive men's threats that they have the power to have their wives deported and, in forcing women to remain with abusive husbands until granted permanent resident status, would make Canada Immigration, in effect, an accomplice to abuse, assault, and even murder.

While immigration officers are "encouraged" to consider cultural traditions in the woman's home country that may affect her reception there if deported from Canada, this consideration clearly takes second place to the possibility that the woman may receive social assistance, which immigration officers "must consider in all cases".⁶ Other issues around economic self-sufficiency are reviewed below under section 8.

⁴ Ibid. Note that the expense of the return trip to the country of origin is not considered to be sufficiently severe economic disruption, to the disadvantage of lower income applicants.

⁵ Ibid. IE 9.14 (3)(c)(ii).

⁶ Ibid. IE 9.14(3)(d).