Refugee Settlement in Canada: The Barriers and Social Work's Role

Barriers

Social Work's Role

Racism / Stereotypes

- Fear
- Distrust
- Hostility
- Ignorance
- Misunderstanding

Family Status & Gender Roles

 Possible changes to family status and roles.

Culture Shock

 Dramatically different natural environment and culture

Healthcare System

- Lack of medical insurance
- Lack of knowledge about healthcare system
- Lack of culturally competent care

Trauma

 Resulting from circumstances for leaving home country

Spirituality, Faith & Religion

 Incorrect belief or assumptions about refugees and faith

Media

- Misinformation
- Misrepresentation both refuges and the current refugee crisis

Education

Provide education to general public about refugee crisis

Community Development

- Projects or celebrations to bring people together to learn about one another and build relationships and healthy communities
- Celebrate differences

Best Ethical Self (BES)

- Professional practice and personal life
- Decentering awareness and reflection on own bias, judgments, systems of belief

Education

- Explain behaviors, values, daily routines, and expectations (i.e. time, space, family, parenting)
- Acculturation gap
- Integration NOT assimilation

Supportive Listening

- Normalize, validate feelings and experience
- Grief and loss

Liaison

- Referrals/resources (support groups)
- Connecting with the natural environment

Advocacy

- To government for more resources
- To agencies to provide culturally competent services
- Liaise with community resources

Education

Provide education about rights and responsibilities in medical system

Support

Assist clients to access appropriate services

Assessment

- Trauma informed approach
- Provide safe supportive environment
- Assess for safety, healthy coping skills, support network

Education & Community Development

- Develop awareness campaign for public audience
 Liaise
- Connect to resources/services

Education

- Duty to correct misinformation & misrepresentation
 Advocacy
- Invite media to cultural events
- Share success stores

Community Development

Provide opportunity for individuals to share their narrative and experiences