

Fair go? Only if you speak the lingo and look the part...

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Abstract

This paper comes from a particular analysis in regard to violence against women, an analysis developed from the point of view as an immigrant woman to Australia and through the author's experience of working with immigrant and Anglo women in the area of violence against women. Instances of overt and covert bias in the legal system against women from non-English speaking backgrounds are examined, particularly in relation to accessing legal information on rights, services and legal processes. The problem of providing adequate access to interpreters is explored, highlighting the lack of legislation in the area. The need for cross-cultural training for all those involved in the legal processes is emphasised and a program of education on race and ethnicity for the judiciary is suggested.