

# Understanding the Experiences of Yazidi Youth

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Yazidi community members



# Overview of Workshop

## Introduction

- University-Community Partnership
- South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Migration
- Yazidi Refugees

## Research

- Research Needs
- 3 Phase Study Findings
- Perspective of Yazidi Community Members

## Discussion

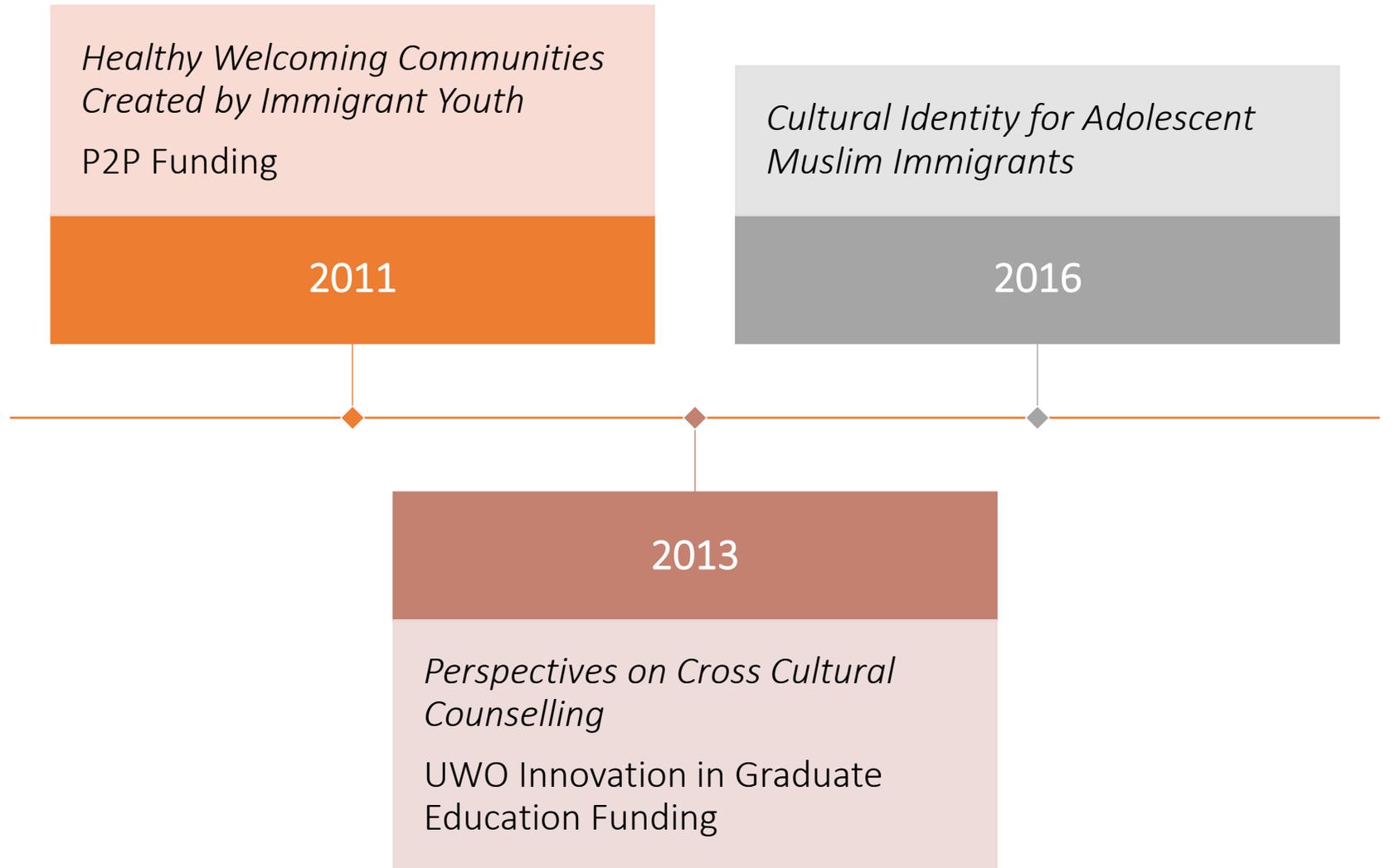
- Q & A

# Introduction

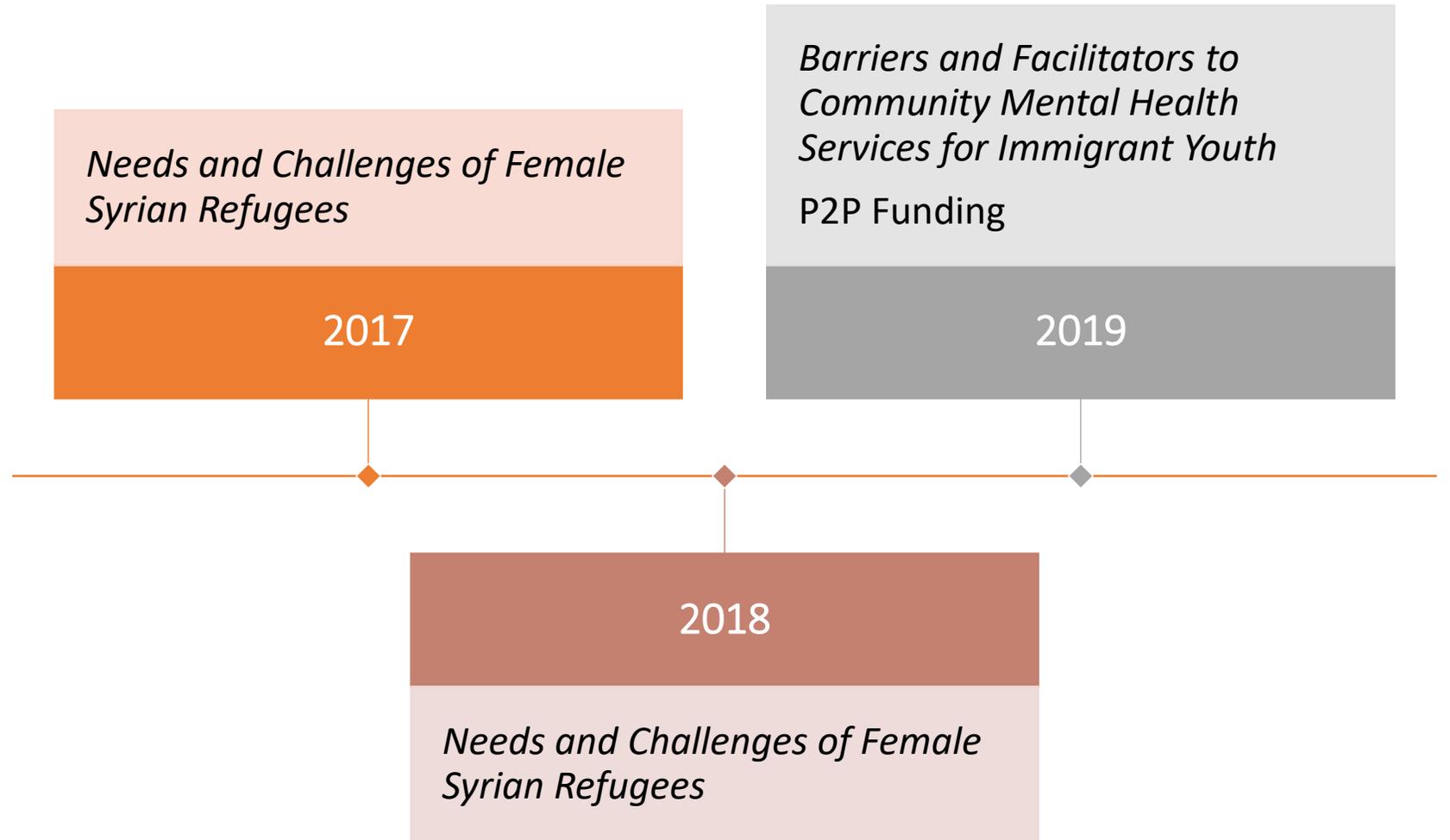
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# University-Community Partnership

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# University-Community Partnership Current

*Understanding the Experiences of Yazidi Youth Refugees*

2020-Present



The diagram consists of a horizontal orange line with a diamond-shaped marker at its center. A vertical orange line extends upwards from this marker to a dark orange rectangular box. Inside this box, the text '2020-Present' is centered. Above the dark orange box is a light orange rectangular box containing the text '*Understanding the Experiences of Yazidi Youth Refugees*'. The entire diagram is positioned below the main title.

# Introduction to the SLNRC

- Watch from 0:30 to 2:03
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDMvKY0Do4&list=PPSV>

# Migration Trends

- Surge in international migration
- Migration to North America has increased ~ 3 million since 2015
  - Economic growth & stability
  - Increase in displacement events
- Canada
  - 1 in 5 individual are immigrations
  - 13% of the population is refugees
  - 40% of refugees are children



# Yazidi Refugees

- Watch from 2:04 to 3:38
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDMvKY0Do4&list=PPSV>

## Yazidi Refugees

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- Experienced severe & prolonged exposure to violence
- 2014: **74th recorded genocide** against Yazidi population
  - Mass killings
  - Extreme violence
  - Prolonged sexual violence
  - Kidnapped and trained boys as child soldiers





# Yazidi Refugees

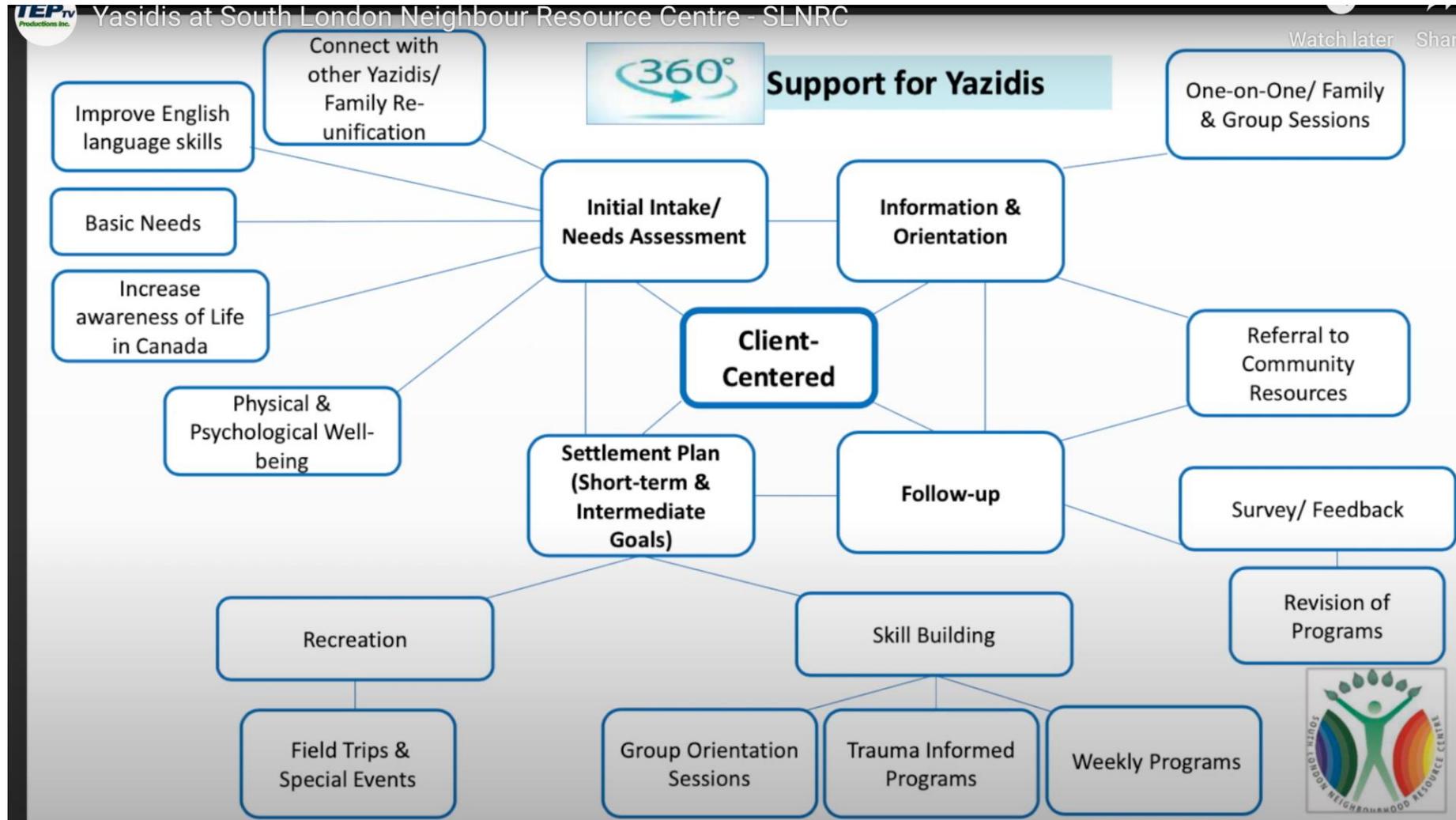
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- Distinguishing Characteristics
  - Significant intergenerational trauma
  - Short time between fleeing and resettling to Canada
  - Young and predominately female age & gender distribution
  - Distinctive language and little formal education
  - Excessive rates of mental health problems

# Yazidi Refugees: SLNRC

- Watch from 3:35 to 4:56
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDMvKY0Do4&list=PPSV>

# Yazidi Refugees: SLNRC 360 Support Approach



# Our Research

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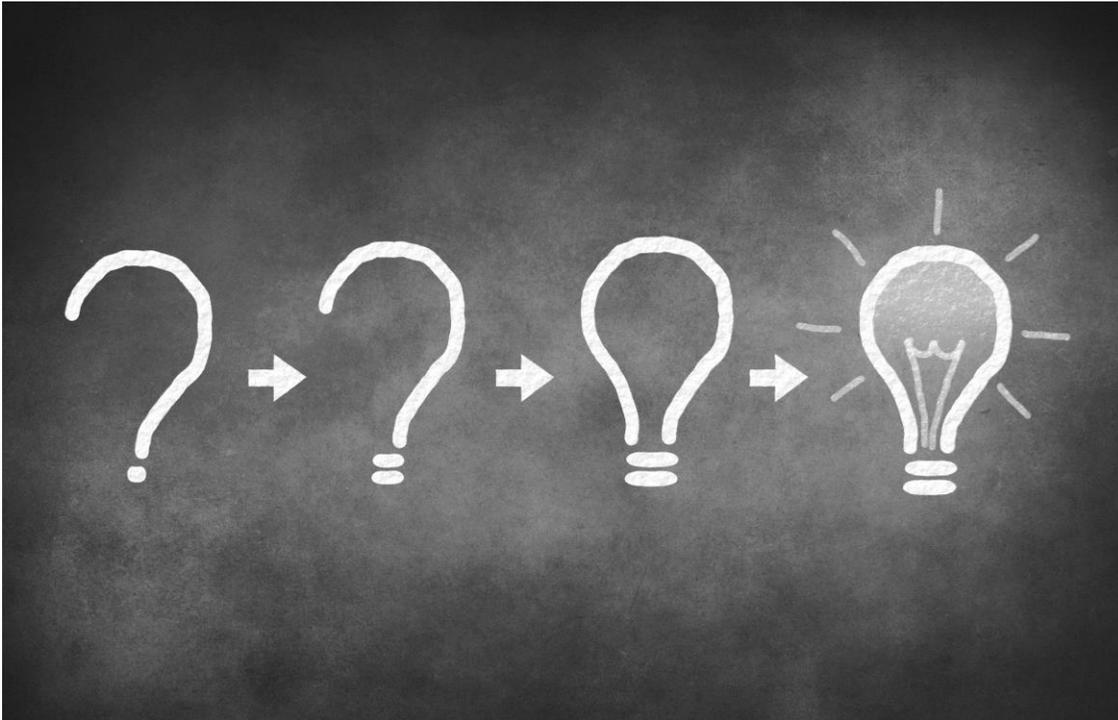
# Yazidi Refugees



## Problem

- Failure to provide adequate services and supports
- Focus on research has been:
  - Immediate
  - Perspective of women or service providers
  - On not with the population

# This Study



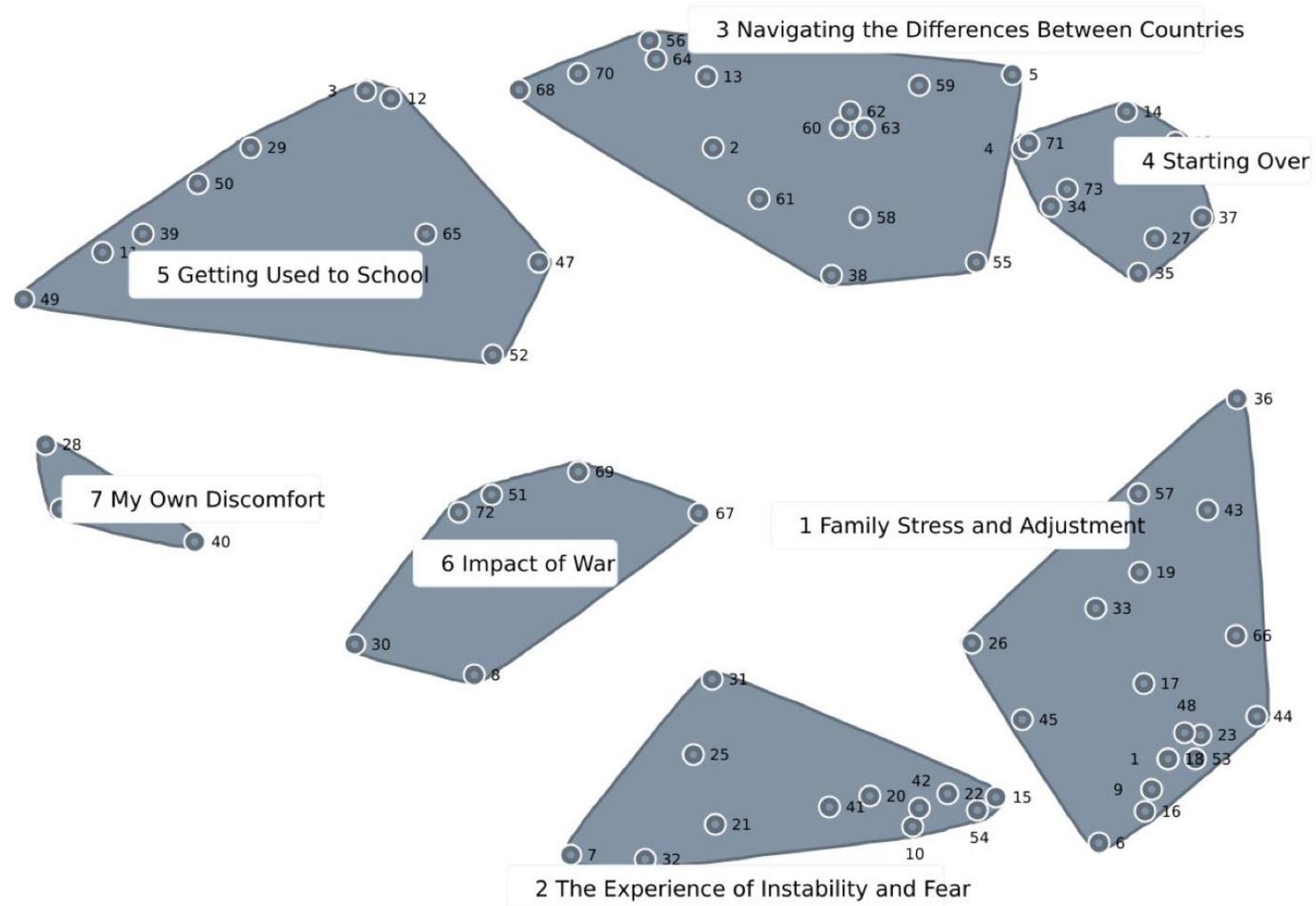
Understand the perspective of Yazidi youth on their experiences and needs, as associated with adjustment to life in Canada

- Research **with** not **on** youth
- Empower youth through the creation of art
- Increase community mental health support

# Study 1: Group Concept Mapping

"What factors have hindered your adjustment to life  
in Canada?"

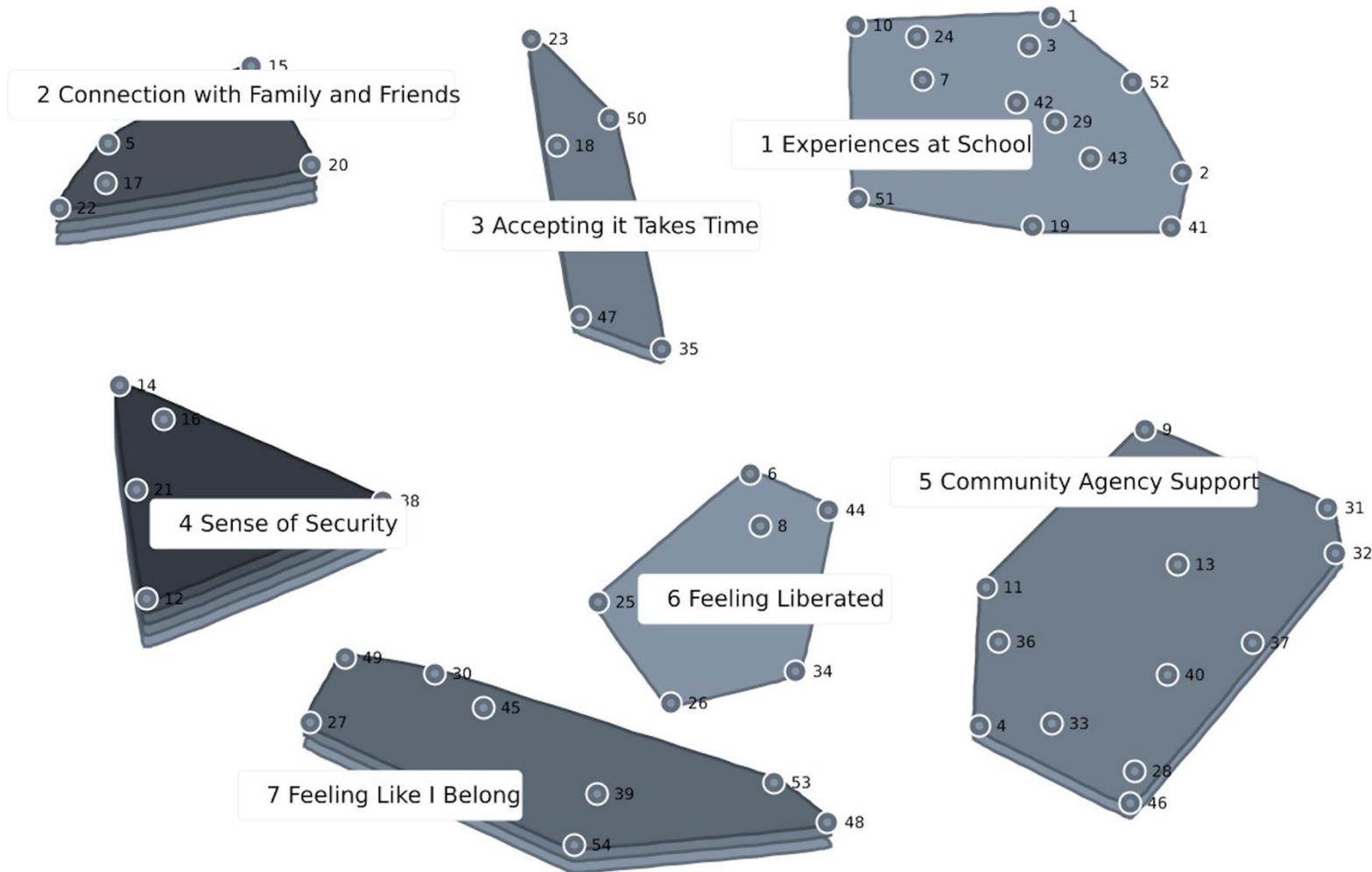
# What factors have hindered your adjustment to life in Canada?



# Study 2: Group Concept Mapping

"What factors have promoted your adjustment to life  
in Canada?"

# What factors have promoted your adjustment to life in Canada?



# Study 3: Art Based Study

"What would you like others to know about your migration and integration experiences"

# Understanding the Experiences of Yazidi Youth

Yazidi youth refugees were asked to take photos  
that represent what they  
would like others to know about their migration  
and integration experiences  
and to create captions for each photo

This artwork represents their collective story  
that they wish to share with you

# Migration and Integration Challenges

## Language



Talking to people was hard because we didn't know the language.

It was hard to understand people, ask for help, and be engaged with others.

## Weather



Getting used to the weather was hard.

Sometimes you get sick from the weather.

It is hard to walk and drive because it is slippery.

## Citizenship



Without your citizenship, you can't travel or return home to see your family.

It costs a lot to get your citizenship and you need to know the language.

It is hard to get your citizenship.

## Rules



Learning the rules was hard. Things like the traffic lights, how to access things, and that you have to wait your turn.

Learning the social rules to get along with others was hard.

## School



Sometimes the teachers don't say it slow enough for us or help us.

Sometimes the teachers show us that they don't like us or care.

It was hard to understand and to learn the subjects and activities at school.

## Getting Around



Getting the license was the hardest part. You have to pay everytime you go to take the tests. Also, you need to know the language; if you don't, you won't pass.

The first time we wanted to go anywhere, it was hard to figure it out.

When there is too much snow or rain, it is too difficult to drive.

## People



People were rude. They didn't respect us, our culture, or our religion.

People bullied us. They had hate for us and our families.

# Migration and Integration Successes

Reading to  
Learn



Reading books has helped us learn the language, learn to write, and learn new information.

Language



If you learn to express yourself properly, you can share your opinion and experiences.

Knowing the language has let us be independent.

When we mastered the language, we could help our families.

Technology



Technology helped us access opportunities by teaching us how to write resumes or apply for jobs.

The computer helps us to learn about things we are interested in.

Using the computer has helped us to learn at school and complete school work.

It has helped us know when things are opened or closed, about holidays or COVID-19 information.

People



Kind people because they help us by answering questions.

Making friends because they are kind, helpful, and they give you support

The  
Centre



The Centre helps us with documents and bills.

The Centre gives us opportunities to be involved & face our fears.

# Support Still Required

## Support



## Health & Dental



We have been refused help from dentists and doctors because they don't understand us or because they are racist.

We would feel more comfortable if there was a bigger population of Yazidis here. You would feel like it is back home, but safer because of the freedom Canada has given us.

We need to educate others on the genocide so we can get justice.

We need support to educate others on the genocide and what the Yazidis in Iraq are still dealing with right now. We need support to tell our stories of what happened to us, what ISIS did to us, and why. It is important because we still have family living in this war every day. And there are girls, women, and boys still in captivity or being forced to be ISIS soldiers. There are men still missing that we do not know if they are alive.

We get a lot of sympathy, but we need more action to help people who are still suffering.

The government of Canada, and the countries throughout the world, need to support the individuals still in Iraq and suffering.

We need others to know what has happened, because the Yazidis in Iraq are not in a safe place. All we want is support for Yazidis.

## The Centre



We need continued programming at the centre because these have been really helpful.

We need Yazidi specific programming. It would help us feel like we have a community and are loved.

We need some more advanced programming to learn more advanced skills.

We need the programming for our moms, because it gets them out of the house and lets them not think about what they've been through. We can't always be with them to support them, so they get the support here.



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## Perspective of Yazidi Community Members

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- Khalida Naso
  - A Case Management Coordinator at SLNRC who works with their Yazidi clients; Khalida is also Yazidi
- Delveen Al-Naamo
  - Yazidi community connection worker; Delveen is also Yazidi
- Two youth: Faeza and Asya
  - Participated in all phases of our research study
  - Passionate about advocating for their community and their needs

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# Perspective of Yazidi Community Members

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# Perspective of Yazidi Community Members

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# Yazidis at South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre

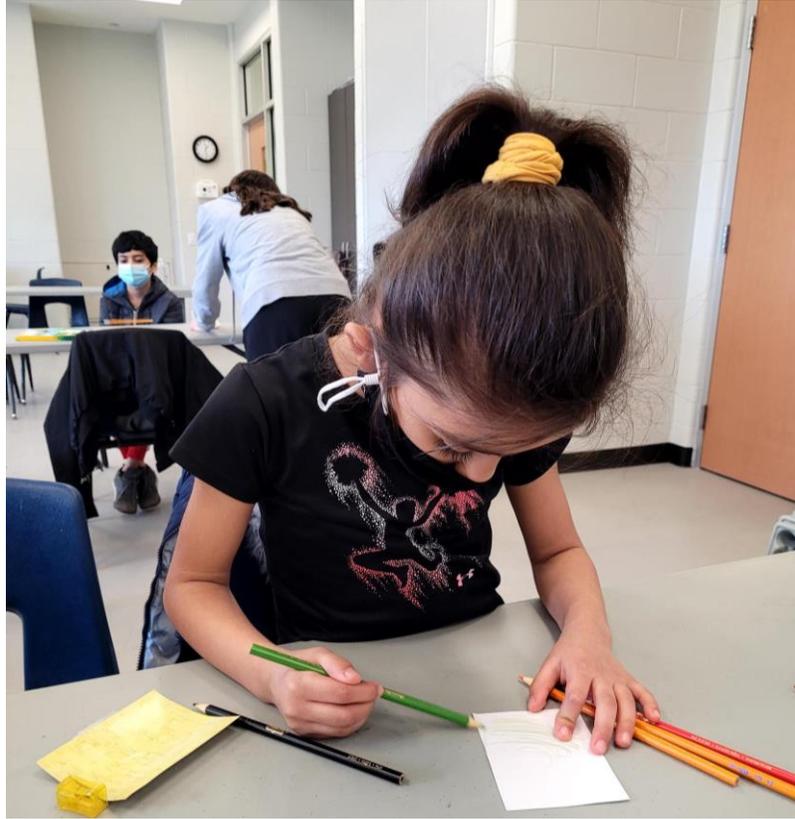
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDMvKY0Do4&list=PPSV>



# Art Therapy at SLNRC

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- Watch from 7:49 to 9:55
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMDMvKY0Do4&list=PPSV>



# Art Therapy

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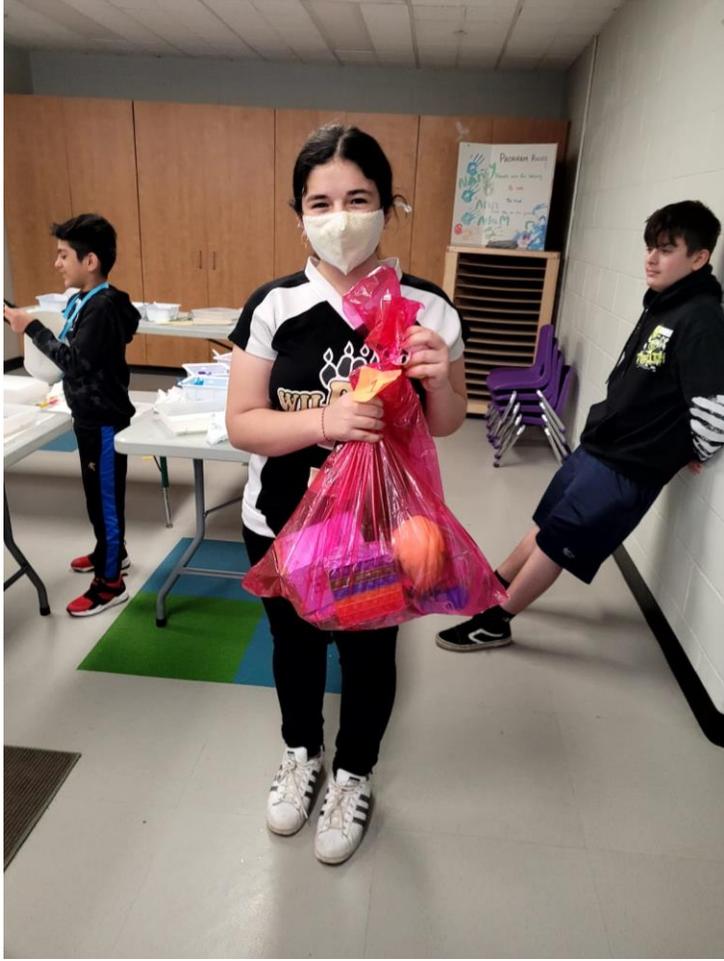
# Boat Building

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# Discussion: Q & A

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