

Supporting the Ongoing Resettlement Needs of Yazidi Refugees

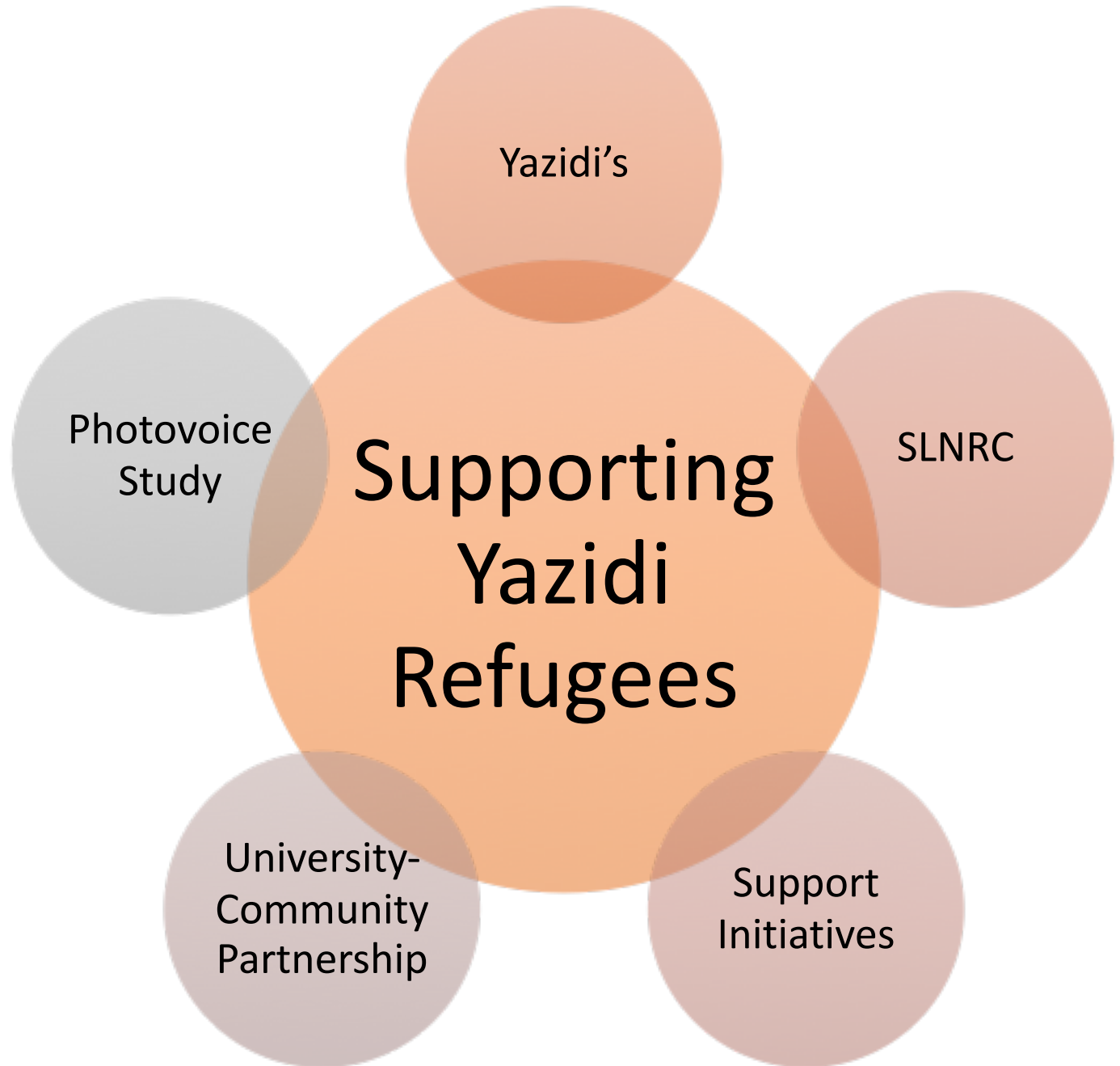
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Overview of Roundtable



Yazidi

Yazidi Refugees



Yazidi Refugees

- 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

- 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

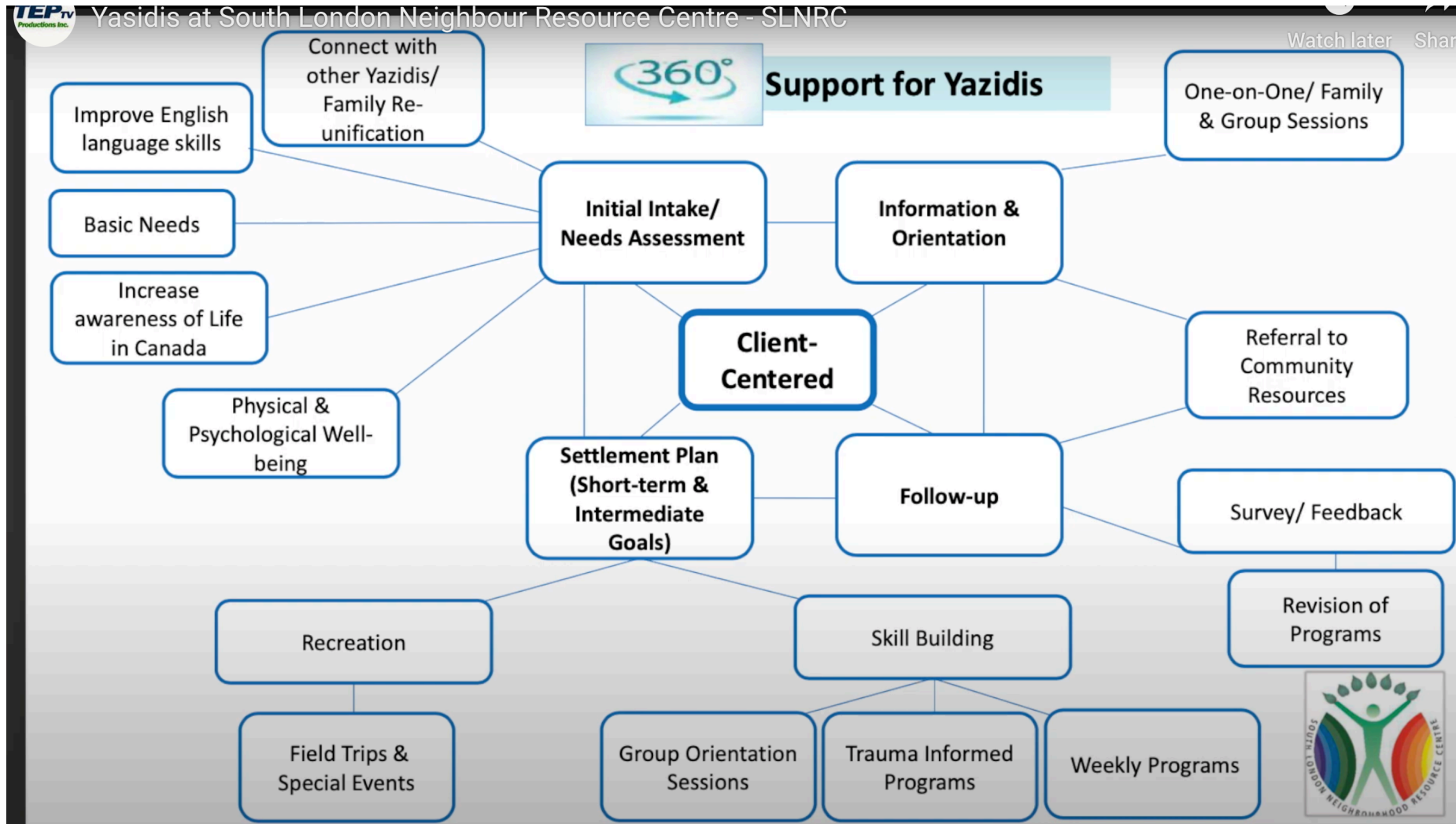
SLNRC

Introduction to the SLNRC



Support Initiatives

Yazidi Refugees: SLNRC 360 Support Approach



Support Initiatives: London Ontario

- Strengths-based case management
- Volunteers, community partners

SLNRC Support Initiatives: Women

Mindfulness

Trauma-Informed
Yoga

Women
Empowerment

Art Therapy

Parenting

Self-care

Healthy Minds
Matter

Euphrates
Program (Healing
Journey)

SLNRC Support Initiatives: Children

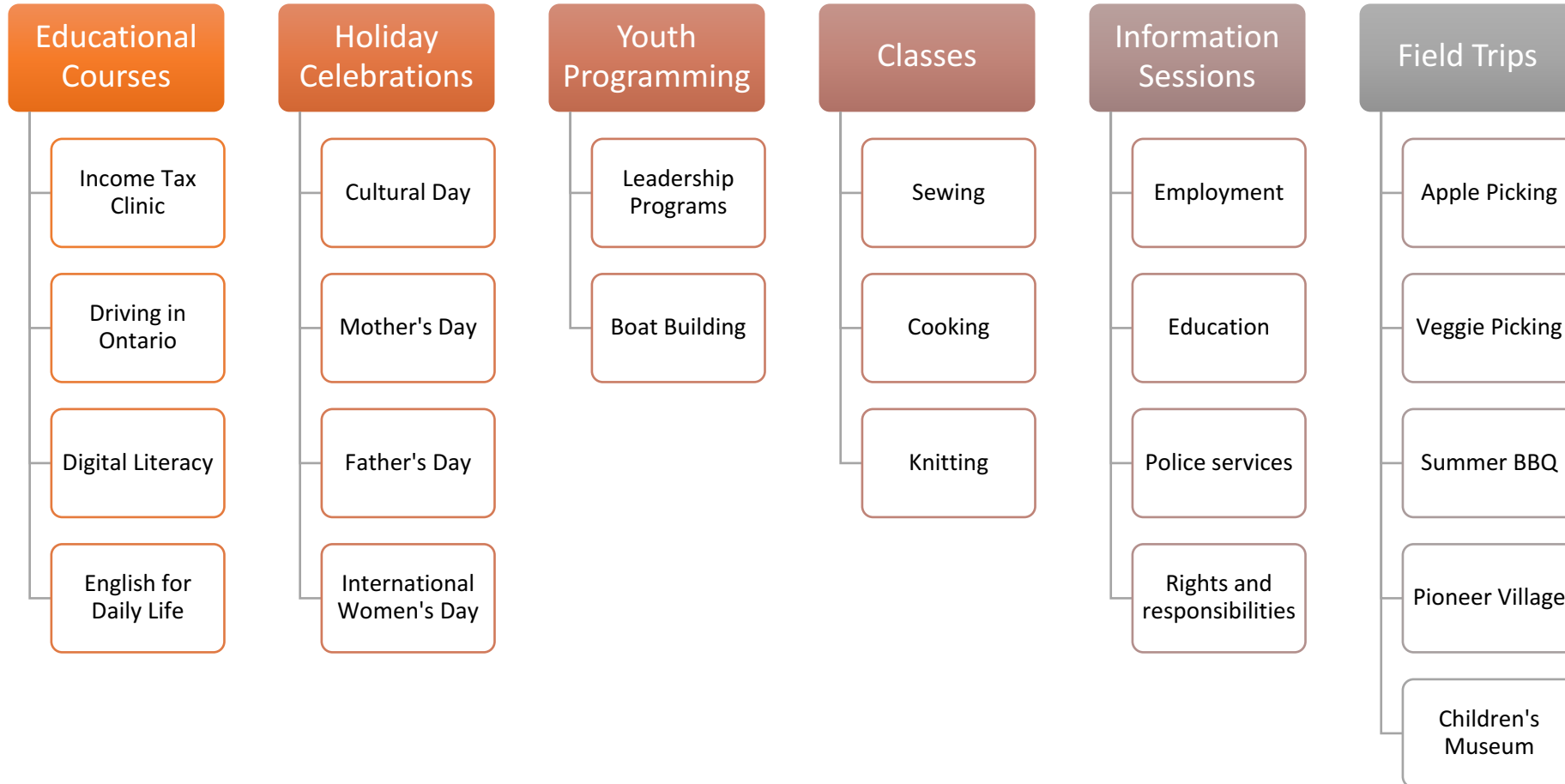
Trauma-
Informed Yoga

Art Therapy

Roots to
Rainbows

Promising
Futures

SLNRC Support Initiatives: Other

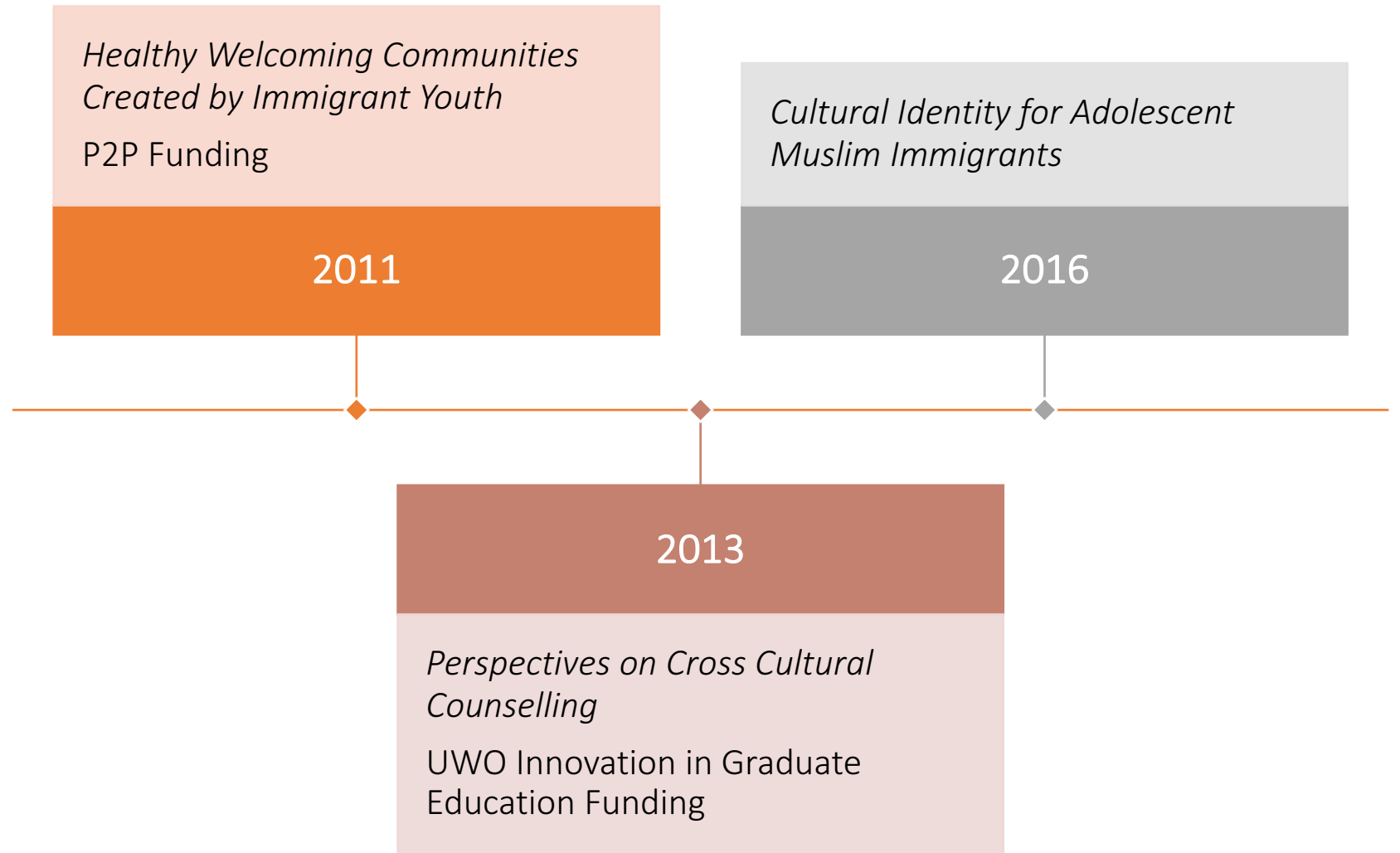


Support Initiatives: SLRNC

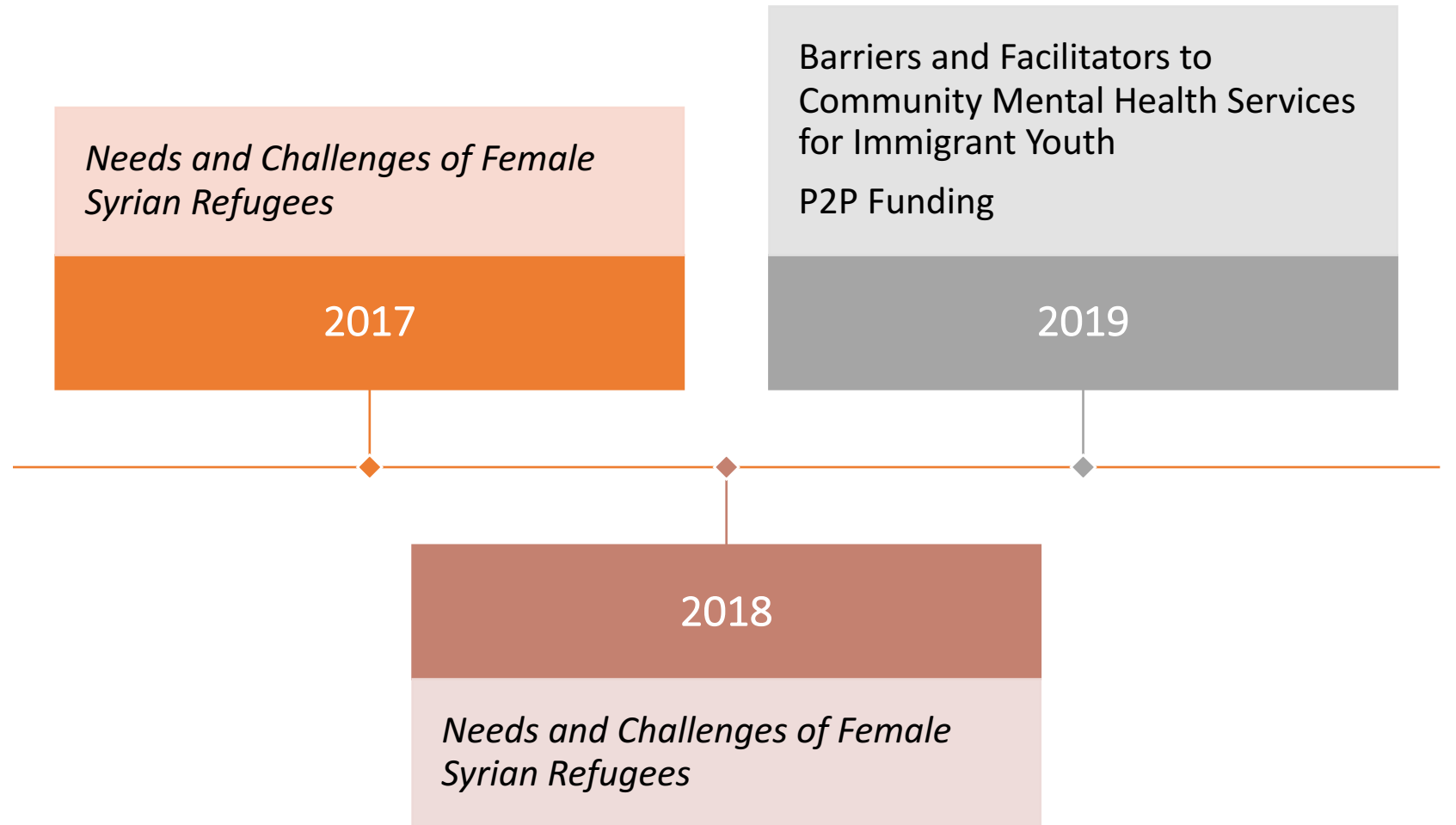


University-Community Partnership

University- Community Partnership



University- Community Partnership



University-Community Partnership Current

Understanding the Experiences of Yazidi Youth Refugees

2020-Present



Photovoice Study

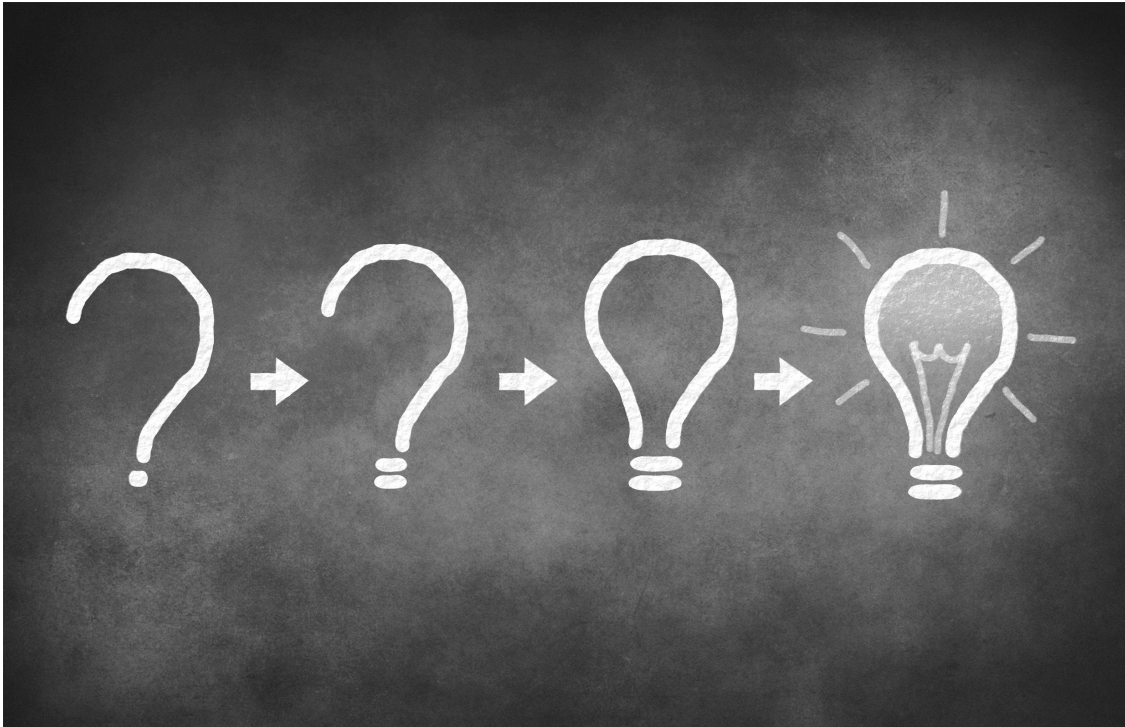
Yazidi Refugees



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 mental health 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

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

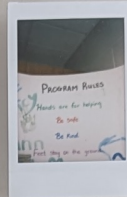


Without your citizenship, you can't travel or return home to see your family.

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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Round Table Discussion

Do the resources and research for Yazidis
match up with the needs in your
jurisdiction



How can this information be used to inform continued support and initiatives (practice, policy, research)?



How could this information inform work supporting other groups of traumatized refugees?



Video Link:

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