

# **Legal violence: A critical discourse analysis of race, gender, and status**

## **Abstract**

A form of legal violence occurs to immigrants who experience precarious status that dehumanizes them from their very rights based on their race. Many Black mothers with precarious status have experienced hopelessness, stress, and fear of whether they will be allowed to stay in Canada, be detained or be deported. Those psychological and mental factors result from the systemic racism in immigration, which negatively impacts Black mothers, causing them to fear that their children will be taken away and placed in the child welfare system. Therefore, Black mothers continue to experience heightened risks. Their status can also impact their children's well-being through the legal violence they encounter daily due to unemployment, homelessness, and poverty, among many others. The immigration system perpetuates dehumanization, determining who is allowed to stay in Canada and who is deemed not fit based on race. Black mothers continue to experience traumatic stress and psychological impact due to the fear of not knowing how they will support themselves and their children. Legal violence has caused black mothers to live in the shadows of their identity beyond the community mobilization that supports them. A loss happens in the community when Black mothers experience precarity, especially through a rejected claim, declined application, removal, or deportation. The community shares a sense of grief and trauma when one of their own is dehumanized through the various processes that Immigration and Citizenship Canada has created through complicated pathways to gain permanent residence.

## **Biography**

**Georgiana Mathurin** is a full-time MA student in the Early Childhood Studies program at X University and is currently the president of the MA – ECS Course Union. Mathurin holds a diploma and an Honours Bachelor Leadership degree in Early Childhood Education from George Brown College, School of Early Childhood. Mathurin's interest is in families with precarious immigration status, community engagement, anti-racism/anti-Black racism education, Black feminist thought, and Black Childhoods in ECEC/schools. Mathurin intends to build on this research study in the Immigration and Settlement Studies program at X University for Fall 2022.