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Syrian Refugee Women's Reasons for Not Reporting Violence: An Exploratory Study

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Abstract: Objective: To explore Syrian refugee women's reasons for not reporting violence. Methods: This qualitative study is part of a larger study, in which Syrian refugee women aged 18 or older who attended five Maternal and Child Health Care Centres in Mafraq district in Jordan were invited to participate. Arabic version of the NORAQ questionnaire which includes data on emotional, physical and sexual abuse was used. In addition, participants who suffered from any type of domestic violence were asked to describe their experiences including their reasons for not reporting them. The responses of 44 married or divorced women were used in the current qualitative study. Results: Five major themes were emerged: acceptance, fear of consequences, absence of social support, unsupportive healthcare providers, and being powerless. Conclusions: The findings indicated that abused Syrian refugee women who prefer to keep silent about domestic violence were overwhelmed by cultural constraints and disadvantaged living circumstances.