



# The Perception and Reality of “Imported Conflict” in Canada

*The Perception and Reality of "Imported Conflict" in Canada* is a research report released by The Mosaic Institute in 2014. The study is a result of surveys of almost 5,000 people, and interviews and focus groups with 300 Canadians with family connections to conflict zones including: The Sudans; Horn of Africa; The Middle East; Afghanistan; Armenia and Turkey; countries of the former Yugoslavia; Sri Lanka; and India and Pakistan. This report examines Canadians’ preconceptions and concerns about “imported conflict,” and seeks to understand how Canadians who come from conflict-afflicted regions think about those conflicts and respond to them once they are in Canada. These are the report’s **key findings**

1. We do not, it turns out, “import” violent conflict: communities of Canadians who come from conflict strongly repudiate violence in Canada as a response to, or means of resolving, overseas conflict;
2. Living in Canada transforms newcomers’ perceptions of conflict and their view of solutions: they tend to see it through a Canadian, human-rights-based lens after they have lived here for a while, and they tend to advocate for education and talk-based solutions;
3. Canadians with direct or indirect experience of conflict continue to be affected by trauma;
4. Both connection to conflict and experience of the after-effects of exposure to trauma transcend generations;
5. Canadians’ complex identities often include a connection to conflict, but this does not, in and of itself, detract from their attachment to Canada;
6. The single most powerful factor at work in achieving the repudiation of violence and reframing of the conflict and its solutions is social, economic, and political inclusion;
7. Conversely, systemic racism and exclusion work to limit the ability of racialized Canadians to achieve their potential, and can undermine attachment to Canada and social cohesion;
8. The shared struggle to fight racism and exclusion can have the effect of erasing conflict-related divides.
9. Canadians who come from conflict often experience a deepening of their faith or religious practice, generally in a way that amplifies and reflects what they see as Canadian values;
10. Intra-community dynamics can distort the way that conflict is understood by community members and the way the communities themselves are perceived by the wider society.

Our research has told us that we as Canadians imagine that newer Canadians, or Canadians who come from places where violent conflict persists, will bring their conflicts with them in ways that threaten violence here. But our research also tells us that in reality, Canada, as a community, is remarkably resilient – primarily because when people come here, especially if they find themselves in inclusive environments, they learn different ways of dealing with difference and diversity, and it changes the way they view conflict and its possible solutions.

To read the full report, click here:

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/102a59\\_35fa615eaf1e4a5aa57bd20573c8f7df.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/102a59_35fa615eaf1e4a5aa57bd20573c8f7df.pdf)

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