

'Moving on' Violence, wellbeing and questions about violence in antenatal care encounters. A qualitative study with Somali-born refugees in Sweden

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## TITLE

‘Moving on’  
Violence, wellbeing and questions about violence  
in antenatal care encounters.  
A qualitative study with Somali-born refugees in Sweden

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Somali-born women constitute one of the largest groups of childbearing refugee women in Sweden after more than two decades of political violence in Somalia. In Sweden, these women encounter antenatal care that includes routine questions about violence being asked. The aim of the study was to explore how Somali-born women understand and relate to violence and wellbeing during their migration transition and their views on being approached with questions about violence in Swedish antenatal care.

**Method:** Qualitative interviews (22) with Somali-born women (17) living in Sweden were conducted and analysed using thematic analysis.

**Findings:** A balancing act between keeping private life private and the new welfare system was identified, where the midwife’s questions about violence were met with hesitance. The midwife was, however, considered a resource for access to support services in the new society. A focus on pragmatic strategies to move on in life, rather than dwelling on potential experiences of violence and related traumas, was prominent. Social networks, spiritual faith and motherhood were crucial for regaining

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