**[SEREDA](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/superdiversity-institute/research/projects/sereda.aspx)** (*Sexual and Gender-based violence in the refugee crisis: from displacement to arrival*) is a major new international research initiative led by University of Birmingham’s Institute for Research Into Superdiversity (IRiS) in partnership with Bilkent University, Uppsala University and University of Melbourne. The project aims to understand the incidence and nature of SGBV experienced by women, men and child refugees who have fled conflict in the Levant Region. You can follow SEREDA on twitter at @sereda\_IRiS.

One of the SEREDA-attached doctoral research projects is focused on SGBV at the intersection of religion and displacement, it examines **the influences of religion on SGBV experiences of women in the refugee journeys*.*** Evidence suggests that religion travels with refugees and crosscuts their experiences at every stage of the refugee journey, but little is known about refugee SGBV survivors’ religious and spiritual dimension of their experiences, including the vulnerability to intersectional violence and resilience in coping with and healing from trauma. Also, little is known whether the religious processes accompanying SGBV survivors are recognised in SGBV responses, especially in psycho-social programmes in humanitarian contexts.

**The aim of this research is to understand the influences of religion on SGBV experiences of women in the refugee journey**. The specific objectives are: **1) to examine the role of religion in shaping refugee women’s vulnerability toward SGBV; 2) to explore how religion shapes refugee women’s resilience to cope with their experiences of SGBV; 3) to examine the ways in which religion, faith and/or spirituality are incorporated in SGBV responses**. Drawing upon intersectional feminism and social constructivism, this is a mixed methods phenomenological research which combines both qualitative and quantitative components. Data collection is planned in two phases: April-May, 2019 and November-December 2019 in Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara) and online with faith-based and secular SGBV respondents. The project will comply with the University of Birmingham’s research ethics and rigid SGBV research standards.

This research project aims to sensitize the SGBV community in humanitarian contexts to the importance of including religion/faith/spirituality in refugee interventions and perhaps recognising religious resources as assets in SGBV programming which can support survivor’s recovery and well-being. The collected evidence and produced knowledge are expected to inform a range of stakeholders through a better understanding of religious and spiritual dimensions of survivor’s suffering and fortitude. The findings will also shed light on the ways in which preventing intersectional vulnerabilities and exposure to violence could be more effective.

**Organisations interested in cooperation and/or learning exchange please contact** Sandra Iman Pertek at [s.m.pertek@pgr.bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.pertek@pgr.bham.ac.uk) for further information. The project is looking for partners and supporting organisations to help facilitate research process, e.g. the recruitment of potential research participants. There are also opportunities for co-production and upscaling the research sample.