




Ranking Trauma-Informed Care Needs Among Refugee Women




Ivan. Dimitrov¹, Johanna. Meier^{2*}, Elena. Radu³

¹ Department of Psychology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Sofia, Bulgaria

² Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

³ Department of Counseling and Human Development, West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania

* Corresponding author email address: johanna.meier@uni-heidelberg.de

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Mohsen Joshanloo  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Keimyung University, 1095 Dalgubeol Boulevard, Dalseo-Gu, Daegu 42601, South Korea mohsen.joshanloo@unimelb.edu.au	Reviewer 1: Zahra Yousefi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran. Email: Z.yousefi1393@khuif.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mohsen Golparvar  Professor, Department of Psychology, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran. mgolparvar@khuif.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph beginning “The concept of trauma-informed care extends beyond traditional clinical treatment...” lacks explicit theoretical grounding. The authors should reference foundational TIC frameworks (e.g., SAMHSA’s six principles) to anchor their conceptualization of trauma-informed care.

The introduction predominantly cites review literature (e.g., Isakov & Marković, 2024; Hearn et al., 2023). Consider integrating empirical refugee-based studies from diverse geographical contexts to balance theory with evidence.

The final paragraph effectively articulates the aim, “Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify, categorize, and rank...”, but it could be strengthened by preceding it with a concise “research gap” statement to more clearly justify the study’s necessity.

The sentence “Reliability of the questionnaire was assessed through Cronbach’s alpha coefficients” would benefit from presenting the actual alpha values for each theme. Omitting them limits assessment of internal consistency.

The table listing “Main Themes, Subthemes, and Concepts” is conceptually rich but visually dense. Consider reorganizing it into two smaller tables or using bullet formatting for clarity, especially where open codes exceed four items.

In the paragraph “The qualitative analysis revealed that safety and protection emerged as the most foundational need...”, the interpretation repeats descriptive codes. The authors should provide more analytical depth—how these categories interact dynamically (e.g., safety as precondition for empowerment).

The paragraph beginning “The findings of this study revealed that safety and protection ranked as the highest-priority need...” provides alignment with previous literature but should also interpret why refugee women in Germany specifically prioritize safety, considering sociopolitical or policy factors.

While aligning studies are cited (e.g., Ahmad & Reynolds, 2024; Nkodo & Fadul, 2025), the discussion lacks engagement with divergent findings. Including counterevidence would reflect critical synthesis and theoretical maturity.

The sentence “The integrated analysis of qualitative and quantitative data affirms that trauma-informed care must operate as a multi-level system...” should be followed by a model diagram or conceptual figure summarizing the multilevel framework for visual clarity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the first and fifth paragraphs, both sentences “Trauma-informed care (TIC) has gained increasing recognition...” and “Given these complexities, there is a pressing need to systematically identify...” repeat the rationale. Condensing these would improve flow and focus.

The section “Participants were recruited through local refugee support organizations...” lacks details on sampling method (e.g., purposive, snowball). Providing this information is crucial for evaluating representativeness and potential sampling bias.

The description “A structured questionnaire was developed based on the qualitative findings...” should specify the number of items, sample questions, and whether the instrument underwent expert validation or pilot testing.

While the authors mention “The Friedman test was applied to rank the identified trauma-informed care needs...”, they should explain why a non-parametric test was chosen over alternatives (e.g., ANOVA with repeated measures), given the ordinal nature of data.

The mean ranks are presented to two decimals (e.g., 4.78). Including confidence intervals or standard errors would enhance statistical robustness and allow for better comparison of priority strength.

The transition paragraph “The second phase of the study aimed to empirically prioritize...” could be improved by explicitly discussing how the qualitative themes informed quantitative item phrasing—this would demonstrate methodological integration.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.