

Ensuring Access for Immigrant Survivors

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Ensuring Access for Immigrant Survivors

Barriers to Services for Immigrant Survivors

- ▶ Refusal of abuser to file paperwork
- ▶ Fear of escalated deportation and other threats in current climate
- ▶ Limited English proficiency to access system supports
- ▶ Paperwork requirements of crime victim compensation programs - i.e. birth certificates, proof of residency
- ▶ Educational and Employment credentials deemed inadequate in the U.S. limited economic options
- ▶ Distrust of systems based on experiences in the home country



* Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence

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Barriers to Services for Refugee Survivors

- ▶ Distrust of systems based on experiences in the home country
- ▶ Multiple types of trauma including PTSD and triple trauma associated with the refugee experience*
- ▶ Refugee resettlement staff are inadequately trained to identify and address domestic violence*
- ▶ Fear of deportation for the survivor, abuser, and/or children*
- ▶ Racial profiling, hate crimes, islamophobia*
- ▶ Traditional approach to domestic violence service provision reinforces isolation

* Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence

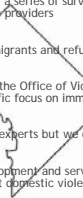
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The DC Experience

- ▶ In 2016 - 2017, DCCADV conducted a series of survivor listening sessions with mainstream and culturally specific providers
- ▶ Identified services for African immigrants and refugees as non-existent
- ▶ Advocated for specific funds with the Office of Victim Services to enhance culturally-specific services - specific focus on immigrant survivors
- ▶ Acknowledged that we aren't the experts but we can support the people that are
- ▶ Assisted with organizational development and served as a fiscal agent for The Persons Center - African Immigrant Domestic Violence program



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The Tennessee Experience

- ▶ Identified gaps in statewide response for immigrant domestic and sexual violence survivors
- ▶ Developed a specialized legal services program to provide advocacy for immigrant survivors and technical assistance to domestic violence programs and systems responders



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Enhancing our Statewide Response

- ▶ How do we include the experiences of marginalized, underserved, and unserved survivors in our state planning process?
- ▶ Do immigrant and refugee communities feel safe and welcomed in our local domestic violence programs? If not, what kind of training and/or technical assistance is needed?
- ▶ Does our state provide specific funding for services to marginalized communities, specifically services to and for immigrant and refugee survivors.

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Enhancing Our Statewide Response

- ▶ What kind of systems reform is needed to ensure that immigrant and refugee survivors in my state have access to a culturally informed systems response?
- ▶ Are immigrant and refugee survivors aware of their right to access domestic violence services? How do we ensure that immigrant and refugee survivors are made aware of their legal rights?

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