

2010

Breaking Barriers

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault from Immigrant Communities

*A special information packet
produced by*



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CALIFORNIA COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Preface

Breaking Barriers: Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault from Immigrant Communities is part of a series of information packets produced by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA). These information packets were first published in 2001, but have been recently updated to reflect changes that have occurred in the sexual assault intervention and prevention field and in our general society.

CALCASA is a statewide association, based in Sacramento, CA, that provides leadership, vision, and resources to rape crisis centers, individuals, and other entities committed to ending sexual violence. Founded in 1980, CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote advocacy, training, public policy and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault and rape. For more information, please visit CALCASA's website at www.calcasa.org or call (916) 446-2520 or email at info@calcasa.org.

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Introduction

Migration to the United States is a complex reality based on political, economic, social, and cultural causes with transformative consequences. Sexual victimization which occurs before, during, and/or after migration can have a devastating impact on the lives of those affected, primarily women and children.

This document seeks to identify some of the critical issues affecting immigrant victims of sexual violence and to provide advocates with information, resources and tools to address them. Immigration law is complex and always changing; therefore, it is crucial that advocates develop partnerships with immigration experts and attorneys.

The consequences of not having the most current legal information could be harsh and could result in a survivor being swiftly deported, now called “removed”, from the U.S. If a survivor is removed in this way, it may permanently affect their ability to enter later or prevent them from ever gaining legal immigration status in the U.S. A sexual assault survivor should always be referred to an immigration attorney and/or community legal service center and should never be referred directly to any of the government immigration bureaus.

The government agency that had authority over all non citizens was commonly known as INS, or the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). After September 11, 2001, the U.S. created a new, Cabinet-level government agency, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS took over almost all of the functions of the former INS and reorganized them under three new bureaus. The new bureaus are:

- **Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)**, which provides immigration-related services and benefits such as lawful permanent residence, naturalization and work authorization (<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>)
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**, which investigates and enforces federal immigration laws, customs laws, and air security laws (<http://www.ice.gov/>)
- **Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**, which is responsible for the borders. (<http://www.cbp.gov>)

Recent immigrants are a diverse population with varied backgrounds. They are a very vulnerable population to sexual violence and abuse. Recent immigrants are often isolated in their home or community and may be unaware of services that exist for sexual assault survivors. Immigrants may not have legal documentation to be in the country and therefore may be legitimately afraid of going to the police if an assault has occurred. They may also be dependent on an abusive partner or family member for their legal documentation. These factors can create an imbalance of power for many immigrants, and put them at higher risk for sexual violence.

Immigrants also face cultural and language barriers in accessing services. Many agencies and businesses only provide services in English and a “one size fits all” approach to services. Therefore, it is necessary for rape crisis centers to provide culturally relevant and linguistically competent assistance. Many immigrants also suffer sexual violence as part of their migration experience, either at the hands of government officials (e.g., border, customs, etc) or as victims of sex trafficking.

Many immigrants and refugees have also experienced trauma and torture prior to arriving in the United States, memories of which may be triggered by subsequent sexual violence. Their recovery from sexual violence will be affected by their experiences as an immigrant and by their knowledge (or lack thereof) of resources available to them. The resources and information in this packet will help rape crisis centers to address the specific and unique issues that survivors of sexual assault with immigration issues face. This packet does not mean to make generalizations about communities or prescribe a rigid formula for services in immigrant communities; rather, it suggests collaborating closely with organizations that serve these communities to make rape crisis center services culturally accessible.

Background Information on Immigration

Facts About Immigration in the United States

- There are 214 million estimated migrants in the world today and women account for 49% of global migrants.¹
- According to the 2009 American Community Survey, there were 38.5 million foreign-born individuals, representing 12.5 percent of the 307 million people living in the U.S.²
- You may be surprised to know, the United States receives less than 2% of the world's migrants on an annual basis.
- About 75% of immigrants enter the United States legally according to the National Immigration Forum. Other sources estimate that only 15% of immigrants enter the U.S. illegally.
- In 2009, over half (53 percent) of all foreign born people were from Latin America and another 28 percent were from Asia. The next largest group was the foreign born individuals from Europe—representing 13 percent of all foreign born. About 4 percent of the foreign born were from Africa, followed by about 3 percent from other regions, including North America.
- Of the immigrants coming from Asia, 2 million were from China, comprising over 5 percent of the total foreign-born population. The remaining largest country-of birth groups, with about 1 million foreign born each, included the Philippines, India, Vietnam, El Salvador, Korea, and Cuba.
- California is the number one state of intended residence for immigrants entering the United States. (9.9 million) total population. Over one-fourth (27 percent) of all people of California are foreign born.

Within these communities from various countries, there is, of course, also diversity in regard to socio-economic class, culture, language, rural or urban identification, racial identity, ability/disability, and sexual identity/orientation. This diverse group of

¹ United Nations' Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/migration>

² Gibson, Campbell and Kay Jung. 2006. "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1850 to 2000." U.S. Census Bureau: Population Division Working Paper, Number 81 <www.census.gov/population/www/techpap.html>.

immigrants and refugees are part of every community in California. Rape crisis centers will encounter complex communities with multiple needs.

Rape crisis centers will also encounter anti-immigrant bias in their community and perhaps even with their volunteers, board, or staff. This anti-immigrant climate is reflected in harsh legislation and policies that target immigrants, and those perceived to be immigrants, and limit their ability to access services and exercise personal rights. Although, some California cities moved to boycott Arizona's new immigration law, commonly known as SB 1070, several cities have recently passed tough new anti-immigrant laws of their own.³

Further, there is a current Department of Homeland Security's immigration enforcement program known as 287(g), in which local law enforcement agencies agree to enforce immigration laws. The program allows police officers to be trained in federal immigration laws and deputizes them to enforce them. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently issued a report analyzing the 287 (g) program and raising concerns about its failure to focus on non-U.S. citizens who pose a threat to public safety as well as about rampant civil liberties violations.⁴

Another new program, Secure Communities, establishes a technological presence by requiring that any arrested immigrant's fingerprints be entered into FBI and US's Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) databases. If there is record of any immigration violation, ICE and local law enforcement are immediately notified. This can immediately put someone into removal proceedings.

Although every Californian is not in agreement about immigration law reform, rape crisis center staff must approach the issue as one of human rights – survivors of sexual assault deserve justice, support and advocacy no matter what their country of origin or immigration status. So it is important for advocates to remain connected to immigration organizations, experts and attorneys.

Important Terms and Definitions

This packet contains a basic glossary of terms related to immigration status. A few of the most important terms will be defined here, as they will be used throughout the packet.

According to U.S. law, an immigrant is a foreign-born individual who has been admitted to reside permanently in the United States as a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR). A "**noncitizen**" means any person in the U.S. who is not a U.S. citizen, whether the person has legal immigration documents or not.

An **undocumented immigrant** is a person who is present in the United States without the permission of the U.S. government. Undocumented immigrants may enter the U.S. without being inspected by an immigration officer, or by using false documents. Others enter the U.S. with a temporary visa, and then remain or overstay their visa beyond the expiration date. Undocumented immigrant/person is the preferred term, rather than illegal alien.

³ <http://www.californiareport.org/archive/R201007300850/b>

⁴ <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/LocalLaw/ice-access-2009-11-05.pdf> Overview of the key ICE Access Programs 287(g), the Criminal Alien Program, and Secure Communities (November 2009)

Asylum – An individual can be granted asylum if she is present in the United States and otherwise meets the definition of a refugee. Once a person has entered the U.S. they may seek asylum, either at the time of their entry or at the time of their deportation or removal. It is presumed that asylum seekers have fled personal danger in their home country and have entered the U.S. in search of safety and protection. They must be able to prove that he or she is “unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, based on the person’s race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”

Courts have employed a more expansive definition of what constitutes a particular social group, including gender-based violence, such as female genital mutilation and domestic violence, as sufficient grounds for asylum. Courts have also been more willing to recognize persecution based on sexual identity/orientation and there have been increasingly more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or HIV-positive (“LGBTQ/H”) asylum cases.⁵ Once granted asylum, the person is called an “asylee.”

Asylum is a risky, complex and time-consuming process that requires the assistance of a qualified immigration attorney.

A **refugee** is a person outside of the United States who seeks protection on the grounds that he or she fears persecution in his or her homeland. Refugees are in a special category of immigrant. To obtain refugee status, a person must prove that he or she has a “well-founded fear of persecution” on the basis of at least one of five specifically enumerated and internationally recognized grounds. Those grounds include the person’s race, religion, membership in a social group, political opinion, or national origin.

Both refugees and asylees may apply to become lawful permanent residents after one year.

A **non-immigrant** is an individual who is permitted to enter the U.S. for a period of limited duration. Non-immigrants include: students, tourists, temporary workers, business executives, diplomats, artists and entertainers, and reporters.

A **lawful permanent resident** is a non-U.S. citizen who enters the U.S. with an immigrant visa or who has achieved permanent status after entering. They are entitled to live and work in the U.S. and collect benefits, if categorically qualified.

Lawful permanent residents are eligible to apply for U.S citizenship through a process called **naturalization**. To qualify for naturalization, applicants must reside in the U.S. for five years (three if they are married to a U.S. citizen) without having committed any serious crimes, show that they have paid their taxes and are of “good moral character,” and demonstrate a knowledge of U.S. history and government as well as an ability to understand, speak, and write ordinary English.

Removal (formerly known as “Exclusion and Deportation”) is the process by which DHS can stop noncitizens from entering or staying in the U.S. DHS may prevent noncitizens from entering the U.S. if they find they are “inadmissible,” as defined by the immigration statute. **For this reason, it is extremely important that qualified immigration attorneys and community legal centers be contacted whenever a person without**

⁵ Winning Asylum, Withholding and CAT Cases Based on sexual orientation, Transgender Identity and/or HIV Positive Status http://www.immigrationequality.org/manual_template.php?pageid=1036

legal documentation has the possibility of being reported to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Immigration Proceedings - All noncitizens inside the U.S. have the right to an immigration hearing. It is important for noncitizens arrested by DHS to assert their right to a hearing because immigration proceedings are like trials. An immigration judge presides over the hearing, a government attorney represents DHS, and the noncitizen has the right to a lawyer, although not at the government's expense. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) reviews all appeals from immigration judge decisions.⁶

(Note regarding language: Although the legal term referring to any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States is "alien", advocacy groups and others, i.e. such as US Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor⁷, prefer to use the term undocumented immigrant as it is humanizing and less offensive).

Types of Visas

Non-immigrant Visas – These are temporary visas issued to persons for specific purposes; examples include employment, diplomatic, business, tourist, and student visas. The numerous types of non-immigrant visas are designated by a letter and number that correspond to the section of U.S. immigration law where they are defined, U-Visa and H-1B Visa are examples.

Immigrant Visas – If a person desires to reside in the U.S. permanently, they must apply for an immigrant visa. Certain family members or an employer can sponsor immigrants to permanently immigrate to the U.S. One can also obtain lawful permanent resident status through a "green card" lottery by being selected in this random drawing for a diversity visa.

Two groups of family based immigrant visa categories, including immediate relatives and family preference categories, are provided under the provisions of United States immigration law, specifically the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Most categories of visas are available in limited numbers every year. Each year there are 480,000 visas available for family members.

1) Immediate Relative Immigrant Visas (Unlimited): These visa types are based on a close family relationship with a United States (U.S.) citizen described as an Immediate Relative (IR). The number of immigrants in these categories is not limited each fiscal year. Immediate relative visa types include the spouse of a U.S. citizen, an unmarried child under 21 years of age of a U.S. citizen, the parent of a U.S. citizen who is at least 21 years old or children adopted abroad by U.S. citizens.

2) Family Preference Immigrant Visas (Limited): These visa types are for specific, more distant, family relationships with a U.S. citizen and some specified relationships with a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR). There are fiscal year numerical limitations on family

⁶Immigration Law Overview. Gail Pendleton (2004) Gail Pendleton is Associate Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild and Co-Chair of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women

⁷ Justice Sotomayor's opinion in the case, Mohawk Industries v. Carpenter, No. 08-678, marked the first use of the term "undocumented immigrant Justice Sotomayor's opinion in the case, Mohawk Industries v. Carpenter, No. 08-678, marked the first use of the term "undocumented immigrant

preference immigrants, shown at the end of each category. The family preference categories are limited to 226,000 per fiscal year.⁸

Additionally, there are 140,000 employment-based visas per year. There are presently 50,000 diversity visas per year, available through the “green card” lottery. This lottery is used to offset the entrance of immigrants from countries deemed to be “high admission” countries in the other visa categories. “Low admission” countries are those that have few applications in the other immigration visa categories – residents of these countries are eligible for the “green card” lottery so that the pool of new immigrants will represent a diverse number of nations.

Legal Protections for Survivors of Sexual Assault Without Legal Documentation

T Visa – The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 created the T visa – to assist victims of trafficking. T visas are available to persons who are victims of “a severe form of trafficking in persons.” Severe forms of trafficking include sex trafficking of persons under 18 years of age, or recruiting or obtaining persons for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, coercion “for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”

To qualify for a T visa, applicants must demonstrate that they are or have been the victim of a “severe form of trafficking in persons;” are physically present in the United States, Samoa, the Mariana Islands, or a port of entry; would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm if they were removed from the United States; and have complied with any reasonable request for assistance in a trafficking investigation or prosecution, or are less than 15 years old.

An important factor in the T visa application is that the applicant must have contact with a law enforcement agency. This agency must be a federal law enforcement agency; therefore, local and state law enforcement agencies must contact a federal law enforcement agency in order for a T visa to be granted. A qualified immigration attorney should be contacted for information about obtaining the T visa.

U Visa - Another important type of non-immigrant visa for rape crisis centers to be aware of is the U visa. As of October 28, 2000, the U visa is available in cases of “certain serious crimes that tend to target vulnerable foreign individuals without immigration status; if the victim has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as the result of a crime, the victim has information about the crime, and a law enforcement official or a judge certifies that the victim has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful in investigating or prosecuting a crime.”⁹

The U visa is important because the fear of deportation (removal) keeps many survivors of sexual assault from reporting to police. Perpetrators of sexual violence may threaten deportation as a consequence of the survivor’s reporting. The U visa covers many violent crimes including, rape, incest, prostitution, slave trade, kidnapping, false imprisonment, domestic violence, abusive sexual contact, female genital mutilation, sexual assault, trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

⁸ U.S. Department of State (http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1306.html#1)

⁹ The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 Section by Section Summary, Vol. 146, No. 126 Congressional Record, 106th Congress Second Session, Wednesday October 11, 2000, S10196.

U visas require the cooperation of the survivor in the investigation and prosecution of the crime and application for the U visa must include a certification from a criminal justice system official. The case does not have to result in a conviction; it can be dismissed or dropped and the survivor may still qualify for the U visa. Persons with or without legal documentation may be eligible to apply for the U visa. USCIS can only grant U visa status to 10,000 noncitizens in each fiscal year. This number does not include persons eligible for U visa derivatives status – e.g. spouses, children or parents of applicants. Contact a qualified immigration attorney for information on how to apply for a U visa.

VAWA Self-Petitions - (This section of Breaking Barriers is reprinted with permission from “Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence: Cultural Challenges and Available Legal Protections” – Sudha Shetty, J.D. and Janice Kaguyutan. Although the title of this excerpt refers to domestic violence, the information is also pertinent to marital rape and family abuse cases. VAWA Self-petitions are only available to persons whose immigration status is dependent on an abusive partner or parent, thus sexual assault would be considered abuse and could indicate the use of a VAWA self-petition. Changes were not made to the original text of this section).

Under current immigration laws, a citizen or permanent resident spouse or parent may file an immigration petition known as a “relative petition” for certain family members so they may obtain permanent resident status in the United States (INA § 204, 8 U.S.C. § 1154 (a) (2001)). The citizen or permanent resident is the Petitioner and the immigrating family member is the Beneficiary. The Petitioner solely controls this process, deciding when or whether to file this relative petition. The relative petitions may be withdrawn at any moment, subject to the whims of the Petitioner. It is within this framework that VAWA self-petitions evolved. Under VAWA (1994), rather than rely on an abusive partner or parent, the victim family member can file a VAWA self-petition and obtain permanent resident status without the knowledge, cooperation or participation of the abusive partner.

In order to be eligible for this form of immigration relief, the battered immigrant must generally show she is a person of good moral character (e.g. no criminal record), that she married or was formerly married to the citizen or permanent resident spouse or former spouse in good faith, and that the citizen or permanent resident subjected her to battery or extreme cruelty. (INA § 204 a), 8 U.S.C. § 1154 (a) (2001)). The definition of battery or extreme cruelty is an immigration definition that includes physical or mental abuse (8 C.F.R. § 204.2(c)(vi)(2002)). Many victims of psychological abuse are eligible to apply for VAWA self-petitions. Further, under subsequent enactments to VAWA, certain battered immigrants who are divorced from their abusers, living abroad, or who married bigamist abusers who never divorced their first wife may be eligible to file VAWA self-petitions (VTVP, 2000). While this immigration provision does not provide all immigrants with access to legal immigration status, it does provide relief to those victims whom, but for the abuse, would have lawful immigration status through their spouse. A qualified immigration attorney should be contacted for filing a VAWA self-petition.

VAWA Cancellation of Removal (formerly Suspension of Deportation) - (This section of Breaking Barriers reprinted with permission from “Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence: Cultural Challenges and Available Legal Protections” – Sudha Shetty, J.D. and Janice Kaguyutan. Although the title of this excerpt refers to domestic violence, the information is also pertinent to sexual assault cases. VAWA Cancellation of Removal requires that the immigrant show that a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident battered them; sexual assault could be part of such a battery claim. Changes were not made to the original text of this section).

The VAWA cancellation of removal (INA § 240A(b)(2), 8 U.S.C. § 1229b(b)(2) (2001)) relief applies to victims who are presently in removal (deportation) proceedings before an immigration judge. In some cases, abusers have reported their undocumented spouses to the USCIS (formerly INS) and subsequently the battered immigrant is arrested and placed under removal proceedings for having unlawful status in the United States.

A person seeking VAWA cancellation of removal while under removal proceedings must demonstrate that she has resided continuously in the country for three years, she is a person of good moral character (e.g. no criminal record), she or her child would suffer extreme hardship if returned to her country, and she was subjected to battery or extreme cruelty by a citizen or lawful permanent resident. A grant of VAWA cancellation of removal by an immigration judge suspends deportation proceedings and affords a battered immigrant woman lawful permanent residence in the United States. A qualified immigration attorney should be contacted for information about obtaining the VAWA Cancellation of Removal.

Gender, sexism, and sexual assault as grounds for asylum - As previously discussed, immigrants or refugees that fear persecution in their country of origin request asylum. The persecution must be based on the refugee's religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The following is excerpted from the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies' "Background on Asylum and Gender Issues"¹⁰.

[The international definition of 'refugee' has been interpreted primarily in the context of male asylum-seekers, to the prejudice of women refugees. A classic image of a refugee is that of the male political dissident, e.g. Andrei Sakharov of the former Soviet Union, who was persecuted for denouncing totalitarianism. In such a case an adjudicator has little difficulty recognizing that the harm suffered amounts to persecution and that it was related to one of the five grounds.

The claims of women asylum-seekers often differ from those of men in several respects. First, women often suffer harms that are unique to their gender, such as female genital mutilation or forcible abortion. They also suffer harms that are more commonly inflicted upon women than men, such as rape or domestic violence. Second, women's claims differ from those of men in that they may suffer harms solely or exclusively because they are women, i.e., as a result of their gender (such as policies of the Taliban in Afghanistan). And third, women often suffer harm at the hands of private individuals (such as family members who threaten them with "honor killings" or abusive spouses who batter them), rather than governmental actors.]

Reviewers of such claims of asylum by women have been less likely to approve their claims, than those of men, often because the persecution women refugees claim is not recognized by reviewers¹¹. This inequality may result in the deportation of women who have been threatened with honor killing by their families and other such injustices. The United Nations and other agencies working for the rights of refugees have worked to change this attitude, and some progress has been made, particularly in the case of female genital mutilation.

¹⁰ <http://www.uchastings.edu/cgrs/documents/background.htm> - "Background on Gender & Asylum Issues"

¹¹ http://www.lchr.org/refugees/reports/refugee_women.pdf - "Refugee Women at Risk: Unfair Laws Hurt Asylum Seekers"

Since asylum is often claimed once deportation proceedings have begun, rape crisis centers should be especially vigilant in seeking out qualified legal counsel for survivors who claim asylum. Rape crisis centers can also refer survivors to attorneys specializing in asylum cases.

Dynamics of Sexual Assault and Immigration

Legal Status and the Effects on Sexual Assault Survivors

For immigrants that do not have legal documentation, deportation is a constant threat to their well-being and that of their family. Employers, family members, ICE Agents, or anyone who knows their immigration status may threaten to report a person who does not have legal documentation unless they comply with their demands. Sexual violence against persons without legal documentation is often accompanied by such threats and therefore often goes unreported. However, many agencies that survivors interact with do not inquire about immigration status (rape crisis centers should obtain information on the policies of their partner agencies) and there are also protections such as the U-Visa and VAWA exceptions that can assist persons without legal documentation who have been victims of crime if their status comes to the attention of the USCIS.

Sexual Assault by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officials

Immigrants trying to cross the U.S./Mexico border in California may experience sexual violence at the hands of ICE agents or other officials entrusted to enforce immigration laws. Human Rights Watch/Americas documented several cases of such abuse, including sexual assault, in their report, "Crossing the Line: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border with Mexico Persist Amid Climate of Impunity"¹². In many of the sexual assault cases cited in the report, ICE agents threatened to deport women immigrants who would not have sex with them. ICE agents not only patrol the border itself, but also have jurisdiction in communities throughout California to detain people and demand their legal documentation.

Because of this authority and the fear of deportation, agents are in a particularly powerful position over undocumented immigrants. It is difficult to know just how frequently these crimes are committed, as many undocumented immigrants who remain in the U.S. may be afraid to report them. According to the Human Rights Watch report, immigrants who were deported by ICE agents and reported the crimes to Mexican authorities rarely had the allegations investigated.

In addition, immigrants who are detained by the ICE are often held in local jails rather than special detentions facilities. In these local jails, immigrants are also at risk of sexual violence from other inmates or correctional officers. It is important for rape crisis centers to be aware of these potential human rights abuses that immigrants may have endured.

Trafficking

According to the Center for the Study of Intelligence Report, "International Trafficking in Women in the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime," "Trafficking of women and children for the sex industry and for labor is prevalent in all regions of the United States. An estimated 45,000 to 50,000 women and children

¹² Crossing the Line: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border with Mexico Persist Amid Climate of Impunity. Human Rights Watch. April 1995. Vol. 7, No. 4. ISBN: B704. www.hrw.org

are trafficked annually to the United States, primarily by small crime rings and loosely connected criminal networks. The trafficked victims have traditionally come from Southeast Asia and Latin America; however, increasingly they are coming from the New Independent States, and Central and Eastern Europe. Trafficking to the US is likely to increase given weak economies and few job opportunities in the countries of origin; low risk of prosecution and enormous profit potential for the traffickers.”

Trafficking in persons is one of the most profitable illegal activities in the United States, behind only drugs and guns, according to a Congressional Report¹³ on the subject. Trafficking is defined as all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale, or receipt of persons; within national or across international borders; through force, coercion, fraud or deception; to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, or other debt bondage¹⁴. Indeed, it is not just women in foreign countries who are at risk, women in rural areas of the United States and Canada are trafficked within the U.S. as well.

Victims of trafficking are who forced to enter the U.S. illegally are subject to the same threat of deportation/removal as other undocumented immigrants. It is often difficult to provide services to victims of trafficking because they may have little or no contact with the outside world until discovered by law enforcement or BCIS agents, at which point they face deportation/removal. Trafficking victims have special needs, specific to their experience. They may have especially acute mental health needs due to the extreme conditions in which they have lived. In addition, many trafficking victims have not learned English due to their isolation and will require culturally and linguistically competent translation and interpretation services. Also, separation from the group of women with whom they were held may cause great anxiety. Many victims of trafficking form tight bonds with the other women with whom they are held captive.

Rape crisis centers should collaborate with local agencies that serve refugees or victims of trafficking to identify the services that they may need from a rape crisis center. Cross training with these agencies is important; they can provide on-going training to staff and volunteers, and rape crisis center staff can share the services and programs available through the rape crisis center. Collaboration can also improve outreach and increase resource materials in languages other than English.

Immigration Issues for LGBTQ Immigrants

Until 1990, U.S. immigration law authorized the exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) immigrants, but today one cannot legally be denied entry to the U.S. on the basis of sexual orientation. However, sexual orientation may become a factor if one is applying for permanent residence because applicants must disclose all crimes they have committed, and in some countries, LGBTQ identity or same-sex sexual activity is considered a crime. In addition, LGBTQ immigrants can seek asylum based on their sexual orientation. However, the standard for winning asylum based on sexual orientation, as with most asylum requests, is difficult to meet. When rape crisis centers are working with LGBTQ survivors with immigration issues, it is

¹³ Congressional Research Service Report 98-649 C, “Trafficking in Women and Children: The U.S. and International Response”. U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, May 10, 2000.

¹⁴ Center for the Study of Intelligence, DCI Exceptional Intelligence Analyst Program, An Intelligence Monograph: “International Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime”. Amy O’Neill Richard. November, 1999. p. v.

important to contact a qualified immigration attorney to ensure that negative consequences do not occur as a result of reporting a sexual assault.

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force Fact Sheet: The Permanent Partners Immigration Act¹⁵ describes another important issue for LGBTQ immigrant survivors. “U.S. immigration is largely based on the principle of family unification, which allows U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their spouses (and other immediate family members) for immigration purposes. Same-sex partners of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, however, are not considered ‘spouses’ and cannot be sponsored by their partners for family-based immigration.” Because of this policy, LGBTQ survivors without legal immigration documentation may face threats of deportation by an abusive partner and may fear reporting a sexual assault. The Permanent Partner Immigration Act of 2003 is a bill that has been reintroduced this year to allow legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens to sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration to the U.S.

Rape crisis centers need to be aware of these challenges for LGBTQ survivors. Reporting a sexual assault may compromise their immigration status. Contacting a qualified immigration attorney is essential to assisting a survivor with immigration concerns.

HIV Positive Status and Immigration Law

It is also important for rape crisis centers to know that current U.S. immigration law denies entry to HIV positive persons. A person who is HIV positive will be refused a visa before entering the U.S. or be denied entry upon discovery of their HIV status. Of particular concern for rape crisis centers is the fact that an HIV positive survivor who is not a U.S. citizen and who leaves the United States for any reason may be denied re-entry to the United States if their HIV status is discovered. HIV positive survivors who are not U.S. citizens, who wish to leave the U.S., should consult an attorney familiar with immigration and HIV before leaving the country. Rape crisis centers should inquire about the BCIS reporting policies of their local HIV testing facilities to ensure that survivors without documentation who test HIV positive are not deported. Some waivers are available for HIV positive persons to enter the U.S. for special events and for 30-day visits.

Migrant Farmworkers and Sexual Assault

Sexual violence is a pervasive problem in the migrant farm worker community. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers often work in remote, isolated locations performing a variety of types of agricultural labor. Due to the nature of agricultural work, migrant and seasonal farmworkers have multiple risk factors that make them specifically vulnerable to sexual violence. A study by the Migrant Clinician’s Network found that 20% of 1,001 farmworker women surveyed experienced either physical or sexual abuse, 50% of those women were pregnant at the time of the abuse¹⁶. The San Francisco District Office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that, “hundreds, if not thousands of farmworker women were forced to have sex with supervisors to obtain or

¹⁵ Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force Fact Sheet: The Permanent Partners Immigration Act. 350 West 31st St., Suite 505. NY, NY 10011. www.lgirtf.org

¹⁶ www.migrantclinician.org/services/famvio.html - “MCN’s Domestic Violence Services”

¹⁷ William R. Tamayo , “The role of the EEOC in protecting the civil rights of farm workers,” 33 U.C. Davis L. REV. 1075, 1080

maintain employment. Additionally, women had to tolerate continual grabbing and touching and propositions for sex by supervisors."¹⁷

Farmworkers in general will not access mainstream rape crisis centers due to cultural taboos that exist around sexuality and sexual assault. Language and cultural barriers often prevent farmworkers from accessing services from other mainstream service providers. Lack of documentation, access to transportation and fear are some of the common reasons farmworkers give for not reporting or seeking help after a sexual assault. Sexual violence is commonly perpetrated with the threat of deportation or reporting, and migrant farmworkers may be unaware of their rights and services available to them. Rape crisis centers can assist by reaching out to local and regional farmworker organizations and bringing appropriate services into the migrant community.

Intervention Strategies

Rights of Survivors Living in the United States Without Legal Documentation

As previously stated, it is important for individual rape crisis centers to find out the particular policies of partner agencies in their communities. The following section discusses immigrants' legal rights. However, partner agencies may not be aware of these rights. Rape crisis centers can empower survivors with their rights and educate partner agencies as necessary. Immigrants should always carry with them the phone number of a qualified immigration attorney who will take their calls.

Every person in the United States, no matter what their documentation status, has the following rights afforded by the U.S. Constitution, including the right to remain silent (although exercising this right may make police suspicious), the right to be free from unreasonable searches (a warrant or consent must be obtained for searches), the right to freedom of speech.

However, the USCIS has the right to question and detain people who may be undocumented. Foreign nationals at the borders who are trying to enter the U.S. have additional restrictions and do not have all the same rights of citizens or immigrants living in the United States. Once the USCIS has been made aware of a person who does not have legal documentation, that person has the following rights:

- Right to a hearing before an immigration judge and review, in most cases, by a federal court;
- Right to representation by a lawyer (but not at government expense);
- Reasonable notice of charges, and of a hearing's time and place;
- Reasonable opportunity to examine the evidence and the government's witnesses;
- Competent interpretation for non-English speaking immigrants, and
- Clear and convincing proof that the government's grounds for deportation are valid.

How to Avoid Complications with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS, formerly INS)

Rape crisis centers, as advocacy organizations, can take a proactive approach and contact the agencies that they work with (law enforcement, District Attorney's Offices, hospitals, schools, social service agencies, etc.) and inquire as to what their policy is about contacting the USCIS when dealing with persons without legal documentation. With this information, rape crisis centers can refer survivors to agencies that will not

inquire about or report immigration status, thus creating a safe space for survivors of sexual assault without legal documentation and affording them the same right to confidentiality. Rape crisis center hotlines and community outreach programs should include such information to educate the immigrant community about their rights. Rape crisis centers are not required to inquire about immigration status.

Although many police departments have policies that claim they will not report undocumented victims of crime to USCIS, it is not a universal practice. Rape crisis centers should find out if their local law enforcement agencies have such a policy. If they do not, rape crisis centers can educate and encourage law enforcement agencies to not inquire about the documentation status of victims of sexual assault. This will lead to increased reporting by victims and improve community safety.

As a case moves through the criminal justice system, persons without legal documentation who are convicted of crimes will be deported, either immediately or upon completion of their sentence. In cases where the victim/survivor is related to the perpetrator (common in sexual assault cases) and also without legal documentation, it is possible that the USCIS may become aware of the victim/survivor's status and initiate deportation/removal proceedings. It is important for rape crisis centers to speak with their local District Attorney's office ahead of time to find out if this scenario could occur. Strategizing with the District Attorney's office on how to avoid this consequence of prosecution is important. Options include applying for the U visa or T visa and working with a qualified immigration attorney to begin the process of legal immigration status during the time that the criminal prosecution is taking place.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Reactions and Other Cultural Considerations

Some immigrants have come to the United States from countries where torture and other repressive measures are commonplace. This can discourage them from reporting a sexual assault, but also means that sexual assault may trigger memories of torture and abuse from the past. Immigrants may also have a pre-existing case of PTSD that resulted from torture or abuse in their home country. This is particularly important in the case of refugees who have been granted asylum based on persecution. The criminal justice process may also prove to be re-traumatizing to immigrants and refugees based on their prior experiences with criminal justice systems. Education about the rights afforded to survivors of sexual assault and the criminal justice process can help to improve the immigrant survivor's experience. In addition, many immigrant and refugee communities may not recognize PTSD or acknowledge the emotional impact of trauma. They may feel that dealing with emotional issues is a waste of time, or a sign of weakness.

Research in psychiatric illness in Southeast Asian refugees¹⁷ has shown that major depression and PTSD commonly occurred together. The research team's findings can prove useful to rape crisis centers in their treatment, service provision, and outreach to immigrants and refugees. The study found the following treatment strategies:

- Education: Teaching patients about the effects of trauma and the fact that the majority of those who undergo severe trauma will have symptoms helps patients feel more accepted. It helps breakdown their self-perceived stigma of being crazy.

¹⁷ Boehnlein, James K., M.D., M.Sc., & J. David Kinzie, M.D. – "Psychiatric Treatment of Southeast Asian Refugees", NCP Quarterly 6(1): Winter 1996.

- Symptomatic relief of comorbid conditions and reduction of intrusive symptoms: Depression is often present with PTSD. We have good experience with tricyclic antidepressants and serotonin reuptake inhibitors. With the reduction of depression, nightmares and sleep disorders often improve. We have found that clonidine often reduces irritability, startle reactions, and nightmares.
- Reduction of other stresses: Having the resources and staff to insure adequate finances, housing, and medical care gives great security to patients and reduces anxiety about the realistic concerns refugees often face.
- Supportive Psychotherapy: Predictable, empathic, reality-based ongoing psychotherapy with a psychiatrist every one to three months is a central element of our treatment model. Continued contact and appreciation of the refugee's experience and discussion of current issues and stresses are very affirming and comforting to patients. Treatment sessions often include spouses and family members.
- Socialization Groups: Group activities (led by Southeast Asian born mental health counselors) have been very useful in providing patients with a sense of community and shared experiences. These usually are bi-cultural, including activities from the culture of origin, such as New Year's celebration, and sharing in American events such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. Practical matters of transportation, insurance, housing, and learning English are often discussed.
- Indochinese [Southeast Asian] Socialization Center: At a separate location, a socialization center has been developed to provide increased social activities and an expanded experience with American volunteers. This has been a popular activity with sharing of cultural traditions, and now has expanded to include vocational rehabilitation and job training.
- Refugee opportunities to give back and participate: Throughout the treatment program, the refugees contributed in many ways. All the groups offer ethnic meals to the hospital staff at times of their culture of origin's New Year's or other celebrations. Several groups (particularly Mien) make craft items, such as embroidery, that represent their culture to the community. An advisory board for the Socialization Center includes many refugee members.¹⁸

Prevention Strategies for Immigrant and Refugee Communities

Culturally Appropriate Terminology

No matter what type of outreach or in which immigrant community, it is important that rape crisis centers collaborate with key members of the immigrant community to determine culturally appropriate terminology regarding sexual violence. Rape or sexual assault may not be words that exist in some languages. Finding the correct terminology for sexual violence will improve reception in the community and make communication easier. The concept of sexual violence is approached in multiple ways by different cultures. There is no correct approach and rape crisis center staff must work closely with members of the community to determine what terms are appropriate, otherwise outreach efforts will be completely ineffective (see section below on "Identifying Key Community

¹⁸ Boehnlein, James K., M.D., M.Sc., & J. David Kinzie, M.D. – "Psychiatric Treatment of Southeast Asian Refugees", NCP Quarterly 6(1): Winter 1996.

Leaders”). Outreach efforts can then be tailored to individual communities. For example, having a sexual assault survivor support group for members of a particular community may not work because the stigma associated with the issue would deter people from attending. Organizing a cooking group or craft circle that focuses on sexual violence issues may be more effective. Another example is “personal safety” rather than “self-defense” classes. The term “self-defense” may not be culturally appropriate in some communities. Thus, it is important for rape crisis centers to learn about the communities where they want to do outreach from members of the communities themselves.

Migrant Farmworkers

Because of the unique needs and transitional nature of the migrant farmworker community, migrant farmworker-specific health care programs are often established. Developing a relationship with local agencies such as these that are already connected to the migrant farmworker is a good first step in developing rape prevention education; some of these agencies are listed in the Resources section of this packet. It is important that presentations be linguistically appropriate and culturally relevant. Many farmworker communities speak Spanish or another indigenous language. It may be possible to work with health care providers to provide competent translation and interpretation or contact one of the translation/interpretation resources listed in this packet. It is important that your presentation reflects the cultural values and the challenges faced by migrant farmworkers if you want to develop meaningful and relevant sexual violence prevention efforts that are acceptable in this community. Be sure to include information about legal rights and relief for battered immigrants and survivors of sexual assault.

Refugee and Immigrant Service Agencies

There are many service agencies that work directly with assisting new refugees and immigrants. They often provide English classes, case management, life skills courses, or other programs designed to help new immigrants become integrated to their new communities. Rape crisis centers can partner with these agencies to provide practical information to new immigrants about rape prevention in a special session or class. Rape crisis centers can assist these agencies in including rape prevention in their orientation activities. Refugee and immigrant service agencies also have expert knowledge about cultural issues surrounding immigration and refugees that can be shared with rape crisis center staff and volunteers at their human relations training.

Immigration Attorneys and Legal Assistance Centers

Contacting qualified immigration attorneys is a necessary component of working with any survivor of sexual assault who is undocumented. Rape crisis centers should work proactively to contact such attorneys and legal assistance programs in their community to share information about rape prevention and the rights of survivors of sexual assault. Contacting these attorneys will also help rape crisis centers determine appropriate referral listings for their rape crisis counselors and advocates.

Schools

As part of the rape prevention presentations already being provided in your community’s schools, include information about the legal relief available for survivors of sexual assault without documentation. Students in the class may either be undocumented themselves or know someone who can benefit from this information. Educating the community about these issues will help to raise awareness and encourage survivors to

contact rape crisis centers. Information in this packet also dispels some of the myths and stereotypes about immigrants and refugees that may surface in a school setting. Presenting this information in an interactive way will change attitudes, and lead to a community more accepting and supportive of immigrants and refugees.

English as a Second Language

Many new immigrants and refugees are interested in learning English. Some centers have had success in offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at their centers. Along with fundamental English language skills, rape crisis centers can provide lessons on sexual violence terminology and rape prevention. ESL classes may also be offered at other community agencies. Rape crisis centers can partner with these agencies to provide a lesson on rape prevention during their classes.

Non-written Materials

Because many new immigrants and refugees are just learning English, their ability to read prevention materials in English may be limited. Rape crisis centers should explore alternative means of providing rape prevention education. Fotonovelas are comic books in Spanish that discuss social and health issues. They typically tell a story that illustrates a concise prevention message. Creating pictorial brochures in any language will take time, but will allow rape crisis centers to reach a wider audience, persons with limited English, limited reading ability, persons with developmental disabilities, and visual learners. The CALCASA Rape Prevention Resource Center Library houses publications that provide pictorial descriptions of sexual violence issues.

Identifying Key Community Leaders

As with any community a rape crisis center works with, identifying and collaborating with key leaders will provide multiple benefits. In the immigrant and refugee community, this may be a long-time resident of the United States or someone who was a leader in their home country. This key leader provides mentoring and guidance to newcomers. Developing an ally relationship with such a leader will help rape crisis centers gain credibility in the community. It will also provide insight and knowledge to the rape crisis center about cultural competency in a particular community. These leaders can help rape crisis centers access community meetings to speak about their services and the legal rights of sexual assault survivors.

Cultural Competency/Relevance

Creating cultural competency with immigrant and refugee communities can be a daunting task considering the diversity of cultures involved. However, it is an effort that will provide improved services to survivors in many ways. The best way to begin the process is to make contact with key leaders in the community. Perhaps there is a member of this community already active in your rape crisis center. Once a connection has been made, learn as much as possible about the community in a respectful way, by participating and engaging in long-term, collaborative relationships with them. As rape crisis centers build partnerships and gather information from agencies already serving immigrants and refugees, invite representatives to share their experiences at on-going trainings and other events. Respectfully solicit information from key leaders about how to make services culturally competent and accessible to different groups.

Media Outlets

Many communities have media sources that are specific to their language and community. Local cable access, newspapers, and radio have multilingual programming that reaches immigrants and refugees. Be proactive and contact these media agencies with public service announcements and information about your agency and events, in addition to responding to specific requests from the media. Stations are often eager to cover sexual violence as a topic; rape crisis centers should ensure that media contacts are fulfilling their strategic media plan.

Faith Communities

Many immigrant and refugee communities continue to participate in the faith community of their country of origin. Churches, temples, and mosques often have ongoing groups for members that invite speakers on various topics. Contacting local faith leaders with information about your agency and sharing with them the importance of rape prevention education will build trust over time. Many immigrants and refugees also receive various social services through the faith community that can be a primary point of outreach.

Unions and Workers Rights Organizations

Many unions and workers rights organization focus on immigrants and their rights. Rape crisis centers can inform this process by discussing the rights of workers to a violence and harassment-free workplace. Contact local unions and workers rights organizations to see if they have an initiative aimed at persons without documentation. The United Farmworkers Union, for example, has been an active association in improving the lives of migrant farmworkers for decades. Organizations like these could be powerful partners in spreading a rape prevention message.

Opportunities to Share Cultural Experiences

Recent immigrants and refugees are usually struggling with acculturation to American culture. During that process, immigrants and refugees can feel that the wider community does not value their culture of origin. Rape crisis centers can sponsor events (such as community fairs, potlucks, or picnics) in which immigrant and refugee communities can present crafts, foods, and information about their culture of origin. Not only will these events validate the experiences of immigrants and refugees and encourage partnerships with these communities, they will increase the cultural competency of rape crisis center staff and volunteers.

Spread the Word

Distribute rape crisis center brochures and materials in as many languages as possible to strategic points of contact with refugees and immigrants. ICE stations, refugee services agencies, legal aid assistance centers, immigration attorneys, consulates, and migrant farmworker agencies are all excellent places to reach immigrants and refugees with your center's services and rape prevention message.

Conclusion

The Immigration and Naturalization Services was absorbed by the United States Department of Homeland Security in March 2003, nearly two years after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Due to the events of that day, issues of legal documentation and immigration have gained a place in the spotlight of anti-terrorism efforts. Enforcement efforts and deportations have increased dramatically. Vigilance in protecting the rights of survivors without legal documentation, helping them to report the crimes committed against them, and providing rape crisis center services is more important now than ever.

Rape crisis centers provide important and necessary services to survivors of sexual assault. For survivors who are immigrants and refugees to this country, the assistance, guidance, and support that rape crisis centers provide are especially important. Rape prevention in the immigrant and refugee community is necessary to decrease the number of people victimized. Meaningful collaboration with immigration assistance centers and cultural organizations is highly important. Through the information in this packet, rape crisis centers will be instrumental in removing the barriers to justice for immigrant and refugee survivors of sexual assault.

APPENDIX A:

RESOURCES

TRAUMA AND TORTURE SERVICE PROVIDERS:

The following resources contain information on counseling that is specific to immigrants and refugees who have experienced political torture. We encourage you to contact these agencies to obtain specialized information on immigrants and refugees who have experienced torture.

Survivors of Torture International
P.O. Box 151240
San Diego, CA 92175
(619) 278-2407
www.notorture.org

Center for Survivors of Torture
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
2400 Moorpark Avenue Ste 300
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 975-2750
<http://www.aaci.org>

Survivors International of Northern California
447 Sutter Street, #811
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 765-6999
www.survivorsintl.org

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Torture Survivors Legal Assistance Project
5228 E. Whittier Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(213) 640-3921
www.lafla.org

Program for Torture Victims
3655 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 290
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4356
(213) 747-4944
www.ptvla.org

The Center for Justice and Accountability
870 Market Street, Suite 684
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 544-0444
www.cja.org

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION RESOURCES:

Translators and interpreters can be utilized to assist with counseling and publications.

Northern California Translation Agency – (510) 845-8712

www.ncta.org - This website has a searchable database that can be searched to find translators throughout Northern California.

Southern California Area Translation and Interpretation Agency – (818) 725-3899

www.scatia.org - This website has a list of individual and corporate members who can provide translation and interpretation services.

AT&T Language Line – 1-800-752-0093, ext. 441

www.languageline.com - AT&T offers a language line that can provide translation in more than 140 languages. They have packages for frequent users. They can also translate documents.

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS AND AGENCIES:

Throughout this packet, reference has been made to locating and using the resources of a qualified immigration attorney. The following resources will assist rape crisis centers in doing that.

These agencies are recognized and accredited by the USCIS. They provide free or low-cost legal assistance and are officially accredited to represent immigrants at USCIS hearings. (Non-accredited agencies cannot represent immigrants at USCIS hearings or proceedings). Lawyers whose licenses are in good standing are eligible to represent clients in any legal proceeding, including USCIS hearings. However, not all lawyers have knowledge and experience with immigration issues. The law offices on the following list provide free and low-cost services and have expertise in the immigration field:

National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women		
Co-chaired by: www.immigrantwomennetwork.org		
<p>Legal Momentum Immigrant Women Program 1522 K Street, N.W. Suite 550 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 326-0040 iwp@legalmomentum.org</p>	<p>Family Violence Prevention Fund 383 Rhode Island St., Suite 304 San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 252-8900 leni@endabuse.org</p>	<p>ASISTA Immigration Technical Assistance Project 515 28th Street Des Moines, IA 50312 (515) 244-2469 questions@asistaonline.org</p>

Catholic Social Service of Solano
40 Eldridge Street
Vacaville, CA 95688-6800
(707) 453-0844
www.ccssolano.org

Catholic Social Service of Solano
125 Corporate Place, Ste A
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 644-8909
www.ccssolano.org

Central American Resource Center
3101 Mission St., Ste #101
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 642-4400
www.carecensf.org

Coastside Hope - Opportunity Center, Inc.
99 Avenue Alhambra
P.O. Box 1089
El Granada, CA 94018
(650) 726-9071
www.coastsidehope.org

Filipino Advocates for Justice
(formerly Filipinos for Affirmative Action)
310 8th Street, Suite #306
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 465-9876

31080 Union City Blvd. #104
Union City, CA 94587
(510) 487-8552
www.filipinos4action.org

International Institute of the East Bay/Alameda County
415 14th St
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 451-2846
www.iibayarea.org

International Institute of San Francisco
657 Mission Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 538-8111
www.iibayarea.org

International Rescue Committee – San Francisco
965 Mission Street, #218
San Francisco, CA 94103-2965
(415) 863-3777
www.theirc.org/us-program-us-san-francisco-ca

Catholic Charities Diocese of Santa Rosa
P.O. Box 4900
987 Airway Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 528-8712
www.srcharities.org
Email: info@srcharities.org

Jewish Family and Children's Services/San Francisco Committee for Service to Emigres
Miriam Schultz Grunfeld Professional Building
2150 Post St.
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 449-1200
www.jfcs.org
E-mail: admin@jfcs.org

Catholic Charities of the East Bay/ Diocese of Oakland
433 Jefferson Street
Oakland, CA 94607-3592
(510) 768-3100
www.cceb.org

Catholic Charities of the East Bay/ Diocese of Oakland
Alameda County
403 Jefferson St
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 261-1538
www.cceb.org
Email: mail@cceb.org

Catholic Charities of the East Bay/ Diocese of Oakland
Contra Costa County
Davis-Viet Senior Center
1651 Folsom Avenue (17th Street)
San Pablo CA 04806
(925) 825-8550
www.cceb.org

La Raza Centro Legal, Inc.
474 Valencia Street, Suite 295
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 575-3500
www.lcrl.org

Catholic Charities of San Francisco
240 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 345-8377
www.ccasf.org

Canal Community Alliance
91 Larkspur Street
San Rafael, CA 94901-4820
(415) 454-2640
www.canalalliance.org
Contact@canalliance.org

California Human Development Corp.
3315 Airway Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 566-3965
www.chdcorp.org

Mission Community Legal Defense, Inc.
2940 16th Street, Suite 301
San Francisco, CA 95203-
(415) 552-3910

World Relief
20394 San Miguel Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 583-9117
www.wr.org

Asian Law Caucus
55 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 896-1701
www.asianlawcaucus.org
Email: alc@asianlawcaucus.org

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
131 Stewart Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 543-9444
www.lccr.com
Email: info@lccr.com

Community Legal Services (Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County)
480 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95103-0103
(408) 998-5200
www.legalaidsociety.org
E-mail: info@legalaidsociety.org

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
2625 Zanker Rd., Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95134-2107
(408) 468-0100
www.ccsj.org

Asian Law Alliance
184 E. Jackson Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 287-9710
www.asianlawalliance.org

East San Jose Community Law Center
1030 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126-3141
(408) 288-7030
www.scu.edu

Catholic Charities - Immigration
South County Office
7950 Church Street
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 842-9175
www.catholiccharitiessscc.org

Center for Employment Training
701 Vine Street 2nd Floor
San Jose, CA 95110-3141
(408) 287-7924
www.cetweb.org
E-mail: info@cet2009.org

International Institute of San Mateo
2600 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 556-1645
www.iibayarea.org

International Rescue Committee – San Jose
1460 Koll Circle Ste 107
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 453-3536
E-mail: SanJose@theIRC.org
www.theirc.org/us-program/us-san-jose-ca/

Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey
P O Box 2048
Monterey, CA 93942
(831) 373-4345
www.dioceseofmonterey.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey
1705 Second Avenue
Salinas, CA 93905-2541
(831) 373-4345
www.dioceseofmonterey.org

Catholic Community Services, Inc.
Diocese of Sacramento
2110 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818-2541
(916) 733-0258

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
1901 Alhambra Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 736-0616
<http://ccwro.org/>

Immigration Law Clinic
University of California, Davis
King Hall, School of Law
400 Mrak Hall Drive
Davis, CA 95616-5201
(530) 752-0243
www.law.ucdavis.edu

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
9241 E. Valley Blvd., Suite 104
Rosemead, CA 91770
(213) 251-3400
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
4322 San Fernando Rd
Glendale, CA 91204
(213) 251-3400; (818) 502-2002
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Archdiocese of Los Angeles – Main Office
1531 James M. Wood Blvd.
P.O. Box 15095-0095
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 251-3400
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Mahar House Center
1115 Mahar Avenue
Wilmington, CA 90660
(562) 9494-0937
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Regional Office
123 E. 14th Street
Long Beach, CA 90813
(562) 591-4351
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Santa Rosa Community Center
511 Kalisher Street
San Fernando, CA 91340
(8181)365-3194
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
St. Margaret's Center
10217 Inglewood Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90304
(310) 672-2208
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Toberman Settlement House
131 Grand Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731
(213) 251-3400
www.catholiccharitiesla.org

Catholic Charities of Orange County
1820 E 16th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 347-9600
www.ccoc.org

Central American Resource Center
2845 W. 7th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 385-7800
www.carecen-la.org

Chabad Lubavitch Russian Synagogue
7636 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90046-6409
(323) 848-2999
www.chabad.org

Chinese Life Lutheran Church
433 North Atlantic Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 570-4327
www.clicia.org

Channel Counties Legal Services
250 Citrus Grove Lane, Ste 210
Oxnard, CA 93032-1228
(805) 487-6531
www.dca.ca.gov

Coachella Valley Immigration Service and Assistance
934 Vella Road
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 327-1579

El Concilio del Condado de Ventura
301 South C Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 486-9777
www.elconcilioventura.org

El Rescate Legal Services, Inc.
1501 West 8th Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 387-3284
(Accepts collect calls Mondays between 1:00-5:00p.m.)
www.elrescate.org

International Institute of Los Angeles
3845 Selig Place
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(323) 224-3800
or
14701 Friar Street
Van Nuys, CA 91411
(818) 988-1332 or 1333
www.iilosangeles.org

International Rescue Committee – Los Angeles
425 E Colorado Street, Ste 550
Glendale CA 91205
(818) 550-6220
www.theirc.org

International Rescue Committee – San Diego
5348 University Ave
San Diego, CA 92105
(619) 641-7510
www.theirc.org

Catholic Charities
Immigration and Refugee Services
1450 N “D” Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405-4739
(909) 388-1239
<http://www.sacredheartrc.com/>

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 1510
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(877) ASK 4 JFS
(323) 651-5573
www.jfsla.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
349 Cedar Street
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 231-2828
www.ccdsd.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
4575-B Mission Gorge Place
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 287-1270
www.ccdsd.org/immigration.php

Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
241 Third Avenue, Suite A
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 498-0722
www.ccdsd.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
250 West Orange Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 370-3914, (760) 353-6822
www.ccdsd.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
328 Vista Village Dr., Suite D
Vista, CA 92083
(760) 631-5890
www.ccdsd.org

Khmer Humanitarian Organization
422 Ord St, 2nd floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 621-4129

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles – Main Office
1102 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(323) 801-7989
www.lafla.org

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles – Immigration/East L.A. Office
5228 Whittier Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(213) 640-3883
www.lafla.org

Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.
110 S. Euclid Avenue
San Diego, CA 92114
(619) 262-5557, 1-877-534-2524
<http://www.lassd.org/>

Libreria del Pueblo, Inc.
Immigration and Citizenship Project
972 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92411
(909) 888-1800
<http://www.ldpcalpulli.org/>

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
1241 S Solo Street, Ste. 102
Los Angeles, CA 90023
(323) 980-3500
www.laclj.org

Casa Cornelia Law Center
2760 Fifth Avenue, Ste 200
San Diego, CA 92103-6325
(619) 231-7788
<http://www.casacornelia.org/>

Access Inc. – Immigration Services
2612 Daniel Avenue
San Diego, CA 92111-6026
(858) 560-0871
www.access2jobs.org
Email: info@access2jobs.org

Public Counsel
610 S. Ardmore Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 76900
Los Angeles, CA 90076
(213) 385-2977
www.publiccounsel.org

San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.
13327 Van Nuys Blvd.
Pacoima, CA 91331-3006
(800) 433-6251, (818) 485-0912
www.nls-la.org

Sofia Immigration Services
110 West C Street, Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 235-0799

Community Legal Services
725 W. Rosecrans Ave
Compton, CA 90222-3947
(310) 638-6194
www.legal-aid.com

Legal Aid Society of Orange County
902 N. Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(800) 834-5001, (714) 835-5844
www.legal-aid.com

World Relief
13121 Brookhurst St., # G
Garden Grove, CA 92843
(714) 210-4730
www.worldrelieforg/us

Catholic Legal Immigration Network
1530 James N Wood Blvd.
Box 15095
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 251-3535
www.cliniclegal.org

Mexican-American Immigration Center
Attorney Kevin A Bove
117 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 738-1800

Catholic Charities
Merced Catholic Social Services
336 W. Main Street, # 1
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 383-2494
www.ccdof.org

Catholic Charities of Fresno
149 N. Fulton Street
Fresno, CA 93701-1607
(559) 237-0851
www.ccdof.org

INTERNET RESOURCES:

The Internet is a powerful medium for connecting rape crisis centers to resources and organizations outside their community. Making virtual connections will help to improve the cultural competency and knowledge of rape crisis center staff.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – www.uscis.gov - has links to other government websites, resources for accredited immigration agencies and lawyers.

U.S. Department of Labor – www.dol.gov - has information about labor laws and other important information for workers.

National Visa Center – www.usais.org - center that assists people in obtaining non-immigrant and immigrant visas.

U.S. Department of State – www.state.gov - official government website for the state department which approves non-immigrant visas. Has a specific site for visas: www.travel.state.gov/visa_services.html

AGENCY RESOURCES:

Many of these agencies serve a large number of immigrant and refugee sexual assault survivors. We encourage you to access these organizations for information and materials that can assist you in your outreach efforts.

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
631 Howard Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105-3907
(415) 777-2752
www.crla.org

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking – www.castla.org
5042 Wilshire Blvd., #586
Los Angeles, CA 90036-1906
(213) 385-5584
www.castla.org
E-mail: info@castla.org

Lideres Campesinas (Migrant Farmworker Women)
761 South C Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 486-7776
E-mail: liderescampesinas@hotmail.com
www.liderescampesinas.org

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles
Hotline: 1-888-624-4752
2533 W. Third Street, Suite 101
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 353-1333, Hotline: 1-888-324-4752
E-mail: info@chirla.org
www.chirla.org