Domestic Violence: Individual, Systemic, and Community Impact

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Tweet us your questions and thoughts during the webinar!
@NPCT_Refugee
Webinar Agreements

• Because domestic and sexual violence (DSV) are so prevalent, assume that there are survivors among us.

• Be aware of your reactions and take care of yourself first.
Learning Objectives

As a result of participating in this webinar, you will be better able to:

• Identify the physical, social, and emotional impacts associated with experiencing domestic violence in refugee and immigrant communities.

• Understand the barriers faced by victims of domestic violence in refugee and immigrant communities.

• Identify types of immigration relief that may be available to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
We train professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges, and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. We also work with advocates, policy makers, and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. Our vision is a future without violence that provides education, safety, justice, and hope.
Tapestri Inc: What we do

- Non-profit organization in Metro-Atlanta
- Dedicated to ending violence and oppression in refugee and immigrant communities using culturally competent and appropriate methods, in order to overcome domestic violence and human trafficking
- Conducts multicultural training programs for officers and court personnel about cultural issues and barriers specific to immigrant and refugee women and men in Georgia
Domestic Violence Program

The Domestic Violence program at Tapestri provides direct services and legal advocacy.

• Direct services include assisting victims with safe housing, applying for benefits, and personal advocacy.

• Legal advocate helps them obtain temporary protective orders, legal referrals for child support, divorces, child custody, and immigration assistance.

• Provide community awareness and sensitivity trainings.
What is Domestic and Sexual Violence?

One person in a relationship is using a pattern of methods and tactics to gain and maintain power and control over the other person.
Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

1 in 4 (25%) women in the U.S. report ever experiencing IPV.

1 in 5 women in the U.S. has been raped at some time in their lives and half of them reported being raped by an intimate partner

(Source: 2010 CDC National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)
Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence

Can affect anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, gender, socio-economic background, immigration status, education level.

- **1 in 7 men** have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner
- **44% of lesbian women** and **26% of gay men** experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- **Of transgender individuals, 34.6%** reported lifetime physical abuse by a partner and **64%** reported experiencing sexual assault.

(Source: 2010 CDC National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)
Impact of Domestic and Sexual Violence on Health

**Physical injuries** resulting from assault including traumatic brain injuries, bruises, broken bones, spinal cord injuries, lacerations, and knife wounds.

**Psychological abuse** is a strong predictor of depressive symptoms, substance abuse, and developing a chronic mental illness

www.healthcaresaboutipv.org
Impact of Domestic Violence on Housing

• 38% of survivors become homeless at some point in their adult lives

• Between 22% and 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the direct cause of their homelessness.
Impact of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking on Work

• A 2005 study found that women experiencing IPV victimization reported an average of 7.2 days of work-related lost productivity and 33.9 days in productivity losses associated with other activities.

• About 130,000 victims of stalking in a 12-month period from 2005 to 2006 reported that they were fired or asked to leave their job because of the stalking.

• 33% of women killed in the workplace were related to domestic violence
Impact of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking on Work

- Employees may lose jobs due to missed work or performance issues
- Employees may lose jobs due to concerns about workplace safety
- For survivors, work might mean income, health care, child care, support and social contact, self-esteem, or employment training

National Workplaces Respond Resource Center: www.workplacerespond.org
Immigrant Women Power and Control Wheel

This version of the Power and Control wheel was adapted with permission by Futures Without Violence from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota.

https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/power-and-control-tactics-used-against-immigrant-women/
Working with Survivors within the Immigrant/Refugee Community

• Knowledge of cultural view on issues such as women’s rights
• Religious views on marriage
• Barriers: economic, cultural, legal, language, and/or fear of deportation
• Language Access/ Interpretation
Understanding Culture

• Many languages, hundreds of dialects, many religions, there is no one cook book approach to dealing with different communities

• Culture is always changing and affected by many factors (family, region, etc.)

• Abusers manipulate the system and will use their culture as a way to manipulate courts, judges, attorneys, and law enforcement

• While you cannot know everything about all cultures, you have resources in your community and at your fingertips (online resources)
Economic Barriers

- Economic dependence on husband
- May not have work authorization, thus employer may not risk hiring her
- Low paying job with no benefits or job security
- She may not be eligible for public assistance
- Relatives in her home country may need financial assistance
- Fear that reporting the abuse may lead to his being deported, leaving her without support
Cultural Barriers

• Community may ostracize her if she leaves partner
• Her culture may find it acceptable for a husband to beat his wife and for her to endure it
• Protection of spouse’s standing in community
• Cultural norms concerning a woman’s place, her role and family expectations
• In same-sex relationships, fear that they may be “outed.”
• Responsibility to siblings. Her divorce may scare off her siblings’ potential suitors
Legal Barriers

• May have distrust in the legal system that originated from her own experience in her country of origin
• Difficulty understanding the U.S. legal system
• Belief that the judiciary does not function independently from the government
• Expectations that people with money, U.S. citizenship or ties with the government will prevail in courts
• Belief that undocumented immigrants will be denied access to legal services or will not be treated fairly
Language Barriers

• Limited access to shelter, police and court services because of lack of bilingual professionals who can provide services

• May not feel comfortable seeking or using services

• The assumption that because she speaks English, she is able to navigate the U.S. system
Fear of Deportation As a Barrier

• **Single largest concern**, largely due to misleading information given by batterer in attempt to control her
• Makes it difficult to access variety of services, including law enforcement
• Keeps them from disclosing information to anyone
• Fear that children will be taken from her
• HB 87 and media
Fear of Deportation As a Barrier

• Fear that they will be forced to go back to their home country, where there may be no protection or social services for her

• U.S. citizen children may have never been in her home country nor even speak the language, may have been educated in the U.S., or may have special needs that cannot be met in her home country
Brief Overview of Immigration Relief for Certain Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Immigration remedies can be **powerful tools** to providing stability to survivors and hope for the future.

Opportunity to **collaborate with local service providers** engaged in representing survivors on immigration matters.
**U nonimmigrant status ("U visa")**

Allows certain immigrant victims of specific enumerated crimes to live and work in the United States for 4 years and provides the opportunity for them to apply for legal permanent residency after 3 years.

Requirement that the petitioner has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to the investigation/prosecution of the crime.

Can also petition for victim’s spouse and unmarried children under 21 years old or if the victim is under 21, can petition for their parents and siblings.
VAWA self-petition

Provides immigration status to victims of domestic violence, battery or extreme cruelty

“Self-Petition” without relying on the abusive spouse, parent, or child through family-based petition
Other Potential Immigration Options

• Special Immigrant Juveniles Status (SIJS)

• T nonimmigrant status

• Asylum
Victim’s Rights

• Victim’s Compensation
• Victim Information Program
• Express statement to court regarding case
• Aware of court process/ Protective Orders
• Language access to interpreters in DV cases
  – Protective hearing/court proceeding (free) or state of Georgia Supreme court require recording if none was available.
  – Can request an interpreter for court hearings (Code Section 15-6-77 of the Official Code of Georgia). The form can be found at Georgia Legal Services Program website (www.glsp.org). Go to the DV Project section.
  – Agencies receiving federal funding
Legal Consequences on Batterer/Family

- **Family:**
  - Expensive legal fees (rent, children, food)
  - DFCS (children at risk of being taken away)
  - Custody and support
  - Family separation
  - Fear
  - Divorce
  - Order of Protection

- **Batterer:**
  - Arrested/go to jail
  - Expensive Legal fees
  - Criminal Record
  - Immigration
  - Family separation
  - Divorce
  - Custody
  - Order of Protection
Protective Orders/Criminal Charges

• Include Multiple Family members - not just address abuser but also other family members: could be in-laws, own family (honor killings), children, or community members/religious leaders

• Concepts of extended family are normal

• Use to help victims obtain their immigration documentation

• Custody-Visitation- Kidnapping
Addressing DV in the community
Partnering with Local Service Providers

• Know your local allies

• What type of services do they offer that your agency may not offer in-house? Are these services appropriate for your clients?

• Provide training/information for other social service providers who may not know about domestic violence in the immigrant community
Community partners

Who are your community partners?

• Local, state, and federal law enforcement (first responders)
• Department of family services (family violence issues reported by schools, clinics, law enforcement, neighbors, or family members)
• Court (judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, probation officers, etc.)
• DV shelters, advocates, school counselors
• Resettlement agencies
• Faith institutions
Training and outreach

• Tapestri does interpreter and volunteer training every quarter with advocates, shelters, other agencies, volunteers, churches, etc.
• Outreach booths during community events and within schools
• Training for courts and law enforcement
• Partnership with various relief and resettlement agencies and court (MOU’s)
• Free trainings for community partners and agencies
Access to broad skill development training – Survivors may have different skill sets than those needed in the U.S. to access services and earn an income. Examples include English language, using computers, taking public transportation, reading maps, driving, managing personal finance, and searching for jobs. (Pan et al., 2006).

Access to information – Knowledge of domestic violence as a social problem, the legal protections and services available, and how to access them

Assistance in accessing services – Services in survivors’ local language or access to skilled interpreters, shelters that respond to culturally specific needs, assistance with maintaining legal immigration status and child custody. If staying with abuser, culturally appropriate plans for protecting the survivors and their children from violence.

Adapted From National Resource Center on Violence Against Women  VAWnet.org
Keys to Addressing DV in Immigrant Communities

Culturally specific batterer intervention programs – Batterer intervention programs (BIPs) could engage abusive partners in dialogue about culturally specific practices that promote violence and those that call for respecting women.

Supportive social networks – Engaging families, friends, and community can help increase safety but it is essential to examine how domestic violence is viewed socio-culturally and find culturally appropriate ways to engage community members in talk and prevention. Resettlement into a new culture can cause stress and tension within a family as they sort out traditional family roles in a new environment.

Support groups – Support groups for survivors from similar cultural backgrounds could be a forum for survivors to reflect on and share their experiences.

Collaboration with other agencies - Domestic violence services that serve specific immigrant groups may not be present in all regions. Inter-agency coordination and collaboration are crucial to increasing culturally competent services to immigrant women.

Adapted From National Resource Center on Violence Against Women VAWnet.org
Best Practices

• When doing a presentation or education session for community, if possible have separate groups for men and women and have training under Healthy relationships rather than Domestic violence

• Encourage Group to participate ...maybe by talking about commonalities such as marriage, kids,

• Ask Group if they have a word for Domestic violence, most cultures don’t have a word, this can be an Icebreaker.

• Provide example about yourself, maybe how you communicate with a partner or how you address miscommunication in the household.
Continued ..

- Open the discussion for the group to make comments or ask questions...
- Be open to different views and cultures.
- Make time to learn or read about their culture and traditions...before the training.
- Ask about their culture and ways of life, know the people you are presenting for.
- Indicate that there is no superior or inferior culture and we should not be judgmental....
- Provide resources that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.
National Resources Revisited

**ASISTA**- offers technical assistance to attorneys/others on immigration relief available
www.asistaonline.org

**Futures Without Violence 415.678.5500**- resources for domestic violence/family violence survivors
www.endabuse.org

**Legal Momentum/Immigrant Women Program 202.326.0040**- offers technical assistance to attorneys/others on immigration relief and family law
www.legalmomentum.org/legalmomentum

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1.800.THE.LOST (843.5678)**- Can assist if there is a fear of child abduction and provide steps necessary to prevent kidnapping, both interstate or outside United States
www.missingkids.com

**National Domestic Violence Hotline 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)**
www.ndvh.org

**National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild 617.227.9727**
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org
Local Resources

Local Metro Atlanta Resources

• **Emergency numbers/Hotlines**
  • Georgia 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-334-2836
  • Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (404) 209-0280
  • United Way 211 (referrals to community resources)
  • Caminar Latino (404) 413-6348
  • Center for Pan Asian Community Services (770) 936-0969
  • New American Pathways (404) 638-1800, (404) 638-1812, (404) 471-1889
  • Raksha (404) 842-0725
  • Shalom Bayit/Jewish Family and Career Services (770) 677-9322

Counseling

• CETPA 770-662-0249
• Trinity Social Services 678-824-6597
• Families First 404-853-2844, 404-853-2800
Local Resources

**Shelters**
- **International Women’s House**
  770-413-5557
- **Women’s Resource Center**
  404-688-9436
- **PADV**
  Fulton 404-873-1766,
  Gwinnett 770-963-9799
- **Cherokee Family Violence**
  770-479-1703
- **Forsyth County Family Haven, Inc.**
  770-887-1121
- **YWCA of Northwest Georgia**
  770-427-3390

**Legal**
- **Latin American Association (immigration)**
  404-638-1812, 404-471-1889
- **New American Pathways (immigration)**
  404-299-6099
- **GAIN**
  404-572-2609
- **Catholic Charities Atlanta (immigration)**
  678-222-3920
- **Atlanta Legal Aid**
  Legal services for low income people in 5 metro county areas
  - Fulton 404-524-5811
  - Cobb 770-528-2565
  - DeKalb 404-377-0701
  - Gwinnett 678-376-4545
  - Clayton and South Fulton 404-669-0233
  - Spanish 404-377-5381
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