

Enhanced Safety Planning for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Presented by:

Grace Huang, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

- National Technical Assistance Provider
- Focused on Gender Based Violence in the Asian and Pacific Islander Communities, policy advocacy, training, research, capacity building
- Located in Oakland, CA
- www.api-gbv.org

Today's Training: What We Will Cover

- Basic Framework of Existing Protections for Immigrant Survivors
- The Immigration Executive Orders and their Impacts
- Safety Planning
 - For survivors and their families
 - For DV Programs

Enhancing Safety Planning

For Survivors For Your Agency

System Risks AND Risks Posed by Perpetrator/Abuser

Perpetrator/Abuser generated

System (Immigration) generated

Immigration related coercion

Threats to family members?

Law enforcement & criminal legal system as protection?

Civil legal system (family law, Protective orders) as protection?

Victim services

Financial resources/housing?

Enforcement priority categories

287(g), Secure Communities, LE collaboration w/ DHS

Immigration relief available?

Immigration eligibility requirements for services?

Increased ICE/CBP presence?

Public Charge?

Improving Immigrant Victim Safety

- Generally know forms of immigration relief, and survivor based relief in particular
- Assist in document history of abuse
- Discuss risks/protection in filing victim's immigration case if eligible
 - DHS VAWA confidentiality computer system
 - Sufficient evidence for prima facie
- Incorporate into safety planning
 - ► How victim can safely carry DHS document copies

Mitigating Immigration Related Risks

- Understand general eligibility
- Understand defenses to removal
- Relationship with immigration attorney/ legal services organization
- Understand local ICE enforcement practices/policies
- Understand how law enforcement shares information with ICE

Terminology of Immigration Agencies

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Department of Justice:
 - Immigration Court, Board of Immigration Appeals
- Department of State:
 - Embassies / Consulates

Terms

- U.S. Citizens (USC):
 - Born, Naturalized, Acquired/Derived
- Non-Citizens: General Categories:
 - Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) = Green Card Holders
 - ► Asylees / Refugees
 - Temporary Legal Status: Students, Temporary Workers, Visitors/Tourists, U visas ("non-immigrants")
 - Administrative Temporary Status: TPS, Parole
 - "Deferred Action", ie for victims, and for Childhood Arrivals
 - Undocumented: Visa Overstays/Entered w/o permission
 - Why "Undocumented Immigrant"?

True or False?

- The spouse of a U.S. citizen (USC) may not be deported
- A person with USC children may not be detained
- A legal permanent resident (LPR) may not be deported
- A person born outside the U.S. may be a U.S. citizen
- A person may qualify for legal status based on being a crime-victim
- A person with a U visa pending may not be detained by ICE
- A person with a U visa may not be deported
- A person with a domestic violence conviction is not eligible for immigration status
- A person falsely claiming USC <u>may</u> be permanently barred from gaining legal status

Legal Protections Available for Victims

- The Constitution
 - Due process
 - Right against self-incrimination
- Federal law
 - Access to services necessary for life or safety
 - FVPSA, VAWA, VOCA, INA
- International law
 - International treaties relating to refugees, Convention Against Torture
- State law
 - Privilege, confidentiality
 - State and local services

How to Get Permanent Residence?

- Main avenues of obtaining Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) or "Green Card" Status:
 - Through a Family Member (around 65%)
 - Through Employment Visa (around 15%)
 - -Asylum / Refugee Status (13%)
 - Others (Humanitarian, ie crime victim, SIJS, Diversity Visa)
- There must be LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING IT (ie DACA is not a path)

Other immigration statuses

- Temporary Legal Status: Students, Temporary Workers, Visitors/Tourists, TPS, U visas ("non-immigrants")
- Undocumented: Visa Overstays/Entered w/o permission
 - "Deferred Action", ie for victims, and for Childhood Arrivals"

Victim-Specific Protections in Immigration Law

CONSIDERATIONS

- Must be in the US on account of the trafficking
- Law enforcement certification is encouraged but not required
- If approved, benefit provides:
- Up to four years of temporary nonimmigrant status
- Work authorization
- Federal social services benefits
- Ability to apply for permanent status

To apply: USCIS Form I-914

T VISA

For victims of trafficking

CONSIDERATIONS

Must fear persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in particular social group



- 1.Asylee status
- 2. Work authorization
- 3. Federal social
- services benefits
- Ability to apply for permanent status

ASYLUM

For victims of persecution

To apply: USCIS or Immigration Judge Form I-589

SIJS

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for child victims

To apply: USCIS Form I-380

CONSIDERATIONS

- Must have juvenile court order
- For victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect by one or both parents

If approved, benefit provides:

- Protection from removal
 Work authorization
- 3. Ability to apply for permanent status

CONSIDERATIONS

Perpetrator must be US citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident spouse or parent or US citizen adult son or daughter



- 1. Protection from removal
- Work authorization
- Ability to apply for permanent status

To apply: USCIS Form I-380

VAWA

For victims of Domestic Violence married to US citizens or permanent residents

VISA To apply: USCIS Form I-918

For victims of Domes- tic Violence, Sexual Assault, Felonious Assault, Trafficking Other Serious Crimes

CONSIDERATIONS

- Qualifying orime must be in the US or have violated US law
- Must have law enforcement certification



- Up to four years of temporary nonimmigrant status
- Work authorization
 Ability to apply for permanent status

PRESENCE

For victims trafficking

To apply: ICE - Federal law enforcement must seek this protection for you

CONSIDERATIONS

- Victims of a severe form of human trafficking and who may be potential witnesses, or filed a civil action
- Law enforcement support is required



If approved, benefit provides:

- Protection from removal designation may be granted initially for a period of 2 years and renewed in increments of up to 2 years
- Work authorization
- 3. Access to federal social services benefits

Immigration benefits for victims

VAWA self-petition

U visa

- Spouse or child of USC or LPR or parent of adult USC son or daughter
- Suffered battery or extreme cruelty
- Joint residency with abuser
- Good moral character
- For petitions based on marriage: show good faith marriage • Victim of Qualifying Crime – full list at INA 101(a)(15)(u)(iii)
- Suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of victimization;
- Had information about the crime;
- Was, is, or will be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.
- Crime occurred in US or violated U.S law
- Admissible or eligible for a waiver under INA 212(d)(14)
 "national or public interest"

T visa

- Victim of severe form of trafficking
- Physically present in the U.S. On account of the trafficking;
- Complied with reasonable requests for help in the investigation or prosecution of trafficking
- Would suffer extreme hardship if had to return to home country.

Purpose of U Visa

To strengthen the ability of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute criminal activity

To provide protection to crime victims and their family members

U-VISA Crimes

	Abduction	Hostage	Prostitution	Unlawful criminal restraint
	Abusive Sexual Contact	Incest	Rape	Other related crimes
	Blackmail	Involuntary Servitude	Sexual Assault	*includes attempt, conspiracy or soliciation
	Domestic Violence	Kidnapping	Sexual Exploitation	
	Extortion	Manslaughter	Slave Trade	
	False Imprisonment	Murder	Stalking	
	Female Genital Mutilation	Obstruction of Justice	Torture	
	Felonious Assault	Peonage	Trafficking	
	Flaud in Foreign Labor Contracting	Perjury	Witness Tampering	

Certifying Agencies

- Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency,
- Federal state or local judge
- Federal, State, or local prosecutor's office,
- Federal and State Departments of Labor,
- EEOC, NLRB
- Other investigative agencies
 that has responsibility for the investigation or prosecution of a qualifying crime or criminal activity

Investigation or Prosecution

- Detection
- Investigation
- Prosecution activity
- **■**Conviction OR
- Sentencing

Of qualifying criminal

U visa Certification

- Requirement for U visa application to proceed
- Certify 3 key elements:
 - Applicant was victim of qualifying crime
 - Applicant had knowledge about the crime
 - Was, is or will be helpful in the "investigation or prosecution" of the crime

Immigration Executive Orders

- 1.Travel Ban(s) for Refugees and Certain Muslim-Majority Countries Executive Orders
- 2.Interior Enforcement Executive Order Jan. 25, 2017
- 3. Border Enforcement Executive Order Jan. 25, 2017
- 4.Closer inspection of non-immigrant visa program-April 18, 2017
- 5.End of Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals Program-Sept 5, 2017
- 6.Termination of Temporary Protected Status for various countries, ie El Salvador, Haiti, etc.
- 7. New "public charge" guidance-leaked regulations-NPRM Feb. 8, 2018

Interior Enforcement Executive Order

- Revives "Secure Communities" program
- Encourages cooperation between immigration and federal and state law enforcement [287(g) agreements]
- Calls for taking away some funding from "sanctuary jurisdictions"
- Calls for more immigration agents (10K)
- Calls for increased fines & penalties for those "unlawfully present" and those who facilitate their presence

Changes in Enforcement Priorities

Priorities based on existing law

Individuals who are subject to:

- Criminal grounds of inadmissibility and deportability
- Security and related grounds of inadmissibility and deportability
- Suspected of fraud or material misrepresentation to obtain a visa or other document or entry to the U.S

Other new priorities

- Those with pending criminal cases and/or prior criminal convictions
- Those convicted or charged with ANY criminal offense, or have committed any act that constitutes a chargeable offense
- Those with final orders of removal
- Those who have committed fraud or misrepresentation in applications before a government agency
- Those who "abused" a program related to receipt of a public benefit
- Those believed to pose a threat to public safety or national security

Interior Enforcement DHS Memo

- Terminates all prosecutorial discretion guidance and memos except for DACA
- Individuals who appear to be most at risk:
 - Those in detention or jail
 - Those with a criminal history or potential criminal charges
 - Those who've been ordered deported in the past and lost or forfeited any appeals

Interior Enforcement DHS Memo

- Eliminates Privacy Act protections for anyone who is not an LPR or USC.
 - Likely impact on survivors
- Establishes Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office at DHS (public announcement of rollout April 26)
 - Victim notification
 - Victim liaisons
 - Hotline of crime committed by immigrants

Enforcement at Courthouses

- January 10, 2018 formal policy memo released on immigration enforcement inside courthouses
 - https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/ 2018/ciEnforcementActionsCourthouses.pdf
- Updated its "FAQ" on Sensitive Locations and Courthouse Arrests
 - https://www.ice.gov/ero/enforcement/sensitive-loc
- Response to several chief justices around the country asking that ICE to add courthouses to its list of "sensitive locations", ie CA, WA, NJ

COURTHOUSE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

- Policy specific to "civil immigration enforcement"
 - Distinguished from criminal violations of the law
- Policy states that when practicable, ICE officers will conduct actions "discreetly" to minimize impact on court proceedings
- States that actions inside courthouses "include" actions against "specific, targeted" individuals
 - Criminal convictions
 - Gang members
 - National security or public safety threats
 - Those ordered removed but failed to depart
 - Those who've reentered after being removed
 - When ICE has information that leads them to believe they will be present at the courthouse

COURTHOUSE enforcement policy (Cont)

- As policy, generally should avoid enforcement in courthouses, or areas in courthouses dedicated to non-criminal (family court, small claims court) proceedings
- Must get approval of Field Office Director, Special Agent in charge to to engage in enforcement in above locations
- Policy to try to engage in enforcement in "non-public" areas of the courthouse, in collaboration with court security staff, and utilize the court building's non-public entrances, exits
- Policy does NOT apply to criminal immigration enforcement, nor does it PROHIBIT civil immigration enforcement inside courthouses
- States ICE officers & agents responsible for complying with this directive
- Makes reference to Guidance relating to Office Procedure regarding enforcement against victims and witnesses

FAQ's re SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

- Enforcement sensitive locations policy continues in effect
 - Generally, enforcement should not take place at sensitive locations,
 - ie schools, known & licensed daycares, post secondary schools including colleges & universities, school activities, school bus stops, medical facilities, places of worship, religious ceremonies, funerals, weddings, during public demonstrations
 - unless exigent circumstances exist, other law enforcement actions led officers to sensitive location, or prior approval obtained
 - Does not apply to areas near international border
 - Courthouse specifically not viewed as a sensitive location
- https://www.ice.gov/ero/enforcement/sensitive-loc

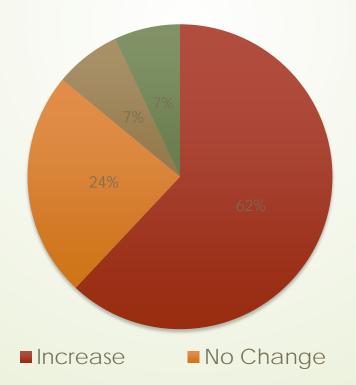
Limits on Enforcement against Victims



Impact of increased enforcement on local programs

A coalition of national organizations sent out a survey to the field on April 12 – 25, 2017 asking for their feedback. In total, 715 advocates and attorneys from 46 states and the District of Columbia completed the survey.

Change in # of Survivors with Immigration Questions



National Victim Advocate Survey

- The survey documents that 78 percent of advocates reported that immigrant survivors expressed concerns about contacting police.
- Three in four service providers responding to the survey reported that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court for a matter related to the abuser/offender.
- 43 percent of advocates worked with immigrant survivors who dropped civil or criminal cases because they were fearful to continue with their cases.
- Survey findings available at: https://www.apigbv.org/resources/immigration-survey-findings/

ICE Guidance

- Victim Witness Memo
- Courthouse Enforcement Guidance
- Sensitive Locations Guidance
- VAWA Confidentiality Guidance
- Guidance relating to stays of removal

VAWA Confidentiality Prongs

Non- Disclosure

Protects victims who have filed a protected case with DHS

Violation = \$5,000 fine and/or disciplinary action

Abuser-Provided Information Prohibition

Includes family members of abusers, crime perpetrators

*All victims
abused by a
spouse or parent
*All victims in the
process of
applying for U or
T visas
*Abused spouses
of visa holders
with VAWA work
authorization

filed

Location Prohibitions

Protects:
All Victims

Requires:
No action at protected locations OR
Notice to Appear must state how they complied with VAWA confidentiality

Location Prohibitions

- Enforcement actions are not to be taken unless the action is certified in advance through a specific process aimed at protecting victims:
 - A shelter
 - Rape crisis center
 - Supervised visitation center
 - Family justice center
 - Victim services program or provider
 - Community-based organization
 - Courthouse in connection with any
 - Protection order case, child custody case, civil or criminal case involving or related to domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking

Confidentiality Protections Apply to Following Cases

- VAWA self-petition
 - VAWA self-petitioner
 - Battered spouse waivers
 - VAWA Cuban Adjustment Act
 - NAWA Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act
 - VAWA Nicaraguan Adjustment & Central American Relief Act
- VAWA cancellation of removal
- VAWA suspension of deportation
- U visa applicants
- T visa applicants
- VAWA work authorization abused spouses of visa holder applicants

Protecting Information About a Survivor's Immigration Case

- Prohibits disclosure of any information about:
 - The existence of the case
 - Actions taken in the case
 - Information contained in the case file
- Disclosure prohibited to all persons, not just the perpetrator
- Protections apply from the time of filing permanently unless:
 - Case denied on the merits
 - All appeal options have been completed

Exceptions to VAWA Confidentiality

- Disclosure to law enforcement, national security officials, immigration case judicial review
 - Solely for a legitimate law enforcement or national security purpose; and
 - In a manner that "protects the confidentiality of such information"
- Benefit granting or public benefits purposes
- Congressional oversight and data collection
 - Omitting personally identifying information
- Adult victim waived confidentiality protections

What Can Undocumented Survivors Do?

- Prepare by practicing: Know your rights (more to come)
- Create an individual & family safety plan (more to come)
- Keep informed of developments
- → Beware of scams
- Consult with attorney or accredited rep to see if there are options to obtain status
- Save money (if possible)
- Collect/save documents that show residence in U.S.

Safeguarding Documents

- Create Emergency Contact Sheets with information for family members in the U.S. and in home country
- Organize Documents
 - Identity documents including passports for children
 - Medical (including immunization records) and financial
 - School Records
 - Immigration Papers
 - Criminal records if applicable
 - Physical presence documents
- Memorize or safeguard their "alien registration number" or A# if they've had prior contact with ICE or USCIS

Safety Planning For Your Family

- ILRC & Appleseed: http://www.appleseednetwork.org/deportationmanual/
- Child Care Plan: Who will care for children if parent is detained?
 - Provide affidavit to caregiver, with copies of child's records and contact info
 - Consult with Family Law Attorney whether more formal document like power of attorney may need to be prepared for long-term care
- Emergency contact sheet at schools
- Provide all medical information for child including insurance cards, SSNs
- Make sure your family members can find you if you are detained. They can use the ICE detainee locator https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do
 - Financial issues

Safety Planning

For Your Agency

- Be pro-active; identify internal challenges
- Rely on confidentiality obligations (i.e. VAWA, FVPSA, VOCA, state law, privilege) to not provide information
- Be aware of difference between DHS issued warrant vs a Court-issued warrant (which would need to be signed by a judge)
- Develop internal protocols to respond effectively to clients at risk of detention and removal, including authorization of release of portions of their files
- Provide a business card to client with a direct number
- Train your staff on handling ICE calls
 - Policies/practices to help survivors keep proof of "positive equities"

AGENCY SAFETY PLANNING

- RESOURCES:
- NON PROFIT ADVISORY:
 - http://nwirp.org/nonprofit-org-advisory.pdf
- FAQS: IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS
 - <u>https://www.api-gbv.org/resources/faqs-immigration-enforcement-victim-services/</u>
- ADVISORY: ARE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS LIABLE FOR "HARBORING"
 - https://www.api-gbv.org/resources/victimservices-harboringimmigration/

Know Your Rights Practice, Role Play with Survivors

In Public Places

- Right to ask if one is "free to go"
- If they say YES: say,

#I don't want to answer your questions."

or

"I'd rather not speak with you right now."

bo not answer questions about your immigration status or where you were born. Do not hand over any foreign documents, such as a passport, consular IDs, or expired visas

Right to walk away if not being detained

If Detained

- Right to remain silent
- Right to say,

"I want to speak to attorney"

- Right to refuse consent to a search
- Right to refuse to sign document
- No right to lie or show false documents or resist arrest
- Understand that providing proof of foreign citizenship or informing ICE where one was born can be used as basis for deportation

At the Door (ie Shelter door)

- If agents show up at the door, find out if they are police or ICE
- If ICE agents do not have a warrant signed by <u>a judge</u> (not ICE), they cannot enter a home without permission from an adult
 - Ask to see warrant and have them slip it under the door. If not signed by a judge, you do not have to let them in.
- If they are asking for a household member, ask them to leave contact information. You do not have to tell them where the person is, and you should not lie.

Know Your Rights:

If ICE is in Your Home (or Shelter) to Make an Arrest

- Inform them if there are children or other vulnerable residents at home, if true
- Request that they exit/step outside unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. Again, an administrative warrant (I-200 or I-205) is not enough to enter your home.
- If they come inside without permission, tell them,
 - "I do not consent to you being in my home. Please leave."
- If they begin searching rooms or items inside home, tell them "I do not consent to your search."
- If ICE is arresting you, tell them if you have medical issues or need to arrange for children, if that is the case

What Should Survivors Carry with Them?

- Carry the contact information of attorney or legal representative
- Carry a know-your-rights card that you can show to ICE or the police if you are stopped. For example: https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards
- Valid license, work permit or green card if you have one. DO NOT carry false documents

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales.

- NO ABRA LA PUERTA SI UN AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION ESTA TOCANDO A LA PUERTA.
- NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA DEL AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION SI EL TRATA DE HABLAR CON USTED. Usted tiene derecho a mantenerse callado. No tiene que dar su nombre al agente. Si está en el trabajo, pregunte al agente si está libre para salir y si el agente dice que sí, váyase. Usted tiene derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE. NO ABRA LA PUERTA

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my
4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution
unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or
magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door. I
do not give you permission to search any of my belongings
based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

What to Do If Detained (In addition to staying silent)

- Contact attorney/legal services as soon as possible
- Do NOT Sign Anything (Even if there is pressure to do so!)
 - Until you've had opportunity to consult with attorney
 - Some people may be eligible for release on bond
- Have a plan in place for your family if detained

Systems Advocacy

Systems Advocacy

- Coordinated Community Response (CCR)
- Strengthening collaborations with immigrant advocacy organizations
- Improved protocols and training for U visa certifications
- Clarification of data collection, information sharing policies/protocols
- Language access
- Keep current on policy changes
- Gathering stories to highlight impact
- Other

Re-Frame the Narrative



- Addressing the myth that immigrants perpetrate more crimes
- Educating the public that limiting victim and witness trust in law enforcement undermines public safety
- Elevating why access to safety and justice is important for ALL victims

Enhanced Collaborations

- Coordinated Community Response
 - Review issues of access to courts, LE, and services for immigrant victims
 - Offer trainings on VAWA provisions and confidentiality issues
 - Discuss implications of data collection and certain eligibility requirements in various systems, including coordinated entry, services
- Collaborations with immigrant advocacy organizations, community members, and immigration attorneys in your community
 - Know your rights presentations
 - Leveraging relationships with law enforcement
 - Understanding implications of Secure Communities, Sanctuary Cities, or 287(g) programs in your jurisdiction
 - Policy Makers: Local, State and Federal

Gathering Stories

- Important to monitor the impact of immigration enforcement actions and policies on immigrant survivors and their children
- Provide information regarding specific cases about impacts of increased immigration enforcement (protecting client confidentiality) using the survey form available at this link:

http://bit.ly/ASISTA_ICEsurvey

Resources

How to Get Good Legal Advice

- Private Attorneys:
 - Good Advice is Expensive
 - Cases Often Take a Long Time
 - Law is Bad: Attorneys are not Magicians
 - Important to Be Realistic About Chances
- Bad Attorneys / Consultants / Notarios:
 - Important to Get Things In Writing
 - If it sounds too good to be true...
 - Unauthorized Practice of Law: Big Problem
 - Note our state immigration has specific law regulating non-attorney immigration practitioners
- *BIA-Recognized Agencies
 - Accredited representatives: authorized to practice imm law

National Immigration Resources

- Immi (online resource developed by IAN and Probono Net): https://www.immi.org
- Informed Immigrant: https://www.informedimmigrant.com
- We Belong Together <u>www.womenstepforward.org</u>
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center: www.ilrc.org
- Immigrant Defense Project: www.immdefense.org
- **ACLU:** KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IF STOPPED BY ICE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT:
 - https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-youre-stopped-police-
 - imm/igration-agents-or-fbi?redirect=files/kyr/kyr_english.pdf
- American Immigration Lawyers Association: www.aila.org
 - Attorney Search: http://www.ailalawyer.org/default.aspx
- Executive Office for Immigration Review Roster of BIA-Recognized Agencies: