



Serving Immigrant Survivors

A Model for Statewide Collaboration and Capacity Building

Objectives



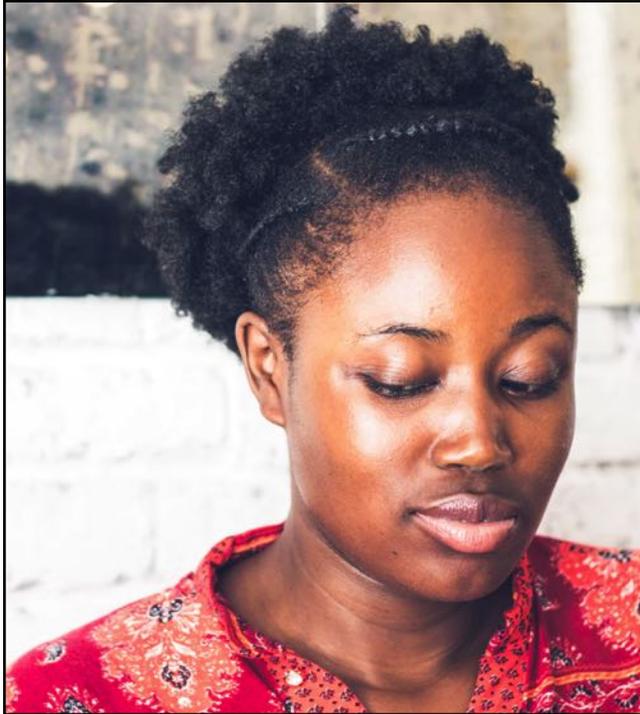
Participants will be aware of the ways immigrants may experience sexual violence differently and of barriers immigrant survivors often face when seeking services.



Participants will be able to evaluate their program's capacity for serving immigrant survivors.



Participants will be able to identify two concrete steps that their program can take to make services more responsive to the needs of immigrant survivors.



Listening to Survivors: Naija's Story

Labor Trafficking

 **Resources!**

[NSVRC Human Trafficking: A guide for victim advocates](#)

Listening to Survivors: Naija's Story

- Previous Victimization/Compound Trauma
 - Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones
 - Female Genital Mutilation

“Since I was a little girl I have seen all kinds of violence and have endured all kinds of things. I was beaten up and raped by my own father since the age of 10 until I left the country. During the civil war in my country, I saw women and girls being raped by rebels or by their own family members who were forced to do so by the rebels. I saw people beaten up and children killed because their parents came from two different regions of the country... My all childhood has been stolen from me and when I thought I was going start a new life and go to school and forget about the war in my country, I found myself a slave...”

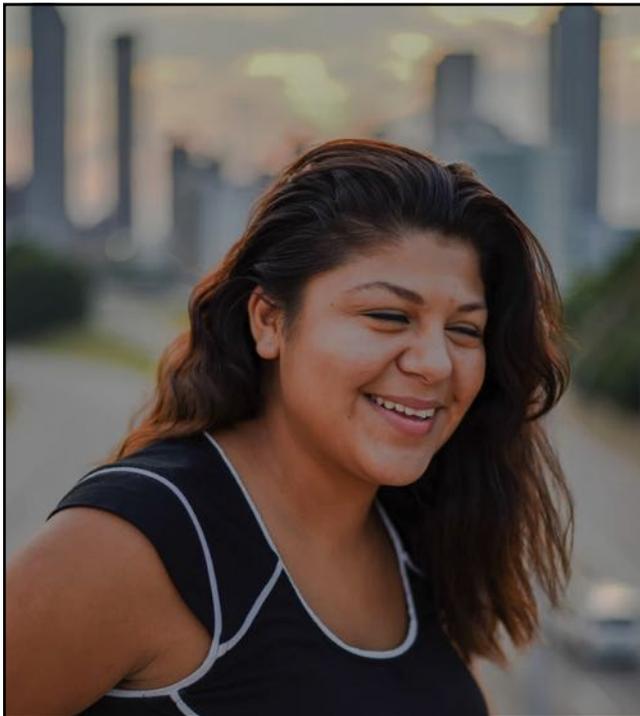
 **Resources!**

[United Nations Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)
[UNICEF Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Global Concern](#)

Listening to Survivors: Naija's Story

- Isolation
- Lack of social support
- Distrust in police
- Unaware of services

“They told me about human trafficking and said that they could help me. I never knew that there was a name for what had happened to me, and I definitely didn't know that there were people that could help me.”



Listening to Survivors: Ana's Story

Workplace Sexual Assault

 **Resources!**

[Assisting Immigrant Survivors of Workplace Sexual Violence](#)

Listening to Survivors: Ana's Story

- Previous Victimization/Compound Trauma
 - Sexual Violence during Migration

“He took me into another little room and wrapped his arms around me so that I could not move. I knew in that moment what was happening because something similar had happened to me at the border on my way to the United States. The memory of that day came flooding back and I could not move.”

 **Resources!**

[Gender-Based Violence against Women: Both Cause for Migration and Risk along the Journey](#)
[Is Rape The Price to Pay For The American Dream?](#)

Listening to Survivors: Ana's Story

- Language
- Fear of deportation
- Financial concerns

“I felt like I had lost everything, that I was worth nothing. I felt like an object, not a person. The only thing that mattered to me was my job because my family depended on me...When he would call me over I knew what was going to happen, but I didn't think there was any way to avoid it. It felt like it was a requirement for me, something I had to do to keep my job and support my family.”



Listening to Survivors: Lizeth's Story

Child Sexual Abuse

Listening to Survivors: Lizeth's Story

- Shared housing
- Abuse while in care of babysitter

Listening to Survivors: Lizeth’s Story

- Language
- Desire to protect community
- Fear of deportation

“His cousin texted me, saying we better not go to the hearing because immigration would be there and we would be arrested and deported. I was very afraid but I told my daughter that we had to go and that this man had to be punished.”

 **Resources!**

[Immigrant Survivors Fear Reporting Violence](#)

76.25%

of advocates report that immigrant survivors have concerns about contacting police

“SURVIVORS ARE AFRAID THAT THEY WILL BE REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE), AND BE REMOVED FROM THEIR CHILDREN. THIS HAS HAPPENED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND CONTINUES TO HAPPEN.”

“MANY VICTIMS ARE AFRAID THEY WILL BE DEPORTED WHEN THEY REPORT THEIR DOMESTIC ABUSE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT. THEY ... ARE FEARFUL THAT ANY **CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT PUTS THEM IN A MORE DANGEROUS POSITION THAN STAYING SILENT.**”

“IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS NO LONGER WANT TO GO TO FAMILY COURT. THEY ARE TOO SCARED. THEY PUT UP WITH ABUSE AND THEY REFUSE TO GET CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY ARE SCARED THEY WILL BE REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION [AUTHORITIES].”

“VICTIMS ALSO BELIEVE THAT COURTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY SIDE WITH THE ABUSER REGARDLESS OF EVIDENCE OR VICTIM’S TESTIMONY, SOLELY BECAUSE THE ABUSER IS A U.S. CITIZEN. **IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSURE VICTIMS THAT COURTS ARE MEANT TO BE FAIR AND LOOK THROUGH ALL INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN ... THE NEWS SOUNDS ANTI-IMMIGRANT.**”

**3 OUT OF 4
ADVOCATES**



report that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court for a matter related to the abuser/offender

Additional Forms of Sexual Violence

- Intimate Partner Sexual Violence
- Statutory Rape
- Sexual Violence in Detention
- International Students and Campus Sexual Assault

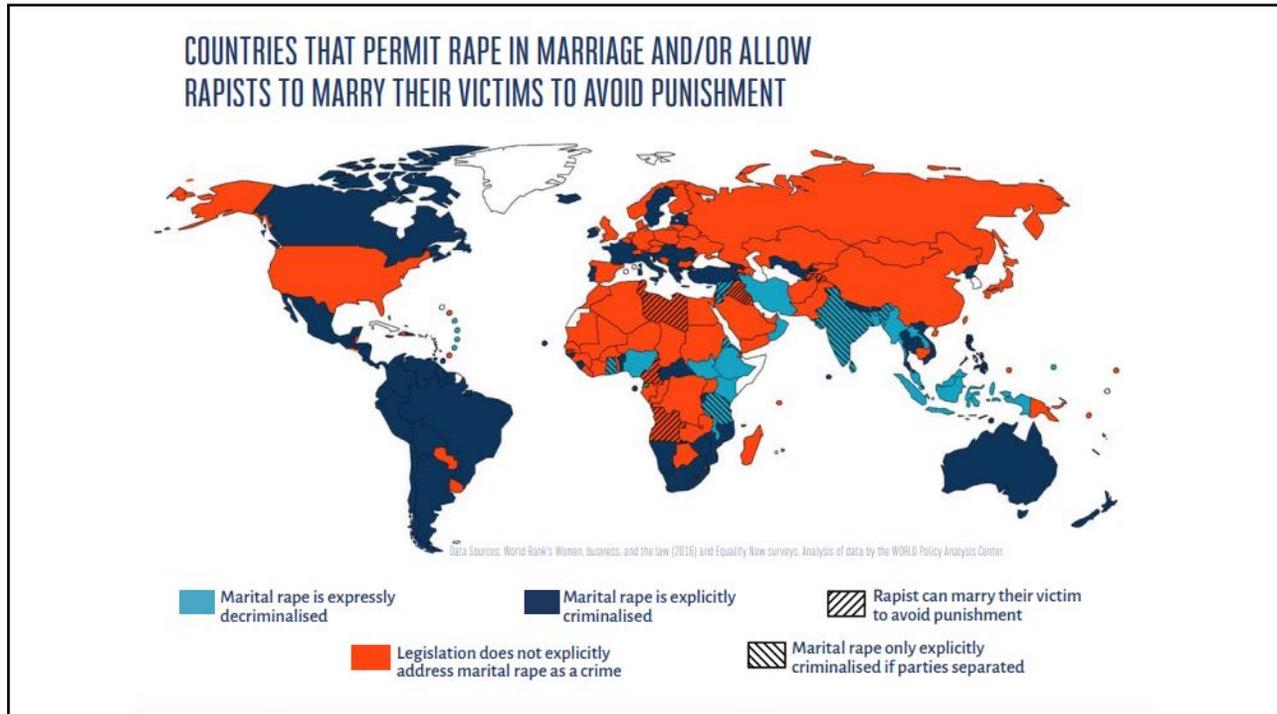
Intimate Partner/Marital Rape

- Laws on marital rape vary throughout the world
- Criminalization does not mean protection
- Safety planning and options counseling

“He would slap, punch, kick, push, grab, and pull my hair. He also forced me to have sex about once a week. I never reported it because in Egypt this happens to women all the time and nothing is done. No one cares.”

 **Resources!**

[Equality Now, The World's Shame: The Global Rape Epidemic](#)



Statutory Rape and Sexual Assault

- Age of consent
- Parent/family/community beliefs

“My daughter met Miguel when she was 13 years old. She met him at a party and they started seeing each other. I thought that Miguel was about 23 years old. In Mexico this is a normal age difference between men and woman and many of my friends and family had relationships like this. I started dating when I was 14 and had my first child when I was 15. This is just how things are in Mexico and I didn’t really think there was anything wrong with it at the time.”

 **Resources!**

[What are the ages of sexual consent around the world?](#)



Sexual Violence in Detention

- From January 2010 to July 2016, more than 33,000 complaints were of physical and sexual abuse were filed against DHS.
 - Less than 1% were investigated
- Nearly half (44.4%) of complaints to DHS were lodged against ICE

“I was afraid I would be put in solitary confinement if I did not go to the appointments. I didn’t think anyone would believe me if I told them what he was doing to me.”

Sexual Violence in Detention

Complaints & Investigations by Allegation & Agency

Complaints Matrix

	BP	CBP	DHS HQ	ICE	Non-DHS	Other DHS	TSA	UCIS
Coerced Sexual Contact	5	84	9	402	44	36	109	13
Detainee Reported Abuse	546	2,593	6	6,821	267	113	8	9
Detainee Reported Sexual Abuse/Assault	20	45		918	22	9		2
Non-Criminal Misconduct	131	3,758	278	3,566	126	770	867	1,696
Other Criminal Misconduct	184	3,320	285	2,410	226	617	1,137	371
Physical or sexual abuse	0	284	2	300		22	10	16
Sexual harassment		211	18	196		34	105	25
Grand Total	886	10,295	598	14,693	685	1,601	2,236	2,132

Investigations Matrix

	BP	CBP	DHS HQ	ICE	Non-DHS	Other DHS	TSA	UCIS
Coerced Sexual Contact	1	11	1	11	0	3	7	3
Detainee Reported Abuse	9	25	1	53	0	1	1	0
Detainee Reported Sexual Abuse/Assault	1	1		22	0	0		0
Non-Criminal Misconduct	6	108	4	47	0	20	14	7
Other Criminal Misconduct	5	63	8	33	0	25	42	13
Physical or sexual abuse	2	3	0	5		2	3	0
Sexual harassment		5	0	2		0	2	0
Grand Total	24	216	14	173	0	51	69	23

 **Resources!**
[Freedom for Immigrants](#)



International Students

- Visa requirements
- Language
- Unfamiliar with U.S. laws
- Lack of support network
- Lack of financial resources

 **Resources!**
[Working with International Student Survivors of Sexual Assault \(Webinar\)](#)
[Sexual Assault Awareness for International Students \(Video\)](#)

Listening to Advocates Panel Discussion



Best Practices

Staffing

- Is your staff representative of the communities you want to serve?
- Does your staff have the trust of community members?
- Can you prioritize hiring new staff that speak more than one language?
- Encourage cultural humility and training for all staff.
- Consider using outreach opportunities to cultivate potential staff in addition to clients.



Physical Space & Outreach Materials

- Consider how your office/shelter/waiting room looks.
- Is it welcoming to immigrant and limited English proficient survivors?
- What do the people in your brochures and posters look like?
 - Are they representative of the communities you hope to serve?

 **Resources!**
[Get this free poster!](#)

Language Access

- Does your agency have a language access plan?
 - Does everyone know what it is?
 - Is it working? When is the last time you reviewed your plan?
- Consider your agency's interpretation and translation needs.
- How are law enforcement, courts, other agencies doing with language access?



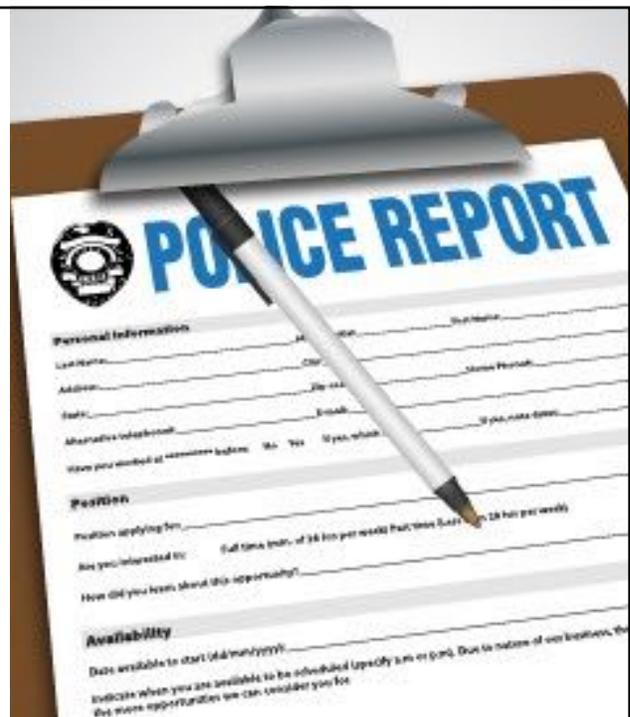
“I went to court that day and wanted to tell the judge what happened, but there was no interpreter. I tried to explain in English but I was nervous and couldn't find the words. The judge said my husband was not guilty. I was very upset and disappointed. I wish that I could have told my story better in English, but my husband did not allow me to take classes and learn the language.”

 **Resources!**

[Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence Language Access, Interpretation, and Translation](#)

Accompaniment and Reporting

- Facilitating reports and accompanying survivors to criminal and civil proceedings is critical.
- How can you work with LE and the courts to ensure victims feel safe making reports and seeking protection?



Get to Know Your Local Immigration Legal Service Providers

- Cultivate a relationship with a non-profit immigration legal service provider or reputable, experienced private attorney.

“Getting the U Visa has changed our lives. I’m grateful that something positive could come from this bad thing that happened to my family. Back then, I didn’t see any way out, but I have hope now and I know our future will be bright.”

 **Resources!**

[Immigration Advocates Network](#)
[American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)

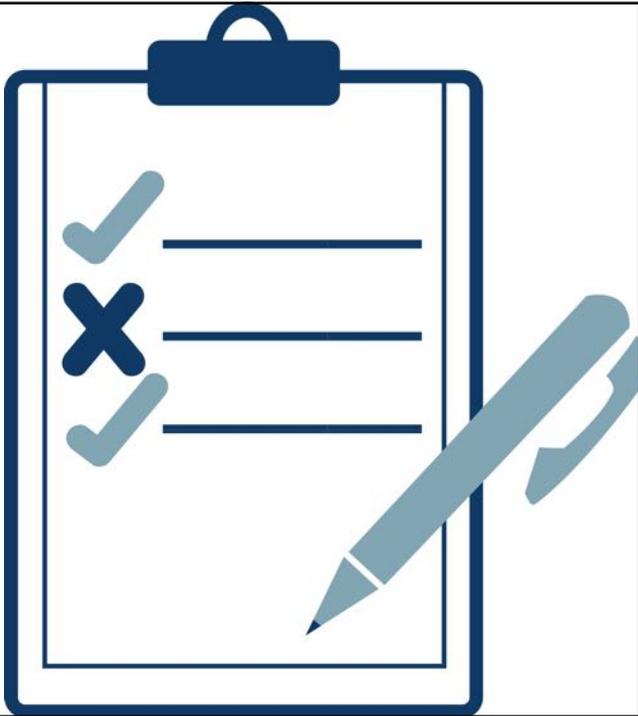
Make “Warm” Referrals

- Review your resource/referral guide and consider citizenship requirements and language capacity at referral agencies.
- Make in-person or direct referrals to ensure access.



How responsive is your agency to the needs of immigrant and LEP survivors?

What steps can you take to improve?

A blue clipboard icon with a checklist. The checklist has three items: the first is marked with a blue checkmark, the second with a blue 'X', and the third with a blue checkmark. A blue pen is positioned diagonally to the right of the clipboard.

Taking a Statewide Collaborative Approach





About ISAN

The Immigrant Survivors Advocate Network is an alliance of domestic and sexual violence victim service agencies from across Pennsylvania coordinated by the Immigrant Survivors Project of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center.

The network's mission is to increase the safety and autonomy of immigrant survivors and their families by ensuring that culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services, as well as high-quality immigration legal assistance, are available and accessible throughout the Commonwealth.



Tools for Members

- Immigration legal services for survivors
- Document Translation
- Telephonic Interpretation
- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Resources



Making Immigration Legal Services Accessible

- Mobile law office model
- Advantages
 - Utilizes existing statewide network
 - More comfortable and accessible for survivors
 - Coordination of comprehensive services to meet survivors' needs
 - Cross-learning between SA advocates and immigration advocates
 - Reach rural areas with smaller immigrant communities
 - Hopefully reduces use of notarios/inexperienced attorneys
- Challenges
 - Managing remote staff
 - Time/expense of travel
 - May add to advocate/SA agency workload



Building Capacity to Serve Immigrant Survivors

- Advantages
 - Tangible, life-changing benefits for survivors
 - Centralized coordination to avoid duplicated effort (i.e. resource bank for translated consent forms, surveys, etc.)
 - Saving on larger volume of translation and interpretation services
 - Particularly helpful to small programs who do not have large immigrant communities in their service area
- Challenges
 - Recruiting new members across a large state
 - Continued funding



ISAN at Work!

- 25 member agencies
- 43 Survivors served/referred
- 229 translated documents
- 474 instances and 10,329 minutes of interpretation provided (Nov-June)
- 22 Trainings, 1 Webinar
- 11 Instances of technical assistance



Questions?

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