



Preparing Bilingual Advocates so that Immigrant and Refugee Survivors Receive Equal Access to Services

Organization Leading Session on Domestic Violence and Asian American Families: Apna Ghar, Inc. was established in 1989 to meet the various linguistic and cultural needs of immigrant, refugee, and other marginalized survivors of gender-based violence. Our comprehensive services, professional trainings and public education, and systems/policy advocacy all address the needs of survivors who are marginalized due to immigration status, culture, English language capacity, or race. In our 31 years of work, we have experienced time and again the lower quality response from public service providers/first responders as well as the limited access to resources that immigrant and refugee survivors experience. Through survivor services, education and training, and systems advocacy, we address the systemic and institutional barriers that deny English Language Learners equal access to crisis response, legal recourse, and supportive services

Problem to be Addressed:

- Across the United States, immigrant and refugee survivors experience Language Injustice.
- Language Injustice is the lack of adequate interpretation and translation provided by a federally funded service provider.
- Title VI of the US Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits federally funded agencies from denying services based on national origin (language spoken).
- Despite this federal statute, immigrant survivors receive a lower quality of response from public agencies as well as limited access to interpretation and translation in court proceedings and when seeking various health and human services.

What Are Some Best Practices for Child Welfare Professionals in Working with Immigrant Families?

- Always offer professional interpretation and translation – do not rely on children or other family members to interpret. When a child’s welfare is at stake, all parties have to understand all procedures, every form they are signing, and what the findings are. Denying language access to a parent being investigated is a violation of Title VI (Title Six) of the US Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI states that no federal or federally funded agency shall deny services based on national origin (language spoken).
- Seek out community agencies that can offer family support services (see list below).
- Be considerate of cultural practices, such as removing shoes when entering a home or co-sleeping which is very common throughout Asia.
- There are other cultural practices, such as sitting on the floor and eating or playing and socializing a lot with neighbors who become like extended family.

Asian-serving Community Agencies

Don’t be fooled by the name! Many of these organizations serve families of many different ethnicities and nationalities

Apna Ghar http://www.apnaghar.org/	ICNA Relief https://icnarelief.org/
Asian Human Services https://www.ahschicago.org/	Indo-American Center https://indoamerican.org/
Chinese American Service League https://www.caslservice.org/	KAN-WIN http://www.kanwin.org/
Chinese Mutual Aid https://www.chinesemutualaid.org/	MIRA https://www.mirachicago.org/
Ethiopian Community Assoc. of Chicago https://www.ecachicago.org/	Muslim Women’s Resource Center http://www.mwrcnfp.org/
Hamdard Health Center https://www.hamdardcenter.org	Rohingya Cultural Center https://rccchicago.org/
HANA Center https://www.hanacenter.org/	Sanjeevani https://sanjeevani4u.com/
	Syrian Community Network https://syriancommunitynetwork.org/scn/

- Apna Ghar Programs**
- Crisis Line
 - Emergency Housing/ Safe Home
 - Transitional Housing
 - Counseling
 - Economic Empowerment
 - Legal Advocacy
 - Medical Advocacy
 - Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange
 - Outreach and Education
 - Public Education
 - Professional Trainings
 - Advocacy
 - Institutional and Systemic Change
 - Policy
 - Strategic Alliances to address needs and barriers
- <http://www.apnaghar.org/>

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