

**A Language Justice approach allows agencies to engage diverse organizations, local communities, stakeholders, and victims/survivors in anti-violence initiatives, placing everyone on equal footing through interpretation, translation, and other strategies for equal communication.**

**Language rights are human rights**

**Language rights and human rights are inextricably connected!**

Language rights include:

- The right to be free from discrimination based on language.
- Individuals' right to choose the language(s) in which they prefer to communicate.
- The right to have meaningful and equal access in an individual's primary language.
- The right to preserve one's language and perpetuate community identity.

## LANGUAGE JUSTICE RESOURCES

**Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence**

api-gbv.org

**Just Communities**

just-communities.org

**Antena Los Angeles**

antenalosangeles.org

**California Rural Legal Assistance**

crla.org

**Center for Participatory Change**

cpcwnc.org

**Communities Creating Healthy Environments**

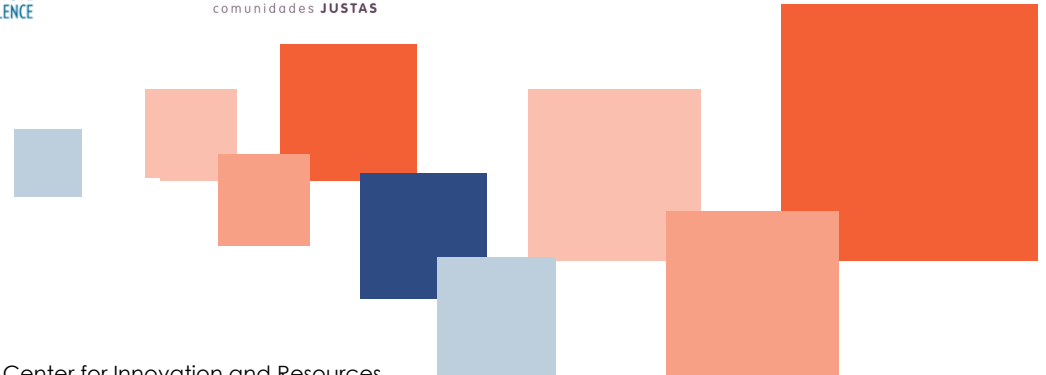
ccheonline.org

**Highlander Center**

**Interpreting for Social Justice Curriculum**

intergroupresources.com

**From Language Access to Language Justice: Centering Survivors' Voices in the Anti-Violence Movement**



Produced by the Center for Innovation and Resources Inc. (CIR) with funding provided by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), made possible through the United States Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act, 2017-VA-GX-XXXX.

## Recognizing California's diversity

- **About 44%** (17.5 million) of residents **speak a language other than English** at home (U.S. Census, 2018)
- **Approximately 19%** (6.7 million) of the state's population are considered **not "fully proficient in English" (LEP)\*** (American Community Survey, 2013)
- **At least 23 different indigenous languages** are spoken in the state. Mixtec (64,000±), Zapotec (30,000±), and Triqui (12,000±) are the largest linguistic groups (California Indigenous Farmworker Study)
- **3 million deaf and hard of hearing persons** reside in California (Orange County Deaf Equal Access Foundation) - and some may be considered not fully proficient in English.

\*LEP individuals are persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who may have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.



## Are you reaching communities across language differences?

### Are you...

1. Providing meaningful access to services for your constituency in their preferred language?
2. Welcoming community members to participate fully and lead in your organization's initiatives in their preferred language?
3. Organizing multilingual meetings/events that are not English-dominant, with interpretation and translations provided?
4. Putting arrangements in place to collaborate with experienced, trained, and qualified interpreters?
5. Having community members review translated materials for accuracy?

**...LANGUAGE IS A  
POWERFUL TOOL TO  
BUILD LEADERSHIP,  
TRANSFORM POWER,  
AND  
EMPOWER  
MARGINALIZED  
COMMUNITIES**

## Shifting from Language Access to Language Justice

### Language Access...

... is just the beginning of a path to healing and recovery.

... is a legal framework that seeks to promote effective communication for individuals who are considered to have Limited English Proficiency (LEP)\*, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

... as a mandate, requires agencies receiving federal funds to implement meaningful language access policies and practices to ensure access to all programs and services.

### Language Justice...

... is defined as the right every person has to speak, understand, and be understood in the language in which they prefer and in which they feel more articulate and powerful.

... recognizes language as a tool of oppression, and affirms language as a tool for healing and promoting social and racial justice.

...is an ever-evolving framework that intentionally seeks to create multilingual spaces in a consistent, inviting, and democratic way that is inclusive of all voices and no one language dominates.

...honors language and culture as fundamental human rights.

