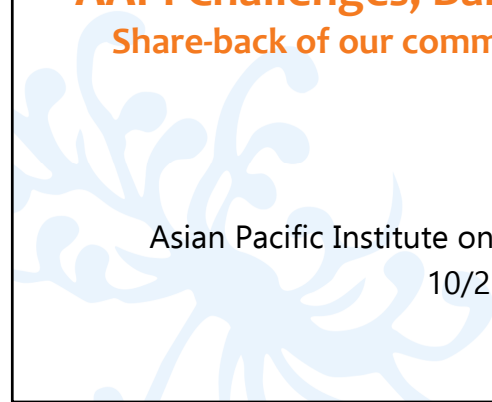




AAPI Challenges, Barriers, and Priorities: Share-back of our community listening sessions



Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
10/21/21

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About us

The **Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence** is a national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian/Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. We envision a world free of gender-based violence for communities with equal opportunities for all to thrive.

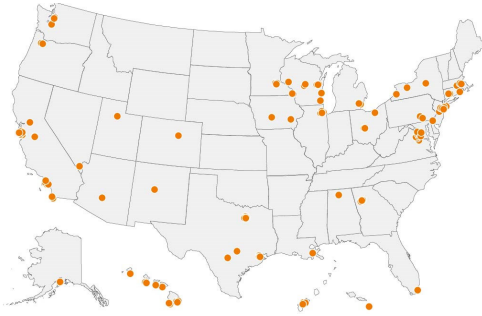
Our mission is to disrupt gender-based violence, which causes physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and economic harm within AAPI communities throughout the U.S. and its territories.

Agenda

- ▶ Learning from the community 2020-2021
- ▶ Findings: trends & needs
- ▶ Recommendations & priorities
- ▶ Q&A

Who is our community?

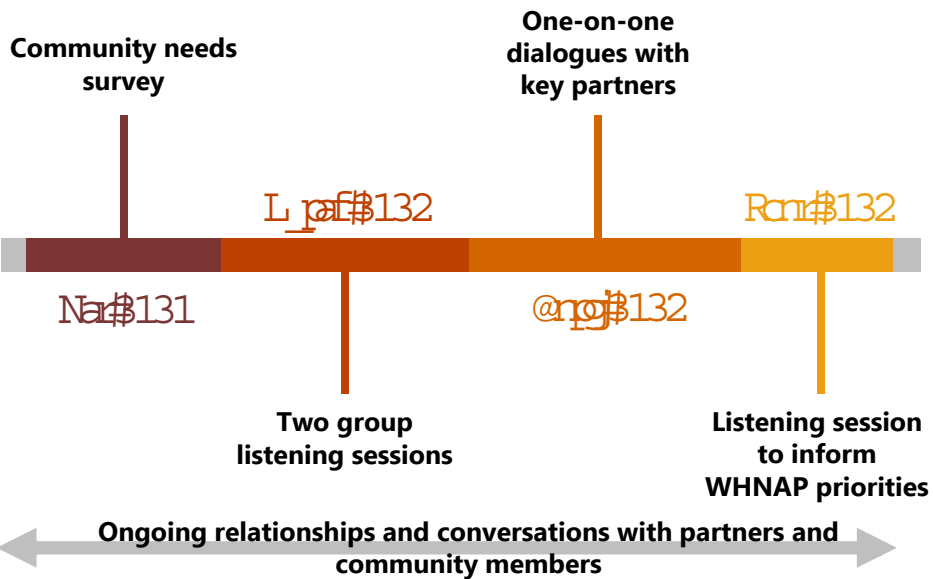
- ▶ 160+ DV/SA culturally-responsive service providers serving AANHPI survivors and communities



- ▶ National organizations, networks, TA/Training providers
- ▶ State/territory coalitions
- ▶ Partners and stakeholders in systems
- ▶ Other organizers, AAPI community groups and networks

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2020-2021: Learning from our community



Nar #131 #Brkkslgn#cdqspow

- ▶ Online survey
- ▶ Responses from 25 AAPI direct service agencies, TA providers, and coalitions

L_p #132 #fomn#grclde#poglo

- 2 virtual group sessions ◀
- 11 AAPI Community-based agencies, 3 state/territory coalitions, 5 other key partners ◀

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@n #132 #tlcml.mld#yjesq

- ▶ 5 one-on-one conversations
- ▶ Deep dive into needs and challenges

Rmr #132 #7 GM@G#grclde#pogml

- To inform AANHPI priorities for the White House National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence ◀
- 17 presentations from advocates & community partners ◀
- 35+ written comments ◀

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Challenges

Challenges: Lack of disaggregated data

Robust, disaggregated data is critical to understanding AAPI experiences and programming, funding, and policy design

- ▶ Need data on prevalence and dynamics of abuse, advocacy solutions, demographics
- ▶ Experiences of Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, refugees, elderly survivors, youth, Muslim communities are largely left out
- ▶ AANHPI histories and experiences are not part of the "mainstream" culture or curricula. This contributes to "othering"

"Accountability is so important. When doing surveys and studies, the community we're asking to participate needs to know what they will get out of this."

Challenges: Organizational Issues

There is a pressing need to tend to the well-being of advocates and staff, and to empower future leaders in this movement

- ▶ Intense staff burnout, vicarious trauma, capacity issues
- ▶ Advocates are isolated, need opportunities to connect with their peers
- ▶ Leadership need support and training
- ▶ Boards need training on the connection between GBV, racial justice, and other issues
- ▶ Organizations need support on culture shifting towards more transparency, accountability and racial equity.
- ▶ Many orgs are going through transitions and need support in this time

“[We need] the opportunity to learn, grow, share with colleagues who represent CBOs like us”

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Challenges: Dynamics of Abuse

Shelter-in-place policies have added a layer of complexity to abuse situations. Cases are more severe and require more holistic approaches

- ▶ Increased intersections with mental illness and suicidal ideation, especially among youth
- ▶ Programs receiving more requests related to violence outside the home: at work/campus, from faith leaders, etc
- ▶ Need to understand safety protocols around the platforms used by our communities: WhatsApp, weChat, etc
- ▶ AAPI hate heightens anxiety and fear of reaching out for help

“Many children ‘cannot be found’ – they are not attending school, not accounted for. We don’t know what is happening with them or what they’re doing”

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Challenges: Dynamics of Abuse

Domestic survivors aren't survivors of just domestic violence. They need access to services that take a broad view of violence and needs, understanding the impact of family, historical, and community dynamics

"I grew up with violence, my father hit my mother, my grandfather hit grandmother, my brothers abused their wives, my sister was abused. I was supported by my female family members until I reached out for help. They said I was betraying the family honor by reaching out. If I go back to my country my brother will surely kill me. I was married to my first cousin."

Client at Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

TMWF and API-GBV: From the Roots of Trauma to the Flowering of Trauma Informed Care (Jan 2020)

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Challenges: Underserved populations

Minorities within the AAPI umbrella continue to be invisibilized and underserved due to lack of organizational capacity, specialized services, or funding

- ▶ Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians
- ▶ Elderly survivors
- ▶ Immigrant survivors, undocumented survivors
- ▶ Refugee survivors
- ▶ Children impacted by DV or trauma
- ▶ LGBTQIA+ survivors
- ▶ Deaf/Hard of Hearing survivors
- ▶ Survivors with disabilities

"About 1/3 of our direct service clients are elders, primarily from China, Vietnam, Laos, and Nepal. Almost all of them have LEP"

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Challenges: Outreach

Due to need to build trust and limitations in language and technology access, some AAPI communities remain hard to reach, particularly in the isolation created by the pandemic

- ▶ Difficulty reaching isolated communities – rural communities, LEP communities
- ▶ Need alternatives to phone/email/zoom
- ▶ Building trust with faith communities takes long term commitment
- ▶ Broaching topics like racial justice, reproductive justice with more conservative communities can be challenging

“Much of our community is not ready to talk about racial justice issues yet. Some see ‘wokeness’ as a challenge to family values. The work ahead is to broach these conversations with them.”

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Challenges: Language Access

Language access continues to fall short of survivors’ needs, particularly for minority languages and in rural areas

- ▶ Many AAPI languages do not rise reach the “threshold” for interpretation/translation
- ▶ LEP survivors left out of virtual services, public releases of info, etc
- ▶ Interpreters prefer to work in the courts, where there’s more work and more pay, so the pool of interpreters for DV agencies needs consistent rebuilding
- ▶ Lack of qualified interpretation in courts

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Challenges: Economic

The pandemic has exacerbated existing economic disparities affecting AAPI communities, and many survivors continue to be left out of remedies

- ▶ Barriers accessing loss of income support, victims' compensation funds, stimulus checks
- ▶ Due to long processing times for benefits, survivors are unable to support children and families
- ▶ Immigrants with work visas who have lost their jobs may be unable to retain status
- ▶ Many middle-income survivors can't afford attorney rates, but don't qualify for legal aid

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Challenges: Systems

Systems still often lack training around AAPI issues and needs, and frequently re-traumatize survivors.

- ▶ Complex systems are a barrier to survivors and generate distrust and fear
- ▶ Long wait times put survivors' cases and lives in limbo
- ▶ Lack of language access, transportation, childcare limits access to criminal justice remedies
- ▶ Uneven application of prosecutions leave victims without justice, especially when abusers are prominent in the community or hold positions of power
- ▶ Agencies are exploring community solutions beyond law enforcement and the criminal justice system

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Funding is scarce, restrictive, and frequently cumbersome to manage

- ▶ There's still a disconnect between what AAPI communities need and what funders think AAPI communities need
- ▶ Hard to measure impact for funders and grant reports/applications
- ▶ Managing grants is very demanding on staff time
- ▶ Loss of individual donors during pandemic

"Funders are always big on 'innovative projects,' but we're just here trying to put out fires"

"[We need] education of funders who perhaps are still basing their funding and expectations on white-led models of intervention and prevention"

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Recommendations

Recommendations: Advocacy

- ▶ Commit to disaggregating AAPI data, histories, experiences, and needs
- ▶ Orgs training/funding for collecting data: community-based participatory research
- ▶ Invest into engaging with faith leaders, community elders, and other trusted leaders
- ▶ Operate within an anti-racist framework which prioritizes addressing anti-AAPI hate and disparities
- ▶ Bridge connections between advocates, between organizations, across fields and sectors

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Recommendations: Organizations

- ▶ Explore ways to bring older immigrant advocates into the movement. They are bridges to the communities they represent
- ▶ Prioritize staff care, trauma, and well-being
- ▶ Build in time and budget to evaluate organizational policies and structures
- ▶ Consider alleviating burnout issues through org restructuring and diversifying staff time

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Recommendations: Systems & Funding

- ▶ Prioritize language access across all systems, including for languages that aren't commonly represented
- ▶ Funders need to encourage collaboration amongst organizers, organizations, and between community agencies and systems
- ▶ Funders and systems should support intersectional approaches and recognize broad definitions of harm and well being

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Reflections





Questions?

