



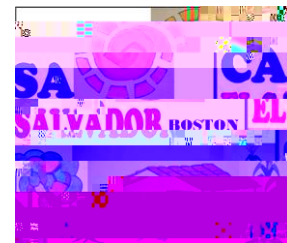
# Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence: A Training Resource Guide

May 2014

Boston College Center for Human Rights &  
International Justice  
Migration and Human Rights Project

In collaboration with :  
Women Encouraging Empowerment  
English in Action  
CasaEl Salvador

With special thanks to M. Gabriela Távora Vásquez, Amie Wells and  
Jessica Chicco







A Power Exercise  
(30 Minutes)

This activity is designed to allow participants to experience the ways in which someone can feel vulnerable when there are power differentials within a relationship.

Participants should be divided into pairs. Each member will take a turn guiding his or her partner blindfolded around the room by placing a guiding hand on the shoulder of the blindfolded partner and providing verbal cues

At the end of the activity, each member will be asked to reflect on their experience of:

- (1) The feeling of being blindfolded and being led by their partner, that is, being vulnerable;
- (2) The feeling of leading their partner who is blindfolded and having control over him or her.

Facilitators should allow time to discuss and reflect on the experiences of the participants.

Facilitators can link similar participant experiences to the potential experience of an abused person who feels vulnerable and is dependent on their abuser.

NB: Facilitators may want to rethink this exercise if there is a blind person within the group and/or give particular time and space to reflect on her or his experiences within the context of this exercise.

Defining Domestic Violence  
(60 Minutes)

This activity is designed to allow participants to explore their understandings of the multiple meanings of Domestic Violence

## Part 2: Presenting Group Definitions (30 Minutes)

Each group presents their definition to the larger group along with a short description of the group's process in developing their definition of Domestic Violence.

### Facilitators

Once all of the groups have presented, distribute the Wheel of Power and Co

factsheets. Facilitators should also be prepared to make referrals to legal organizations as needed.

Facilitators can present informational resources about the definition of Domestic Violence in Massachusetts and Rhode Island as well as basic information on restraining and protection orders (Appendix B). The facilitator can also present information on some forms of relief available to survivors of DV, such as U visas, VAWA status, and asylum (also in Appendix B)

Facilitators may also choose to present the case scenario set out in Appendix C. The scenario can be read out loud to the group, and the facilitator can then elicit responses and reflections. Some of the important "take-away points" from the scenario are listed as bullet points under the scenario in Appendix C. It may be best to only include this activity if an immigration lawyer will be present to answer the many questions that are likely to be asked in follow-up to the scenario.

### Emotional Connections with Domestic Violence for Men and Women (60 Minutes)

This activity is designed to allow participants to reflect on their own opinions and feelings regarding Domestic Violence. This activity invites participants to reflect and discuss the ways in which their own opinions and feelings with DV may impact the effectiveness of interventions made while making referrals for survivors of DV.

Facilitators: Separate groups by gender (Men and Women) If applicable, separate the groups of men and women into smaller groups of 4 or 5.

It is important that each group have their own space to discuss sensitive topics reflective of their group's personal experiences. (Ex: Men and women in separate rooms or in far enough apart spaces so that they do not distract each other).

#### The Men's Group

##### Part 1: Discussion (45 Minutes)

The men meet in a separate room to discuss issues of masculinity, culture and the abuse of power. This is a space where men can speak separately from the women about domestic violence and their role in helping to create a culture that does and/or does not support DV

To engage in this discussion facilitators may propose questions such as

What roles do men play that foster or support DV? And which roles do not?



Once all of the scenarios are read, invite the participants to share their experiences of doing the activity. Ask participants to share any of their reflections and answers to the questions that they jotted down.



Invite group participants to link the concepts by providing examples and engaging in a discussion on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### Emotional and Psychological Effects of Domestic Violence

Sometimes there is no recognition of DV

There may be feelings of guilt due to DV

Victims/survivors can function with a sense of numbness

Every case is unique

There are cultural differences in how women experience DV

Undocumented immigration status and low socioeconomic status/poverty leads to an increase in barriers for women seeking support due to DV which can also cause additional distress. For example: the lack of financial resources to leave the abuser; dependence on \_\_\_\_\_

Don't try to "fix it"

Have in mind:

The victim is not responsible

It takes time to talk about these issues

The healing process is different for each person

Lunch 30-45 Minutes (Be flexible to group time variability)

### Crisis Response: Role Plays

(65 Minutes )

The purpose of this activity is to allow participants to role-play an organizational response to an incident involving a community member in need of support with issues around Domestic Violence. The collection of scenarios was created to elicit

Engage in team consultations for additional support

Facilitators will connect the common themes developed throughout the workshop to provide advice on how to proceed with referrals considering the sensitivity of DV situations.

Present the “General Guidelines for a Referral Process” listed below. These guidelines provide helpful tips and guidelines for community workers working with survivors of domestic violence.

### General Guidelines for Referral Process

#### Things to Have in Mind When Making a Referral:

Consider your organizations policy and standard level of involvement, and follow up activity to be completed with a survivor. Every organization will have different

A "Warm Down" /Wrap up Activity  
"Italian Rain"

As the day may have been filled with intense emotions and active participation from the participants, the "Italian Rain" activity is an example of a "warm down" activity to allow room for relaxation and decomposition from the day's work. The activity encourages a sense of unity while highlighting difference and individuality. The acoustic effect of the activity resembles the sound of rain on rooftops giving a calming effect.

Facilitator will instruct participants to stand in a circle without holding hands.

Participants are then instructed to place the left hand palm side up and to begin clapping with the right hand on top of the left hand while decreasing the number of fingers used to clap from 5 to 1 on their own time.

Allow clapping to go on until one person is left 1t[( )] T J p E T E K p Q £ u V ~ Y y e ¶ ¿ € \$ » \$ » \$ •

Appendix A  
Wheel of power and control



© 2009 National Center of Coalitions Advocating for the Power and Control Wheel Domestic Interagency Alliance Project (NCCAPCWDIAP)  
Abilene Rob

## Appendix B

### Legal Information about Domestic Violence and Immigration Relief

#### Massachusetts

A few notes about immigration related issues:

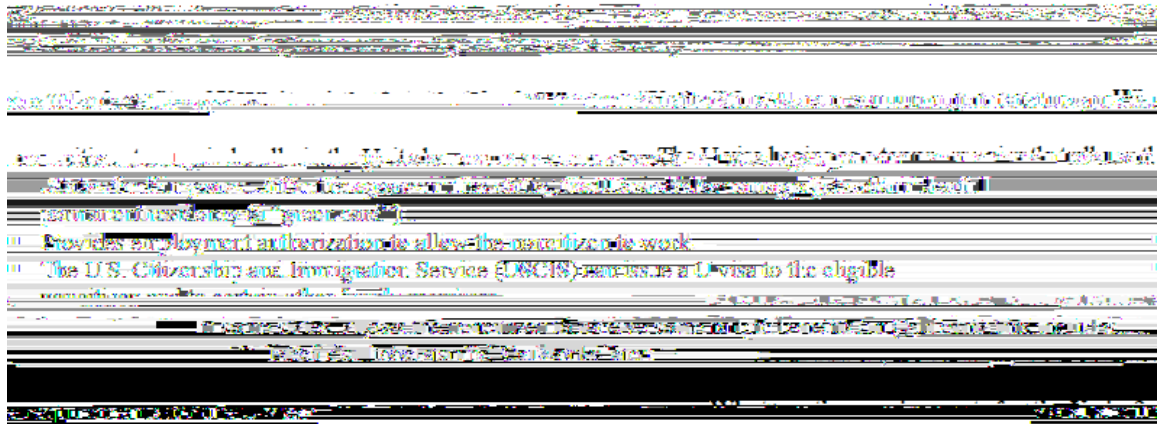
The following three pages provide basic information about three forms of relief that are sometimes available to survivors of domestic violence who are undocumented and living in the U.S.: the U visa, relief under VAWA, and asylum (based on surviving domestic violence in the country of origin). These information sheets were created by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and are reproduced here.

Perpetrators of domestic violence who are not U.S. citizens can be deported if they are convicted of a domestic violence crime or if they violate a protection order.

When in doubt, it is best to refer questions to attorneys or DV advocates!



## U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS



Some cases have involved substantial abuse of the visa process, resulting in the issuance of visas to individuals who are not eligible for them. The recent increase in visa applications has allowed some individuals to obtain visas who are not eligible for them. This has led to a significant increase in the number of individuals who are not eligible for visas. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (DHS) has taken steps to address this issue, including increasing the number of visa interviews and implementing a new visa interview process. The DHS has also implemented a new visa interview process that includes a more thorough background check and a more thorough review of the applicant's information. This new process is designed to ensure that only eligible individuals receive visas. The DHS has also implemented a new visa interview process that includes a more thorough background check and a more thorough review of the applicant's information. This new process is designed to ensure that only eligible individuals receive visas.

For more information, order the IIR's publication.

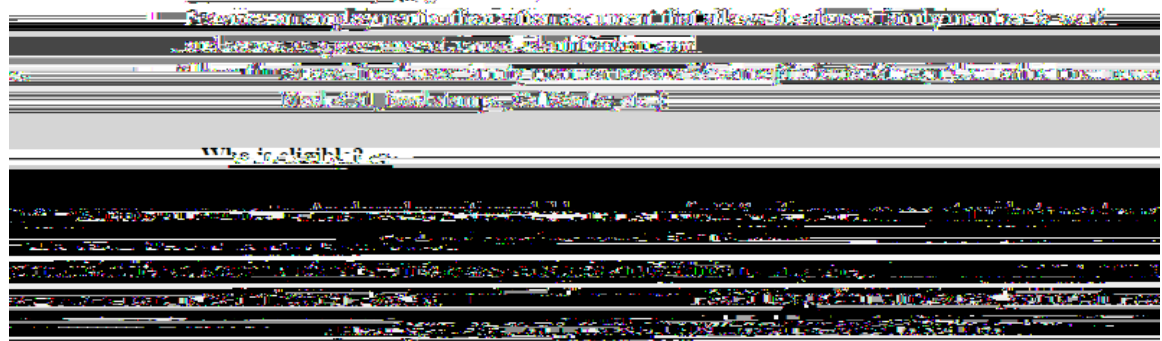
## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

What are the benefits of VAWA?

- Allows the abused family member to remain in the United States and eventually obtain lawful permanent residency (if approved)



**NOTE:** Both male and female abused children (or spouses) are eligible to apply.

www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

The abusive family member must be a U.S. citizen, naturalized citizen, permanent resident, or have a pending application for citizenship. The abusive family member must also be a U.S. citizen, naturalized citizen, permanent resident, or have a pending application for citizenship.

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www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

5. The abuse must constitute battery or "extreme cruelty" which can include psychological or emotional abuse.

www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

www.immigrantlegalresourcecenter.com

## ASYLUM

### What are the benefits of asylum?

Asylum is the protection of someone on the United States and areas under its jurisdiction. Asylum is granted by the U.S. government.

Asylum is granted to someone who is fleeing their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution.

Asylum is granted to someone who is fleeing their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group.

Asylum is granted to someone who is fleeing their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of membership in a particular social group.

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*For more information, order the ILRC's publication,  
"Essentials of Asylum Law."*

## Appendix C

### Case Scenario to Review Legal Aspects

You are the mother of two young children who were born in the U.S. You have no legal immigration status, but your husband has his green card (permanent residency) and has promised to help you get a green card too. Every time you ask him about it, though, he becomes angry and refuses to answer your questions, so you've stopped asking. You try to avoid making him angry, because when he's angry he hits you, calls you names, and threatens to call immigration and take the children away from you. You feel stuck and wonder whether there's anything that you can do.

### Some Important Take-Away Points

Domestic violence can take many forms, including physical abuse and emotional abuse (See the Power and Control Wheel for more examples of abusive behavior).

The husband can use the fact that the woman has no immigration status or depends on him to get legal immigration status to control her.

It can sometimes be possible for undocumented individuals who are abused to get legal immigration status. For example, individuals who are abused by their spouse who are U.S. citizens or are green card holders can apply for immigration status in some circumstances. Even where the abuser is not a U.S. citizen or green card holder, a victim of domestic violence may be able to get a visa if she cooperates with the police. There is more information about these forms of relief in Appendix B. Survivors of domestic violence who are undocumented should consult with an immigration attorney to discuss their options.

The abuser can use the children to control the other person. For example, he can threaten to take the children away.

The woman can request a Protection Order from the court to keep the abuser away from her and from the children. This is not the same as getting custody of the children and does not end the father's parental rights.

A conviction for a crime of domestic violence or a violation of a protective order can lead to deportation, even if the person has a green card. If you are worried about what effects reporting the abuser to the police will have on his immigration status, you can consult an immigration lawyer.



### Scenario 3:

It is now October and the kids are asking for Halloween costumes to go to Halloween festivities. Because of the incident in July, you have been extremely careful to not spend extra money to avoid any more heated arguments with your spouse. Instead of buying costumes, you bought fabrics and supplies from the arts and crafts store to make costumes with your kids. When you came home from the Halloween party your husband was enraged, you tried to explain that you did not spend as much money as it may seem. But he smacks you, grabs you by the hair,



## Appendix E

### DV Scenarios – Response Exercise

Facilitator: Divide the large group into smaller groups with 4-5 persons each. Provide each small group with a different scenario from the 5 provided below. The group should pick sub-topic A, B, or C which are three alternative scenes within the same scenario, that is, #15. The group's choice might be based on the type of situation that they think their organization might encounter – or based on other criteria they identify. Each group must then develop a role-play which RESPONDS to the specific scene they have chosen within the scenario that they were given. Allow each group time to develop its role-play response. Each group is thus given the opportunity to organize a strategy to manage the crisis envisioning themselves in the role of community workers. If time permits, and the group would like to continue this exercise, the group may select a second scene, develop a second role-play, act them out, etc.

#### Scenario 1

A) Your agency receives a call from a woman asking to speak with another woman. When the staff person picks up the phone, they notice the woman sounds anxious. The staff person asks the woman a few questions and discovers that she is having trouble at home with her husband. She conveys her embarrassment and hesitancy in asking for help. She would like to get more information on how to get support for domestic violence. She is not sure if it is domestic violence and is not ready to go to a support group.

B) Your agency receives a call from a woman asking to speak with another woman. There are no female staff persons currently available. When the staff person picks up the phone, they notice the woman sounds anxious. The staff person asks the woman a few questions and discovers that she is having trouble at home with her husband. She would like to get more information on domestic violence support.

C) Your organization receives a call from woman who says she needs help but did not know where to go. She has a lot of problems in her life and her friend told her she should call this number to get more help. She was told that you can help because she is undocumented. In the phone call you find that the woman is homeless with 3 small children and is currently staying with her friend. She has not received medical care since the birth of her last child 1 year ago because she is afraid to leave a record that will lead her ex-husband to her. She has had to move with her children because of noise complaints in her previous apartment, her ex found her at the home of a friend from church, he beat her for leaving and threatened her friends family. She is now currently at another's friend's house where he has arrived drunk looking for her but she was not home. Now she is looking for help for a safe place to stay that is close to her friends.



Scenario 2

A) Your organization is conducting an ESOL class and discussing issues of

- her through the door. The next day she calls saying he beat her when she got home in front of the kids. She is asking for your advice on what to do.
- B) Your organization is hosting an event with food and music. Some members are volunteering. During the event a husband shows up upset demanding that his wife stop participating because she is not there to have fun she is there to learn. He calls her names and throws her belongings at her to get ready to leave. This member returns to classes about twice a month when her husband happens to work on the same day. She is not ready to leave him but is willing to get help.
  - C) The organization is hosting a table at a health fair that is conducting rapid HIV testing. A student is volunteering at the health fair at a time other than when the class meets. The husband picks her up and accuses her of cheating and being at the health fair to secretly get tested. He calls her names, accuses her of cheating and demands to look at the confidential files of the test takers to check her status.

#### Scenario 5

- A) Student who usually comes to class regularly has begun to arrive less frequently. When she comes to class she does not participate and wears baggy clothing. An event that she usually volunteers for is coming up and you approach to ask for her interest. You notice she has a bruise under her eye as she responds that she cannot volunteer the event this year.
- B) Student comes to class with a black eye.
- C) A student leaves for class a bit later than usual. You recognize that she is anxious and is no longer in a happy mood. When asked what's wrong she says she must return home before her husband gets upset. She normalizes

## Appendix F

### A Sample Agenda for the Training Workshop

#### Domestic Violence Workshop Spring 2014

Program			
Time	Activities	Materials	Facilitators
9 – 9:30am	Welcome: Introduction of the participants, discussing expectations for the workshop, explaining the goals.	N 246.05 583.9	





## KEY DEFINITIONS

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Child Abuse: any act by a caretaker on a child (under 18) which causes or creates a substantial risk of physical or emotional injury; or any sexual contact between a caretaker and a child.

Child Neglect: failure by caretaker, either deliberately or through negligence or inability (as long as not due solely to lack of economic resources), to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care.

Abuse: Abuse occurring between family or household members that is:

- (a) attempting to cause or causing physical harm;
- (b) placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm;
- (c) causing another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress.

## RELEVANT LAWS

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- Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 119, § 27B (definition of mandated reporter)
- Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 119, § 27A (standards for making report)
- Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 209A (abuse prevention orders)

MANDATED REPORTING IN RHODE ISLAND

	Mandated to Report Abuse?
Who?	

## KEY DEFINITIONS

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Abused and/or neglected childchild whose physicalmental health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his or her parent or other person responsible for his or her welfareinflicts or creates substantial risk of physical or mental injury, commits or allows sexual abuse, fails to provide for needs, abandons the child.

Domestic Abuseany of these acts against a present or former family member, a current or recent romantic partner, or a cohabitant:

Attempts to cause or causes you physical harm(with or without a weapon);

Places you in fear of immediate serious physical harm(including threatening you with a weapon);

Causes you to have sexual relations against your willby force, threat of force, or duress (coercion);

Stalksyou †stalking is defined as either:

Harassment(behaving or acting in a way that intends to seriously alarm, annoy, or bother you, and which serves no legitimate (valid) purpose. His/her actions must reasonably cause you to suffer substantial emotional distress or to be in fear of bodily injury); OR

Maliciously and repeatedly following youwith the intent to place you in reasonable fear of bodily injury; or



## Appendix H

### Links to useful resources

Love is Respect (<http://www.loveisrespect.org/download-materials>) – this resource page provides links to a variety of informational handouts as well as other materials such as posters and wallet cards.

ASISTA (<http://www.asistahelp.org/>) – works to centralize assistance for advocates and attorneys facing complex legal problems in advocating for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (<http://www.nrcdv.org/>) - comprehensive source of information for those wanting to educate themselves and help others on the many issues related to domestic violence.