

PRESERVE AND PROTECT ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR DISENFRANCHISED & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Preserving basic human rights for all victims of domestic violence.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS & LOCAL DV PROGRAMS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Domestic violence often happens within the context of human trafficking. Trafficking perpetrators use violence, threats, and emotional abuse to control their victims and exploit them for financial gain. The fear of prosecution for sex related crimes keeps victims from reaching out for domestic violence services.

IMMIGRATION

Immigrant victims of domestic violence often experience violence and threats of deportation by their abusers—increasing their reluctance to seek help and services from authorities and programs.

LGBTQ+

Members of the LGBTQ+ community experience rates of domestic violence similar to that of the general population. Abusers use coercion and threats to control victims, threatening to “out” them. LGBTQ+ populations face increased isolation, and often fear seeking out services.

BARRIERS IN DELIVERY OF SERVICE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Victims that are already vulnerable to attack, deportation or arrest hesitate to call law enforcement for assistance
- Misconceptions held by government authorities and service providers about non-majority populations often deter these victims from seeking help
- Resistance to public accommodations for transgender populations prevails in many local communities

PCADV PUBLIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support legislation that treats minors as victims rather than criminals in cases of sex trafficking.
- Support legislation that protects human trafficking victims from charges of prostitution.
- Advocate for training of human services providers, law enforcement and court personnel on new human trafficking laws in collaboration with human trafficking stakeholders.
- Oppose legislative developments that harm immigrant victims of domestic violence by deterring them from reaching out for police protection, medical or economic assistance, or other supportive services.
- Support legislation that protects the rights of members of the immigrant community.
- Advocate against efforts to punish or eliminate funding to “Sanctuary Cities”.
- Support legislation that protects the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Advocate against laws that threaten basic human rights and allow for unequal treatment and services for LGBTQ+ populations.