

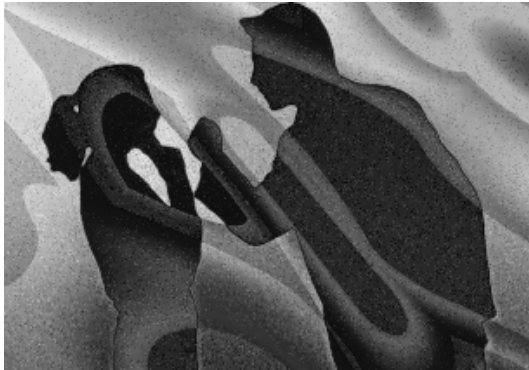
How You Can Help

NEVER refer a battered immigrant to immigration authorities. This may lead to deportation.

INSTEAD, refer them to MLC or HCM to determine whether they qualify for VAWA or U Visa.

ACKNOWLEDGE and validate the unique fears a battered immigrant may be facing:

- ❖ Police and immigration authorities
- ❖ Being deported
- ❖ That the abuser will be deported
- ❖ Losing custody of children
- ❖ Language barriers
- ❖ Cultural and religious barriers
- ❖ Economic barriers
- ❖ U.S. Legal System



Non-legal Resources Are Available

All battered immigrants qualify for federal, state, and locally supported emergency and short-term shelter programs, regardless of immigration status. Also, a victim may become eligible for some public benefits PRIOR to final approval of VAWA or U Visa.

Help gather important documents

Encourage her to keep the following documents, especially if the abuser threatens to take the children away:

- ❖ Recent photos
- ❖ Passports, visas, residency cards
- ❖ Birth certificates for her children
- ❖ Immunization records
- ❖ Records related to the children's school and health care
- ❖ A list of addresses and phone numbers of the abuser's friends and relatives in the country of origin

Help document a history of violence

The following evidence will be helpful in your clients VAWA or U Visa petition:

- ❖ A chronological history of events
- ❖ Police records
- ❖ Apologetic notes or letters from the abuser, e.g. "I'm sorry," "Don't be afraid of me."
- ❖ Threatening notes or letters
- ❖ Torn or burned clothes
- ❖ Criminal court records
- ❖ Medical records
- ❖ Photos
- ❖ Statements of witnesses
- ❖ Statements from you or other service providers
- ❖ Any protective orders
- ❖ Victim's own statement

*The more violent the love,
the more violent the anger.*
Burmese Proverb

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Working with Battered Immigrant Women

Immigration Resources in Utah



THERE'S
NO EXCUSE FOR
ABUSE

Utah Domestic Violence Council

*Mission: To lead a collaborative,
statewide effort to eliminate
domestic violence.*

205 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: (801) 521-5544
Fax: (801) 521-5548
Website: www.udvc.org

Domestic Violence & Immigrant Women

As an advocate or domestic violence service provider, you play a key role in the life of battered immigrant women (BIW) who face unique issues such as immigration status, language, and cultural barriers. It is vital that you are aware of these issues and know the options available to them.

Who are immigrant women? They are a diverse group who come from all over the world. Some are White English speakers. Others are indigenous and may only speak a tribal language. They may be documented or undocumented (the preferred terms to legal and illegal). They also may be refugees or asylees who are unable to return to their country of origin based on a well-founded fear of persecution.

Why is immigration status an issue? Often, battered immigrants stay in an abusive relationship because their immigration status is dependent on their abuser. However, battered immigrants may be eligible to apply for legal immigration status **without the help of their abuser** through VAWA or a U Visa.

Abusers try to gain power and control over their immigrant partner by:

- ❖ Telling her if she calls police they will deport her.
- ❖ Threatening to report her to immigration authorities to deport her and her children.
- ❖ Threatening to take her children out of the country
- ❖ Isolating her from family, friends, or anyone who speaks her language.
- ❖ Hiding or destroying important documents (i.e., passport, ID cards, etc.)

Multi-Cultural Legal Center MLC & VAWA

MLC is a non-profit dedicated to the issues that affect the racial and ethnic communities in Utah. MLC provides direct legal services through its Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Immigration Relief Project, as well as legal educational seminars for racial and ethnic communities.

What is VAWA?

The Violence Against Women Acts (VAWA) of 1994 and 2000 offer two kinds of relief that can help battered immigrants to become a **lawful permanent resident (LPR)**:

- ❖ VAWA self-petitions
- ❖ VAWA cancellation of removal

Who qualifies for VAWA?

- ❖ The spouse, intended or former spouse married or formerly married to a U.S. citizen or LPR who has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty.
- ❖ The abused child of a U.S citizen or LPR.
- ❖ The non-citizen parent of the child who has been abused by the citizen or LPR parent.

What is the cost?

Services provided are free or low cost. Immigration fees can be waived.

Where can battered immigrants apply?

Multi-Cultural Legal Center
205 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
(801) 486-1183
mlc@mlc-ut.org

Holy Cross Ministries HCM & U Visa

HCM provides *pro bono* immigration legal assistance to victims of crime who want to apply for a U Visa. HCM also provides outreach, education, school counseling, parish health, and school health services.

What is a U Visa?

A U Visa allows victims of certain violent crimes who have reported the crime to authorities to remain in the United States for three years. During that time, they can have a work permit. After the three years, they can apply to become permanent residents of the United States.

Who qualifies for a U Visa?

Victims of a violent crime, such as domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, etc., where

- ❖ The crime occurred in the United States.
- ❖ The victim suffered physical or mental abuse because of the crime.
- ❖ The victim has information about the crime.
- ❖ The victim has been helpful, or will be helpful, in the investigation or the prosecution of the crime.

What is the cost?

Services provided to all clients regardless of their ability to pay.

Where can immigrant victims apply?

Holy Cross Ministries
860 East 4500 South #204
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104
(801)261-3440

www.holycrossministries.org