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In this Issue:

- **Welcome**
- **Resources**
- **Latest Developments**
- **Speaker Series**
- **Publications**
- **Trainings**

NIWAP addresses the needs of immigrant women, immigrant children and immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking and other crimes by advocating for reforms in law, policy and practice.

NIWAP is a national provider of training, legal and social science research, policy development, and technical assistance to advocates, attorneys, pro bono law firms, law schools, universities, law enforcement, prosecutors, social service and health care providers, justice system personnel, and other professionals who work with immigrant women, children and crime victims. Our work supports those in the field and in government who work to improve laws, regulations, policies, and practices to enhance legal options and opportunities for immigrant women and children.

NIWAP provides training and technical assistance on a broad range of issues of importance to immigrant women and children, including VAWA immigration and confidentiality, family law, protection orders, public benefits, language access, cultural competency, and access to services, including shelter, transitional housing, health care, and education.

Welcome to the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP, pronounced new-app) newsletter!

The NIWAP staff are excited to launch our monthly newsletter. This newsletter will provide you with up to date information about legal protections, policy changes, and other developments as they pertain to immigrant women, children and immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking and other crimes. This newsletter will also provide information what is happening at NIWAP: events we're hosting, training materials we're publishing, research we are undertaking, reports we are issuing and more. Throughout this and our future newsletters you will find links to: statutes, government policies and regulations, legislative history, training manuals, materials,

Resources:

Be Sure to Check out our Web Library:

This Resource Library and Technical Assistance Center provides timely information on a vast array of topics of interest to those working across the country to help immigrant victims, women and children. The NIWAP library contains a wide range of materials, including legislative history, training manuals, toolkits, sample briefs and motions, factsheets, practice tools, research reports,

toolkits, and other relevant information to better assist you in your work. Please forward this newsletter to others in your community who are interested in issues affecting immigrant crime victims, women, and children. (If you did not receive this newsletter from NIWAP directly, you may [subscribe here](#).) Feel free to contact NIWAP (info@niwap.org or 202-247-4457) with any questions. Thank you for the work you are doing! We look forward to supporting your work with immigrant survivors, women and children and working in partnership with your organization.

*Best,
Leslye Orloff
Director, NIWAP*

Latest Developments

New Standard for Domestic Violence Victims in Asylum Cases

A recent Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) decision opened the door to victims of domestic violence to receive asylum based on their abusive relationships. The BIA ruling stated that "married women in Guatemala who are unable to leave their relationship" formed a particular social group for the purposes of an asylum claim. The BIA found that this group had two immutable characteristics: their marital status and their gender. For a full summary of this case and the complete opinion, visit the NIWAP web library. Also, be sure to check out Chapter 12 on gender-based asylum in our manual *Empowering Survivors: Legal Rights of Immigrant Victims of Sexual Assault*, which we have updated to include information about the BIA's new ruling. It is important to note that asylum law is a legally complex process. To pursue a claim of gender-based asylum, it is critical to first contact an immigration attorney with expertise in immigration options for immigrant victims of crimes. To locate

benchcards, tools for law enforcement, and government policies and regulations.

This [searchable library](#) of resources is designed to be used by OVW grantees and other advocates, attorneys, judges and service providers.

Our Web Library

For advocates, attorneys, judges, court staff, law enforcement, other professionals, and students assisting immigrant crime victims, women, and children.

niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu

NIWAP
National Immigrant Women's
Advocacy Project



We're on Youtube & Twitter:

NIWAP has its own [youtube channel](#). New to an issue? Access NIWAP training videos 24-7. We have posted our recent webinars covering topics that include "Training for Advocates and Attorneys on Trauma-Informed Work

programs with this expertise, contact NIWAP at 202-274-4457 or info@niwap.org.

New Legal Service Corporation (LSC) Regulations Improve Access to Legal Services for Immigrant Crime Victims

LSC amended their regulations in April 2014 to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005 expansions in access to legal services to immigrant crime victims under anti-abuse laws. Immigrant crime victims may receive help that is "directly related to preventing, healing from, ameliorating the effect of, and preventing future abuse." The abuse covered under VAWA 2005 and these regulations includes battering or extreme cruelty, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and U visa criminal activity. The anti-abuse pathway to legal services under the new LSC regulations implementing VAWA 2005 allow immigrant crime victims to receive legal assistance on a wide range of legal matters, related to the prevention of, obtaining relief from, ameliorating the effects of, protection from or escaping abuse. This includes immigration, family law, employment, public benefits, housing, healthcare, abuse & neglect, or other matters connected to the abuse. Once an immigrant has filed for lawful permanent residency, they also qualify for legal representation on additional matters not related to the abuse based on their immigration status. For more information on the new LSC regulations [please see NIWAP's legal services materials.](#)

Speaker Series

with Immigrant Women," "Obtaining U Visa Certification from Judges," "An Introduction of Law Enforcement to the U Visa," and "Law Enforcement and Advocates Partnering to Serve Immigrant Crime Victims." These videos are helpful for new and seasoned immigrant advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, judges, court staff, and students. To view other materials from these webinars, visit the [NIWAP library for training materials.](#) You can also use our [Twitter](#) feed to receive interesting and relevant updates.

Have questions on Immigrant Survivors' Legal Rights?

NIWAP offers [technical assistance](#) to advocates, attorneys, social services and health care providers, justice system personnel, and others working with immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. To submit your questions, email info@niwap.org or you can call NIWAP at 202-274-4457. Be sure to provide a description of the issue so we can better assist you. Examples of questions we've addressed in the past:



NIWAP's first event in the series was on September 4 at the Washington College of Law. NIWAP Director Leslye Orloff and Ronald LeGrand, Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, introduced students to NIWAP and spoke about exciting projects for the seminar course, which will offer law students hands-on immigration and policy experience. For more information on getting involved with NIWAP check out [this flyer](#). To learn more about upcoming events in our speaker series, follow us on [Twitter](#). For volunteer opportunities at NIWAP, email us at info@niwap.org.

Publications

- [**How to Get a Detained Person to Court for Family Court Cases Involving Children and/or Criminal Proceedings**](#) – [This handout guides judges, attorneys, and advocates on getting detained immigrants to court so they can participate in family court proceedings.](#)
- [**Access to Publicly Funded Legal Services for Battered Immigrants**](#) – [This succinctly describes the new Legal Service Corporation regulations promoting legal services for immigrant crime victims under anti-abuse regulations.](#)

- How does VAWA confidentiality operate in a family court context?
- Are courts required to have interpreters for limited English proficiency (LEP) speakers and deaf persons?
- What do the new Legal Services Corporation (LSC) regulations mean for crime victims' access to justice?
- What public benefits are available to VAWA self-petitioners, U-Visa, and T-Visa applicants? What is the impact of the Affordable Care Act on immigrant access to healthcare?
- What are battered immigrants' and immigrant crime victims' options to attain legal immigration status and protection from deportation?
- What vital documents should my agency translate and in what language?

Trainings

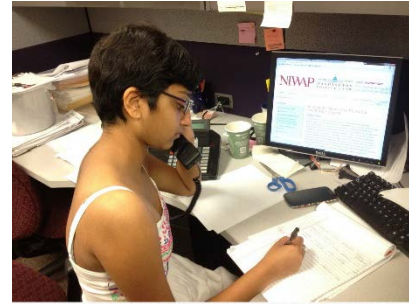
NIWAP is pleased to announce that we can provide a training in your state! Thanks to a State Justice Institute (SJI) grant, NIWAP is delivering workshops, half day and full day trainings around the country! Trainers include NIWAP's own Leslye Orloff in addition to a team of judges experienced in immigration law, family law, and criminal cases and staff from the Center for Public Policy Studies. **Visit our website for materials from past trainings.**

Upcoming Trainings:

- **Lanham, Maryland** - Sept. 24 - "Effective Advocacy for Immigrant Survivors: Immigration Protections, Benefits Access, and Trauma Informed Services"- for more information visit **the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)**.
- **Salt Lake City, Utah** - Nov. 20 - *for judges and court staff* - "State Courts and the Protection of Immigrant Crime Victims and Children"

Webinars

- Battered Immigrants and Immigrant Crime Victims' Access to Justice under the New Legal Services Corporation Regulation October 2014, date TBD
- VAWA Confidentiality in The Courts webinars available [here](#) and [here](#).



Find Professional Resources in your Area via our Directory

NIWAP's **web library** offers a nationwide list of programs in your state and community that have expertise working with immigrant victims, women and children. Use our directory to make referrals and find assistance for immigrant crime victims. You can search by location, language, and organization type. Be sure to check that your organization is listed and all of your information is accurate. With your assistance, we can create a comprehensive list of programs where immigrant victims can turn to for help when in need.

New Orleans Conference

NIWAP, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, hosted a conference August 6-7, 2014 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference theme was "**Creative Solutions to Strengthen Advocacy Options and Healing for Survivors.**" The meeting featured plenary sessions on public benefits for immigrant survivors, VAWA confidentiality, the use of trauma-informed care, and judges' perspectives on immigration issues in state court cases. The conference also featured workshops on a range of other topics to encourage specialization and foster conversation on particular issues. Attendees included advocates, attorneys, and justice system personnel, providing an interdisciplinary approach to helping immigrant survivors. Throughout the conference, participants were encouraged to participate in group activities and ask any questions they might have about immigration issues, promoting application of conference educational materials to real-life cases. **You can access the conference materials and powerpoints online.**



Our Directory:

For immigrants looking to be connected to advocates, attorneys, and organizations.

NIWAP.ORG/DIRECTORY

Get to Know NIWAP

Learn more about the **NIWAP staff:**

Leslye E. Orloff-
Director

Rocio Molina-
Deputy Director

Rafaela Rodrigues
Immigrant Women
Law and Policy
Fellow

Student Corner

NIWAP is a part of the Washington College of Law Community. **Consider getting involved in NIWAP's work on behalf of immigrant crime victims and children.** If you're interested in volunteering, email **info@niwap.org**.



Know anyone
interested in
learning more
about NIWAP?
Forward this email
or tell them to visit
www.niwap.org

Easy Ways to Get Involved and Stay Connected to NIWAP:

1. Contact us for **technical assistance** at **info@niwap.org**.
2. Keep an eye out for surveys in future newsletters so you can tell us what is going on in the field.
3. Attend trainings and **webinars**.

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National Immigrant Women's
Advocacy Project

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