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### **NIWAP Conference in New Orleans**

NIWAP would like thank all of the attendees and faculty who attended our trainings in New Orleans co-sponsored by KARAMAH and held in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women in “Addressing Culture: Systematic Responses to Undeserved Immigrant Populations.” It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and connect with programs across the country working every day to provide help, healing and access to justice for immigrant victims and their children. The conference materials

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### **HUD Confirms Process for Access to Public and Assisted Housing for VAWA Self-Petitioners**

As a key part of the Violence Against Women Act Congress in 1996 and 2003 gave battered immigrant spouses and children abused by their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouses or parents who had filed applications for immigration relief under VAWA access to public and assisted housing. HUD issued a memo on December 15, 2016 confirming that VAWA self-petitioners have access to public and assisted housing under Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act. The memo is available [here](#).

If you are an advocate or an attorney working on a case of an immigrant victim currently living in public or assisted housing contact the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) for technical assistance on how your client can use this memo to stay in the housing unit and avoid

are available to all of you including attendees [here](#).

proration. Contact NIWAP for technical assistance at 202-274-4457 or by email at [info@niwap.org](mailto:info@niwap.org)

**Action Needed:** NIWAP holds roundtables open only to government agencies eligible to certify U visas. These roundtables provide training and direct technical assistance provided by law enforcement and prosecutors to certifiers and potential certifiers. We are seeking help from conference attendees and others in identifying law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, judges, and other government agencies certifying U visas or interested in certifying U visas to add to our roundtable invitation list. Please forward contact information on certifiers and potential certifiers you would like us to invite to the roundtables to [info@niwap.org](mailto:info@niwap.org)

**Action Needed:** NIWAP is seeking your help in identifying Public Housing Authorities who have worked well advocates and attorneys on cases of domestic and/or sexual violence victims living in public housing. Please share with us contact information for public housing authority staff who have worked well with you on VAWA issues for victims in public housing at [info@niwap.org](mailto:info@niwap.org)

For information about immigrant victim access to shelter and transitional housing you can access the Joint HUD, DOJ and HHS letter [here](#).

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## Legal Services for Abused Immigrants

Over the past two years Legal Services Corporation (LSC) has issued a series of regulations, program letters and advisory opinions implementing access to legal representation by LSC lawyers for immigrant victims of domestic violence and child abuse (defined as battering or extreme cruelty), and victims of sexual assault, human trafficking and other U visa criminal activities. All of these regulations and policies are available [here](#).

Articles about legal services access for immigrant victims both adults and children are available [here](#).

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## VAWA Confidentiality Training at ICE

The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) is pleased to announce updated information regarding VAWA Confidentiality for attorneys, advocates, and other service providers working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes. All ICE Trial Attorneys have now been trained on VAWA protocols to ensure proper protection of VAWA confidentiality is executed. OPLA has tasked a lead contact to answer any issues that should arise in your cases. For more information on this training and procedures in VAWA confidentiality and VAWA related cases click [here](#).

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## Action: NIWAP National Directory Updates

NIWAP is updating our national directory of service providers. The directory of service providers includes providers who have experience working with immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, U-visa crimes, and human trafficking. We invite our subscribers to check to make sure that the information for their organization is accurate and up to date in our system. In addition, we invite you to check if there are any organizations and service providers located in your state that are no longer in operation that our still in our directory. If you find any such organizations, please inform us by emailing [info@niwap.org](mailto:info@niwap.org). Please follow the links below to view our directory and to update or submit your agencies information.

Access our directory [here](#).

Add your organization to our directory [here](#).

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[www.NIWAP.org](http://www.NIWAP.org) | [info@NIWAP.org](mailto:info@NIWAP.org) 202-  
274-4457

## Opportunity For Family Lawyers: Join NIWAP's Community of Practice

NIWAP is inviting family lawyers working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse to join our monthly Family Law Community of Practice. This is a monthly convening of family lawyers from across the country that facilitates ongoing peer to peer learning, specialized training and interaction with judges to build the skills of family lawyers working with immigrant survivors. If you are interested in joining our community of practice please contact Rocio Molina at [molina@wcl.american.edu](mailto:molina@wcl.american.edu)

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### Resources:

**For More Information on NIWAP see our [brochure](#).**

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### **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, 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.

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**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. 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.

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