

# SUPPORTING YOUR WORK WITH IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ASISTA

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# Goals



- Describe ASISTA's work
- Identify how ASISTA can help advocates and attorneys meet the needs of immigrant survivors

# ASISTA

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Trainings

Resources

Networks

Individualized  
case  
assistance

Liaison work

# NIWAP Technical Assistance On:

- VAWA confidentiality protections
  - Including issues that arise in family and criminal law cases
- Family law
  - Protection orders, divorce, custody, child and spousal support
- Access to legal services
- Public benefits
  - Housing, Education, TANF, Health Care, Driver's Licenses,
- Language Access and Culture
- Immigration law
  - VAWA, T visas, U-visas, SIJS, Detained Victims
- Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions:
  - U & T visa certification by law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and building effective collaborations with victim advocates/attorneys


# NIWAP Types of Technical Assistance

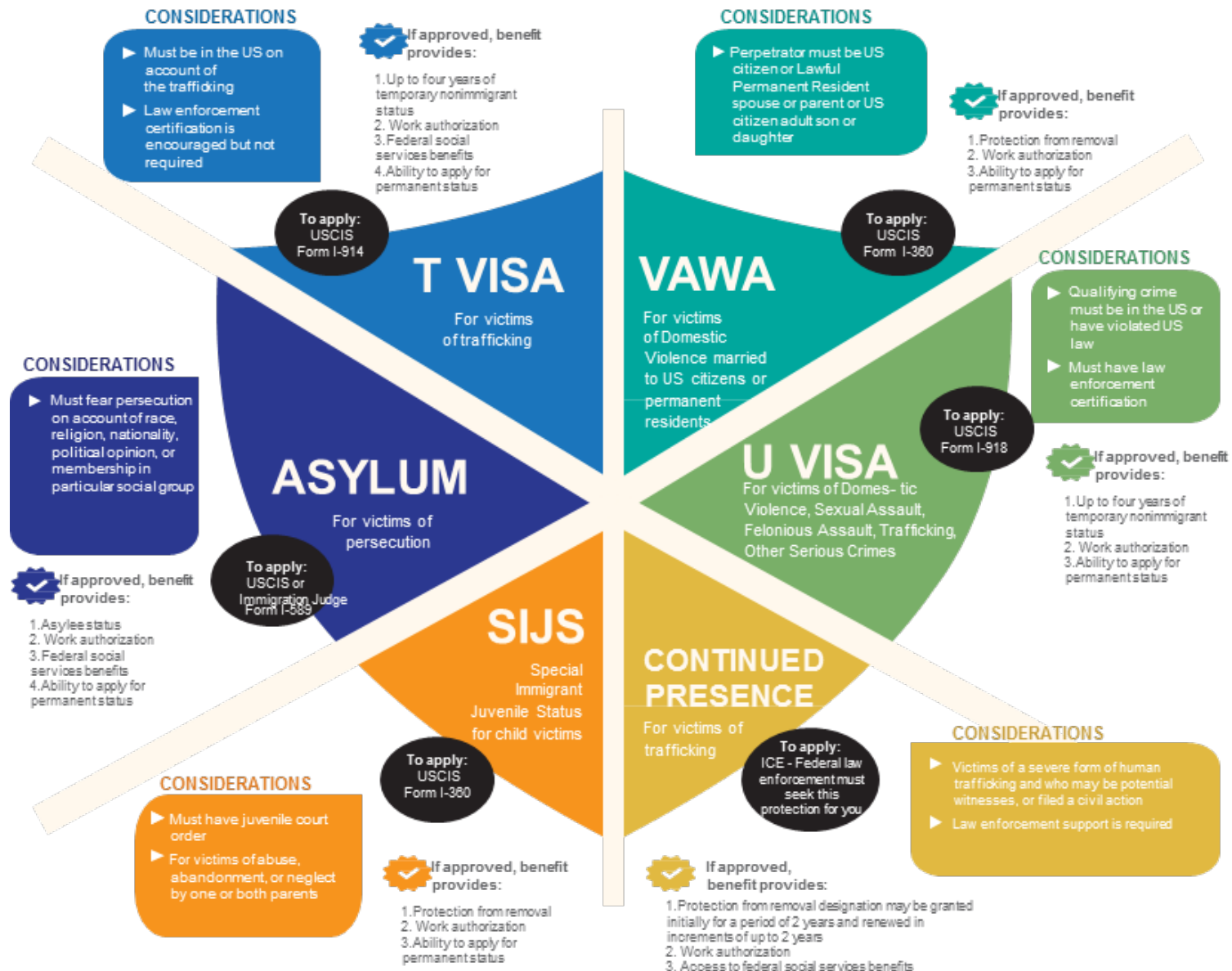
- Case consultations
- Training materials and practice tools
- Legal research, motions, briefs
- In-person trainings and webinars
- 24/7 web library and training videos
- Help developing policies/protocols
- Strategies for removing systemic barriers
- Community of Practice and Roundtables
- List serves



# Hypo


- Talia is an immigrant woman from El Salvador who entered the United States without inspection in 2001. Her spouse is physically abusive to her and her minor children.
- She tells you that she tried to go to a local DV shelter, but the shelter staff is concerned they will get in trouble for harboring an undocumented immigrant.
- Talia is concerned about what will happen if she is arrested by immigration enforcement.

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- Talia tells you that she is married to a US citizen who has been physically abusive.
  - She has called the police after an incident where her spouse was violent toward her and her 7 year old son and is willing to testify at the trial.
  - She also says that she now works at her spouse's business and hasn't been paid. When she asked to get paid, her spouse said immigration would have her deported since she was working without permission.





- Talia has a recent conviction for assault. After one time where her spouse tried to choke her, she scratched her spouse's arms in self-defense. When the police came, they saw the scratches and arrested her.
- Talia has an prior removal order because she wasn't aware she had a court date.
- Talia's spouse told her to lie about her immigration status to get a job to help with the finances.

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- Talia decides to file for a VAWA self-petition. Her case is beyond processing times at the Vermont Service Center.
  - You get an RFE in this case stating that she doesn't have good moral character because of her criminal history
  - Talia is arrested and detained by immigration enforcement agents before her VAWA case has been adjudicated.

# How to reach us

- [www.asistahelp.org](http://www.asistahelp.org)
- Register your agency with ASISTA:
  - <http://bit.ly/ASISTARegistrationOVW>
- [Questions@asistahelp.org](mailto:Questions@asistahelp.org)
- Cecelia Friedman Levin, [cecelia@asistahelp.org](mailto:cecelia@asistahelp.org)

# NIWAP Technical Assistance and Materials

- Call (202) 274-4457
- E-mail [niwap@wcl.american.edu](mailto:niwap@wcl.american.edu)
- Web Library: [www.niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu](http://www.niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu)