

PRESENTED BY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT (NIWAP), THE CALIFORNIA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (CALCASA) AND LEGAL MOMENTUM,

Webinar

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE, PART 2: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF IMMIGRATION STORY WRITING INTERVENTION

We will start soon



NIWAP

LEGAL
momentum
The Women's Legal Defense
and Education Fund



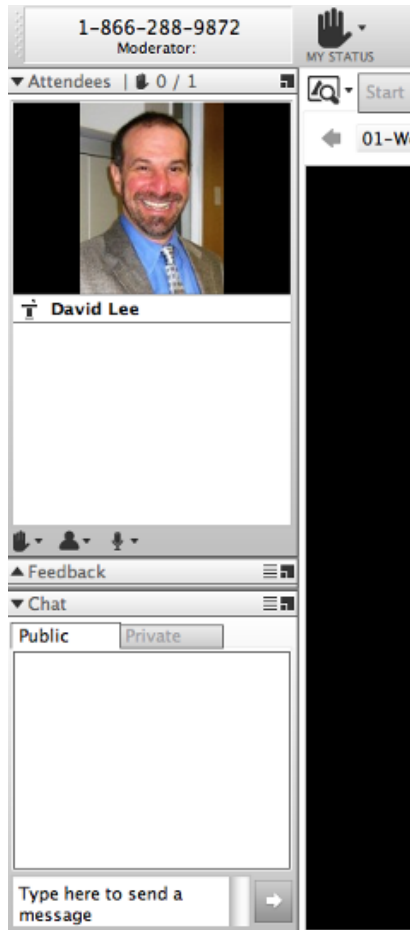
NIWAP

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project,
American University, Washington College of Law

Please Note

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How to Use this Technology



- Raise hand
- Text chat
- PowerPoint slides
- Polling questions
- Phone

Please send a private chat message for help.

Call iLinc Technical Support at 800.799.4510.



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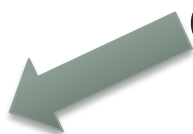
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Let's see who is on the call with us. Please check the box that best describes you:

Answer
on the left



Feedback

A

B

C

D

No Answer

- A. Lawyer
- B. Domestic violence or Sexual Assault victim advocate
- C. Mental Health/Health Professional
- D. Other, please write your description in the chat box

Learning Objectives:

To better understand how to

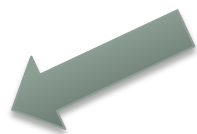
- Improve the process of developing a victims story for a VAWA, T or U Visa case by using the **Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI)**
- Use the immigration story writing intervention technique
 - With new VAWA, T and U visa clients and
 - With existing clients who are having difficulty telling their stories of abuse
- Respond to **survivors' crisis and other emotional responses** using a trauma-sensitive approach;
- Identify **patterns of coercive control**

Resources and Webinar Materials

- All materials for this webinar are available at <http://www.niwap.org/go/trauma-2-materials>
 - Power points and recordings for Trauma Informed Care Webinars Parts I and II
 - Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration
 - Updated Full Version
 - Tested and discussed in this webinar
 - Battering, Extreme Cruelty and Coercive Control
 - Additional tool (in progress):
 - Training Video on Trauma Informed Help For Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking

DID YOU ATTEND OR LISTEN TO PART I OF THIS WEBINAR ON TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AND VICTIM'S IMMIGRATION CASES?

Answer on
the left



Feedback

Yes

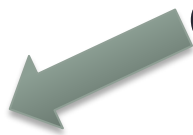
No

No Answer

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What experience have you had developing a VAWA Self-Petition, U visa, or T visa affidavit or declaration?

Answer
on the left



Feedback

A

B

C

D

No Answer

- A. No experience
- B. VAWA self-petition only
- C. U visa only
- D. Experience in VAWA, U visa, or T visa story development

Immigration Story Writing Intervention

- **Affidavit = A Survivor's "Story"**
 - **Unique opportunity for trauma informed healing**
 - Most important pieces of evidence submitted
 - DHS hears directly from the survivor, in her voice
 - Less affidavit, than "story" of the survivor's experience
 - Getting the full story for the immigration case can be a traumatic experience for survivors
 - The goal is to develop an approach that:
 - Obtains more complete information
 - Improves outcomes and helps survivors heal

Trauma Informed Approach to Immigration Story Writing

- **Immigration Story Writing Intervention**
 - Process by which advocate/attorney supports and helps survivors write their own story
 - By capturing trauma history through narrative (writing or verbalizing), survivors are facilitated to heal from trauma
 - What research tells us about importance of writing or verbalizing the trauma narrative

Development of the Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI)

- Developed questions from multiple samples used by immigration experts
- Added standardized trauma-related measures
- Created trauma-informed process to use tool
- Tested tool at two agencies
- Feedback from agencies and trauma expert
- Revised tool based on feedback

Collaboration between Attorneys and Trauma Expert

- Edna and Mercedes (immigration attorneys)
- Mary Ann (trauma expert)
- Discussed thoughts, expectations, concerns prior to using the tool with clients
- Potential for healing trauma

Immigration Story Writing Intervention Method

- 1. Invite the survivor to write/tell her story**
 - Support, Witness, Listen without judgment, Allow space
 - Goal: story comes out unedited/uninterrupted
- 2. Follow up with interview**
 - Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration
 - Take notes for follow up during story telling interview
- 3. Edit together**
 - Story + Structured interview responses into affidavit
- 4. Survivor reads back the final story**

Immigration Story Writing Intervention

Step 1

1. Invite the survivor to write/tell her story

- Develop safety and trust
- Support, Witness, Listen without judgment
- Allow space for silences
- Goal: story can be shared with another in a nonjudgmental, supportive context

Immigration Story Writing Intervention

Step 2

2. Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI) with Survivor

- Obtain information about additional incidents, effects of incidents, detail of previously reported incidents in-depth details as needed
- Follow up questions from Step 1: Assume that not all of story will come out in first telling
- SIQI available at:

<http://www.niwap.org/go/trauma-2-materials>

Standardized Questionnaires in the Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI)

- Domestic Violence
 - Conflict Tactics Scale-Revised (Straus)
 - Psychological Maltreatment of Women (Tolman)
 - IPV Coercive Control (Dutton, Goodman, Orloff et al.)
 - IPV Threat Appraisal (Dutton)
 - Danger Assessment Scale (Campbell)

Standardized Questionnaires in the Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI)

Additional Trauma Exposure

- Stressful Life Events Screening Questionnaire (SLESQ, Goodman, et al.)

Effects of Trauma Exposure

- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist (PCL5) - PTSD
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) -depression

Immigration Story Writing Intervention

Step 3

3. Edit to create affidavit

- Integrate open-ended story
- Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI)
- Clarify timeline, details
- Titrate exposure to story as indicated

Immigration Story Writing Intervention

Step 4

4. Survivor reads affidavit

- Coherent narrative
- The whole story
- How it affected the survivor

If you have helped a survivor write their story for a VAWA, T or U Visa case? Raise your hand if you are

- An advocate who helped a client file on their own
- An advocate who collaborated with an immigration lawyer
- An immigration lawyer
- A lawyer who is not an immigration specialist
- A therapist or mental health specialist
- Other – write your profession in the chat box



Structured Interview Questionnaire – *How does it work?*

- **New clients**

- Very useful for new attorneys, paralegals, advocates because it lays out the requirements;
- Also useful for experienced attorneys, paralegals, and advocates because it provides a new perspective.

Structured Interview Questionnaire – *How does it work?*

- **Existing clients**

- Example 1: Client had difficulty disclosing

- Filed her 1 page Affidavit with therapist's letter
- Request for Further Evidence (RFE)
- Used Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration (SIQI) to get everything needed (marital rape and sexual assault was also uncovered)

How to Use the RFE Process to Your Benefit

- Often advocate/attorney have a sense more is there but information is not forthcoming
- Request for further evidence process allows for submission of more complete
 - Affidavit
 - Evidence
- Client understands DHS requirements
- More time to build trust with client

Value of Filing Early

- Filing basic/short affidavit
- Benefits for victims of early filing
 - Protection from deportation
 - Earlier access to work authorization
 - State benefits in some states
 - Better position in family law case

Structured Interview Questionnaire – *How does it work?*

- **Existing clients**

- Example 2: Paralegal used Questionnaire with Client

- Made the decision that the paralegal had a better relationship with the Client

- *Who is the best person to do the structured interview?*

- Clients saw a pattern to the questions

- More at ease answering questions

Qualities of the advocate/attorney working with the client on her story? Trauma perspective

- Someone who can
 - Provide warmth, empathy and connection
 - Listen without judgment
 - Provide validation of the emotional difficulty of sharing trauma experience
 - Create balance between openness to experiencing human emotions and self-regulation so they do not overwhelm the client

Qualities of advocate/attorney working with the client on her story? Immigration Lawyer Perspective

- Advantages of collaborating with advocates on story writing
- Who have they turned to for help with survivors story
- How collaborations on story writing with survivors for VAWA, T, U cases can benefit immigration attorneys

Structured Interview Questionnaire - *How is it useful from a trauma-informed perspective?*

- Questions reflect Survivors' experiences
- Reassuring that questions are not unique to her
- Signals that attorney or advocate really “gets it”

Structured Interview Questionnaire –

How is it useful from a trauma-informed perspective?

- Validation is essential throughout
- Take breaks, process slowly and in sections
- Pace writing or telling to help survivor regulate emotional response – not overwhelm

Structured Interview Questionnaire – *How is it useful from a trauma-informed perspective?*

- How to respond to clients in crisis
 - Training Video on Trauma Informed Help For Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
 - Techniques for grounding and soothing

Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration

How is it useful to elicit patterns of coercive control?

- Identifying extreme cruelty and patterns of coercive control can be difficult –
 - Need to detect things that are valuable for the case and are also important for her healing
- Questionnaire helps to identify details to detect pattern of coercion

Coercive control?

- Setting the stage
 - Creating vulnerabilities
 - Exploiting existing vulnerabilities
 - Wearing down resistance
 - Facilitating attachment
- Coercive demand
- Credible threat
- Surveillance
- Delivery of threatened consequences

Coercive Control and Extreme Cruelty

- In family law evidence of extreme cruelty and coercive control have played a role in
 - Divorce
 - Distribution of property
 - Custody
 - Spousal Support
 - Protection orders
- Discuss use of training memo:
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/materials-for-adjudicators-and-judges/tools-for-courts/family-law/Extreme-Cruelty-BIA-training-memo.pdf>
- Structured interview tool can also uncover details to help lawyers in other cases

Structured Interview Questionnaire – *Best Practices and Tips*

- Putting time in at the front end pays off
- Use writing intervention as a roadmap for case planning
- Tailoring – make decision on what to expand without re-traumatizing client
- Closing the interview:
 - Re-orienting to the present; day-to-day
 - Thank client for courage to proceed

Importance of Having a Plan

- To help clients after the interview address trauma and traumatic memories

Structured Interview Questionnaire for Immigration

Closing the Structured Interview

- If you have resources, schedule a debriefing appointment with your on-site therapist
- How to end the structured interview if there is no therapist on location?

What strategies have you used that have been the most successful?



Strengthening Your Ability to Support Survivors Through This Process

- Be aware of your own emotional reactions to the stories you are hearing
- Take breaks and care for yourself during the process
- So you can effectively be there for the survivor
- Self-regulation techniques you can use

Tools for Self-Care

- Physical Activity
- Adequate Sleep and Rest
- Good Nutrition
- Nurturing Relationships
- Tending the Mind





QUESTIONS

Technical Assistance



- PowerPoint and materials from this training:
 - <http://www.niwap.org/go/trauma-2-materials>
- Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement by a Peer:
 - (202) 274-4457 or niwap@wcl.american.edu
- Web Library by NIWAP and Legal Momentum:
 - niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu
 - Training materials
 - Screening tools for law enforcement

Thank you!