



## Nationalities Service Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NSC Joins National Coalition to Establish *Immigrant Family Violence Institute*

*NSC helps launch the Immigrant Family Violence Institute to facilitate awareness of  
domestic violence issues among immigrant populations*

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 21, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded funding to Nationalities Service Center and five other immigrant service agencies, to establish the *Immigrant Family Violence Institute* (IFVI). IFVI is a national coalition of six highly-reputable, ethnically diverse immigrant services agencies and members of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). USCRI, a national non-profit organization, and its member agencies serve more than 1 million refugees annually.

IFVI's services will entail projects to aid 1,400 immigrant women in St. Louis, Kansas City, Boston, Philadelphia, Jersey City, and the California Bay Area, which will become centers of excellence for domestic violence services to immigrants. IFVI will provide culturally appropriate outreach and education, domestic violence prevention and intervention services among immigrants and refugees, and the dissemination of materials on a national scale.

In partnering with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, immigrant community leaders, immigrant service practitioners, mainstream domestic violence practitioners and researchers knowledgeable about domestic violence and the needs of immigrant women, IFVI seeks to document, enhance, and implement progressive best practices aimed at eliminating domestic violence against immigrant women.

Recent studies, including a study published in the *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, indicate that both prevalence and severity of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among immigrant communities is higher than in the general American public. While the current, mainstream domestic violence intervention model focuses on providing protection and shelter for the abused, many immigrant women are unwilling to use the services available to them. Due to deeply rooted cultural norms, many immigrant and refugee women do not see domestic violence as a problem for which they can seek assistance from outside the home and family.

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Through IFVI, NSC will be able to further aid the immigrant community in Philadelphia by creating awareness of the services available to victims of domestic abuse and by providing those services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

“IFVI will provide training and resources to our agency, enabling us to support immigrant women who are dealing with the hardship of learning they have become or have been victims of domestic violence” states Lina Chero of A Women’s Place Legal Assistance Program in Bucks County, PA.

**About Nationalities Service Center:**

Nationalities Service Center (NSC) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that provides social, educational, senior center, translation and interpretation, and legal services to immigrants and refugees in the Greater Philadelphia area. Each year, we help approximately 4,000 individuals from over 90 countries become self-sufficient members of American society.

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For more information about the Nationalities Service Center, or information pertaining to immigrant and refugee domestic violence services and advocacy, please contact Kathrin P. Ivanovic at (215) 893.8400.