The Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project

Protocol for Coordinated Community Response for Battered Immigrant Women

A COMMUNITY TOOL KIT

A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE IS EVERYONE’S RIGHT.

UNA VIDA LIBRE DE VIOLENCIA ES TU DERECHO.

Developed by
The University of Arizona
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

In Collaboration with the
Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Task Force Coordinators

July 2010

This Toolkit can be accessed on line at:
http://rho.arizona.edu/Resources/BIWP/ProtocolToolkitJuly2010.pdf
This Community Toolkit for Coordinated Community Response for Battered Immigrant Women was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the county coordinators and task forces who make up the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project

**Southern Arizona Counties**
- Cochise
- Graham/Greenlee
- Pima
- Pinal
- Santa Cruz
- Yuma

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PLANNING

This community tool kit for a Protocol for Coordinated Community Response for Battered Immigrant Women should serve as a guide for your community in creating an effective and safe system to provide continuity and holistic support to victims and their families.

Before embarking on implementation, it is important to ensure that all participants in your coordinated response commit yourselves to:

- Being mindful of the unique safety and confidentiality issues for this population.
- Providing a culturally sensitive response
- Advocating for victims and their families
- Upholding and building awareness about the rights of victims in your community.

There are key sectors of the community to involve in the coordinated effort, including victim and legal services, law enforcement, and informal networks. While you may not initially have them all “at the table,” it is a goal to work towards. This can be especially challenging when working in a social and legislative context of hostility towards immigrants.

In addition, there are key elements and activities to put in place in order to proceed effectively. It is important to meet on a regular basis. It is helpful to secure funding for staffing to coordinate your efforts. One of the first steps is to develop a mission statement, and guiding principles. The Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project developed the guiding principles below, in a process that spanned more than one year of working together:

**Guiding Principles**

- Violence against anyone, regardless of immigration status, is a crime and a violation of human rights.
- Victims of crime have a right to protection under the law regardless of immigration status.
- Immigrants who are victims of sexual and domestic violence are especially vulnerable and are protected by law.
- The safety of everyone in our communities is compromised if we fail to provide protection to any one group in our communities.

Resources for funding, training, public awareness and models of existing task forces and coordinated response efforts are included in a separate section of this toolkit, following the overview and description of essential elements and roles of participating agencies and community sectors in a coordinated community response for battered immigrant women.
The Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project
Protocol for Coordinated Community Response for Battered Immigrant Women

A COMMUNITY TOOL KIT

PURPOSE
This toolkit provides guidelines for the development of a coordinated community response to immigrant women who are victims of partner violence and are eligible for assistance under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA, 2000; 2005). The information and recommendations provided in this toolkit reflect the experiences of the partners of the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project (BIWP), as well as data collected from immigrant survivors of domestic violence and from service providers. The toolkit was developed within the context of rural communities in Southern Arizona, a region located on the U.S.-Mexico Border. For the purpose of planning a coordinated community response, this toolkit is designed for adaptation in rural communities, border communities, and other communities serving immigrant survivors of domestic violence.

The BIWP toolkit is intended to present the ideal scenario for meeting the various needs of immigrant victims of domestic violence. In creating this tool, we recognize that each community has strengths and weaknesses in terms of coordinated response. In addition, when addressing violence against immigrant women, service providers are faced with a unique set of challenges in dealing with the legal implications of immigration and naturalization. By outlining the potential roles of service providers from diverse sectors (victim services, legal services, law enforcement, and health and human services), it is our hope that communities are able to collaborate to build upon strengths and identify and address gaps.

The purpose of the protocol for coordinated community response to battered immigrant women is to:

- **create** a well trained, culturally sensitive and adequate system of community, legal, and social support that will ensure the rights of battered immigrant women.

- **increase** mutual understanding between different types of service providers about their agency’s roles in effectively serving battered immigrant women.

- **ensure** that all women have access to information, legal assistance and other services.

- **establish** a framework for a consistent response to protect victims that increases the quality and consistency of services to battered immigrant women.

- **assist** immigrant victims in a holistic manner by creating a network based on coordination, uniformity, cooperation and collaboration between all agencies.

- **define** objectives for each participating agency in assisting the victim and her family that will ultimately support victims in attaining their goals.

- **develop** a consistent means to communicate with immigration enforcement agencies about victim rights.
The protocol constitutes a formal agreement about the roles and responsibilities of individual agencies in order to facilitate identification and referral of and services to immigrant victims of domestic violence. Agencies involved include but are not limited to: **victim services, legal services, law enforcement, justice system, social services, faith-based organizations, and immigration law enforcement entities.**

The figure above presents a model of coordinated community response for VAWA self-petition, as envisioned by the **Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project.** *Central is the relationship between the victim services/victim advocacy agencies and the legal services providers.* When these two entities collaborate, a VAWA-eligible victim who has made contact with either agency has access to the legal aspects of a VAWA self-petition, as well as to a support system needed to address the economic and emotional issues related to escaping and surviving domestic violence. Culturally tailored, “targeted outreach” efforts in conjunction with referrals from agencies providing basic services to women and their children can facilitate contact with the inner circle of victim services and legal aid. The legal agency is then responsible for contact with local and federal agencies overseeing VAWA self-petition. Key to the effectiveness of the community response is VAWA training for all entities that come in contact with or serve immigrant women, provided through the victim service/legal collaboration in partnership with other agencies (the Battered Immigrant Women Task Forces). In addition, public awareness efforts serve to increase recognition of domestic violence among community members and the identification and referral of victims into the formal system. Each element of this model is discussed in the following pages.
Victim, Legal and Consular Services are Central to:

- effective service coordination for immigrant victims
- training for key elements of a coordinated community response
- guiding public awareness efforts and messages

Typically, victim service agencies are crisis services, shelters and other advocacy programs. Legal services include legal aid programs serving low-income clientele, and private attorneys offering discount and pro-bono legal services, which include both immigration services provided by an experienced immigration attorney, as well as other legal services. Consular services include consulates of immigrants’ country of origin, serving their citizens residing in the United States. In this toolkit, we are describing the services of the Mexican Consulate, but these services can be adapted by other consulates.

Opportunities provided through the immigration process are transformative

- “Since I got my work permit I have been able to go on with my life. I have secure work and hopes of having a house. The most important thing is having my security.”

- “They have taught us to know ourselves, to value our rights, to be respected, to raise our heads and move on.”
They helped me focus on what is important—no one has the right to mistreat me. Things you can’t talk about with your family, you can talk about with them. Without even knowing me, they have given me confidence, help, and support.

The role of victim services in the protocol

Providing crisis services including:
- safety planning for victims and children,
- crisis intervention,
- shelter and transitional housing,
- accompaniment,
- court escorts,
- therapy

Advocacy, including:
- acting as point of contact between legal services and clients
- help with orders of protection,
- screening for eligibility for VAWA self-petition and other services,
- referral to all sectors of the coordinated response system of providers
- case management
- gathering documentation for VAWA self-petitions and other immigration relief

The role of legal services in the protocol

Intake and screening of victims, adults and children, for eligibility for immigration relief
Representing victims in immigration court and with U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Building the immigration petitions for the client, including document gathering
Offering other legal support, including advice and representation for issues involving divorce, custody, housing, and public benefits
Work authorization
Referral to all sectors of the coordinated response system of providers

Being an immigrant creates additional legal challenges for survivors of abuse:
- “You are alone in a new country, a new language, without your family, and with children to support and protect and explain to them everything that is happening.”
- All the papers you have to pull together are pretty difficult, without him realizing you have to get out of the house with all those papers.”
- “The difficulty has been that my oldest child isn’t covered in my application because of his age. It is difficult to accept. There are things that although legal aid are trying to resolve them, they can’t.”

“You have rights simply because you are a person, even if you are not a citizen. Their attitude is really encouraging, and it helps you feel that you can do it and that you are capable of many things.”
The role of consular services in the protocol

Foreign Consulates potentially have an important role to play in facilitating VAWA self petitions and U-Visas for eligible immigrants. The Mexican Consulate plays a unique role in the VAWA protocol for our border communities due to the geographical proximity of the home country for Mexican immigrants, the large number of Mexican immigrants living in border communities, and not least because of the expanded presence and authority of the Border Patrol in apprehending immigrants who may be eligible for or in the process of VAWA self petition or a U-Visa. The Mexican Consulate has expressed their interest in entering into formal agreements with key organizations participating in the protocol as part of their mandate to provide services and assist Mexican citizens.

In Southern Arizona, the role of the Network of Mexican Consulates is to represent the Mexican government in carrying out activities for the purpose of guaranteeing gender equality and protection of Mexican citizens. The Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (Office of Foreign Relations) through the Consular network in Arizona, acts to protect and support Mexican citizens living outside of Mexico who are victims of violence, abuse, and trafficking. The Network of Mexican Consulates in southern Arizona is committed to taking the following actions for the benefit of Mexican immigrant victims:

- Provide legal guidance and assistance in conjunction with lawyers, legal clinics and advocacy groups.
- Provide assistance and consular protection to victims when they are detained by law enforcement or immigration authorities (ICE, Border Patrol, police, sheriff).
- If necessary, and based on the Norms of Assistance and Protection in Mexico, give financial assistance for emergency needs.
- Offer victims of violence referrals to other agencies for legal representation needed for the following: humanitarian visas or permits (U-Visa, T-Visa, VAWA self-petition, etc); child custody or divorce assistance and/or representation.
- Request from US authorities temporary custody of a victim who is undergoing investigation proceedings, based on existing partnership arrangements.
- Take action to identify and locate victims of abuse or trafficking through visits to hospitals and detention centers. This will serve to channel victims towards the appropriate services and resources.
- Designate a representative in each consulate to maintain direct contact with the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project as a liaison and representative in support of victims.
JUSTICE SYSTEM

The justice system is a central component in effective coordinated response and in collaboration with victim services and legal services are crucial.

The role of the justice system in the protocol

Law Enforcement
- Informing victims of the purpose of VAWA self-petitions and U Visas
- Screening and referral of victims to legal services, including VAWA and U-Visa, victim services, social services
- Respond to Border Patrol for detainees identified as victims of crime

Prosecutor’s Office
- Crisis intervention
- Screening and referral
- U-Visa Certification
- Victim compensation

Courts
- Certifying U Visas
- Encouraging law enforcement in following steps to certify U Visa applications
- Referral to victim and legal services
- Issuing restraining orders and orders of protection

Immigration Courts
- Recognize when victim has eligibility for VAWA and U-Visa and recommend they ask for hearing rather than voluntary removal.

Law enforcement officers can benefit from training provided by their peers

“The police need to know about VAWA and Border Patrol, as well” said a women who called the police when she was threatened by her husband. “The police asked me, why are you staying in the U.S.? You ought to go back to Mexico.” He threatened to call the Border Patrol, but she was already a VAWA self-petitioner and knew her rights.
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security is made up of different branches which have conflicting priorities. When these entities’ policies do not coincide, victims’ cases are profoundly affected. In order to avoid devastating outcomes for victims, training of field officers (US Customs & Border Patrol and US Immigration & Customs Enforcement) is essential.

The role of the Department of Homeland Security in the protocol

**US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**
- Reviewing applications/cases
- Approving U Visa and VAWA Self-Petitions
- Granting work authorization

**US Customs & Border Patrol, and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement**
- Screening and referral for eligibility for VAWA self-petition or U-Visa and other immigration relief
- Referral of victims of crime to law enforcement agency
- Education and public awareness

Threat of deportation is a powerful weapon for the abuser

“I put up with it because he threatened the well-being of my family. He was always threatening to call immigration. He would put me in the car and drive to the Border Patrol.”
BASIC SERVICES

Accessing basic services is typically a greater challenge for battered immigrants than for non-immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Perhaps the greatest challenge is waiting for a work permit to enable them to support their families. Immigrants also face discrimination from service providers who are unaware of their rights as victims or do not know where to refer them.

The role of basic services in the protocol is:

- Public awareness
- Education and training programs for victims and children
- Establishing safety and confidentiality for victims
- Referring of victims to legal services and victim services
- Providing medical and counseling services and referrals
- Providing for basic needs (housing, food, clothing)
- Assisting with job services once work authorization comes through
- Gathering documentation for VAWA self-petitions and other immigration relief

Basic service providers may be the first link that an immigrant victim has with the VAWA process:

- "My child was in Head Start where they gave talks to all the mothers. I didn’t know that all these programs existed."
- "I went to the hospital when I was pregnant and a social worker came to talk with me and see if I wanted to be in a program that helped you be a better parent. They came to visit me and realized my situation. She told me about VAWA."
TRAINING

In an environment that is increasingly hostile to immigrants and their families, it is an ongoing challenge to build awareness among providers and to offer appropriate training so that doors will remain open and referrals effective. While it is urgent that immigrants and victims be informed of their rights and available resources, it is unethical to send them to services that will put them in harm’s way. Victim and legal services are central to training efforts.

Training resources and examples are included in the resource section at the end of this toolkit. These materials have been developed and utilized by the task forces, and you may adapt them to meet your needs.

All service providers should be trained in cultural competency and the rights of women under VAWA

“It was the way they treated me. They know that I don’t have papers and that’s when the mistreatment starts. When I took my son to the pediatrician, they told me that because of me other people don’t get food stamps and end up in the street.”
“I found out about (VAWA) from other people. They ought to disseminate it more. The community doesn’t realize domestic violence makes you ashamed, no one talks about it; they try to cover it up. At first I thought they should talk about it in schools; but that might put the children at risk. It could be done in churches.”

“There needs to be publicity so that women find out about the services. There should be more T.V. and radio so that women feel safe calling these programs. They don’t trust these organizations.”
TARGETED OUTREACH

Targeted Outreach consists of tailored strategies designed to reach informal networks and increase public knowledge of programs and services. Outreach is tailored to individual community members/groups, key community leaders and service providers in areas that are traditionally considered a safe and trusted venue for learning about VAWA.

Tailored Strategies include:

- Informal talks or gatherings (i.e. pláticas and cafecitos)
- Presentations (Head Start, Adult Education/ESL classes)
- Mass Media / PSA’s (TV, Radio)
- Print Media (posters, shoe cards, brochures)

INFORMAL NETWORKS

Informal Networks are key/trustworthy contact points for immigrant women, including churches, parent groups, coworkers, and relatives. These networks tend to be confidential or protective sectors of the community, often operating by “word of mouth” and grapevine to convey information. Targeted outreach efforts must first generate trust and familiarity within these networks before seeing positive results (increased community awareness, support and referrals to legal and victim services).

“...A friend...”
“...my sister...”
“...my neighbors...sent me...”

“A friend of a friend who has a salon gave me a massage and talked to me about victim services. You’re going to feel better, she told me, you are very depressed.”
Background and Development of this Protocol Tool Kit

The Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project
Coordinated Community Response for Battered Immigrant Women
Southern Arizona Counties
  Cochise
  Graham/Greenlee
  Pima
  Pinal
  Santa Cruz
  Yuma

Over seven years of collaborative work, the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project has actively pursued its goal “to improve the access to culturally appropriate services for battered immigrant women, thereby ensuring their rights under VAWA”, and its mission of “safety and empowerment for immigrant women and children victims of sexual and domestic violence.” The bulk of this work has involved building relationships between organizations and agencies serving immigrant women in southern Arizona, and developing and implementing trainings and public awareness regarding immigrant women’s rights under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for self-petition and for victims of crime (U) Visas.

In efforts to honor this mission and approach their goal, the Battered Immigrant Women Task Forces in seven southern Arizona counties worked to consolidate and maintain the expertise and knowledge necessary to play an important role in developing effective mechanisms for coordinated response and support, and for training and awareness regarding battered immigrant women’s rights. By the fifth year of the project, it became clear that a coordinated community response protocol specifically addressing the unique needs of battered immigrant women was essential to define and disseminate.

In developing the protocol, the BIWP systematically collected information from three sources:

- A mail-out survey of immigrant women’s services providers in all seven counties 2003 and 2006
- In-depth interviews with VAWA self-petitioners in two counties regarding the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of undergoing the process.
- Targeted questionnaires circulated among BIWP task force members who are actively engaged in addressing immigrant women’s rights under VAWA in their own communities.
RESOURCES:

If you are planning to adopt a protocol for coordinated community response for serving battered immigrant women, there are multiple resources to draw from nationally and locally, for training, educational and public awareness materials, fundraising support, and models of best practices to adopt and adapt.

Training Materials

“Liberty and Justice... for All” – Training DVD

This DVD was developed by the Southern Arizona Battered Immigrant Women Project in response to the need for a current training tool and public awareness tool to use in presentations and trainings by the task forces. It consists of an overview of VAWA Self-Petitions, U-Visas, and the corresponding role of providers in responding to immigrant victims. The DVD includes two stories of survivors who are VAWA Self Petitioners that they tell in their own words and imagery.

Serving Immigrant Victims

- Access to Services for Immigrant Victims of Violence – Casa Esperanza presentation
- Domestic Violence and Immigrant Women
- Power and Control Wheel – Immigrant Women
- Barriers for Rural Women
- Barriers to Leaving for Immigrant Women
- Do’s and Don’ts for Immigrant Women
- Safety Planning
- Conozca sus derechos
- How to Help in the Healthcare Setting

VAWA Fact Sheets

- VAWA Self Petition Fact Sheet
- U-Visa Fact Sheet

Law Enforcement

- Law Enforcement U Visa Training (Power Point)
- Sample U-Visa form
- ICE 287 (g) Agreements
- Section 287 (g) Reform Facts – April 12, 2010

Basic Services

- Department of Justice Attorney General Order No. 2353-2001
- HUD Letter – Housing Requirements, 2001
- Limited English Proficiency – Requirements for Serving (brochure)

Department of Homeland Security

- Immigration Status
- Overview of Department of Homeland Security
Online Resources

**Safety Alert**
Computer use can be monitored and it is impossible to completely clear history. If you are afraid your internet and/or computer usage might be monitored, please use a safer computer, call your local hotline, and/or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673).

**State Resources**

**Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA)**
http://www.sacasa.org/

**Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse**
http://www.emergecenter.org/

**Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
http://www.azcadv.org/

**Arizona Sexual Assault Network**
http://www.arizonasexualassaultnetwork.org/

**Arizona Rape Prevention and Education Program**
http://www.azrapeprevention.org/

**National Resources**

**National Center for Victims of Crime**
-Resources library, public policy information, Teen Victim Project
http://www.ncvc.org/

**US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women**
-Information about domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; grant programs and funding opportunities; publications; federal laws and legislation
http://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/

**Office of Victims of Crimes -HELP for Victims Service Providers Web Forum**
-“A place where victim service providers and allied professionals can connect to peers, share ideas about best practices, and help change lives.”
-Topics such as child victims, victims with disabilities, cultural sensitivity, domestic violence, rural victimization assistance
http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/index.asp

**CALCASA Prevention Connection**
- “Prevention Connection: The Violence Against Women Prevention Partnership is a national project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) to conduct web conferences, moderate a ListServ and lead on-line discussions to advance primary prevention of violence against women.”
http://www.preventconnect.org
National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women
-“The National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women is a coalition of survivors, immigrant women, advocates, activists, attorneys, educators and other professionals committed to ending violence against immigrant women.”
-Technical assistance, training materials, legal information, outreach materials, ListServs
http://www.immigrantwomennetwork.org

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network - RAINN
-National Sexual Assault Hotline, Online Hotline; Statistics; News; Information Library
-National hotline: free, confidential, 24/7: 1-800-656-HOPE (4937)
http://www.rainn.org/

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
-“NSVRC is a comprehensive collection and distribution center for information, research and emerging policy on sexual violence intervention and prevention…coordinates National Sexual Assault Awareness Month”
http://www.nsvrc.org/

Men Can Stop Rape
-“Men Can Stop Rape mobilizes male youth to prevent men’s violence against women. We build young men’s capacity to challenge harmful aspects to traditional masculinity, to value alternative visions of male strength, and to embrace their vital role as allies with women and girls in fostering health relationships and gender equity.”
-Info sheets, Resources
http://www.mencanstoprape.org

-Free downloads of Men of Strength campaign posters and postcards from CALCASA and mystrength.org:
http://www.mystrength.org/8.0.html

Family Violence Prevention Fund
-The Family Violence Prevention Fund works to prevent violence within the home, and in the community, to help those whose lives are devastated by violence because everyone has the right to live free of violence.
-Programs for children, health, immigrant women, international issues, judicial issues, public education, public policy, teens, and workplace.
-Extensive list of links for a wide variety of topics
http://endabuse.org/

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
-“The Mission of NCADV is to organize for collective power by advancing transformative work, thinking and leadership of communities and individuals working to end the violence in our lives.”
http://www.ncadv.org/

National Domestic Violence Hotline
-“Hotline advocates are available for victims and anyone calling on their behalf to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals to agencies in all 50 states. Assistance is available in English and Spanish with access to more than 140 languages through interpreter services. If you or someone you know is frightened about something in your relationship, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224.”
http://www.ndvh.org/
National Network to End Domestic Violence
-“The NNEDV, a social change organization representing state domestic violence coalitions, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.”
-Information about the Violence Against Women Act
  http://www.nnedv.org/

WomensLaw.org
-State-by-state legal information and resources for domestic violence.
-Non-profit and legal resources for northern, southern, eastern, western, and central Arizona:
  http://www.womenslaw.org/AZ/AZ_links.htm
  http://www.womenslaw.org/AZ/AZ_main.htm

Teen Violence

Love is Not Abuse
-“Since 1991 Liz Claiborne Inc. has been working to end domestic violence. Through its Love is Not Abuse program, the company provides information and tools that men, women, children, teen, and corporate executive can use to learn more about the issue and find out how they can help end this epidemic”
-Information and handbooks about relationship abuse, a section just for teens, and information about domestic violence in the workplace.
  http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/

Love is Respect – National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
-“Loveisrespect.org is the online home of the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline. We're a community where you can find support and information to understand dating abuse. You can talk one-on-one with a trained advocate 24/7 who can offer support and connect you to resources. Call toll free 1-866-331-9474 or TTY 1-866-331-8453. One-on-one live chat is also available from 4-midnight Central Standard Time, 7 days a week.”
  http://www.loveisrespect.org/

Choose Respect
-Choose Respect is an initiative to help adolescents form healthy relationships to prevent dating abuse before it starts
-Information, Games, Quizzes – very teen friendly.
  http://www.cdc.gov/chooserespect/

Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance – Teen Victim Project
-Fact sheets for teens, parents, and friends
-In past years, in the spring, RFP for up to $3000 for teen-led projects to address violence

Child Victims

Prevent Child Abuse America
-“Since 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America has led the way in building awareness, providing education and inspiring hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.”
-Advocacy, research, publications, local programs
  http://www.preventchildabuse.org
**Childhelp**
- "The mission of Childhelp is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of abused and neglected children. Childhelp is one of the largest and oldest national, non-profit organizations dedicated to the treatment, prevention and research of child abuse and neglect."
- National hotline, advocacy and treatment information, training, outreach, prevention
  [http://www.childhelpusa.com](http://www.childhelpusa.com)

**Stop It Now!**
- "We offer adults tools they can use to prevent sexual abuse - before there’s a victim to heal or an offender to punish. In collaboration with our network of community-based Stop It Now! programs, we reach out to adults who are concerned about their own or others’ sexualized behavior toward children. For more than 10 years, our national toll-free Helpline (1.888.PREVENT) has provided thousands of adults a unique outlet to confidentially voice their concerns. We provide support, information and resources that enable individuals and families to keep children safe and to create healthier communities."
- Publications, warning signs, resource guide, national hotline
  [http://www.stopitnow.com](http://www.stopitnow.com)

**Elder Abuse**

**National Center on Elder Abuse**
- The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, is a gateway to resources on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**
- The mission of NCPEA is to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons and adults with disabilities through research, advocacy, public and professional awareness, interdisciplinary exchange, and coalition building.

**Arizona Aging and Adult Administration at [http://azdes.gov](http://azdes.gov)**

**Arizona Adult Protective Services at [http://azdes.gov](http://azdes.gov)**
- 24-Hour Hotline Statewide Toll-Free Reporting Line: 1-877-SOS-ADULT or 1-877-767-2385