

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & IMMIGRANTS

▶ Who we are:

- ▶ The Legal Services for Immigrants and Internationals is a department of the Jewish Family & Children's Services of Pittsburgh. We have been helping immigrants and refugees in the Pittsburgh area for more than 70 years.
- ▶ We provide immigration legal services to individuals in the Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

▶ The Issue:

- ▶ Many women who are not U.S. Citizens experience domestic violence at the hands of their significant others. Domestic violence is difficult to escape even for those with resources and support networks, it's much more difficult when the victim isn't aware of the services available.
- ▶ If the victim is worried about losing their immigration status or being deported, it often makes them less likely to come forward about the abuse. Many women from other countries are not aware of the laws in the U.S. to protect them or even that domestic violence is illegal in the United States.
- ▶ Under the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) laws there are provisions allowing women (even if they are illegal) a path to permanent residency as abused spouses of U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents without the aide of the abuser.

▶ How we can help your clients/patients:

- ▶ We provide confidential consultations about immigration matters.
- ▶ We provide referrals to: domestic violence shelters, clinical counseling, custody and divorce lawyers and translation services whenever possible.
- ▶ If the client is eligible, we can represent the individual and file applications for immigration benefits including an application for Permanent Residency (green card) and or work authorization.

- ▶ ***Please review the enclosed brochures and flyers available for individuals to take. If you choose to place them throughout your building, please be careful to ensure they are not in a general area where the abusers might see them.***

- ▶ ***If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at your convenience. Our general phone number is 412-521-1737, the administrator for this program is Joyce Ramirez, Esq., you can reach her by email at jramirez@jfcspgh.org.***