

25 Ways to Support Immigrant Survivors

- 1 Attend cultural festivals and build relationships.
- 2 Affirm that everyone has multiple cultural identities.
- 3 Understand that cultural and language diversity is an asset.
- 4 Develop written materials in multiple languages.
- 5 Acknowledge that immigrating to a different country is complex and can be difficult.
- 6 Anticipate mixed status families and provide appropriate services.
- 7 Affirm that people may have undocumented status, they are not "illegal."
- 8 Become comfortable being around people who speak a different language.
- 9 Be aware that there are varying cultural rules about talking about domestic violence.
- 10 Develop & maintain diverse community partners who want to serve domestic violence survivors.
- 11 Attend events or meetings within diverse community organizations.
- 12 Hire and promote qualified bilingual or multilingual advocates.
- 13 Know the leaders and cultural brokers in different immigrant communities.
- 14 Learn about culturally specific organizations and resources in your area.
- 15 Learn about the VAWA Self petition, U Visa and T Visa.
- 16 Practice using the Language Line for interpretation services.
- 17 Put in policies and procedures regarding serving people with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- 18 Recognize that everyone wants to feel like they belong.
- 19 Know that refugees and immigrants have many strengths but acculturation may take time.
- 20 Remember that people experience and recover from trauma in different ways.
- 21 Remember the community is the expert on their strengths & challenges.
- 22 Share resources.
- 23 Remember that specific ethnic communities maybe very small, therefore confidentiality is crucial.
- 24 Understand how to work with spoken multilingual interpreters.
- 25 Understand that violence is not attached to any one culture.



For more information, contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at 614-781-9651 and at www.odvn.org. Published as part of the 25 for 25 years of ODVN Celebration!



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