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Awareness Raising: Domestic Violence in Communities Experiencing Multiple Forms of Oppression

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As California's only statewide domestic violence legal aid nonprofit, FVAP is committed to ensuring that our services are accessible to all Californians, especially survivors experiencing multiple forms of oppression, survivors living in underserved areas without access to legal aid, and survivors who face many barriers to justice. This month, we are raising awareness about some of their experiences:

- **Domestic violence in Native American communities**

Native Americans experience domestic violence and sexual assault at alarming and disproportionately high rates. **More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaskan Native women and men have been victims of direct violence in their lifetimes — that's 83%.** And 1 in 3 have experienced violence in the past year alone.

56% of Native women and 43% of Native men have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner. These levels are much higher than those of the general population, and the vast majority of the time, the perpetrators are non-Native; 97% of the Native women victims and 90% of the male victims surveyed were harmed by someone who was not American Indian or Alaska Native. (Sources: [National Institute of Justice](#) in collaboration with the CDC)

[StrongHearts Native Helpline](#) (from the [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#)) explains how colonization and historical trauma have contributed to Native communities' experiences of violence: "For generations, American Indians and Alaska Natives have struggled against and from under the effects of colonization, inadequate resources, marginalization, termination and assimilation and a lack of acknowledgement of the role that history has played in our continued hurt. Many Native and non-Native domestic violence experts agree that the prevalence of violence in Indian Country is a modern effect of the historical trauma that our people continue to experience."

- **Domestic violence in LGBTQIA+ communities**

LGBTQIA+ individuals experience disproportionately high rates of violence, including domestic abuse and sexual assault. Rates of violence are especially high for trans and bisexual individuals:

- 61% of bi women and 38% of bi men are survivors of physical violence, rape, or stalking by an intimate partner.

- 50% of trans people have experienced intimate partner violence at some point in their lifetime.

- 44% percent of lesbian women and 26% of gay men have survived domestic abuse or sexual assault.

(Sources: [CDC](#), [National Center for Injury Prevention & Control](#), [The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law](#))

FVAP's 2017-2018 Legal Fellow is leading a project focused on improving outreach to and services for domestic violence survivors who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, non-gender binary, asexual, and/or another sexual or gender minority in California. This project will ultimately result in on-demand legal tools, resources, training modules, and hopefully published case law to better support LGBTQIA+ survivors in California.

- **Domestic violence in immigrant communities**

For the past 20 years, studies have shown that immigrant women and girls in the United States are nearly twice as likely to experience domestic violence than the general population, and are less likely to leave abusers due to fear of immigration consequences, such as being deported and separated from their children. (Source: [National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence](#))

Specifically, 50% of U.S. immigrant women experience physical domestic violence at least once, and an additional 12% have also experienced psychological abuse, according to an [Ayuda survey](#) that heavily influenced the federal Violence Against Women Act. **1 in 4 immigrant survivors surveyed said their immigration status prevented them from being able to leave an abusive relationship.**

Married immigrant women experience higher levels of physical and sexual violence than unmarried immigrant women (Source: [Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy](#)), and abuse rates are even higher for those married to U.S. citizen men. The Ayuda survey found that, when U.S. citizens are married to non-citizen women, the abuse rate is approximately three times higher than the abuse rate in the general U.S. population.

Because many undocumented abuse survivors fear the consequences of reporting abuse to police, rates of abuse are almost certainly even higher than studies are able to show. (Source: [American Bar Association](#)) These problems are compounded by other barriers that often keep immigrant survivors from being able to flee abusive relationships, including immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. (Source: [Futures Without Violence](#))

To read about one of FVAP's recent legal victories that will help immigrant abuse survivors throughout California, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Want to support FVAP for Domestic Violence Awareness Month?

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH


Shop with Family Violence Appellate Project on Amazon Smile
and Amazon will automatically donate a percentage to FVAP
with no extra cost to you

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4726212>


Click [here](#) to designate us as your Amazon Smile nonprofit.


CA ATTORNEYS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS



October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. Show your support and help us raise awareness about the legal challenges CA abuse survivors face in court every day.





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Campaign Details

by [fvap_law](#) 1 hour ago

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Show your support, and let your friends/followers know you care by adding Family Violence Appellate P... [more](#) →

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Click [here](#) to add our “Attorneys for Domestic Violence Awareness” Twibbon to your Facebook or Twitter profile picture.

Legal Victory: Protecting CA Survivors Against Out-of-State Abusers

We're very pleased to announce [our latest legal victory](#) in an appeal we've been working on for over a year with pro bono co-counsel **Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP**.

In the first-ever decision of this kind, the Court of Appeal ruled in *Hogue v. Hogue* that, if an out-of-state person commits an act of domestic abuse against someone who is in California (via social

media or electronic communications), **California courts do have jurisdiction over the abusive out-of-state party**, and can therefore issue a restraining order against them. The appellate court held that California's Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) is a special regulation, meaning the California legislature has designated the effects of domestic violence as warranting jurisdiction over people who commit such acts.

The court explained, "The act of purposefully sending a video of a mock suicide to plaintiff in California (particularly in the context of the alleged domestic violence taking place in Georgia) is indisputably [domestic violence under the DVPA] and [could] be the basis for granting a restraining order."

This ruling reiterates California's goal of protecting all abuse survivors by affirming that anyone who commits an act of domestic violence against someone who is in California will be subject to California's domestic violence laws. Read more about this case [here](#).

Celebrating Pro Bono Week



FVAP'S pro bono attorney volunteers donate over

6,500 hours

to survivors of domestic violence every year.

That's more than **\$1.3 MILLION** in legal services.



It's National Pro Bono Week! Our team is so inspired by the pro bono attorneys who work with us every day, donating their time, expertise, and energy to help domestic violence survivors across

California. **You are true heroes.**

In 2016, our attorney volunteers contributed more than 6,500 pro bono hours to California survivors of abuse and their children — that's more than \$1.3 million in legal services! **Thank you for making the world a better place!**

Hiring: Summer Law Clerks

FVAP is seeking **1-3 law clerks** to join our exceptional team in our Oakland, California, office for the **Summer 2018**. We value diverse experiences and backgrounds. FVAP's clientele is extremely diverse, and we serve individuals and advocates throughout the state, including rural, suburban, and urban populations. The ideal candidate will bring skills and experiences enabling the candidate to serve these diverse populations adeptly in the context of domestic violence and appellate litigation.



The ALL Are Welcome Here poster was created by the Pennsylvania Cross-Systems Advocacy Coalition, supported by Grant No. 2007-FW-AX-K008, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

- **Today! (Oct. 26) – Oral Argument, Los Angeles.** FVAP and co-counsel **Mayer Brown** will present oral argument this morning in the Second District Court of Appeal in a case involving an issue of first impression in California: whether family courts have the authority to renew restraining orders issued by juvenile courts. Stay tuned for results.
 - **Oct. 30 – Moot Court, Los Angeles.** This moot court session will help our co-counsel prepare for oral argument Nov. 8 before the Second District Court of Appeal.
 - **Nov. 3 – Panel, Sacramento.** FVAP will speak on a panel hosted by the **Sacramento County Bar Association**, “The State of the Law and Future of Domestic Violence Legislation,” at 10:30 a.m., along with Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Sacramento Superior Court Commissioner Danny Haukedalen.
 - **Nov. 8 – Oral Argument, Los Angeles.** FVAP and co-counsel from **Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP**, will present oral argument in a second case involving family courts’ ability to renew restraining orders issued by juvenile courts.
 - **Nov. 9 – Panel, San Francisco.** FVAP will speak on a panel at “A Call for Domestic Peace,” an event hosted by **Wells Fargo**.
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FVAP in the Community



Purple Thursday 2017

#DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth

Some FVAP team members raise awareness on Purple Thursday.



The San Francisco chapter of FVAP's New Leadership Council recruits new members at an October happy hour.



FVAP Board members Aseem Gupta and Pamela Fondacabe accept a 2017 Community Nonprofit Award from the Wells Fargo Asian Connection Bay Area Board of Directors and the Wells Fargo Foundation. FVAP was one of 5 nonprofits selected.



Change Agent: Nancy Lemon ([Podcast Interview](#))

Check out this [fantastic interview](#) with FVAP Legal Director Nancy Lemon on the podcast "Change Agent" with Dr. Cary Watson.

"I do have a big vision of what I want to see differently in the world. And I know ultimately, those things are going to happen long after I'm gone. We're not going to end domestic violence in my lifetime, or racism, or classism or any of the other oppressions that I care deeply about. But I'm also aware that I actually have made a difference, and that one person can make a difference..."

From the late 1970s, when she first sat down with a domestic violence survivor at the kitchen table of a local shelter to help her file for a brand new type of legal protection called a restraining order; to the 1980s, when she worked tirelessly to reform police response to domestic violence calls; to creating the first domestic violence law course in the country in 1988 and writing the accompanying first domestic violence law textbook; to co-founding Family Violence Appellate Project in 2012, Nancy discusses her life and career, and how she's created monumental change in the fields of domestic violence and family law, both here in California and nationally.

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