LIFEWIRE™
Together Against Domestic Violence

Supporting Immigrant Survivors

Experiencing abuse as an immigrant or refugee can be particularly traumatic. You may feel:

- Afraid to reach out for help for fear of deportation.
- Alone and isolated due to language or cultural barriers.
- Dependent upon your partner to stay in this country, especially if you are in the US through a visa they helped to obtain.
- Confused about what resources are available.
- Afraid you may lose your children is you reach out for help.

Regardless of your immigration status, you can always reach out to LifeWire for help. We do not share immigration status with any government agencies.

Legal Protections for Immigrants

Several laws protect immigrants who have experiences domestic violence from abuse and deportation.

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) allows an abused spouse, child, or parent of U.S. citizens or permanent residents to seek safety and independence from their abuser.
- If you already have a green card through marriage, you may be able to apply for a Battered Spouse Waiver. Survivors who apply for the waiter must prove the legitimacy of the marriage and show that physical abuse or extreme cruelty has taken place.
- The U Visa offers relief to survivors of domestic violence and other crimes—including trafficking, prostitution, and stalking—who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are willing to assist law enforcement and government officials in investigating or prosecuting their abuser.

If you or someone you know is concerned about or experiencing abuse, call the DVHopeline at **425-746-1940** or **1-800-827-8840** to speak with a trained advocate.