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**THE PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S NETWORK JOINS OVER 40 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SERVING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN \$13.2 MILLION AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN INITIATIVE**

*ARP Support for Survivors Program supports culturally-specific, community-based projects supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault from Asian and Pacific Islander Communities in the United States and the Pacific.*

**HARRISBURG, PA** – Today, the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network (PAIRWN) will be joining over 40 organizations, both nationally and locally, in an effort to provide culturally-specific, community-based support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault from Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across the U.S. and Pacific. The \$13.2 million dollar initiative from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) under the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) will be the first time API-GBV will be distributing two years of funding to culturally specific organizations that serve sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV) survivors in AAPI communities.

Under the ARP Support for Survivors Program, subgrants will be distributed through the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Capacity Building Fund to assist organizations like PAIRWN by providing DV and SA services in Asian/Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) and Middle Eastern (ME) communities in the United States and U.S. territories.

"PAIRWN is very grateful for this opportunity to serve immigrant and refugee Asian/Asian American and Middle Eastern survivors of sexual and domestic violence in our communities," said PAIRWN Board Chair Farzana Safiullah. "We are excited to offer interventions through our Story Circles & Lifetime- coaching models to empower survivors."

The ARP Support for Survivors Program will address the emergent needs of survivors, and the programs that serve them, resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The work will also promote strategic partnership development and collaboration in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency on survivors of SA and DV.

"API-GBV is honored and proud to welcome organizations like PAIRWN who are at the forefront of sexual assault and domestic violence work amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential to

have this kind of funding distributed to communities with organizations deeply rooted in their environmental and cultural awareness and expertise in supporting survivors,” said API-GBV’s Executive Director Monica Khant. “The AAPI community is often left out of the public narrative on sexual assault and domestic violence and through this important work we will have the opportunity to support organizations who directly support survivors in our communities.”

The organization was selected by a committee of peer reviewers with extensive experience in the domestic violence and sexual assault fields, and working in AANHPI and ME communities in the U.S. Funding provided under the ARP Support for Survivors grant will advance PAIRWN’s mission to empower immigrant and refugee women in the Harrisburg community by building their capacity to heal from trauma and achieve economic independence.

The Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Network (PAIRWN) is among 15 organizations serving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and 14 organizations serving Middle Eastern communities, including projects focused on prevention, culturally specific services for Queer and Trans survivors, virtual services and data security, culturally rooted practices in healing and resiliency, and engaging men and youth. For a complete list of grantees, [visit this link](#).

#### **About Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Network**

The Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Network (PAIRWN) was founded in 2001 and was the first organization in Pennsylvania that focuses directly on immigrant and refugee women’s issues. PAIRWN is dedicated to empowering immigrant and refugee women in the Harrisburg area by providing social programming, life coaching, afterschool tutoring and healing circles.

For more information about PAIRWN, visit [pairwn.org](https://pairwn.org).

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