A-Z Advocacy Model: How Asian & Pacific Islander Programs Operationalize Culturally-Specific Services

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A-Z Advocacy Model: How Asian & Pacific Islander Programs Operationalize Culturally-Specific Services

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Webinar Outline

- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence / Building Capacity for Culturally-Specific Advocacy
- Culturally-specific advocacy
- Operationalizing cultural contexts
- A-Z Advocacy Model
- Resources
Women started organizing to address domestic violence early on, and establishing Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

In response to abusers and communities using culture to justify abuse, advocates are continually interrogating its norms and practices.

Identifying the unique ways abusers leverage community, family, and systems generated risk factors, advocates designed interventions to mitigate these risks.

We captured this work in the A-Z Advocacy Model.
Two Concepts that Inform our Work

- Culturally-specific programs:
  - Integrating three domains of culture

- Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence
Culturally-Specific Advocacy = Integrating 3 Domains of Culture

1. **Culture of Gender-Based Violence** devalues women, girls, LGBTQ / Gender Non-Conforming individuals; normalizes or minimizes abuse; blames victims; excuses abusers; ignores sexism; promotes aggressive masculinity.

2. **Cultures of Ethnic & Identity-specific Communities** contain strengths and rich histories of resilience and thriving; and they inflict harms by maintaining traditional patriarchal gender norms and roles.

3. **Culture of Systems** can create barriers, withhold resources, be punitive, increase abuser impunity, and compound trauma.
The Second Concept that Informs our Work...

Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

- ADULT
  - Domestic violence;
  - Same-sex domestic violence;
  - Violence by fathers', mothers', sisters', brothers-in-law and natal family members;
  - Sexual abuse includes marital rape, forced to watch and imitate pornographic acts, extreme sexual neglect or coldness;
  - Economic abuse includes ruined credit, gambling;
  - Isolation, permanent or temporary abandonment;
  - Battery during pregnancy;
  - Coerced into criminal activity;
  - Extreme exploitation of household labor;
  - Sexual harassment by employers, other employees, fathers', brothers-in-law, clergy, therapists, doctors;
  - Victim-blaming, rejection by community;
  - Forced into unprotected sex, infected with STDs, STIs, HIV;
  - Denying mothers access to, custody of, children, international abduction/kidnapping;
  - Intimate homicide, femicide, honor killings;
  - Withholding adequate food, clothing, daily necessities, stalkings, cyber-stalking.

- ELDERS
  - Physical abuse by adult children, caretakers;
  - Spousal abuse;
  - Exploitation of household labor, child care;
  - Withholding health care, medications, daily necessities;
  - Demeaning widowhood;
  - Coerced suicide pacts or mercy killings.

- CHILD
  - Little or no schooling;
  - Child labor;
  - Child prostitution;
  - Physical abuse;
  - Neglect;
  - Abandonment;
  - Incest;
  - Sexual abuse; Molestation;
  - Abusive ‘teasing’ by sibling;
  - Virgin cleansing.

- TEENAGER
  - Coerced sexual initiation, rape;
  - Forced marriage to parents’ choice, much older man, teen’s rapist;
  - Ignorance about sex, anatomy, sexual health;
  - Control over sexuality and sexual orientation;
  - Trafficked; forced into prostitution;
  - Cyber-stalking by boyfriend or unknown predators;
  - Date violence;
  - Harrassment, public lewdness;
  - Sexual harassment by extended family, teachers, coaches, peers.

- INFANT
  - Female foeticide, Sex-selected abortion;
  - Infanticide;
  - Malnutrition;
  - Medical care withheld;
  - Stalking, cyber-stalking.

- YOUNG ADULT
  - Date violence, drug-facilitated rape;
  - Rape, including wartime rape;
  - Denied choice of marriage partner and/or sexual orientation;
  - Dowry-related deaths;
  - Intimate partner violence;
  - Sexual harassment at work, college.

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Lifetime Spiral: INFANTS, CHILDREN, TEENS

Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

INFANT
- Female foeticide
- Sex-selected abortion
- Infanticide
- Mal/nunder-nourishment by withholding nutritious food
- Medical care withheld
- Sexual abuse
- Molestation
- Abusive ‘teasing’ by sibling
- Virgin cleansing
- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Incest

CHILD
- Little or no schooling
- Child labor
- Child prostitution
- Domestic violence
- Same-sex domestic violence
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ADULT
- Domestic violence
- Same-sex domestic violence

ELDER
- Physical abuse by adult children, caretakers
**Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence**

**YOUNG ADULT**

- Date violence, drug-facilitated rape;
- Rape, including wartime rape;
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- Intimate partner violence;
- Sexual harassment at work, college.
Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

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- Withholding adequate food, clothing, daily necessities;
- Stalking, cyber-stalking

ELDER
- Physical abuse by adult children, caretakers;
- Spousal abuse;
- Exploitation of household labor, child care;
- Withholding health care, medications, daily necessities;
- Fearing widowhood;
- Suicide pacts;
- Killings.
Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

ELDER
- Physical abuse by adult children, caretakers;
- Spousal abuse;
- Exploitation of household labor, child care;
- Withholding health care, medications, daily necessities;
- Demeaning widowhood;
- Coerced suicide pacts or mercy killings.

YOUNG ADULT
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- Rape, including wartime rape;
- Denied choice of marriage partner and/or sexual orientation;
- Dowry-related deaths;
- Intimate partner violence;
- Sexual harassment at work, college.

Elder abuse includes:
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Psychological abuse

Other types of abuse:
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional and psychological abuse
- Financial abuse
- Other forms of abuse

Factors contributing to elder abuse:
- Isolation
- Lack of community support
- Economic hardship
- Limited access to healthcare
- Age-related health issues

Preventing elder abuse:
- Educating caregivers
- Providing support services
- Increasing awareness and prevention efforts
- Implementing policies to protect seniors

Supporting victims of elder abuse:
- Legal assistance
- Emotional support
- Financial aid
- Medical care
- Housing assistance

Resources for help:
- National Hotline for Elder Abuse
- Local social services agencies
- Community health centers
- Legal aid organizations

Note: This diagram illustrates the complex interplay of various forms of gender violence across different life stages.
Lifetime Spiral Shows:

1. Historical nature of gender-based violence
   - Sexism, misogyny, homo/transphobia are foundational
   - Violence isn’t accidental

2. Types of abuses girls and women are vulnerable to, or experience at different stages

3. Different perpetrators are located across life-course
   - Including family and non-family actors

3. Help-seeking is influenced by positive and negative experiences/Attempts in the past
A-Z Advocacy Model Defined

A-Z Advocacy Model for API Survivors is defined by the nexus of a culturally-specific inventory of evidence-informed practices in response to existing/new GBV trends, and intra- and inter-API cultural & linguistic diversity.

It is anchored in:

- Analyzing gender, patriarchy, race, and culture
- Confronting root causes
- Engaging in systems change, and cultural transformation
- Holding gender democracy/equity central to community well-being
Principle 1: Serve Ethnic/Linguistic Diversity

Culturally-specific programs for API survivors address inter-API and intra-API diversity.

This means services for:

- **41 Asian Ethnic Communities From:**
  - Central, East, South, Southeast and West Asia

- **15 Pacific Islander Communities From:**
  - Continental U.S. and Territories

- **75 API Language Speakers** | Of 160 API CBOs:
  - 89% have services in one or more API languages
  - 54% have services in 5+ API languages; 26% in 10+ languages
  - 38% have contracts for telephonic interpreters
Principle 1: Ethnic/Linguistic Diversity

Culturally-specific programs for API survivors address inter-API and intra-API diversity.

This means services for:

Historically Marginalized Identities | Of 160 API CBOs:

- 93% have services designed for immigrant survivors
- 91% have services designed for survivors with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) (35% of Asians are LEPs)
- 61% have services designed for refugees
- 35% have services designed for Muslim survivors
- 26% have services designed for LGBTQ survivors
- 26% have services designed for Deaf/Hard Of Hearing (note that not all Deaf survivors know ASL)
Planning: Identify state’s (1) underserved/historically marginalized groups (2) language needs (3) inter-agency collaborations:

1. Reach out to DV/SA culturally-specific API CBOs to learn about community needs and CBO needs

- Resource: Directory of Domestic/Gender Violence Programs Serving Asians/Pacific Islanders, 2019
  - Listings by state, by Pacific Islands, for Muslim survivors
  - Contact us to facilitate introductions:
    - info@api-gbv.org
Implications for Administrators

Planning: Identify state’s (1) underserved, historically marginalized groups (2) language needs (3) inter-agency collaborations:

2. Identify how language access planning is done by bilingual advocates, by spoken language interpreters (caution about conflating them)

- Resources: Language Access: Webpage; Resource Guide & Tip Sheets on Language Services for DV/SA/Trafficking Victims
Implications for Administrators

Planning: Identify state’s (1) underserved, historically marginalized groups (2) language needs (3) inter-agency collaborations:

3. Find out how traditional programs collaborate with culturally-specific CBOs. Eg:
   - Are culturally-specific CBOs properly compensated?
   - Are language access plans an informal arrangement whereby bilingual advocates are asked to ‘translate’ for victims with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)?
   - What strategies and collaborations are designed to identify and mitigate systems-generated barriers?
Principle 2: Identify Differing DV Dynamics in Asian Homes

Defining domestic violence within cultural contexts informs intervention & prevention.

For example:

- **Intervention:** differing dynamics include:
  - Physical: abuse by male & female in-laws
  - Emotional: ‘push’ vs. ‘pull’ factors in relationship
  - Sexual: reproductive coercion, given son preference
  - Immigration/refugee status as a tool of abuse
  - Culturally-meaningful abuses: eg. throwing water on a partner to signify she is unclean, unworthy
  - Legal: forced divorce

- **Prevention:** identifying batterer, family, community, and systems generated risk factors (in DV-homicide)
Principle 2: Identify Differing DV Dynamics in Asian Homes

- In response:
  - Of 160 DV programs serving APIs:
    - 44% address abuse by in-laws
    - 22% address transnational abandonment

Provide social services to mitigate barriers, eg.:
- 47% provide healthcare advocacy
- 36% provide economic security programs
- 36% provide ESL/ESOL classes
Implications for Administrators

Recognizing API-specific interventions are based on:

1. **API-specific dynamics**
   - eg. Protection Order against husband isn’t enough when in-laws are also abusers

2. **Deep knowledge of communities served**
   - eg. why leaving is particularly traumatic for refugee survivors

3. **Anticipating how abusers exploit system barriers**
   - eg., a victim’s stable/unstable immigration status or limited English proficiency to jeopardize her safety

4. **Mitigating barriers set up by abuser, family, community**
Address Lifecourse Abuse

Survivor-centered, culturally-specific advocacy for DV survivors includes addressing GBV over the lifecourse. This means:

- Mitigating lifecourse impacts of abuse, trauma, help-seeking, and victim-blaming in API cultural contexts
- **Intervention:** Of 160 domestic violence programs serving APIs:
  - 37% address child abuse
  - 36% address forced marriage
  - 35% address international sex & labor trafficking
  - 19% address domestic sex trafficking of minors
Implications for Administrators

Because OVW grants address DV/SA/stalking/dating violence, be mindful that:

- API-specific CBOs understand OVW’s expectations about addressing other than the 4 crimes
- We may be expecting advocates to compartmentalize abuse, but we know survivors don’t
Implications for Administrators

Because OVW grants address DV/SA/stalking/dating violence, be mindful that:

- Culturally-specific programs need time to gain community trust
  - When expanding services from domestic violence to include sexual assault; or when API multi-service agencies (for healthcare, housing, etc.) add domestic violence programming
- Lifecourse trauma, community victim-blaming, negative help-seeking experiences within families can inhibit service utilization
Principle 4: Systems Change/Advocacy

Collaborating with systems to ensure they are not barriers, but instead gateways to services.

Examples:

1. **Providing language access** for non-English speakers
   - In CBOs: training for multi- and bi-lingual advocates
   - In Systems: training legal & medical interpreters on DV/SA

2. **Integrating resources for economic security**, e.g.:
   - Housing, driving lessons, English-learning, banking, and financial literacy
Principle 4: Systems Change/Advocacy

Collaborating with systems to ensure they are not barriers, but instead gateways to services.

Examples:

3. Applying research to identify evidence-informed practice
   - A-Z Model, domestic violence related homicide prevention

4. Collaborating to build capacity of systems e.g.:
   - Trafficking: CBOs & systems collaboration for survivor-centered trauma-informed care at all points of contact
Inventory of Practices

A – Z Inventory Categorizes & Operationalizes Culturally-Specific Advocacy

- Types of GBV Addressed (90+)
  - eg. Abusive international marriage

- Services/Interventions Offered
  - eg. Art

- Prevention/Community Engagement
  - eg. Accountability practices
### Inventory of Practices

A – Z Inventory Categorizes & Operationalizes Culturally-Specific Advocacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographic/Identity Groups Served (43)</td>
<td>eg. Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Groups Served (56)</td>
<td>eg. Afghani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages of Service (121)</td>
<td>eg. Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems Outreach/Collaborations</td>
<td>eg. AIDS/HIV clinics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Conclusion

The A-Z Advocacy Model demonstrates how culturally-specific programs that are designed to serve Asian and Pacific Islander survivors:

- Identify the unique way abusers leverage family, community, and systems-generated risks and build services that mitigate these risks
- Operationalize them by implementing interventions that promote safety and connection to community
- Understand cultural contexts, dynamics, and trends
- Collaborate to strengthen culturally-specific individual and systems advocacy
What Kinds of Cultures Do We Want?

Cultures where gender democracy/equality is the norm instead of instead of gender violence.

Cultures with ever-changing definitions of honor, masculinity, gender, and gender roles.
What Kinds of Cultures Do We Want?

- Cultures where families and communities protect the inter-generational transfer of care-giving.
- Cultures where relationships of power are replaced by relationships of meaning.
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

A to Z Advocacy Model for Asian Survivors
A-Z Inventory of Practice for Asian Survivors
Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

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