

## **Local Resources**

### **Greenfield**

NELCWIT 413-772-0806 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-249-0806 24hr/7days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-406-3205

Community Legal Aid 413-774-3747

Center for New Americans 413-772-0055

### **Orange**

NELCWIT 978-544-9857 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-249-0806 24hr/7days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 978-376-7372

### **Northampton**

Safe Passage 413-586-5066 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-345-5282 24hr/7 days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-244-0761

Community Legal Aid 413-584-4034

Center for New Americans 413-587-0084

### **Amherst/Belchertown**

Center for Women and Community 413-545-0800

Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-337-0800 24hr/7 days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-426-8469

Center for New Americans 413-239-9550

### **Statewide**

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

510-465-1984

The Network/ La Red

HOTLINE 617-742-4911

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September, 2021

**Are you afraid of your husband or  
intimate partner?**

**Are you a non-citizen of the  
United States?**



**Are you scared to go to the  
police for help?**

**WE WANT TO HELP!**

**Project of Northwestern District Attorney  
David E. Sullivan**



NorthwesternDA.org



### **Does your intimate partner.....**

- ✚ Want to know where you are all the time?
- ✚ Tell you what clothes to wear?
- ✚ Stop you from seeing friends or family?
- ✚ Tell you that you are stupid, lazy, or bad?
- ✚ Physically hurt you?
- ✚ Say he will take the children away from you?
- ✚ Threaten to kill you?

### **Does your intimate partner use your immigration status against you by.....**

- ✚ Saying the police will arrest YOU?
- ✚ Threatening to have you deported?
- ✚ Destroying your passport, ID cards, health insurance, or other important papers?

### **Does your partner use cultural or language barriers to confuse or mislead you by.....**

- ✚ Saying they can take away your citizenship or immigration status?
- ✚ Lying about the laws of the United States?

**If you answered YES to any of the above you could  
be in an abusive relationship AND  
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**

**In the United States it is against  
the law for a person to physically  
abuse their Intimate Partner!!!**



**If you are an immigrant AND a victim of a crime you  
can apply for a U-VISA!!!**

### **What is a U-VISA?**

**It is a U.S. government document that gives immigrants  
authorization to stay in the United States. If approved, you and your  
children can stay in the U.S. to work for 4 years. After 3 years from  
your initial application you can apply to become a permanent  
resident of the U.S. (green card).**

### **How do I get one?**

**To get a U-Visa you will have to talk to the police about the crime  
and be willing to help with the case. Then you will have to get a letter  
of certification from a federal, state or local law enforcement official  
such as the police or district attorney's office.**

**The U.S. Government decides whether you are approved for  
the U-Visa.**



**Protections are also available under the  
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

**Contact Community Legal Aid for more information**



## Should I stay or should I go?

Whether you have decided to leave or not, it's good to plan ahead in case you need to escape quickly.

Be prepared by hiding these items in a safe location:

- + Important documents: passports, citizenship documents, IDs, health insurance cards, medical records and financial records
- + Spare set of car keys
- + Two changes of clothes for you and your children
- + List of emergency phone numbers and extra cell phone with battery charged
- + Money that has been put aside

**Practice** how to get out safely and help your children practice too.

**Contact a hotline** on the back of this booklet to talk with someone who can help you make a safety plan.



There are places you can go for help regardless of your immigration status!

### What Places?

~NELCWIT  
Greenfield  
~Safe Passage  
Northampton  
~Center for Women and  
Community  
Amherst

~Community Legal Aid  
Northampton

~Courthouses in  
Greenfield, Northampton,  
Orange, and Belchertown

~*Phone numbers for these agencies are listed on the back of this pamphlet.*

### What Kind of Help?

Just to talk with someone who will listen and help you with a plan to keep you and your family safe

Help to secure legal immigration status

Court Advocate will explain options for getting a restraining order against your abuser

**You don't have to share information if you don't want to.**

**You don't have to identify your immigration status if you don't want to.**

## You can apply for a Restraining Order at your local courthouse



### *What happens when I go to the courthouse?*

- A Court officer will ask everyone to walk through a metal detector and submit to a bag search.
- You can **request an advocate** to help you through the process in the Clerk's Offices, which are located in all courthouses.
- You have the right to apply for a **Restraining Order**, which is a court document that can order your abuser to leave the home and stay away from you and your children.
- If you decide to apply for a Restraining Order the advocate will ask personal questions about your relationship and why you are afraid. You will be asked to write everything down in your own language. If you cannot write, an interpreter will assist you. It may be difficult to share private information, but it will help you to get the protection you need.
- **A judge will decide** whether or not to grant the restraining order.

**You have the right to request assistance from a qualified interpreter who speaks your language.**

## What kind of protection does a Restraining Order offer?

**You may ask to include any or all of the following orders:**

*Order the Abuser to:*

- stop abusing you
- have NO CONTACT with you; he or she cannot contact you or your children by telephone calls, text, email or letters
- leave and stay away from your house and work
- abide by an order for temporary custody of your children
- pay temporary financial support
- surrender any keys to your house
- have police present when picking up belongings
- hand over all firearms



**You can get a restraining order even if you are NOT a citizen of the United States.**