



**\*\*APNA GHAR ADVISORY\*\***

**Challenges faced by Immigrant and Refugee Survivors of Gender-Based Violence amid COVID-19**

- ❖ Survivors of family violence (partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse) face increase in the frequency and severity of violence.
- ❖ Survivors of sexual violence and trauma, trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence face increased risks.
- ❖ Survivors from marginalized and vulnerable communities are at risk for greater harm.
- ❖ Pandemics and other large-scale crises exacerbate existing inequalities.

**Thus, Apna Ghar, Inc. is raising awareness to ensure adequate financial, emotional and physical resources, as well as culturally and linguistically appropriate support during this crisis and beyond.**

	<b>PROBLEM STATEMENT</b>	<b>OUR SOLUTIONS</b>
1.	<p><b>Housing Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Home is not a safe place for survivors of family violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional safe housing options for survivors</li> <li>• Rental assistance to seek apartments for survivors and their children / families</li> <li>• Landlord education and advocacy</li> <li>• Housing rights materials in multiple languages</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Food Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Grocery stores, food banks and drive-through food assistance is not accessible for survivors trapped at home, or for those without access to transportation.</li> <li>➤ Withholding food and nutrition, controlling movement are forms of abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gift cards</li> <li>• Transportation support</li> <li>• Delivery of food and essential items</li> <li>• Grocery stores can create partnerships with Apna Ghar and partner organizations to provide vouchers for free or discounted shopping for survivors</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Healthcare Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The trauma from abuse is further compounded by housing, food, and economic insecurity and leads to increased anxiety.</li> <li>➤ Immigrants and refugees having difficulty in accessing health care due to language, status, transportation and financial barriers</li> <li>➤ Immigrants and refugees are often uninsured or underinsured; and lack access to public benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to and partnerships with healthcare providers</li> <li>• Low cost or free testing and healthcare support</li> <li>• Healthcare information in multiple languages</li> <li>• Access to masks and protective gear</li> <li>• Tele-health and tele-therapy options</li> <li>• Mental health support and advocacy</li> <li>• Transportation support</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Technology Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of access to and comfort with technology</li> <li>➤ Many survivors we serve have smart phones but not laptops or tablets</li> <li>➤ Slow or no internet access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing laptops, tablets, phones for survivors and their children / families</li> <li>• Providing and installing useful software</li> <li>• Low-cost internet access</li> <li>• Technology companies can partner with Apna Ghar to support the survivors we serve</li> </ul>



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4.	<p><b>Legal Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abusive partners are taking advantage of reduced capacity of law enforcement and the court systems</li> <li>➤ Immigration system is difficult to navigate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Planning</li> <li>• Access to and partnerships with legal aid, volunteer, and pro-bono attorneys</li> <li>• Access to and partnerships with law enforcement and the court system</li> <li>• Information on legal rights, options, and remedies in multiple languages</li> <li>• Immigration system advocacy</li> <li>• Language access</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Financial Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abuse increases in homes where abusers have lost employment.</li> <li>➤ Survivors who leave are often unemployed or under-employed</li> <li>➤ Some survivors are not eligible or cannot access relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct financial assistance</li> <li>• Connection to resources and support</li> <li>• Emotional and planning support</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Employment Insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of employment</li> <li>➤ Inability to keep employment due to increased childcare and homeschooling needs</li> <li>➤ Lack of access to public benefits</li> <li>➤ Survivors whose immigration status is tied to either their abuser's or their own employment face increased job insecurity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Financial Assistance</li> <li>• Assistance with food and household items</li> <li>• Assistance with diapers and children's items</li> <li>• Employment training and support</li> <li>• Immigration advocacy</li> <li>• Connection to resources and support</li> </ul>

- At Apna Ghar we remain available 24/7, by phone at 773 334 4663, by text at 773 899 1041 and by email at [help@apnaghar.org](mailto:help@apnaghar.org)
- Apna Ghar resources in response to COVID-19 are available on our website [www.apnaghar.org](http://www.apnaghar.org) at [http://www.apnaghar.org/uploads/9/6/4/4/9644061/apna\\_ghar\\_resources\\_in\\_response\\_to\\_covid-19\\_4.20.20.pdf](http://www.apnaghar.org/uploads/9/6/4/4/9644061/apna_ghar_resources_in_response_to_covid-19_4.20.20.pdf)
- *Media Coverage:* Chicago Tribune, CNN, Chicago Sun Times, WBEZ available at <http://www.apnaghar.org/apna-ghar-in-the-news.html>

Our sincere gratitude to our local, national and international partners, and our thanks to the Shriver Center on Poverty Law for their comprehensive guide on crisis advocacy for systemic change <https://www.povertylaw.org/article/covid-19-crisis-advocacy-for-systemic-change/>

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