

## **Coalition Request for Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to Allocate Significant and Dedicated Funding in FY26 to Support Culturally Specific Gender Based Violence Service Providers**

Dear Governor Hochul and Members of the New York State Legislature,

The undersigned organizations which provide services across New York state to survivors of gender based violence call on you to make significant investments in the FY26 New York state budget to ensure we have the resources necessary to serve the most overlooked and at-risk survivors of gender based violence. Our organizations collectively recognize the increasingly dangerous and difficult situations facing survivors of gender based violence, especially survivors of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ community members, and those with disabilities. BIPOC and immigrant gender based violence survivors often go to culturally specific service providers before seeking help from law enforcement or hospitals - and the current immigration enforcement stances, whether real or perceived, are increasingly driving these survivors to our doors first. At the same time, our organizations work hard to build trust within local communities and provide multilingual services so that survivors feel comfortable seeking our help, and can receive the appropriate services they need to break free and heal from violence.

There is currently a growing need for culturally specific gender based violence services in New York, while unfortunately at the same time there is federal disinvestment of services that are tailored to specific communities and cultures. Sixteen years ago, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) began providing dedicated grants to culturally specific gender based violence service providers, and while New York state provides significant support to GBV service providers, its agencies have not yet recognized the needs of culturally specific services through separate funding sources or programs. As of February 2025, federal programs which grant millions in crucial funding each year to culturally specific service providers have already been halted and/or are being re-evaluated, including DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), programs at HUD, and HHS' Office of the Administration for Children and Families (TANF and FVPSA), among others. Additionally, New York State's Office of Victim Services' (OVS) grants which help to fund our organizations are also sourced from federal funding and at risk of being suspended or redirected.

**Our organizations recognize the need for New York state to provide dedicated funding and programs to support culturally specific gender based violence organizations, which serve BIPOC and immigrant communities, and whose organizational leadership or missions reflect the communities they serve. In addition to OVS's ongoing Victim Assistance Program grants which provide \$100**

**million over three-year periods to more than 200 nonprofits across New York, we call on you to include \$23 million in additional funding to establish a new culturally specific gender based violence service provider grant program through OVS in the FY26 budget.** This will provide sustainable and much needed resources to culturally specific organizations serving survivors, while reflecting the fact that immigrants make up 23% of New York state's population, and that over 200,000 asylum seekers have recently come to live in New York.

Providing an additional \$23 million in the FY26 NYS budget will allow culturally specific service providers to build their internal capacity to match the demand they are seeing for the multilingual services they provide, including mental health and counseling services, and increase their presences in communities. Thank you for recognizing the critical and urgent needs of culturally specific gender based violence service providers in New York, and for considering this request to allocate \$23 million in additional grant funding through OVS for FY26.

With deep respect and appreciation,

Asian American Federation (AAF)  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)  
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)  
Chinatown Manpower Project (CMP)  
Co-Counsel NYC  
Garden of Hope  
Healing Hands  
Her Justice  
Jahajee Sisters  
Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC)  
Mekong NYC  
Mixteca Organization  
New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (The Alliance)  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)  
Refugee & Immigrant Self Empowerment (RISE) Buffalo  
Safe Horizon  
Sakhi for South Asian Survivors  
Sanctuary For Families  
Sapna NYC  
Sauti Yetu Center for African Women  
Sepa Mujer  
The Collective  
Trinity Healing Center  
Violence Intervention Program (VIP)  
Voces Latinas  
Womankind