



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING ADVOCACY

NAPAWF is a national membership organization with a multi-issue advocacy focus, including economic empowerment and ending violence against women. NAPAWF and its members support programs and policies that strive to increase and protect women's personal, economic and political power and their right to self-determination.

In February 2005, approximately 15 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) female anti-trafficking/anti-violence advocates met in Seattle, WA, to discuss opportunities and obstacles to increasing the public voices of API women advocates and survivors. Though API women constitute a majority of trafficked persons worldwide, their voices are relatively absent from the U.S. public policy-making process. Moreover, API anti-trafficking advocates find the field dominated by political agendas, narrow definitions of trafficking and advocacy efforts that inadvertently place undue burdens on survivors and immigrants.

To guide the work of NAPAWF and progressive allies, participants at the convening devised a set of guiding principles grounded in human rights: individuals should be free from oppression and violence; there should be a guarantee of economic opportunities for all people; individuals should have the right to migrate safely for economic and social reasons; and individuals should have the right to self-determination and self-sufficiency.

To achieve these human rights, anti-trafficking initiatives should include the following principles:

- 1 Be grounded in a critical analysis of the root causes of violence and exploitation relative to race, gender, and class, and of the "risk factors" or layers of vulnerabilities imposed by social, political and economic structures.
- 2 Advocate for the self-determination and self-sufficiency of trafficked survivors and strive to develop their leadership as advocates.
- 3 Limit unsafe migration but not migration generally. Trafficked survivors should not have to choose between a risk to personal safety versus a risk to their immigration status.
- 4 Caution against migration reforms that have the potential to increase the vulnerable status of migrants and consequently diminish self-determination.
- 5 Support enforcement against traffickers without increased criminalization of migrants or increasing restrictions on the (im)migration process
- 6 Address, implicitly or expressly, the root causes of trafficking, namely globalization (poverty, lack of economic opportunities, lack of education, etc.) and its impact on trafficked survivors.
- 7 Support funding for research and data collection on human trafficking, as well as services and advocacy, in the U.S. and worldwide.
- 8 Promote impartial treatment of trafficked survivors regardless of their race, religion, class, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Certain groups of trafficked survivors should not be singled out for better or worse treatment.
- 9 Stay focused on survivors' and women's human rights and decision-making within their social, cultural, economic and political context to avoid the politicization and moralization of human trafficking.
- 10 Focus advocacy efforts on the plight of all trafficked survivors, including all forms of trafficking such as domestic servitude, sweatshop and farm labor.
- 11 Discern certain arranged marriages or marriage-brokered relationships where fraud, coercion, abuse or forced labor are present as forms of bride trafficking.
- 12 Promote alliances with sister movements in the labor, immigrant rights, reproductive justice, and anti-violence communities, etc.