BLOGS

Consider sharing more in-depth messages with your community online through a blog. Post as frequently as you wish, with a goal of at least once a month. Be sure to provide a link to your blog on your Facebook, Twitter, and other social media pages.

Steps to an Engaging Blog Post

· Target your audience by using an appropriate reading level and relevant content.

· Check your facts—use only statistics that come from reliable sources, and cite them.

· State your main points in your introduction and again in the conclusion.

· Limit your post to no more than 750 words.

· Time the release of your blog post to coincide with events and current news.

Ideas for Blog Posts

· Information for crime victims, such as crime victim compensation or victims' rights.

· Details about an upcoming event or a recap following an event.

· Awareness days, weeks, and months.

· Suggestions for self-care.

· Personal stories, including suggestions for self-care and how victims used local resources to assist in their recovery.

· Lists of important resources and services.

· Relevant interviews with important local officials or executives in the organization.

RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, *for all victims*
Help crime survivors find their justice.

Improving Language Access for Immigrant and Refugee Crime Victims

The United States is remarkably diverse. According to American Community Survey data collected from 2009 to 2013, American households speak more than 350 languages.[1] Diversity, in all of its forms, is the bedrock of American democracy. However, for the roughly 25.1 million individuals over the age of 5 who do not speak English as their primary language—who are categorized as Limited English Proficient (LEP)—their linguistic diversity is too often a barrier to accessing critical public services.

Systemic inequalities in language access are particularly harmful to immigrant and refugee victims of crime, who are more at risk of robbery, assault, theft, human trafficking, and intimate partner violence than the general population. A self-reported survey of 90 undocumented Latinos living in Memphis, Tennessee, found that 63 percent of respondents had been a victim of one or more crimes.[2]

Immigrants and refugees are also less likely to report the crimes they experience.[3] Many immigrant and refugee crime victims experience added layers of stress, isolation, and depression when they are not able to access services due to language barriers. Nearly one in three Spanish-speaking Latinas surveyed by the National Latina Network at Casa de Esperanza reported that they had encountered challenges accessing domestic violence-related services because of language barriers.[4]

Addressing language access barriers for immigrant and refugee populations is rarely as simple as translating forms or brochures into non-English languages. While translation is part of the solution, victim service providers must go further. Under federal law and executive orders, all agencies that receive federal funds must make a reasonable effort to provide meaningful language access for LEP individuals. In practice, though, victim service providers are often unaware of this requirement or do not understand how to provide meaningful language access.

Ultimately, access is about choice and knowledge. LEP crime victims need to be informed of their rights in a language they can understand. They need to be made aware of the availability of culturally competent services to help them. Organizations must respect cultural differences. They should have formal language access policies and qualified interpreters and translators available, when needed. We, in the victim services field, must make a conscious decision to build organizations that reflect our multicultural and multilingual nation, from the inside out.

To learn more about advocacy by and for immigrant and refugee victims of crime, view *[link to local resources from your organization or national organizations]*.

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[1] U.S. Census Bureau (2015). "2013 American Community Survey." Retrieved from https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/bulletins/122dd88.

[2] Bucher, Jacob; Manasse, Michelle; and Tarasawa, Beth. (2010). "Undocumented Victims: An Examination of Crimes Against Undocumented Male Migrant Workers." *Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice*. 7. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net/publication/267378044_Undocumented_Victims_An_Examination_of_Crimes_Against_Undocumented_Male_Migrant_Workers.

[3] Davis, R.C., and E. Erez. Immigrant Populations as Victims: Toward a Multicultural Criminal Justice System. Research in Brief. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, May 1998, NCJ 167571.

[4] National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities and National Domestic Violence Hotline (2013). Realidades Latinas. A National Survey on the Impact of Immigration and Language Access on Latina Survivors, (Research Report No. 2013.4). Retrieved from www.nationallatinonetwork.org/research/nln-research.

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