



## Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities

June 2011

### 1. Demographics

- ◆ Muslims constitute 0.8% (2,454,000) of the U.S. adult population.<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ 65% of U.S. Muslims are foreign-born; 27% of them emigrated from South and Central Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ 35% of Muslims in the U.S. self-identify as African American, the largest racial group within the community.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ 18%, nearly one in five Muslim Americans, self-identify as Asian.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pew Research Center Forum on Religion and Public Life. *Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009. <http://pewforum.org/Muslim/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

<sup>2</sup> Pew Research Center. *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*. Washington, DC: Author; 2007. <http://pewresearch.org/assets/pdf/muslim-americans.pdf> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

<sup>3</sup> Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. *Muslim Americans: A National Portrait, An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009. <http://www.abudhabigallupcenter.com/File/144332/AmericanMuslimReport.pdf> (Retrieved 1-10-11)

### 2. Statistics

All the data in this section is re-printed, with permission, from *Research* by Peaceful Families Project: [www.peacefulfamilies.org/Abuse\\_Statistics.pdf](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org/Abuse_Statistics.pdf)

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A survey of 63 Muslim leaders showed that 10% of Muslims experienced physical abuse in their homes.

Alkhateeb, Sharifa. "Ending domestic violence in Muslim families." *Journal of Religion and Abuse* 1.44 (1999): 49-59.

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A study of 23 Muslim married female immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Houston, Texas revealed a 10% prevalence rate of spousal abuse.

Rianon, Nahid J., and Shelton, A. J. "Perception of spousal abuse expressed by married Bangladeshi immigrant women in Houston, Texas, U.S.A". *Journal of Immigrant Health* 5.1 (2003): 37-44.

- ◆ **Attitudes:** A study of 162 women and 40 men was conducted in 202 Arab-American homes (98% of whom were Muslim). Interviewees approved of a man slapping his wife under the following conditions: 34% of women and 33% of men if she insults him when they are at home alone, 17% of women and 43% of men if she insults him in public, and 59% of both women and men if she hits him first in an argument.

Kulwicki, Anahid D., and Miller, June. "Domestic violence in the Arab American population: Transforming environmental conditions through community education." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 20 (1999): 199-215.

- ◆ **Experiences:** Quantitative and qualitative interviews conducted with the executive directors of 9 domestic violence organizations serving significant numbers of Muslim women found that of the 1,962 total Muslim women served annually, the average age was 32 years, and 85% were of immigrant background. The women experienced various forms of domestic violence including 82% emotional or verbal abuse, 65% financial abuse, 49% spiritual abuse, 74% physical abuse, and 30% sexual abuse.

Alkhateeb, Maha. "DV Organizations Serving Muslim Women: Preliminary Results of a 2009 Quantitative Survey." Peaceful Families Project. 2009. [www.peacefulfamilies.org/DVOrgsSurvey.pdf](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org/DVOrgsSurvey.pdf)

- ◆ **Shelter Residents:** A study of 57 closed-case files from an American Muslim women's shelter revealed that 37% had experienced multiple types of abuse, 23% experienced physical abuse, and 12% experienced emotional abuse.

Abdullah, Keilani. "A peaceful ideal, violent realities: A study on Muslim female domestic violence survivors." In: Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri (Eds.) *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 69-89.

- ◆ **Therapy Patients:** In a study of 190 Muslims seeking mental health counseling in Northern Virginia, 41% experienced domestic violence in the form of verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Victims were 71% adult females, 12% adult males, and 16% children. 60% of all clients experienced verbal or psychological abuse in their lifetime, 50% physical abuse, 14% sexual abuse, and 3% reported having a relative killed.

Abugideiri, Salma Elkadi. "Domestic violence among Muslims seeking mental health counseling." *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Eds. Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 91-115.

- ◆ **Role of Imams:** A study of 22 mosques in New York found that 96% of the participants perceived the imam as a counselor, and 74% had sought counseling from imams for safety issues.

Abu-Ras, Wahiba, Gheith, Ali and F. Cournos. "Religion and imams role in mental health promotion: A study at 22 mosques in New York City Muslim community." *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 3.2 (2008): 157-78.

### 3. Selected Translated Materials

- ◆ **Creating a Safety Plan Arabic**  
The Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada  
Website: [www.pcawa.org](http://www.pcawa.org), Email: [pcawa@pcawa.org](mailto:pcawa@pcawa.org), Tel: 905.282.9792  
Weblink: [www.pcawa.org/Files/Arabic%20Safety%20Plan-Revised%202005.pdf](http://www.pcawa.org/Files/Arabic%20Safety%20Plan-Revised%202005.pdf)
- ◆ **Earth Words: Domestic Violence Information in over 80 Languages**  
Website: [www.hotpeachpages.net/lang/index.html](http://www.hotpeachpages.net/lang/index.html)
- ◆ **Legal Glossaries Arabic, Bangla, Hindi, Urdu**  
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, California  
Website: [www.saccourt.ca.gov](http://www.saccourt.ca.gov), Tel: 916.874.6867  
Weblink: [www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx](http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx)

- ◆ **Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence Farsi | Persian**  
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA  
Website: [www.apiidv.org](http://www.apiidv.org), Email: [info@apiidv.org](mailto:info@apiidv.org), Tel: 415.568.3315  
Weblink (English): [www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiral](http://www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiral)  
Weblink (Farsi): [www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiralfarsi](http://www.apiidv.org/lifetimespiralfarsi)
- ◆ **You Have a Right to Be Free from Violence in Your Home: Questions and Answers for Immigrant and Refugee Women Arabic**  
Family Violence Prevention Fund, San Francisco, CA  
Website: [www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org), Email: [info@endabuse.org](mailto:info@endabuse.org), Tel: 415.252.8900  
Weblink: [endabuse.org/userfiles/file/ImmigrantWomen/arabic.pdf](http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/ImmigrantWomen/arabic.pdf)

For a complete list of translated materials in Arabic, Bangla, Hindi and Urdu, visit [www.apiidv.org](http://www.apiidv.org).

## 4. Other Resources

### 24-Hour Hotline: National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

For crisis intervention, safety planning, information about domestic violence, and referrals to local service providers. Assistance available in over 100 languages through interpreter services.

### Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities | Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

[www.apiidv.org/violence/muslimwomen.php](http://www.apiidv.org/violence/muslimwomen.php)

Webpage with resources on domestic violence against Muslim immigrants living in the U.S.

### Kismet

[www.kismetwtg.com](http://www.kismetwtg.com)

An online resource guide for Pakistani parents arranging bi-continental marriages (available in English and Urdu).

### Muslim Advocacy Network Against Domestic Violence (MANADV)

*A collaboration between Peaceful Families Project and the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence*

703.474.6870

[www.manadv.org](http://www.manadv.org)

[info@manadv.org](mailto:info@manadv.org)

For technical assistance, community outreach, training, and research to strengthen culturally appropriate advocacy; encourage dialogue and collaboration; develop models and analyses; and disseminate resources in addressing domestic violence in Muslim communities.

### Peaceful Families Project

703.474.6870

[www.peacefulfamilies.org](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org)

[info@peacefulfamilies.org](mailto:info@peacefulfamilies.org)

For training and technical assistance on domestic violence among Muslim families and developing culturally sensitive programs to better serve Muslim communities.

## Publications

- ◆ **Change From Within: Diverse Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities (2007)**  
Edited by Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Peaceful Families Project.  
[www.peacefulfamilies.org/publications.html](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org/publications.html)
- ◆ **Muslim Marriage Contract in American Courts (2000)**  
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.  
Lecture at Minaret of Freedom Banquet, May 20, 2000.  
[www.minaret.org/azizah.htm](http://www.minaret.org/azizah.htm)
- ◆ **An Islamic Perspective on Domestic Violence (2000)**  
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.  
*Fordham International Law Journal*, Issue 27, pg. 195-224.  
[www.apiidv.org/islamicperspectiveDV](http://www.apiidv.org/islamicperspectiveDV)
- ◆ **Muslim Power and Control Wheel**  
Peaceful Families Project, Great Falls, VA  
Website: [www.peacefulfamilies.org](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org), Email: [info@peacefulfamilies.org](mailto:info@peacefulfamilies.org), Tel: 703.474.6870  
Weblink: [www.peacefulfamilies.org/dvwheel.html](http://www.peacefulfamilies.org/dvwheel.html)
- ◆ **Muslim Women's Rights in the Global Village: Challenges and Opportunities (1999)**  
By Azizah Y. al-Hibri.  
*Journal of Law and Religion*, 15, 37-66.  
[www.apiidv.org/muslimwomensrights](http://www.apiidv.org/muslimwomensrights)

## Bibliographies

- ◆ **Bibliography on Gender, Domestic Violence & Muslim Women**  
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence  
[www.apiidv.org/muslimbiblio](http://www.apiidv.org/muslimbiblio)
- ◆ **Bibliography on Muslim Women and Domestic Violence: Three Key Topics**  
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence  
[www.apiidv.org/muslimbibliokeytopics](http://www.apiidv.org/muslimbibliokeytopics)

## Directories

- ◆ **National Directory**  
*Directory of Domestic Violence Programs Serving Muslim Communities*, Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, [www.apiidv.org/muslimdirectory](http://www.apiidv.org/muslimdirectory)
- ◆ **International Directories**  
Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, [www.866uswomen.org](http://www.866uswomen.org)  
  
Hot Peach Pages, International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies, [www.hotpeachpages.net](http://www.hotpeachpages.net)

## Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

For questions, information, publications and technical assistance, contact the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence at 415-568-3315, [info@apiidv.org](mailto:info@apiidv.org), [www.apiidv.org](http://www.apiidv.org).