

# APA Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

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## **APALRC Holds a Community Partner Training Session on U-Visa Filing**

On January 16, 2009, APALRC held the first of its U-Visa Community Partner Trainings to educate community members of availability and eligibility requirements for U-visa filings for victims of crime. The training was held at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center and was attended by many of our community partners, including the Asian Service Center, Chinatown Service Center, and New Comer Service Center.



(Above: APALRC U-Visa Community Partner Training held at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center on January 16, 2009)

The U-visa is designed for non-citizen victims of crime who 1) have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of a qualifying criminal activity; 2) have information concerning the criminal activity; and 3) assist government officials in the investigation or prosecution of such criminal activity. The criminal activity must have violated U.S. law or occurred in the U.S. Through the U-visa, qualifying non-citizen victims of crime can obtain employment authorization, derivative status for family members, and apply for a permanent resident status after 3 years.

As part of this outreach project, APALRC has developed a brochure about U-visa filing and translated the document into Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Urdu, and Vietnamese to effectively reach out to various Asian communities in the region and raise awareness of availability and benefits of the U-visa. Historically, a number of reported crimes involving limited- or non-English proficient Asian population has been significantly low despite the fact that they are often perceived as easy targets, largely due to factors like language and cultural barriers, difficulty of navigating through the justice system, and fear of deportation. In conjunction with our Crime Victims Assistance Partnership (CVAP) Project, which helps victims with the process of applying for crime victim compensation in the District of Columbia, APALRC plans to augment its efforts in educating limited-English proficient Asian victims of crime of available resources, supporting them with navigating through the criminal justice system and immigration laws, and assisting them with seeking justice that they deserve.

If you would like more information on APALRC's U-Visa Community Partner Trainings, including future training opportunities, please contact Nadia Firozvi, Staff Attorney, at [nadia.firozvi@apalrc.org](mailto:nadia.firozvi@apalrc.org) or Betty Luan, Paralegal, at [betty.luan@apalrc.org](mailto:betty.luan@apalrc.org).

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