

# Who are we?

**Asian Women's Home** is the domestic violence program for Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI). Our home is the only domestic violence shelter in Santa Clara County that focuses on the Asian community.

We serve everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

## Our services are:

- Free and confidential
- Available in **English, Asian, and non-Asian** languages
- Available to shelter and non-residential clients of all backgrounds

## Our services include:

- A 24-hour hotline for support and information
- Peer counseling, safety planning, restraining orders, and support groups
- Advocacy and accompaniment involving legal, social, and health services
- 12-bed crisis shelter
- Translation and interpretation

**Our 24-hour hotline:**  
**(408) 975-2739**

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# A few myths

- Dating violence is not a problem in **high schools**.
- Dating violence isn't really that serious.
- Alcohol and drugs cause dating violence.
- There is nothing you can do to stop dating violence or domestic violence.
- Dating violence only occurs in older couple relationships.
- Dating violence only occurs in relationships involving people of color.

## Domestic violence

Domestic violence is when one partner has control over the partner in the relationship.

In such a relationship, the partner in control is both emotionally and physically abusive and no matter what some people may believe, abusing someone can never be justified.

There are many types of abuse, including sexual, verbal, mental, and destructive abuse.

It is **never** wrong to want safety and happiness!

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# Types of abuse

- **Sexual:** "He always pressures me into having sex, and when I say "no," he calls me vulgar names."
- **Verbal:** "He always puts me down and even threatens me if I do something he doesn't like."
- **Mental:** "She makes me feel as if everything is my fault even if it isn't."
- **Destructive:** "He threatens to hang my cat and burn my stuff if I don't do whatever he says."

## Facts: got truth?

♥ **One in three** teens involved in a relationship has been a victim of dating violence.

♥ Dating violence can be **vicious**. Young women have been strangled, thrown, attacked with weapons, or even killed.

♥ Dating violence affects **everyone**, regardless of race, social class, gender, religion, sexuality, physical abilities, etc.

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# Dina's story

When Dina was in high school, she met a boy her age at a party. A few days later, he asked her out.

During the first few months of dating, Dina was happy. He would show up at her door to surprise her with flowers. He texted and called her a few times a day to check up on her.

One time, when the couple had a romantic night in, one of Dina's male friends called her. Stricken with jealousy, her boyfriend suspected that Dina was cheating on him. In a sudden rage, he assaulted Dina, leaving her a black eye.

Dina assumed that he beat her out of love and protectiveness, so she continued to date him. However, as time went on, her boyfriend only became more abusive. He constantly called and texted her to threaten her. He even began to show up at Dina's school to try and find her.

Dina was afraid and fed up. She finally called the AACI Asian Women's Home hotline, and the advocates on the hotline provided her with safety planning, health care resources, and peer counseling.

Since Dina was a minor age 12 or older, she was able to ask for a restraining order and file on her own. Advocates worked with her through the process and helped her to file a police report. It was tough on Dina, but now is she safe from her former boyfriend.

Dina is now in college and is focused on her future, not her past.

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# Staying safe

- Remember to always keep important phone numbers (police, hotlines, family & friends, shelters) with you.
  - Find places that you can go to for help.
  - Keep close contact with family & friends so that they know what is happening to you.
  - Tell as many people as possible about the violence and ask them to call the police in case you are in danger.
  - Develop code words with family and friends in case you decide to leave the relationship.
  - Join a support group for survivors of dating violence or domestic violence.
- Find a place to keep items (such as your cellphone, ID, SS card, driver's license, money, keys, clothing, medication, and paperwork) you might need in case of an emergency when you decide to leave.

Creating a safety plan keeps you and the ones you love safe.

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# Checklist

Go through the checklist and see if any of the points below apply to you. If so, consider talking to someone even if you are not sure that you are in an abusive relationship.

- My partner kicks, hits, or **hurts me physically**.
- My partner calls me mean names or **puts me down**.
- I feel **afraid** or uncomfortable around my partner.
- My partner **does not respect my privacy**.
- My partner tries to **control** the clothes I wear or how I look.
- My partner is **jealous** of the time I spend with family or friends.
- My partner **forces** me to go further sexually than I want to.
- My partner **has threatened** to commit suicide if I leave.

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# Getting help

*In an emergency, please call 911!*

Shelters, counseling, support, and more:

- Santa Clara County:
- AACI Asian Women's Home: (408) 975-2739
  - Bill Wilson (Teen Line): 1 (888) 247-7717
  - Billy de Frank (LGBTQ focus): (408) 293-3040
  - Community Solutions: (408) 683-4118
  - MAITRI: 1 (888) 862-4874
  - Next Door Solutions: (408) 279-2962
  - Suicide & Crisis: 1 (855) 278-4204
  - YWCA Support Network: 1 (800) 572-2782
  - YWCA Rape Crisis Center: (408) 287-3000

Outside Santa Clara County:

- Asian Women's Shelter (S.F.): 1 (877) 751-0880
- CUAU (LGBTQ focus) (S.F.): (415) 333-HELP
- N'l Domestic Violence Line: 1 (800) 799-SAFE
- N'l Teen Dating Abuse Line: 1 (866) 331-9474
- SAVE (Fremont): (510) 794-6055

Legal Assistance:

- Asian Law Alliance: (408) 287-9710
- Legal Aid Society: (408) 998-5200
- Legal Advocates for Youth: (408) 293-4790
- Pro Bono Project: (408) 998-5298

Our website: [dv.aaci.org](http://dv.aaci.org)

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# DATING VIOLENCE

IS THIS LOVE?



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