

Welcome

To listen in **Ukrainian** or **Russian**, please select:

- Interpretation > Preferred Language

Ласкаво просимо

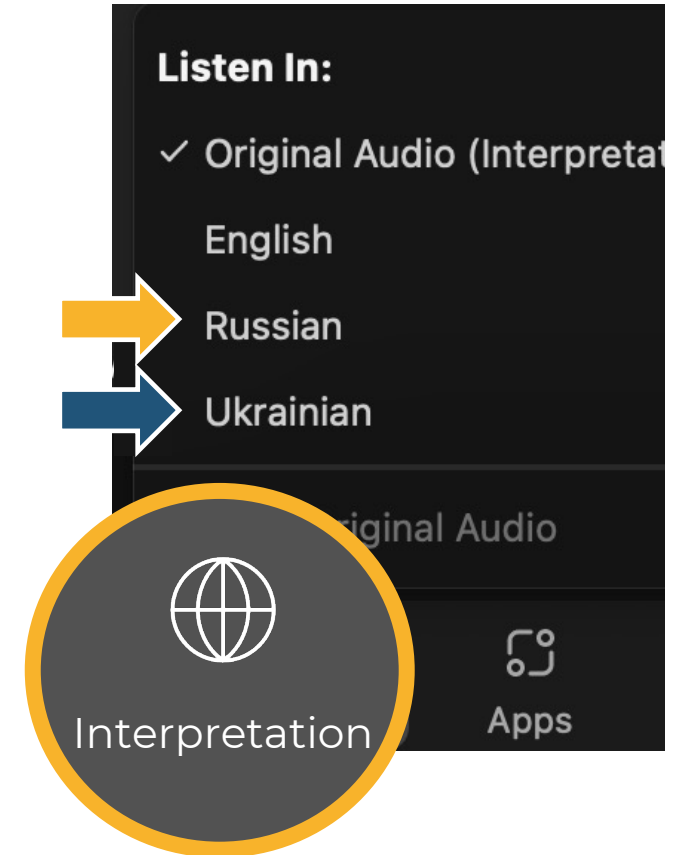
Для прослуховування українською або російською мовою, будь ласка, оберіть:

- Усний переклад
- Мова, якій надається перевага

Добро пожаловать

Для прослушивания на украинском или русском языке, пожалуйста, выберите:

- Устный перевод
- Предпочитаемый язык



Navigating Critical Situations: Abuse

Ukrainian Support Convening Sessions

Hosted by Solvera Consulting, in partnership with California
Department of Social Services' Refugee Programs Bureau

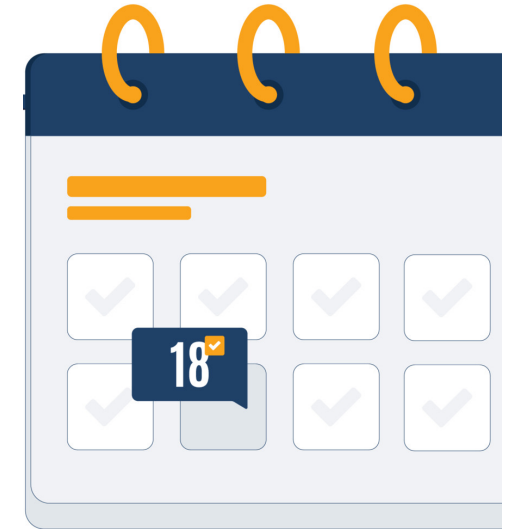


Upcoming Convening Sessions



**support
guide**.org

- On Mondays, 10:00-11:00am via Zoom
- Through August 2024
- Future dates and topics TBD



Date	Topic	Designed For
Aug 26	Employment: Career Pathways	UHPs & Sponsors (*English, Ukrainian, Russian)

Expectation Setting



Topics

- ✓ Understanding abuse
- ✓ Forms of abuse
- ✓ Laws around abuse in the U.S.
- ✓ Protecting vulnerable members
- ✓ What to expect

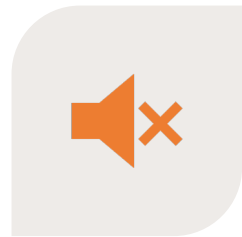
Will receive PPT (in-language) + links after



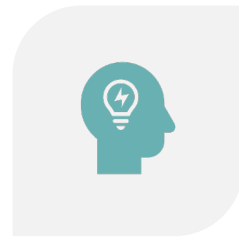
Not Covered

- x Personal details
- x All situations
- x Topics like immigration status, HAU, specific cases, legal advice
- x Enrolling in public benefits (CalWORKS, RCA, CalFresh, WIC)

Session Reminders



Mute



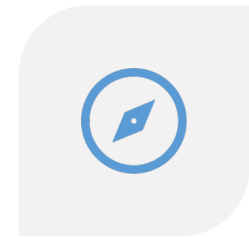
Select
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Upvote
Questions



Live Q&As



Survey

Who you are hearing from today



Tatiana Shevchenko

MA, MDR, social worker and protective services specialist



Outline of Session Topics

1

**Definition and
forms of
abuse**

2

**Children,
disabled, and
older family
members**

3

**Spouses and
sponsors:
domestic
violence**

4

**Role of
police and
local
agencies**

What is Abuse?

Definitions and different forms of abuse

What American Society Considers Abuse

Definition: Intentional harm or mistreatment of another person, causing physical, emotional, psychological, or financial damage.

Key Elements

- *Power Imbalance:* Abuser typically holds more power or control.
- *Repeated Behaviors:* Abuse often occurs over time, not just isolated incidents.
- *Significant Impact:* Causes substantial harm to the victim.

Multiple forms of abuse are usually present at the same time in abusive situations.



Typical **Forms** of Abuse

- Physical** using physical force direct (by touching) or indirect (by closing door to prevent exit, throwing objects, taking away your phone/ laptop, etc.)
- Emotional** tactics geared towards emotionally unbalancing or distressing victims
- Sexual** forcing into sexual activities and contact or insist on unwanted sexual behavior
- Neglect** failing to provide quality care and meeting basic needs to someone in your household who is a dependent on you
- Economic** restraints or rules surrounding access to money, ability to make money, stealing victim's money, and other control mechanisms.

Vulnerable Populations

Children, disabled, and older family/community members

Adults and People With Disability



US Department of Justice definitions:

- Abuse of an older adult (over 60) or an adult with disability (any age), is an intentional or **negligent** act by any person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm.
- Such abuse could be physical, emotional, sexual, financial, neglect or abandonment.

Most Common **Types of Abuse**

Physical Abuse

- is a deliberate use of physical force resulting in injury or harm
- Ex. Hitting, slapping, use of weapons, restriction of movement.

Emotional Abuse

- Action that harm a person's self-worth or emotional well-being
- Ex. Any verbal insults, manipulation, isolation from friends and family.

Sexual Abuse

- Any sexual act directed toward or the sexual exploitation of a person who cannot fully understand or avoid this contact due to their cognitive or health condition.

Economic Abuse

- is controlling finances without their consent, stealing money or assets, applying for credit cards, bank accounts on their behalf without their knowledge.

Children and Caregivers

Child abuse refers to any intentional harm or **mistreatment** to a child under 18 years old.

It can be **physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect**.

- Intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury.
- Behavior that harms a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Verbal abuse, humiliation, isolation.
- Any sexual activity with a child, including exposure to sexual acts or materials.
- Failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Lack of supervision, inadequate food, clothing, or shelter.

Mandated Reporters

Mandated Reporters are individuals who are legally obligated to report suspected abuse, which can include child abuse, domestic abuse, and elder abuse. Requirements vary based on your state or territory and profession.

Examples of reporters:

- Teachers, administrators, and faculty at educational institutions
- Physicians, nurses, paramedics
- Therapist and school counselors

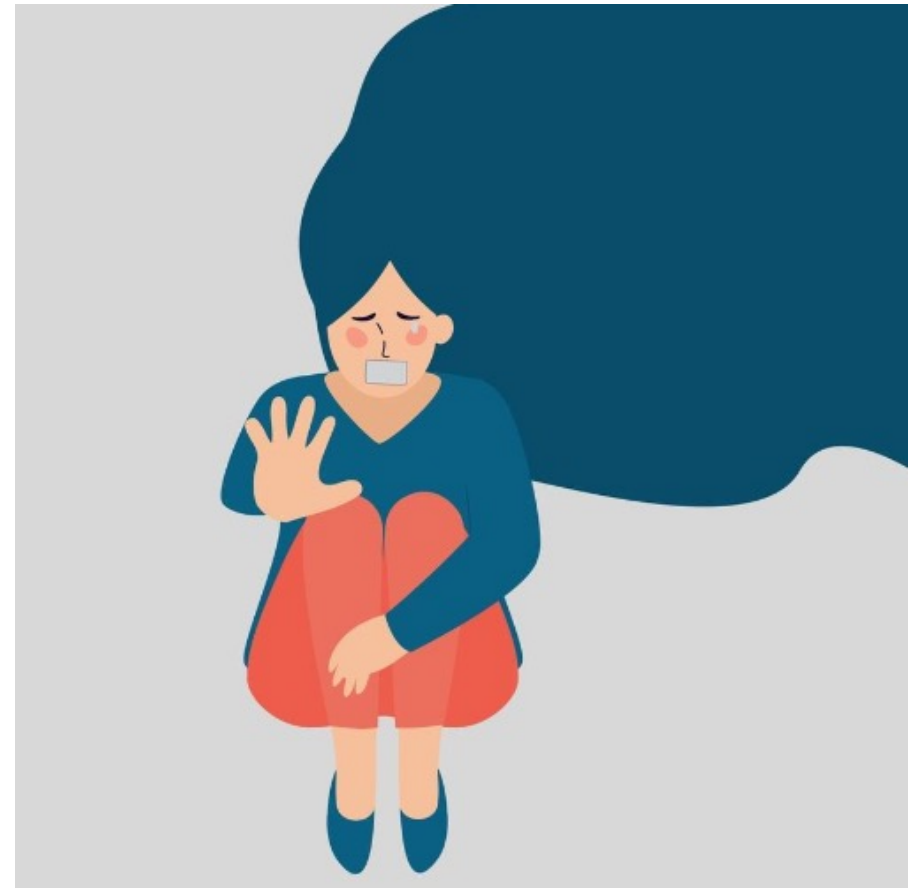
Domestic Violence

Abuse with spouses, sponsors, and family members

Domestic Violence in Relationships

“Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in **any** relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or **threats** of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship.



Clarifying Terminology

Intimate partner

spouse, a former spouse, a past or present cohabitant (if the parties cohabitated as spouses), and parents of a child in common

Dating partner

person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the abuser, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Immediate family

Spouse, parent, sibling, child or any other person living in the same household and related by blood or marriage

Sponsor

supporters who file Form I-134A on behalf of a beneficiary under

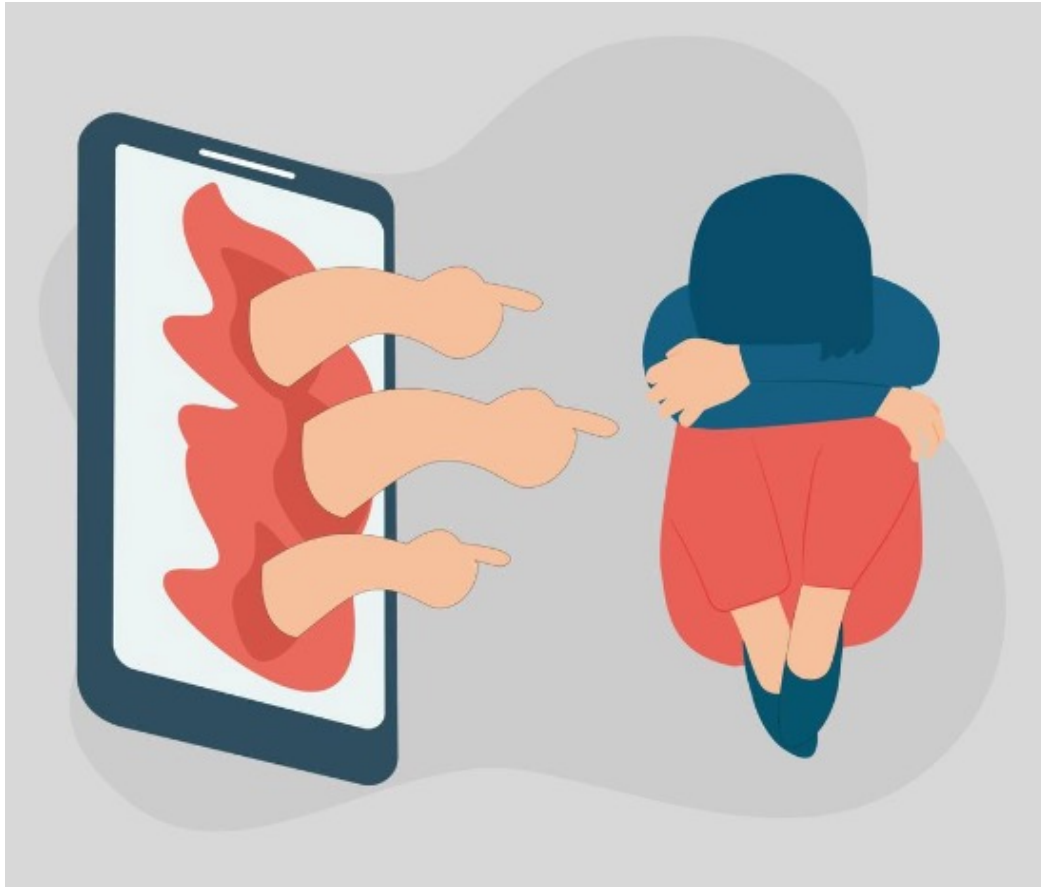
Spouses and Sponsors: Moving from State to State

“It is also a federal crime to cause an intimate partner or dating partner to cross state lines by force, coercion, duress or fraud”

“It is a federal crime to travel between states ... with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person, if in the course of, or as a result of such travel, the defendant places such person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or causes substantial emotional distress to, that person or a member of that person's immediate family.”

<https://www.ussc.gov/>

Spouses and Sponsors: **Other Forms of Abuse**



Digital abuse is the use of technology and the Internet to bully, harass, stalk, intimidate, or control a partner. This behavior is often a form of verbal or emotional abuse conducted online.

<https://www.thehotline.org>

Other Forms of Abuse

Stalking

Stalking occurs when someone watches, follows, or harasses you repeatedly, making you feel afraid or unsafe, and may occur from someone you know, a past partner, or a stranger. This can include different types of abuse.



Human Trafficking and Legal Immigrants

Human trafficking is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts.

Specific abuses faced by immigrants, including exploitation, and manipulation:

Indicators

- **Fear** of deportation, reluctance to seek help due to fear of authorities, or simply trusting their supporters
- **Exploitation** by employers, underpayment, or non-payment of wages especially if working for cash
- **Isolation** from social services and community support, not doing research, and believing that sponsors know all the rules and have power, such as speaking English or being US citizens

Threatening can be a **crime!**



It is a federal crime with intent to

1. kill, injure, harass, or place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass or intimidate, or
2. cause substantial emotional distress, or place in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury a person in another State

to use the mail, any interactive computer service, or any facility of interstate commerce (including the Internet) to engage in a course of conduct that causes substantial **emotional distress** or places such person in **reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, that person or a member of that person's immediate family or that person's intimate partner.**

A single communication is not sufficient.

Violence Against Women Act

VAWA stands for **V**iolence **A**gainst **W**omen **A**ct, a law that was enacted in 1994 to help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

VAWA offers immigration relief to certain victims, allowing them to apply for benefits separately from their abuser.



Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Noncitizens who have been abused by their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident **relative** can independently petition for themselves for immigrant classification *without the abuser's knowledge*, consent, or participation in the immigration process. This allows victims to seek both safety and independence from their abusers.

Spouse: You may file for yourself if you are, or were, the abused spouse of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Parent: You may file if you are the parent of a U.S. citizen, and you have been abused by your U.S. citizen son or daughter.

Child: You may file for yourself if you are an abused child under 21, unmarried and have been abused by your U.S. citizen or permanent resident parent.

Seeking Help and Support

What can emergency services and agencies do to help?

“I called for help: what can agencies and police do?”



Call 911 IN AN EMERGENCY

Police officers come and **assess the situation**. They may arrest the abuser or you, depending on the circumstances.

“I called for help: what can agencies and police do?”

Local agencies are designed to help *everyone*, men and women, in domestic violence situations:

They can offer FREE legal assistance in all family court procedures, including:

- ✓ petitioning for VAWA and related services,
- ✓ free psychological counseling,
- ✓ temporary shelter for you and your children

They cannot:

- x make decisions for you,
- x contact your abuser on your behalf,
- x guarantee positive results,
- x ensure your safety, especially if you do not follow their shelter rules

Legal Consequences for Abusers

Criminal Penalties

- Jail time, fines, community service

Civil Remedies

- Compensation for damages and medical expenses
- Custody decisions favoring the non-abusive parent

Role of Law Enforcement

- Investigation of abuse reports
- Arrest and prosecution of abusers
- Coordination with social services for victim support



Your Resources: California and Nationwide

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Domestic Violence Hotline.

- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) <https://www.thehotline.org/>
- Always consider your individual circumstances when making decisions about your safety and remember that advocates from The Hotline are available 24/7 by phone or chat to discuss your situation and help you consider your options:

Office for Victims of Crime, Directory of Nationwide assisting organizations:

- <https://ovc.ojp.gov/directory-crime-victim-services/search#-1>

Victim Hotline

- 1-855-4-Victim (855-484-2846) <https://victimconnect.org/>

Free domestic violence and emotional abuse hotlines in California:

- <https://findahelpline.com/countries/us/ca/topics/abuse-domestic-violence>

Next Steps



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After this session you will receive links to:

- ✓ The slide deck
- ✓ Referenced sources
- ✓ Survey to provide feedback on today's session
 - Ask additional questions
 - Suggest future topics

Question & Answers





Complete a **Feedback Survey** & Request **Future Session Topics**

Email the hosts: UHPinfo@solveraconsult.com,
RPBTTAU@cdss.ca.gov