IMMIGRATION STATUS AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

Current anti-immigrant policies that allow police to request proof of legal status in this country, along with other similar measures, have created a hostile environment in our communities and overwhelmed many families. In spite of these policies, certain basic and human rights still exist.

IT DOES NOT MATTER:

- What primary language you speak.
- What your immigration status is, or what your family's immigration status is, even if it's mixed.
- Who the aggressor is: your partner, your colleague, your teacher, or your supervisor.

Every victim of sexual violence has the right to receive free and confidential support and assistance, no matter when the abuse occurred – recently or a few months or even years ago. You also have the right to receive help in your preferred language. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on national origin, which affects people with limited English proficiency. This law establishes legal requirements to eliminate language barriers and applies to all programs that receive federal funding, including shelters and crisis centers that provide services for victims of sexual violence. Every victim of sexual violence has the RIGHT to receive assistance from an interpreter.

Examples of sexual violence:

- Unwanted sexual comments, gestures, or proposals at work or anywhere else.
- Any sexual contact, against your will, whether recently or in the past.
- Being forced or pressured by your partner to participate in sexual acts against your will.

Crisis centers across Texas are available to assist victims regardless of their nationality, race, religion, economic standing, residency or immigration status, or when the abuse occurred. They offer some or all of the following free and confidential services:

- **Hotline** available 24 hours a day.
- **Legal Advice -** If you have been a victim of sexual violence you have the RIGHT to receive assistance from an interpreter while you explore your legal options.
- **Hospital/Medical Accompaniment -** If you decide to go to the hospital or receive medical care, someone can go with you to provide emotional support and information about the forensic exam and other treatment options. This exam can be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases or a possible unwanted pregnancy.
- **Law Enforcement or Court Accompaniment -** If you decide to report the crime, someone can go with you to provide emotional support and information.
- **Short or Long Term Support -** It is important to be able to vent and freely express yourself in a safe space without feeling guilty or judged. Therapy and/or counseling are available if and when you are ready.

If you have any concerns or questions about what you can do or how to find the center closest to you, call any of the organizations listed below. Even if you decide not to report an assault or participate in services offered by a center, please remember it is important to look for someone you can trust and can talk to openly.

RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network):
1-800-656- HOPE (4673) | www.rainn.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888 | www.humantraffickinghotline.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) | www.thehotline.org

TAASA (Texas Association Against Sexual Assault):
(512) 474-7190 | www.taasa.org

taasa
TEXAS ASSOCIATION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT