



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2022

There is no greater
agony than bearing an
untold story inside you.
- Maya Angelou



April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (#SAAM)! This month we want to restate the fact that we all have a role to play to address and end sexual violence and abuse. We must identify that war, political insurgence, and mass displacement of people can create dangerous conditions for sexual assault, abuse and exploitation especially for women and girls. Not only in war zones, many women are facing sexual abuse and violence in their own homes as marital rape is a shocking reality. Sexual assault is also pervasive in college campuses and in work places. In this digital age, perpetrators are increasingly using online technologies to monitor, threaten and humiliate their victims along with in-person assaults. In this #SAAM, let's join hands in ending sexual violence and all other forms of violence against women. Please support survivors to heal, advocate for right policies to amplify victims' voices in receiving justice, and take part in creating a safe, respectful and inclusive society for all.

CELEBRATE A CAUSE



Join us on **Saturday, May 14 at 6 pm (PST)** to celebrate the courage and resilience of the people we serve! Renew your commitment to create a violence-free community. Attend a fun filled evening with a purpose to serve!

LAST QUARTER'S UPDATE

MAITRI TURNED 31



From its humble beginning in 1991, with a single phone line on a kitchen table, Maitri has indeed traversed an admirable and arduous journey picking up new learnings and new accomplishments along the way. From a state of near obscurity at the beginning to becoming a robust and trusted agency in the South Asian

community, Maitri has reinvented itself multiple ways, in tune with changing times and sensibilities. Unending community support and trust bestowed upon Maitri is a catalyst for the agency's zest to run groundbreaking programs, take an active role in policy advocacy to support immigrant survivors and engage community members in ending domestic violence. In Feb, Maitri staff and volunteers celebrated Maitri's inception once again with pride and joy.

WORKSHOP FOR SURVIVORS

Maitri's Career Readiness workshop series in March served 15 survivors by laying groundwork to re-enter/ transition and begin their journey into the workforce. The workshops were facilitated remotely with an emphasis on interactive learning and group activities. The participants shared that they felt comfortable in the space and the content was relevant. The workshops resonated well with the participants. One of the participants shared that her time in the workshop series made her feel that confidence can be cultivated with small, steady steps and finance is not scary. Another participant said "joining a cohort and re-establishing a work atmosphere" were takeaways for her.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PRESENTATION & BOOTH

We attended multiple platforms to have dialogue with community members in preventing domestic violence and abuse. Geetha Krishnamurthy, Maitri Board President, spoke at a panel organized by Asha For Education, Berkeley Chapter on the topic of rape and sexual violence in South Asian Communities. Zakia Afrin, Director, Survivor Advocacy presented at the 40 hr. domestic violence advocacy training organized by [AACI](#). She educated the attendees



about the unique issues that immigrant survivors face. Zakia also talked about [Muslim Family Laws in American Court in Bangla](#) at an event organized by a Bangladeshi Reading Club. Shailaja Mahavadi, Maitri Helpline Advocate attended a community event organized by Hindu Community Institute and educated the attendees about the issue of domestic violence and the resources that can help. And we provided a resource booth at the Purab Fest organized by Cupertino Bhubaneswar Sister City Initiative. Community members visited our booth and many offered their help towards the cause.

AMAZING WOMEN CAMPAIGN

We celebrated Women's History Month with an online campaign along with other relevant social media posts. We invited community members to give a shout out to any amazing woman they want to honor and we joined them in honoring those women. See the campaign [album](#) to know their unique stories!

MAITRI PODCAST

We published 4 podcast episodes in the last quarter: *An Incredible Journey Of Helping Sex Workers*, *Toxic dating relationships don't happen in a vacuum!*, *Looking Back and Moving Forward*, and *Women dream for a better future!* Find all 3 seasons on [SoundCloud](#), and on other podcast apps.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



YOUTH PANEL

In February, we invited community youth to share their experiences on facing gender/ race/ religion / ethnicity based discriminations. The thought provoking and powerful discussion unfolded various kinds of covert and overt forms of discriminations that immigrant youth face. Suggestions were exchanged on addressing and ending discriminations. Watch the panel video.

PREVENTION TALKS

We provided interactive sessions to educate students about identifying the red flags in a toxic partner relationship and the importance of building healthy partner relationships. Nandini Ray, Manager of Outreach, Prevention & Policy advocacy, provided presentations at the [Stanford Listen to the Silence](#) Conference, Ohana night at the Northern Illinois University, and at the Gunn High School student assembly. Nandini also shared an overview of the Maitri's prevention program at the [CPEDV](#) regional meeting to inform about the program's growth to all our sister agencies.

WISDOM OF OUR ELDERS

"When there is oppression and dictatorship, by not speaking out, we lose our dignity."

Asma Jahangir



Asma Jilani Jahangir (1952 -2018) was a Pakistani human rights lawyer and social activist who co-founded and chaired the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE HIRING

DONOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER will develop and manage a strong community giving program, identify corporate partners and CSRs for sponsorship, and further the fundraising strategies to support the financial sustainability of the organization. [Apply here!](#)

LEGAL ADVOCATE will be responsible for providing culturally responsive legal advocacy services to survivors of gender based violence. [Apply here!](#)

HELPLINE ADVOCATE will be responsible for covering the live helpline between 9 am and 3 pm, and to provide crisis intervention, peer counseling, referrals to resources and coordinate volunteers to monitor the helpline. [Apply here!](#)

WE ARE ON RADIO

Please tune in every Saturday, 11am to 12 noon on Radio Zindagi (1550 AM) to listen to the Maitri podcast, Between Friends! Great discussions with field experts in preventing domestic violence, gender based violence and power dynamics in relationships. With this important information and

resources you can save
someone's life!



NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Join us through [Facebook Live](#) in commemorating National Victims' Right Week on Wednesday, April 27 at 12 pm (PST) as we present our learnings on "Transnational Abandonment" in the South Asian communities (Survivor case studies & interviews).

WELCOMING NEW STAFF

Chitra Padmanabhan joined as Outreach, Prevention and Policy Advocacy Associate. Prior to joining Maitri, Chitra served as Adjunct Professor of Communication Studies at Cal State East Bay and many other community college districts, which she still pursues. Chitra has a Master's Degree in Communications with specialization in Media Studies, Interpersonal and Intercultural communication. In a prior role, Chitra was a journalist with Indian Express Newspapers, Mumbai. At Maitri, Chitra intends to bring together her passion for community education and relationship building through effective outreach activities.

QUARTERLY PROGRAM STATISTICS

- Total Survivors Served : 253
- Total Helpline Calls : 428
- Total Transitional Housing Bed-nights: 824
- Total Legal Advocacy Sessions: 210
- Total Economic Empowerment Program Sessions: 83



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