



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

July - 2020



“..ONLY WHEN IT IS DARK ENOUGH
CAN YOU SEE THE STARS.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

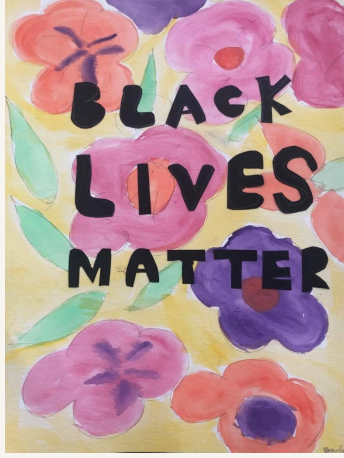
These are tough, unprecedented times. Along with the COVID pandemic, we are also witnessing human frustration and pain against discrimination and injustice around us. At the same time the shelter-in-place situation is prompting a surge in domestic violence and abuse behind the closed doors endangering the lives of millions of women, children and those most vulnerable to violence. At Maitri we are trying our best to provide adequate support to our clients and their children with internal and external resources so that they can breathe and heal. With our policy advocacy and community outreach initiatives, we are raising awareness on gender justice, racial justice, and economic justice as they are inextricably linked to impact the health and well-being of our communities. We are engaging our community members in addressing inequality and injustice around us so that together, we can create a more just, equitable, and safer world for all.

However, we must not fail to acknowledge that amidst this chaos, every day we also witness human resilience, determination, and courage from our clients. We see uplifting messages of love, compassion, and humanity from our allies. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support and solidarity we received during this global pandemic. And, we continue to be hopeful that together, we can make our future safe and healthy for all.

[Visit our website](#)

Black Lives Matter

The history of biased/unfair and often inhuman treatment and discrimination against minorities in general, and the Black communities in particular, is an abhorrent practice in the US Justice System and must be addressed without



delay. Read Maitri's full statement on the Black Lives Matter Movement [here](#).

Quarterly Updates

Policy Advocacy



On April 29, 2020 under the umbrella of California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, and along with 170 participants, the Maitri policy advocacy team attended virtual advocacy day meetings at the State Capitol. We sent a unified message that prevention efforts and crisis centers must be funded at

greater levels.

"When someone's well-being is dependent on being alone for part of the day so that they can breathe and have some moments of peace in their lives, how do we explain the shelter-in-place need for their own health and also for the safety of others?"

Read the complete blog [here](#).

Thank You

Incredible Community Support

A Big Shout OUT to Shastha Food, SpaandanB, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Mountain View Palo Alto Mussalla, Santa Clara Community Coalition, Harbir Kaur Bhatia, SCC Community Medical Masks, Rewire community, Education Empowerment for Women, Biocom and Cal OES, Sikh Pantry, SVCN, India Cash & Carry, SABA Islamic Center, Sunita Paul, Kashmira Patel, Yun Mai, Murshida Chowdhury, and Anjana Tikku. You all showed your deep trust in Maitri's work and generously donated grocery items, sweets, face masks, gift cards and proceeds from your events in the last quarter. We distributed gift bags filled with necessary items to our clients and your support made that possible. **Photos**. Thank you for filling our hearts and souls with joy and optimism through your incredible support.



3 Cheers To Our Supporters

Immense gratitude to all our participants in our 3 Cheers to Giving Campaign. You stood up to make a difference and your support ensured it's success. We make each and every dollar count and yours did too! As you know, our constituency is especially vulnerable in the times. Your support goes a long way towards those who have been further marginalized due to and through this pandemic. Thank you!



During Pandemics there is a 3-fold increase in Domestic Violence.
Counter this threat with your own power- 3 times stronger!

**Triple your bet.
Topple the threat!**

You donate
Your company matches
The Maitri Board also matches

Flatten the Domestic Violence Curve

Thanking Our Funders

We are grateful to our institutional funders that partner with us in this work ([list here](#)). We are hopeful that no matter the challenges around us, together we can create a violence free community.

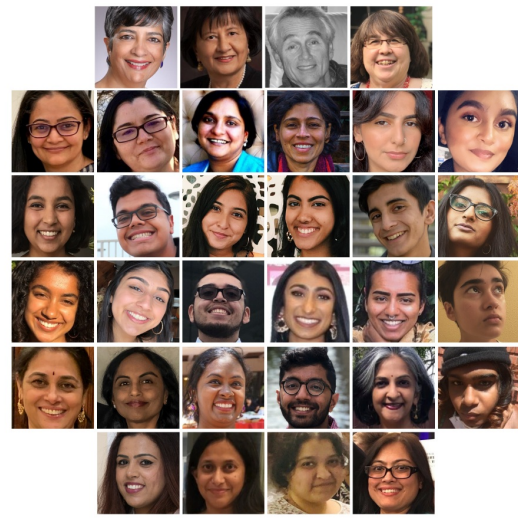
Shop at AmazonSmile, Support Maitri!

Prevention Talk

Maitri Podcast Update

We wrapped up Season 1 of our podcast- Between Friends: Conversations with Maitri, with 19 diverse and interesting episodes. We had amazing guests who shared their experiences, insights and knowledge on important topics that are related to Maitri's work and matter to our community. We are to bring more to you in Season 2. Stay tuned! All episodes of season 1 are available

on Podcasts ([Apple](#), [Google](#), [Spotify](#)), [SoundCloud](#), [YouTube](#) & other podcast-listening apps! Search for 'Maitri Between Friends'.



Media Interviews

Zakia Afrin, Maitri Client Advocacy Programs Manager discussed the impact of COVID-19 on survivors of domestic violence with **KPFA's** Women's magazine. [Interview Link](#).

“Domestic violence is a traumatic experience in regular times. Additional challenges with Covid-19 make the barriers to accessing help overwhelming,” says Maitri representative, Zakia Afrin in an interview with **THE WIRE**. [Read more here](#) .

Zakia Afrin joined a panel discussion with **Suno India** on transnational divorce process, legal complications and laws. Information from this episode can help NRI brides to take informed decision. [Interview Link](#).

Announcements



Building Healthy Relationships

We launched this online campaign to engage youth in envisioning a society where all relationships are built on dignity, equity, and compassion. Youth participants share their views on what healthy relationships constitute and /or how they can be formed. See all submissions [here!](#) Share the [campaign guidelines](#) widely !

We Are Working

Our office location is currently closed due to the shelter-in-place order, but our staff are working remotely to help our clients. Maitri's live [helpline](#) is open from Mon to Fri (9 am to 3 pm) with voicemails checked outside of those hours. If you are a victim of domestic violence and are currently in danger, or threatened with homelessness, or need other services due to the impact of the current pandemic situation, please call Maitri helpline. We may be able to help connect you with internal or external resources.

We continue to serve.

Don't Suffer Domestic Violence.
Call Maitri Helpline.
1-888-862-4874

Our live helpline is open Mon to Fri (9 am to 3 pm) with voicemails checked outside of those hours.
For a full list of services, please visit www.maitri.org



Our Outreach & Prevention program activities continue to be offered on virtual platforms. We now offer online presentations to raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence. Please [email us](#) for an online community presentation.

Boutique Update

Due to the shelter-in-place order placed to curb the effects of Covid 19, and in an effort to protect the health of our staff, volunteers, and customers, Maitri Boutique will remain closed until further notice on the [boutique's Facebook](#) page. Currently we are not accepting any donation for our boutique. We appreciate your understanding and thanks for your support.

Quarterly Program Statistics



Helpline

*Crisis calls: 77
*Total Calls: 631



Legal Advocacy

*Clients served: 65
*Advocacy sessions: 230
*11 survivors received immigration assistance
(with citizenship application, VAWA relief, employment authorization, among others.)



Transitional Housing

*Women Served: 7
*Children Served: 7

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-UW-AX-0007 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women