

Policy Advocacy at Maitri

At Maitri, we advocate for policies at the local, state and national level that impact the lives of survivors.

Here are a few highlights of our continuous efforts from the past fiscal year:

To commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2016, we met with our local policy makers and discussed the need of the community. Along with the need for community education we specifically discussed the following priorities:

- Support Funding for Domestic Violence Programs
- Support Reproductive Justice Movement seeking to condemn sex selective abortion ban
- Support comprehensive immigration reform
- Support universal background check for firearms' purchase
- Support affordable housing initiatives



Meeting with Senator
Jim Beal



Assembly member Ash
Kalra with Maitri
Personnel



At Santa Clara Mayor
Lisa Gilmore's Office



Saratoga Council
member Rishi Kumar
and the Maitri team

Year 2017 began with a long list of executive orders affecting the rights of immigrant communities negatively. As an organization serving primarily immigrant women of color, Maitri stepped up and prepared to assist clients experiencing additional trauma due to the changes both in law and attitude of the community. Together with disseminating **Know your Rights** resources whenever applicable, we translated the materials in Hindi and distributed within the immigrant justice programs. Maitri also signed on as an amici in [Tahirih Justice Center's brief](#) against Jan 25 Executive order signed by the President of the United States which proposes among other stringent measures Punishing states and localities who refuse to allow local law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

Maitri participated in Policy Advocacy Day 2017 at the Capitol organized by CPEDV in May. We met with staff members of various State Senators and Assembly members in Sacramento and discussed our priorities including seeking support for California Values ACT which affirms immigrants are essential members of the CA community. SB 54, the Values Act is an important step forward in ensuring that federal immigration enforcement is separated from local law enforcement efforts, and creates sanctuary and safety for our survivors.



Domestic Violence Victims' Advocates from all over CA at the Capitol amplifying the voices of survivors