



# IPAR

*Intergenerational Participatory Action Research*  
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## WHAT IS IPAR?

AAPI Women Lead created the first national, community-driven Intergenerational Participatory Action Research (IPAR) project on racial and gender violence across Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (ANHPI) communities.

## WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND?

Our national cohort aimed to identify the following:

- What are the **types of violence** against ANHPI communities? How do our communities **understand and define violence**?
- What are the **connections between systemic and interpersonal violence** against and within ANHPI communities?
- What are **community-driven pathways** to address the different forms of violence against our communities?

**67**

Research Participants

**4**

Advisory Board Members

**6**

Researchers

**4**

Community Accountability Partners

## OUR COHORT

[Asian Women's Shelter](#) (California)

[Empowering Pacific Islander Communities](#) (California)

[Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence](#) (Massachusetts)

[American Samoa Alliance against Domestic & Sexual Violence](#)

(American Samoa)

[Hmong American Women's Association](#) (Wisconsin)

['Āina Momona](#) (Hawai'i)

## WHY NOW?

Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander experiences around racial and gender violence have historically been under-researched and under-documented, particularly from the experiences of survivors and through qualitative, storytelling methods. Beyond and against the discourse of "hate," ANHPI communities, especially women, girls, non-binary communities, have long detailed their experiences with systemic, institutional, and interpersonal violence. These histories and continuing experiences have long been ignored and misunderstood.

Meanwhile, as mainstream institutions begin to pay attention to the experiences of ANHPI communities and mainstream advocates misrepresent our diverse stories - often minimizing our stories and propagating racist stereotypes about our communities as well as Black, Indigenous, Latinx communities - AAPI Women Lead launched a historic Intergenerational Participatory Research, led by survivors of violence, to study and identify the layers of violence against our communities, including the work that many have been doing for decades to end violence against us.

## WHAT MAKES THIS RESEARCH DIFFERENT:

This two-year study is a national comparative and co-collaborative research project, led by ANHPI community researchers, on racial and gender violence against ANHPI communities. Our research is grounded in [decolonial participatory action research](#) (DPAR) and community-driven research - which emphasizes combining traditional and contemporary forms of knowledge. The study included trainings on existing frameworks and literature on racial and gender violence against ANHPI communities; qualitative research methods; data collection and data analysis.

Our research is led by community members impacted by violence and is a co-constitutive project of knowledge inquiry and production. Researchers, across generations, ground their study in traditional and contemporary forms of research including talk story and art with the support of an advisory committee of academic researchers across the United States. Throughout the course of the study, researchers examined and historicized individual forms of racial and gender violence as connected to structural, institutional, and state violence.

# HOW DID WE GATHER OUR DATA?

With storytelling and community outreach at our core, our researchers chose specific methods that they found best would serve their communities' ways of producing knowledge.



## WHAT WE WE FOUND:

*Below we share excerpts from our researchers' preliminary findings. We encourage readers to stay tuned for our upcoming report where we dive deeper into our cohort's research, analysis, and interventions.*

### **Understanding the Intersections of Climate Crisis and Gender Based Violence** **EPIC**

"Across the Pacific, we believe that the land is a direct reflection of the people. If the land is unhealthy and needs healing, so do the people...stressors caused by climate change-induced disasters cause escalated disagreements between intimate partners and family members, leading to interpersonal violence in households."

### **All Paths Lead to Sovereignty: Gender and Racial Based Violence in the Native Hawaiian Community** **'Āina Momona**

"People seem to understand that our experiences with racial and gender-based violence stem from colonization, occupation, militarization, and even capitalism...The violence done to the land is the violence done to our people. The violence committed to our land translates over to the violence done to our bodies."

### **Understanding Violence affecting Hmong Women, Queer, Trans, and Gender Expansive Communities in Milwaukee** **HAWA**

"Community members understand domestic violence and sexual violence mainly through interpersonal relationships & building a support system for safety in a patriarchal society is complex...How do we dismantle shame and the silence that shame causes in order to disrupt and end patriarchal violence?...How do we create something (cultural support infrastructure, cultural spiritual protection for Hmong women, girls, Queer and Trans folks, etc. ) that currently doesn't exist for us as women, girls, Queer and Trans folks?"



### **Linguistic Injustice & (Re)Victimization of Vietnamese Women DV Survivors in Massachusetts** **ATASK**

"Revictimization outside the home has always been part of our sisters' lived experiences as DV survivors maneuvering in the English-speaking society because it is rooted in the structural and systemic violence of the society...The lack of services for them in the Vietnamese community is acute. Inadequate bilingual language services gatekeep them from accessing public benefits such as cash support, rent support, food stamps, non-DV related mental health support, and health insurance."

### **Asian Women, Disability, and the Gendered Implications of Medical Neglect** **Asian Women's Shelter**

"A common thread was the isolating nature of disability in a "post-COVID" world, both as a result of the disability as well as society's lack of social support. Loss of agency, community, and the lack of a functional health system produced the conditions for intense and abiding isolation...We noted that even within other marginalized communities (e.g. queer community), the needs and lives of disabled people and those seriously affected by COVID were not visible...for disabled people in need of community care, asking for more than what they're already receiving risks alienating sources of imperfect charity."

### **Understanding GBV and RBV in American Samoa** **ASADSV**

"Samoan homes are susceptible to domestic violence, which includes physical, emotional, psychological abuse, and much more. Because of social shame or cultural conventions, it often remains unnoticed...Efforts to eradicate GBV are crucial, but they can encounter cultural opposition."

## WHAT IS EMERGING FROM OUR DATA BASED ON OUR COHORT'S COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS:

- Our communities' understandings of gender and racial violence is deeply connected to the different histories of how we are tied to the United States. **Our struggles do not always look and feel the same across our communities, and there is no one understanding of violence that binds us all.**
- **We experience violence often in mundane and invisible ways, but also, as one researcher notes, "in terms of the absence of safety, resources, or community."** For some of our communities, it is difficult to connect these everyday forms of violence to institutional and systemic violence.
- We recommend **addressing basic needs** for & with survivors such as consistent financial support, food, medical care, housing; **offering educational spaces** around what is racial and gender based violence and healing across our communities; and **developing safe spaces for survivors** to talk about these everyday and invisible forms of violence.

*"Violence has been touched upon only on the surface, leaving out intersecting forces/forms of structural and systemic violence... Everyday moments of violence have to be contextualized in history."*

**- IPAR Researcher**

*"As we continue to push and speak out against this violence I hope more PAR projects are born. I hope that we can use PAR to build a louder voice for our community."*

**- IPAR Researcher**

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT WE HAVE MADE:

- For the past two years, we have navigated leading a research project on violence while experiencing violence ourselves -- from intimate partner violence, COVID, the Maui wildfires, to ongoing state repression. **IPAR offered a supportive community dedicated to doing community research that is grounded radical care,** and committed to intervening in the multiple systems of violence we are living through.
- AAPIWL's IPAR program offered **paid stipends, research training, and guidance to our researchers and partner organizations to build out their own community-rooted research projects and to fully own the data they gathered for future opportunities.** In tandem with research training, we hosted trainings on violence, healing justice, and transformative justice to further bolster their on-the-ground work.
- **Further, the research process itself became a space of healing and power building for many researchers and research participants.** It became a way of story sharing, naming the violence they have been experiencing, & identifying what systems of care we need to build.

## WHAT IS NEXT & HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT:

- **Follow our social media (@AAPIWomenLead) and newsletter** for the release of our full report & IPAR toolkit, storytelling hub, and 2024 reportbacks.
- **Donate, learn, and support our partner organizations.**
- **Donate to our AAPI Women Lead's Community Research & Education Institute** - Help us continue our community-driven research! Your support will help us host future cohorts, facilitate story gathering trainings, conduct our own independent research on issues affecting ANHPI girls, women, and gender expansive communities, and create educational materials based on our research. **To donate, please visit [imreadymovement.org/donate](https://imreadymovement.org/donate)**