



Asian-American Network  
Against Abuse of Women

### The evolution of ANAA:

ANAA was created when a group of Pakistani-American physicians decided it was time to stop lamenting over the condition of women in Pakistan and focus on taking actions that would help change the deplorable conditions facing Pakistani women. As our organization has evolved, we have had numerous affiliations and worked with a variety of other non-profit organizations. Throughout this journey, our cause, stop violence against women of Pakistan, has been our guiding light.

We initially began as a network of people that sought to create awareness about the ghastly condition of women's rights in Pakistan. We collected and reported crimes against women in Pakistan and sought to create a discussion about how cultural social and political factors came together to allow such conditions to persist. Soon, however, it was obvious that our cause required a platform that was solely dedicated to human rights. Given this, the founding members of ANAA sought to move beyond APPNA, a medical professional organization and create an umbrella organization that had an exclusively human rights mission, and could also have non-physicians as members. It was at this time that ANAA, the Asian American Network against Abuse of Women, came into existence. Since the founding members of ANAA were all already affiliated with APPNA (Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America), we initially collaborated with APPNA for some of our projects.

In our initial period of existence, we used the tax ID of another human rights organization, Develop in Peace, which was also founded by a physician. DIP is an organization focused on advocating for human rights violations all over South Asia and for peace in South Asia. While using DIP's tax ID number, we continued to have our own independent fundraising from civil society and majority of it from individual APPNA members.

More recently, encouraged by support from people from diverse backgrounds, faiths, nationalities and professions, we took the step of registering our own not for profit corporation. Since ANAA's founding members are from Pakistan, focusing exclusively on Pakistan has allowed us to utilize existing social networks and firsthand cultural experience to develop initiatives that can mobilize social change and provide Pakistani women an existence free of the fear of violence.

Given this, we felt that it was imperative that ANAA be an independent organization whose sole focus would be to speak for the silent, oppressed and maligned victims of violence in Pakistan. In the future, we will continue to work with a variety of organizations who share our cause. We will, however, as we have through this process of evolution, remain dedicated to the cause that is our guiding light, that of insuring that every woman in Pakistan lives a life free of fear and violence.