

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

2023

**PILLARS
OF PEACE
ANNUAL
REPORT**



PILLARS OF PEACE AT THE BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THEIR 6TH ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN/ROLL TO RAISE AWARENESS ON DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KARIM AHMED, NABAH IKRAN, RACHEL CERBONE, TAMANNA KHAN AND ADEEN IZZATHULLAH

OUR MISSION

Pillars of Peace's mission is dedicated to creating communities of care. We provide culturally and linguistically conscious services to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, with expertise serving the diverse Muslim community, using a holistic, trauma-informed approach. Through our empowerment and support model, we aim to reduce and eliminate harm within the vulnerable populations we serve.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide safe spaces and a variety of services to all survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and to advocate for the vulnerable populations we serve. We aim to enhance our social fabric by addressing gaps in services built upon Islamic tradition and values and on our shared common practices. Using a restorative justice lens, our goal is to eliminate harm, provide support and advocate for survivors' choices helping them obtain the justice they seek and live the life best fit for themselves and their families.

BUILT ON PRINCIPLES OF EMPOWERMENT, WELLNESS AND TRANSPARENCY, OUR MISSION AND GOALS ARE ROOTED IN COMMUNITY TRUST AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR THESE RIGHTS ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE.

FROM EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

As we step into 2024, we hold onto hope for a transformative year filled with progress, opportunities, and generosity. For many in the communities we serve, 2023 presented significant challenges amid the ongoing recovery from the repercussions of COVID-19 and the evolving landscape of current events, both domestically and abroad. Despite these hurdles, we witnessed the incredible resilience of our clients, friends, and neighbors, who joined forces to champion health, hope, and healing. Your steadfast support remains essential as Pillars of Peace (POP) continues its mission to shape our communities of care for all New Yorkers. We are forever grateful for the support we received.

Our ability to carry out the work at POP is made possible by your generosity as donors, volunteers, partners, and allies. Throughout this year, your support has been a source of relief in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges our communities encounter daily. Your contributions have fueled the ambitions of our community and guaranteed our ability to deliver client-centered, culturally and linguistically conscious services across every borough of New York City.

Amidst escalating economic, food, and housing insecurities, POP has solidified its commitment to reaching the most vulnerable populations. This involves enhancing access to services, educating survivors on their rights and available options, and providing tangible support. In 2023, POP extended \$48,000 in relief to 25 families.

In 2023, we significantly strengthened our connections, particularly through our partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). Our staff is now stationed on-site at the Family Justice Centers of NYC. Additionally, we collaborated with the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their 6th Annual 5k Walk/Run/Roll. We are actively involved in various key initiatives, including membership in the Bronx Borough President's Domestic Violence Advisory Council, the Bronx Supreme Court's Integrated Domestic Violence Stakeholders, the ENDGBV Commissioner's Domestic Violence Advisory Council, the Forced Marriage/Female Genital Mutilation Working Group, the New York City Continuum of Care, and the New York City Strangulation Response Roundtable.

Looking ahead to 2024, the resilience demonstrated by the survivors we assist serves as a constant source of inspiration. We cannot do this without your support. We earnestly request that you stand in solidarity with POP as we endeavor to serve under-resourced communities. Our commitment remains steadfast in the face of an ongoing affordability crisis, particularly affecting immigrant communities, a surge in hate incidents and violence against our communities, and enduring linguistic and cultural barriers to mainstream services. POP is dedicated to providing comprehensive support to survivors and their families who seek our services, working towards solutions that amplify survivor voices and honor their choices.

We invite you to join us in our pursuit of a safer, stronger, more resilient, and just world. Your continued support is crucial in helping us make a meaningful impact.

Rachel Cerbone
Executive Director

Imam Khalid Latif
Board Chairman & Co-Founder

WHO IS PILLARS OF PEACE

Founded in 2019, Pillars of Peace is a non-profit organization committed to delivering trauma-informed services with cultural and linguistic sensitivity to New York City's vulnerable populations. While we welcome everyone, our specialization lies in serving the Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern, North African, Central Asian, and South Asian communities. Our focus is on individuals navigating trauma, poverty, and discrimination, often hindered by cultural and linguistic barriers within support systems. Pillars of Peace bridges this gap, offering crucial resources to populations that mainstream providers may find challenging to serve effectively.

WE DISTRIBUTED \$48,000 TO 25 FAMILIES IN 2023



Total clients served in 2023 for Case Management

WHAT OUR NUMBERS SHOW FOR 2023:

110 INDIVIDUAL SURVIVORS AND 367 UNIQUE INTERACTIONS OR CLIENT VISITS WITH POP CASE MANAGERS

RESILIENCE & STABILITY PROGRAM

Pillars of Peace Case Managers provide client centered, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically competent services to victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence throughout New York City. Our Case Managers took a tour of Family Court and were trained to start drafting and filing Orders of Protection on behalf of clients with the NYC Family Courts. Our Case Managers were able to sit on intake to hear new cases in front of court. We received a direct referral from Referee Marilyn Moriber the day we sat in her court.



POP organized 2 successful iterations of the Enhancing Coordinated Responses to Survivors of Strangulation in both the Bronx and Manhattan. These were collaborations with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, NYPD, the Bronx and Manhattan District Attorney's Offices, Safe Horizon and others. Once someone is strangled, it increases their likelihood of homicide by 750%.

IN SEPTEMBER, WE SAW MORE THAN TWICE THE AMOUNT OF CLIENTS THAN THE Q1 AVERAGE

HOPE & HEALING PROGRAM

In the realm of supporting victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, the significance of trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically conscious therapeutic services cannot be overstated. Recognizing and understanding the profound impact of trauma is essential in providing effective and sensitive care.

Cultural and linguistic consciousness further ensures that these services are tailored to the unique backgrounds and experiences of individuals, fostering an environment of trust and understanding.

For victims and survivors, the journey towards healing requires a safe and supportive space where their cultural identities are acknowledged and respected. Trauma-informed care, coupled with cultural sensitivity, not only addresses immediate therapeutic needs but also aids in rebuilding a sense of empowerment and resilience. Language and cultural nuances play a pivotal role in effective communication, making it imperative that therapeutic services are accessible and relatable to all individuals, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background.

In promoting trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically conscious therapeutic services, we contribute to breaking down barriers and ensuring that no survivor is left behind. This approach not only promotes healing on an individual level but also fosters a more inclusive and compassionate society.

83% of survivors served self-identify as Muslim

498 hours provided to survivors with free, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically conscious therapy in 2023

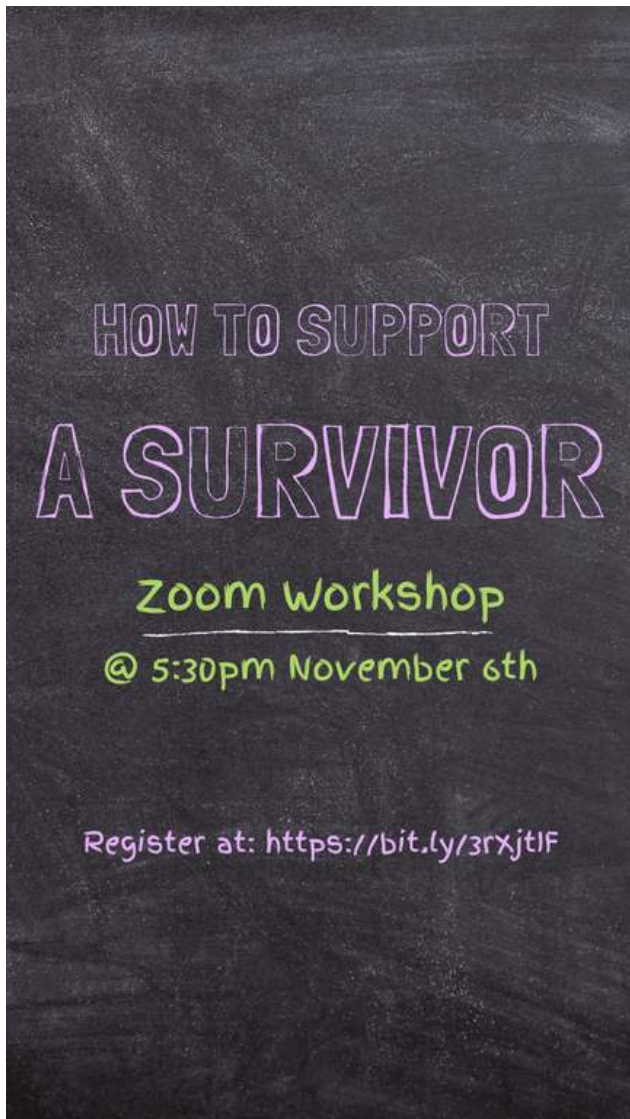
11 WORKSHOPS PROVIDED BY PILLARS OF PEACE TO FOLKS IN COMMUNITY

We provide culturally and linguistically conscious counseling to community members. Our counselors are trained to provide holistic, trauma-informed care that promotes resiliency and wellness. We understand the diversity within the community and the need for inclusive services and so we provide services in multiple languages. Currently we have capacity to support clients in Arabic, English and French.

We provide wraparound support to our client so while many are referred to our Hope & Healing Program through our Resilience and Stability Program, we also refer clients in therapy to our Hope & Healing Case Management Program as well as our Financial Relief Program.

Our workshops in 2023:

Healthy Relationships, Healthy Me, All About Attachment, Harm to Health, the Full Spectrum, Red Flag, Green Flag: Navigating Early Relationship Behaviors, Relationship Harm to Health: Understanding Abuse, Healing from Trauma, NYU Shuruq presentation/discussion, Navigating (Difficult Family) Relationships during Ramadan, How to Support Survivors, Community Care & Grounding Session, How to Support a Survivor



Partners

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic & Gender-Based Violence
 NYC Continuum of Care
 New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA)
 Urban Justice Center
 Safe Horizon
 Bronx District Attorney's Office
 Manhattan District Attorney's Office
 Zakat Fund
 Brave House
 SAKHI
 Arab-American Family Support Center
 Met Council
 Bronx Borough President's Office
 Tahirih
 Mt Sinai

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