



SEPTEMBER 2023 ALERT!

HERE'S A RECAP of What You Missed



On May 24, 2023, Guam was hit by a powerful typhoon, Typhoon Mawar, with sustained winds of 140 mph that devastated the island's natural beauty, damaged homes and business infrastructures, and left many parts of the island with little to no access to power and water. We know that many of you continued to provide support such as food, shelter, and essential services after the typhoon. We also recognize that while many of you were dealing with your own personal situations, you were there for those individuals and families that were greatly impacted by the storm.



*Thank You All
for the support to help
our communities heal
and recover!*

Now that we're back on schedule, here's what you missed: Prior to the typhoon, GCASAFV held its hybrid **KNOW MORE** conference series **Addressing Sexual Assault (SA)/ Domestic Violence (DV)** and **Journey to Healing**. Trainers from national Technical Assistance (TA) providers – National Organization of Asian Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV), Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), AEquitas, and Stalking Prevention Awareness Resource Center (SPARC) – conducted sessions covering issues that addressed stalking, trauma-informed prosecution, and sexual assault in API and native communities, SA framework to healing through cultural lens, safety, justice, and healing in native communities. GCASAFV also appreciates the support of our island partners who facilitated training sessions on various topics, including Judge Arthur Barcinas, Nadine Cepeda, Pale' Mike Crisostomo, Guam Police Department's Domestic Assault Response Team, West Care Pacific Islands, and Susan Marie Aguon. GCASAFV was also fortunate to have Victoria Wynecoop-Abrahamson from the National Center on Domestic Violence Trauma and Mental Health conduct her Zoom presentation on self-care and burnout for advocates and staff who work with domestic violence survivors.

GCASAFV held its Annual Membership Meeting on August 8 to update Coalition members and community partners on GCASAFV's training, technical assistance, and community outreach projects.

- GCASAFV was awarded \$750K for three years from the Department of Justice's Office on Victims of Crime for victim services for human trafficking through its '**Project Setbe yan Protehi**'. This Project aims to build capacity to provide services to victims/survivors of human trafficking.
- The Department of Health & Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded \$115K for one year to GCASAFV to assess the Coalition's capacity to advance prevention programming.
- With the election of the Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two Directors-at-large closing prior to the Annual Meeting, the 2023 slate of Board officers were announced: Chair – Maresa Aguon; Vice-Chair – Antoinette Bautista; Secretary – Nadine Cepeda; Treasurer – Pale' Mike Crisostomo; Directors-at-large – Ansito Walter, Grace Donaldson, Diana Nucum, and Melissa Torres. GCASAFV extends its appreciation to these members for continuing to serve on the Board.

**Through the STOP (Services * Training * Officers* Prosecutors) funding from the Office on Violence Against Women for culturally specific projects through the Governor's Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office (GCO-FPO), GCASAFV is building capacity and providing training to interpreters through its Community Advocates as Interpreters/Translators. GCASAFV plans to provide more skills-building training for its interpreters to support agency partners with ensuring language access to services.

Those interpreters who completed GCASAFV's 5-day training in 2022 and interested in providing interpreter services through GCASAFV, please email info@guamcoalition.org by **September 28**. GCASAFV also plans to hold a meeting with agency partners to review the procedures for referrals for interpreter services. Agencies providing services to victims/survivors of DV, SA, and stalking interested in participating in this project, please email info@guamcoalition.org by **September 28** to learn more of this project. More information forthcoming!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Save the Date FOR GCASAFV'S OCTOBER CONFERENCE!



Pre-Conference Webinar via Zoom

Date: Friday, October 13, 2023
Time: 8am to 11am



Call to Action: 4R's Conference

Dates: Tuesday-Wednesday, October 17-18, 2023
Time: 8am to 4pm



Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023
Time: 8am to 12 pm

Call to Action: 4R's:

- **RENEW** ... the commitment to fostering safe, healthy, violence-free communities,
- **REKINDLE** ... the partnerships and collaborations,
- **REFLECT** ... on a coordinated strategy to *transform services given the recent disasters*,
- **RESPOND** ... to the Call to Action.

AOA-SAC's Focus on Addressing Spiritual Abuse

This Conference is in partnership with the Archdiocese of Agana-St. Anthony Church (AOA-SAC) and Guam Human Rights Initiative (GHRI). The two organizations will collaborate with

GCASAFV to facilitate and moderate the conference sessions for this year's *Call to Action: 4R's*.

The Archdiocese of Agana-St. Anthony Church sexual assault program, *Faith Matters!*, joins the GCASAFV and GHRI in their upcoming October *Call to Action: 4R's* Conference 2023.

AOA-SAC aims to RENEW their commitment to coordinate and train clergy, faith-based leaders and respective congregations in creating safe and violence-free communities; to REKINDLE meaningful partnerships with government agencies and non-profit organizations; to REFLECT on coordinated strategies and resources to support victims and their advocates; and to RESPOND with an action plan that is strategic and effective reducing assault and violence in the island's communities.

In partnership with GCASAFV, AOA-SAC will be hosting at the conference a plenary session on the topic of spiritual abuse. Spiritual abuse is no less harmful or difficult to endure than any other kind of abuse, as a person's spiritual life is deeply personal. However, it can be very difficult to identify as many victims may not recognize they are being abused. In addition, the abusive partner may claim that any challenge to the abuse is an assault on their own religious freedom.

The AOA-SAC's featured guest speaker, Cathy Melesky Dante, is a licensed social worker with extensive pastoral, teaching, and social work experience. She has lectured, conducted research, and published articles on topics such as *Power Literacy in Abuse Prevention Education*, *Navigating Spiritual Worldviews: When Beliefs Don't Match*, and on spiritual abuse. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a masters in social work and in divinity, and currently pursuing her doctoral degree in theology and society.

If you feel that you are experiencing spiritual abuse — whether from a religious organization or as an element of intimate partner violence — help is available. You do not need to endure this kind of trauma alone. You deserve to feel safe.

The end goal is that no family member should be left behind, and that every community experiences a safe and violence-free environment.

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS



GHRI Partners with GCASAFV on Call to Action: 4R's Conference

GHRI is a collaborative research nonprofit seeking to advance human rights on Guam and throughout the Pacific through meaningful and impactful research efforts. Their four pillars include Connecting the Community, Advocacy, Academia, and Stakeholder training which would empower local research scholars through support of projects and opportunities to grow. GHRI will facilitate the pre-conference webinar session on Friday, October 13. More details will be posted on www.GuamCoalition.org.

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

ORGANIZATION:

BIO:



Cathy Melesky Dante,
LCSW, MDiv

Cathy started as a Catechist group leader to a Spiritual Director working to facilitate retreats, group sessions, and opportunities for clients seeking a closer relationship with a Higher Power. She has a bachelor's in mathematics, master's in social work and divinity, and is pursuing her doctorates in theology and society.



Audrey Inouye

Peaceful Heart

Audrey is an acupuncturist who believes in holistic and spiritual healing practices. She completed her Master of Science in Oriental Medicine at Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine College in Berkely. She also received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UC Irvine in which she is both knowledgeable in Eastern and Western studies.



Nina Jusef

National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islands Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV)

Nina has been working on domestic violence and sexual assault issues since 1992, starting as a hotline volunteer before serving as the Executive Director of the San Francisco Women Against Rape for five years. She is one of the co-founders of NAPIESV.



Nicole Matthews

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Nicole is the Executive Director of Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition. She has 20 years of experience advocating for social change to create racial, economic, and gender justice. She also serves as a vice chairperson for the state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task Force.



Mira Yusef

National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islands Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV)

Mira is the Executive Director of Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (Monsoon) and a co-founder of NAPIESV. She has helped incubate four other organizations servicing victims of gender-based violence in marginalized populations and organizes and facilitates trainings both locally and nationally.

Look for more details on the October conference on www.GuamCoalition.org in mid-September.

National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV)

NAPIESV provides support to local and international community-based programs and governmental organizations to increase their services to victims of sexual violence in communities in Asia, U.S., and U.S. Territories in the Pacific. NAPIESV was created by Asian Pacific Island anti-sexual assault advocates to center the experiences of victims/survivors of sexual violence from the API communities.

For more information, visit their website at <https://napiessv.org/>

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV)

API-GBV provides family violence prevention and culturally specific domestic violence services as a Culturally Specific Issue Resource Center. It is the national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking within Asian/Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities throughout the U.S. and its territories. Their mission is to end gender-based violence that causes AAPI communities physical, sexual, emotional, and economic harm.

For more information, visit their website at <https://api-gbv.org/>

The API-GBV awarded 41 organizations to implement culturally specific, community-based projects supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault from Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across the U.S. and Pacific. NAPIESV is in partnership with API-GBV to support efforts by working with funded organizations that focus on SV to increase the availability of culturally specific and trauma-informed services to victims/survivors. Through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) under the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) initiative, this will be the first time API-GBV will be funding culturally specific organizations that serve sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV) survivors in AAPI communities.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

API-GBV and NAPIESV engaged the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence to serve as the fiscal sponsor for two organizations funded through this ARP initiative: **Our Medicine is Resistance** and **Peaceful Heart**.



Rossa Socco

Our Medicine is Resistance

Located: Santa Cruz, California

Our Medicine is Resistance serves to create ancestral medicines that are readily available for women seeking for a safe, decolonial, anti-patriarchal space. Rossa Socco leads this effort and provides traditional ceremonies/prayers, acupuncture, pediatric massages, and herbalism to support people through all kinds of trauma, transitions, or illnesses through traditional spiritual practices.

Rossa Socco teaches advanced political education and international feminist activism and is a herbalist, doctoral student in Chinese Medicine, and cultural practitioner specializing in maternal depletion (also known as Mom Burnout), pediatrics, and PTSD. She has 17 years of experience in mentoring and training students, youth leaders, and adults both nationally and internationally.

For more information about her services, you can email her at rossamedicine@gmail.com, or visit her website at <https://www.rossamedicine.com/>



Audrey Inouye

Peaceful Heart

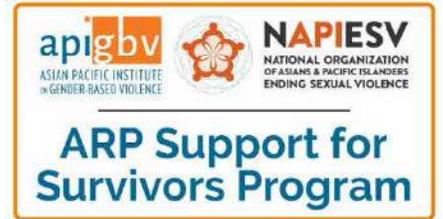
Location: Bay Area, California

Audrey Inouye is a licensed acupuncturist who serves to provide wellness and balance of the mind, body, and spirit using a holistic approach through traditional East Asian medicine, including individual and collective wellness, ancient and natural medicine practices, and affordable access to care. Peaceful Heart incorporates ancient wisdom of their ancestors as a means of improving health and well-being through ai acupuncture.

Audrey was raised in Southern/Northern California and Pennsylvania and is a fourth generation Korean/Japanese American acupuncturist that believes in holistic and spiritual healing practices. She completed her Master of Science in Oriental Medicine at Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine College in Berkely. She also received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from University of California, Irvine in which she is both knowledgeable in Eastern and Western studies.

For more information,
contact her at audrey@aiaacupuncture.com,
or visit her website at <https://www.aiaacupuncture.com/>





TOHGE - Transforming Ourselves through Healing Growth & Enrichment

Tohge is Guam's only Peer-Run Recovery community that aims to provide a range of services and resources to those with substance use disorder, mental health disorders, or for those involved in the legal system. Through the API-GBV- NAPIESV Sexual Assault grant, Tohge will conduct staff training and facilitation on sexual assault, host and conduct listening sessions, and create a curriculum based on their data and workshops. To meet this initiative, they have already conducted two listening sessions with 13 victims/survivors of sexual assault and will continue to conduct more sessions.

For more information, visit their website at tohgeguam.com.

TOHGE Warmline services for people in recovery who have questions about services, who need to talk to a peer with experience in recovery, or who are in crisis.

(671)787-WARM (9276) and (671) 686-WARM (9276)



Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO)

VARO aims to respond to all victims of violence, crime, and trauma in Guam. Their mission is to assist women and children, most often victimized by physical and sexual abuse, through services of intervention, education, and awareness. Through the API-GBV-NAPIESV Grant, VARO will offer a series of classes over a two-year period that will teach wellness activities to attendees. Classes are currently being developed so more information will be announced soon!

For more information, visit their website at varoguam.org.



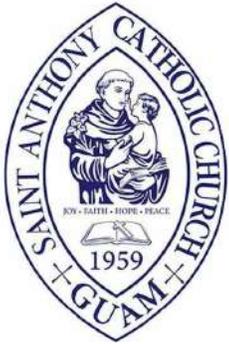
Guma' Mami, Inc.

Guma' Mami aims to provide support and services to individuals with disabilities in Guam. Their mission is to facilitate inclusion and integration of adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Through the API-GBV-NAPIESV Grant, Guma' Mami aims to raise awareness on what our men can do to combat sexual assault and domestic violence through listening sessions hosted by the organization. Based on the statistics of men and sexual violence, curriculum would be created to support Pacific Islander men to contribute services as allies to speak out against violence against women.

For more information, visit their website at gumamami.net.

Skills-building Technical Assistance and Resources – (STAR) Project

The STAR Project delivers training and information through the Allstate Foundation Moving Ahead Grant on Guam. It aims to support survivors of intimate partner violence/domestic violence with resources and technical assistance so that survivors learn valuable financial skills. GCASAFV's STAR Project aims to support agencies working with DV survivors living with a disability, DV survivors regardless of religious affiliation, are homeless, in shelter programs, and the LGBTQ community. The three organizations will provide technical assistance and resources with implementing financial empowerment and life skills.



St. Anthony Catholic Church

Through this STAR Project supported by the Allstate Foundation, St. Anthony Catholic Church will provide resources for survivors to become financially independent and live sustainable lives with their family such as: providing education and support in areas of budgeting, job readiness, understanding financial abuse, building financial foundations, and future financial planning. To meet this initiative, St. Anthony Church is hosting a Free Technology Literacy Program to promote computer and email skills, develop online research skills, discover tech online safety, and create spreadsheets and digital designs to survivors.

PROJECT HOPE TECH LITERACY

Events will be held on Tuesdays, 7:30pm
Location: St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church,
Tamuning, Guam - Lower Spiritual Center Room

September 12 and 19, 2023
October 3 and 10, 2023
November 7 and 14, 2023

WhatsApp message (671)-687-7253,
email mail@stanthonyguam.org,
or visit [www.stanthonyguam.org/event/
technology-literacy-program](http://www.stanthonyguam.org/event/technology-literacy-program)
for more information and to register!



Guma' Mami Inc.

Guma' Mami will educate, support vital resources, and start conversations in the community to empower when helping survivors of domestic violence through the STAR Project. Guma' Mami also ensures language access to the underserved and unserved populations (including those with disabilities) through interpreters. To meet this initiative, Guma' Mami has spent time on supporting vital resources through providing emotional support groups, safety planning, navigating service systems, and accessing language interpreters to victims and survivors of SA/DV.



Tohge Corporation

The Allstate foundation supports Tohge's STAR Project of educational support for financial skills such as managing one's finances and establishing a bank account, building computer literacy for job readiness and work force development. Tohge will support individuals in moving ahead. To meet this initiative, Tohge has already conducted two training sessions with 10 women and have completed three staff trainings for economic empowerment activities.



Q: How do you feel about being part of the Guam Coalition team?

Meet our New Staff!

Rebecca Morta
Project Coordinator

Hobby: Rebecca enjoys spending time with her children and watching newly released horror/thriller movies as a family.

A: "I am grateful to be part of the GCASAFV family. Everyone has their experiences, so I am most excited about learning how to help survivors heal from the trauma incurred by these acts of violence."

Alejandro Gagarin
Project Assistant

Hobby: Alex enjoys cultural and fire dancing as his form of exercise and therapy.

A: "I feel great being part of the Guam Coalition team. It is truly an honor to be part of a growing organization. I can't wait for what the future offers me in the coalition."

Evita-Jean Laguana
Project Assistant

Hobby: Evita enjoys spending time with her family and discovering new hiking spots hidden all over the island.

A: "I feel blessed to work for an organization that advocates against sexual assault and family violence here in the island. I look forward to learning more and contributing to my community in any way that I can."

Xanthus Manglona
Project Assistant

Hobby: Xanthus enjoys being outdoors, often found hiking, swimming, and playing sports.

A: "I feel empowered being a part of meaningful cause that helps our island communities."

Jacqueline Cruz
Project Assistant

Hobby: Jackie enjoys spending time with friends and family doing activities, creating memories, and having meaningful conversations. She also enjoys observing nature such as the phases of the moon and the designs of the trees, leaves, ocean waves, and flowers.

A: "I feel honored to be part of an organization that helps support agencies with services to our community. I feel that I have a purpose with the Guam Coalition team no matter the level of my contribution."

Current Staff

LyAna Crisostomo
Project Coordinator

Hobby: LyAna's hobbies include cuticle care and the E! network.

A: "I've been working for the Guam Coalition for a year now. I enjoy being part of the team and I love my job!"

Kaitlyn Norton
Project Coordinator

Hobby: Kaitlyn enjoys paddle boarding and spending time with her puppy.

A: "In my year of working with the Coalition, I'm grateful to work with our amazing team."

UPCOMING TRAININGS

TOPIC	DATE	DESCRIPTION	REGISTER!
Danger Assessments in Family Justice Centers	September 12, 2023, 11am – 1pm CDT September 13, 2023, 2am – 4am ChST	This webinar will cover the importance of systematically incorporating an evidence-based lethality assessment as part of centralized intake in Family Justice Centers. Topics of lethality assessment tools, how to conduct a lethality assessment in a trauma-informed manner, and how to share information from assessments while protecting confidentiality and privilege.	Contact Jill Bring Jill@allianceforhope.com
SVJI Connection Call: Diversity in Team Membership	September 13, 2023, 2pm – 3pm CDT September 14, 2023, 5am – 6am ChST	Join their monthly virtual meetings/discussions focused on addressing the current needs of sexual assault response teams (SARTs) and connecting SART leaders.	Contact Miranda Gonzalez mgonzalez@mncasa.org
Autism Spectrum Disorder and Sexual Violence and Abuse Part 2: Recognizing and Adapting the Response to Individuals with Autism	September 18, 2023, 2pm – 3:30pm EDT September 19, 2023, 4am ChST	This webinar will address the response to individuals with autism that have experienced sexual violence and abuse. Presenters will highlight strategies to adapt a response to survivors with autism to fit the needs of the survivor. They will discuss how to ensure that the services provided are meaningful and diminish the potential of the response inflicting additional trauma.	Contact Kerri Knadle kerriknadle@forensicnurses.org Click the link to register https://www.safeta.org/events/
Listening Session with Adult Children Survivors	September 20, 2023 10:30am – 12pm PDT September 21, 2023 3:30pm – 5pm ChST	Inspire would love the opportunity to learn from you and other advocates to understand better how we can make center-based supervised visitation and supervised exchange more equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive for adult survivors and their families.	Contact Alysia-Rae Brayan (406)558-9334 Alysia-rae@inspireactionforsocialchange.org
Institute for Coordinated Community Response	October 2nd & 3rd 8:30am-4:30pm CST October 3rd & 4th 11:30pm – 7:30am ChST	The conference is about Collaborative Responses to Domestic Violence in Rural Communities.	For more information visit https://instituteccr.org/
National Sexual Violence Law Conference	October 25th & 26th 10am – 5pm Located: Chicago, IL	The Victim Rights Law Center is hosting the only National Sexual Violence Law Conference to bring together lawyers and advocates from across the country interested in utilizing the civil legal justice system to better respond to the needs of SA survivors.	To register and for more information visit https://victimrights.org/conference/



Three of our GCASAFV staff attended the **Culturally Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)** Training on August 25, 2023, facilitated by Alex Silverio from the Guam Office of Minority Health. Lots of group interactions, critical thinking activities, and discussions were held at this training.

“The training was insightful to the various perspectives of individuals we come across in our line of work. From different ethnic backgrounds, occupations, and ages, the training opened my eyes to the differences that make our island community unique – a melting pot in the Pacific.” – Xanthus Manglona, GCASAFV Staff

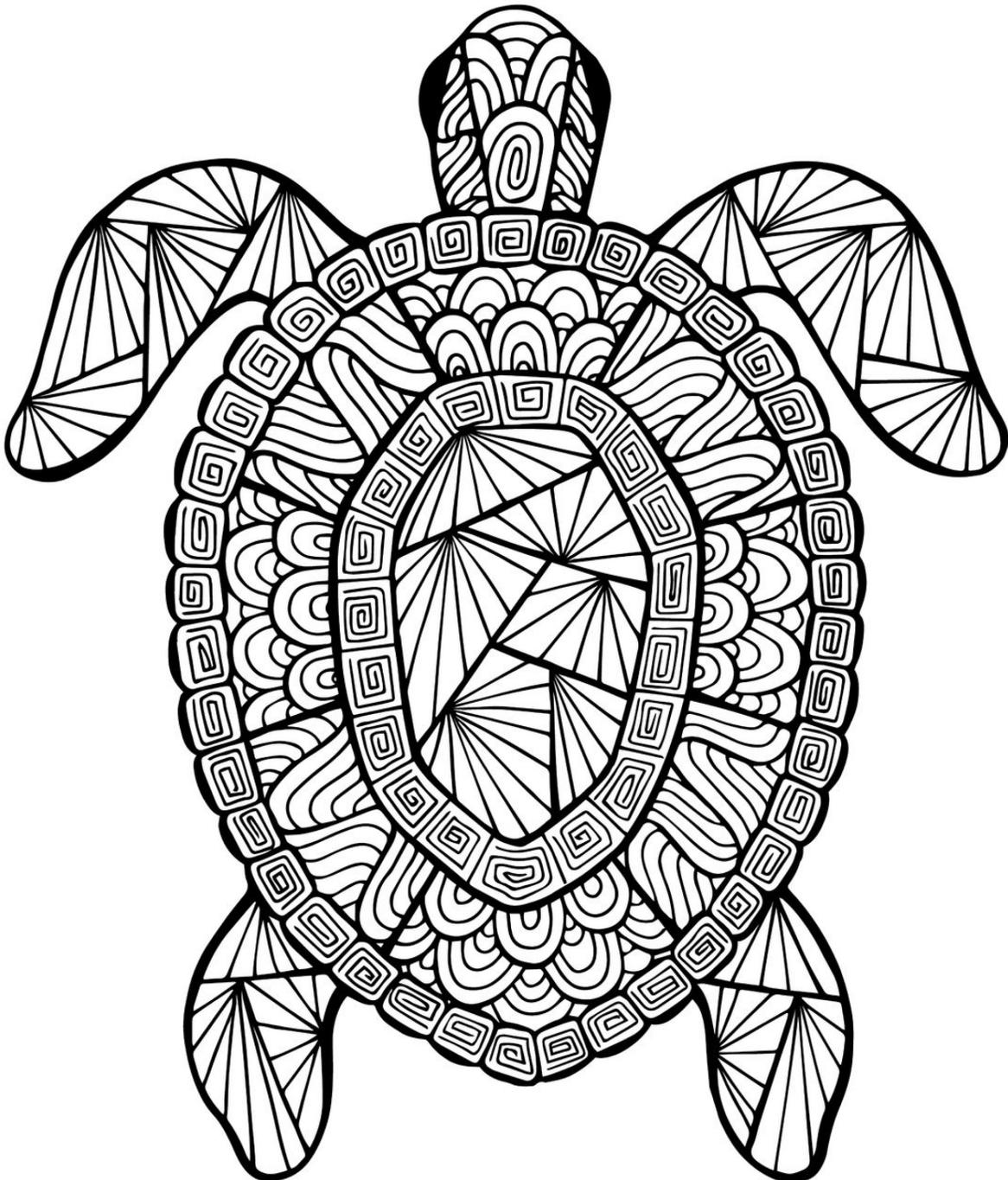
BALANCE AND HARMONY

Enjoy this free printout of a *Haggan*!

The CHamoru name for sea turtle is *Haggan*. The *Haggan* is one of the most common species you'll see around Guam's beaches. They are listed as an endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and are continually protected by marine animal protection programs here in Guam.

The *Haggan* had a complex historical role in CHamoru culture and diet. Traditionally, the meat of the *haggan* would be prepped as a dish, mostly mixed with coconut milk. The shell of the *haggan* would also be used for jewelry to signify a person's status of wealth. Now, it is illegal to catch, kill, or remove a *haggan* from the ocean in order to allow its species to thrive.

The *Haggan* is renowned for their cross-ocean migrations between their foraging grounds and nesting beaches. These intensive migrations span thousands of kilometers across the globe, with many scientists still unsure as to how they navigate the vast ocean. Similar to the *haggan*, the journey to healing is often faced with countless challenges and uncertainties, it can span exuberant amounts of time and for many it is never resolved with a simple solution. Yet, through it all, individuals can overcome them with the willingness to start, education and resources for support, and determination to persevere.



Courtesy of etsy.com

THE MORE YOU KNOW

“Domestic violence is the front line of the war against women.”

- Pearl Cleage

Check out this ‘Take a Stand’ Toolkit!

“What you can do today to help create a culture with zero tolerance for domestic violence.”

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) presents a ‘toolkit’ for community members to utilize when contributing to put an end to domestic violence. The toolkit shares a few steps on what actions you can take to raise awareness wherever you are at. It includes links to resources, samples of social media posts, and infographics to share on any media platform.

Visit the link to access the toolkit: <https://files.constantcontact.com/febfa643001/0cb99999-eba6-4bca-9988-43368f685b6e.pdf?rdr=true>

HOTLINE

Victim Advocates Reaching Out	(671) 477-5552
Healing Hearts Crisis Center	(671) 647-5351
Alee Shelter	(671) 648-4673
Sanctuary Inc.	(671) 475-7100
The National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
National Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
National Dating Abuse Helpline	1-866-331-9474
West Care	(671) 472-0219
Tohge 24/7 Warm Line	(671) 787-WARM (671) 686-WARM
Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center	988



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEADS UP! OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING is set for November 14, 2023 via Zoom! Email info@guamcoalition.org for the link to join us.

THE GUAM COALITION IS EXPLORING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE for members. Email us at info@guamcoalition.org by September 22 for more information.

THE MICRONESIA MALL IS CELEBRATING THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A GLOW RUN ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2023! The proceeds will be distributed to Alee Shelter, Island Girl Power, and to the GCASAFV. Contact us for more information info@guamcoalition.org.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, THROUGH WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, for staff to attend a zoom conference on Collaborative Responses to Domestic Violence in Rural Communities. We will resume regular hours 8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm on Thursday October 5th.

Connect with us!

Visit our website at www.GuamCoalition.org

FOLLOW US ON:

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GCASAFV>
Blogger: www.guamcoalition.blogspot.com
Contact us at [\(671\)-479-2277](tel:(671)479-2277)
Email us at info@guamcoalition.org



GUAM COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT & FAMILY VIOLENCE

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