

# Immigrant Faith Leaders' Summit

## Lessons Learned

### Introduction/Background

The Immigrant Faith Leaders' Summit was an event organized by a working group of Shared Safety. This project was proposed by staff at AFAHO and SEAMAAC. The goal of the summit was to host one-day domestic violence (DV) training for immigrant faith leaders in Philadelphia.

Faith leaders were invited to:

- Discuss domestic violence in immigrant communities
- Learn how to recognize the signs and impact of domestic violence on immigrant families
- Gain strategies and resources to support their communities

### Project evaluation

Before and after the summit, attendees completed a short survey. The survey asked about their expectations for and experiences with the summit. After the conference, we organized and standardized the responses. This report shares a written and visual summary of the Summit, and its impact on the attendees, and implications for future events.

### Pre-Survey Information:

#### Attendee background

The vast majority of attendees identified as leaders in their respective faith communities (69%), which was the target audience. Attendees also included staff from faith communities (10.3%) and members of those communities (20.7%). The summit was fairly open to the definition of "leader" within faith communities, recognizing that lay or unofficial leaders are often important resources. Attendees represented 30 different faith communities from all over the city. (See Fig 1, Role of Attendee). The majority of attendees were men (62.9%). (See Fig 2, Gender of Attendees).

### Role of Attendee

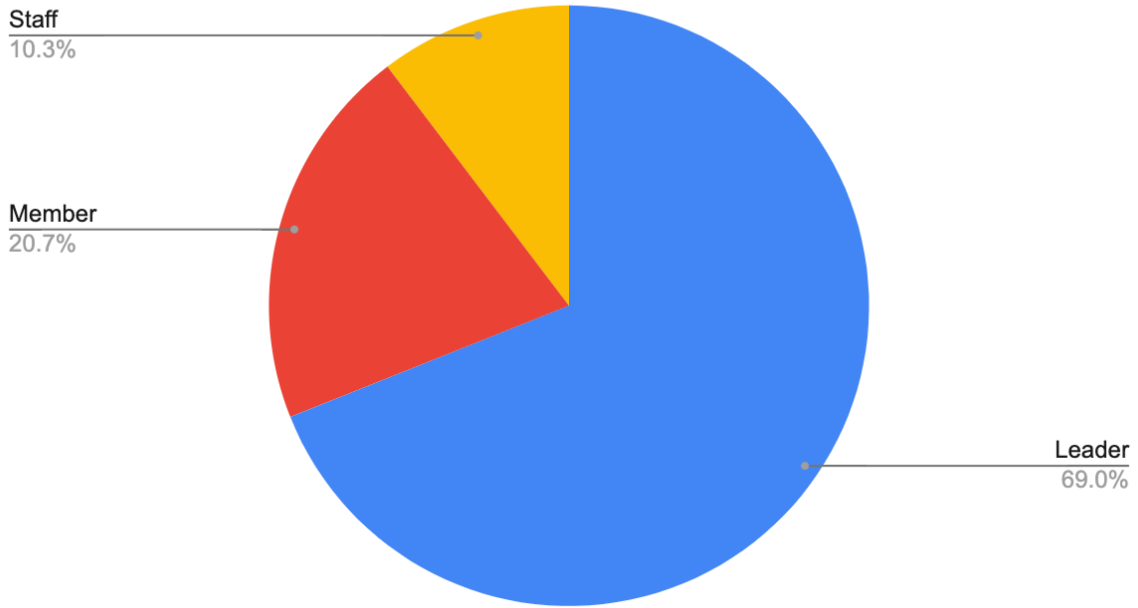


Fig 1. *Role of Attendee*

### Gender of Attendees

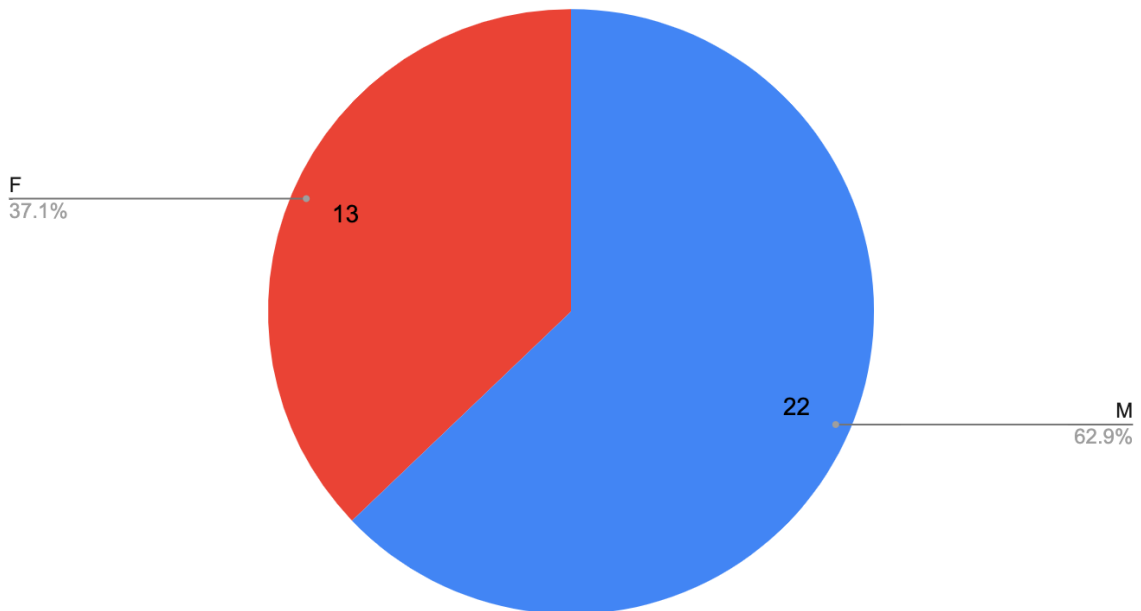


Fig. 2. *Gender of Attendee.*



Count of Languages spoken in Community (excluding english)

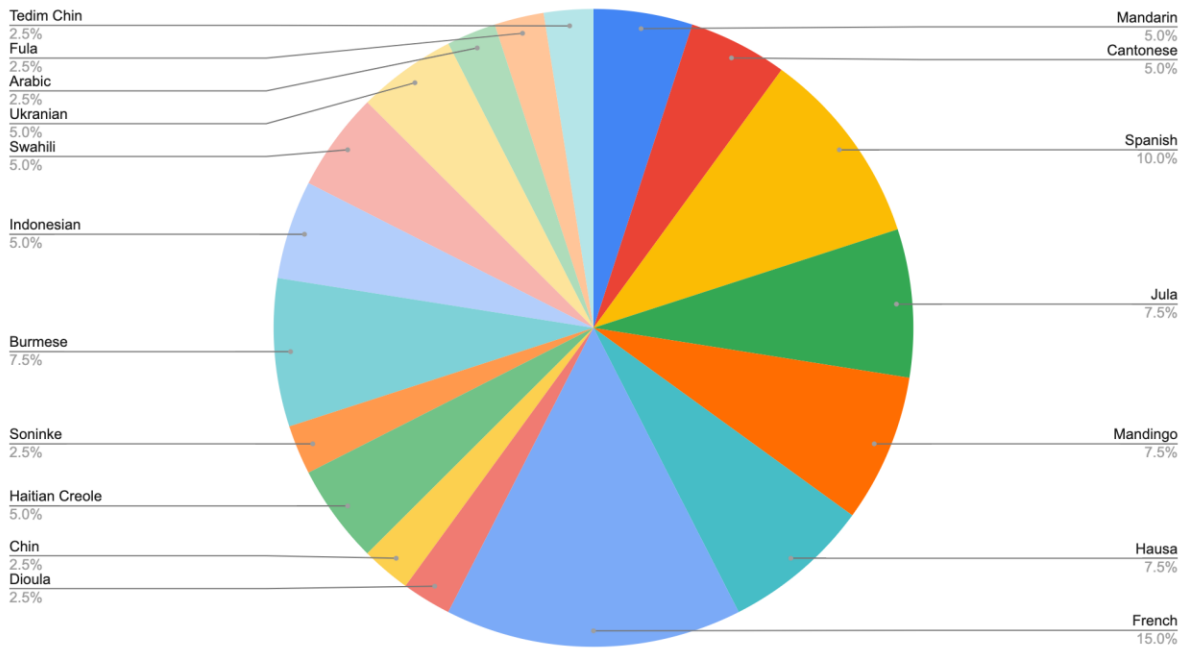


Fig. 4, *Count of Languages Spoken in Community (excluding English)*

### Summit Goals

The majority of attendees responded that they were not sure if they had or had not received training about DV before the summit. Twelve attendees reported having prior training about DV.

However, the type or length of training the attendees received before the Summit is unknown. (See Fig. 5, Prior Training on DV)

## Have you received any prior training on DV?

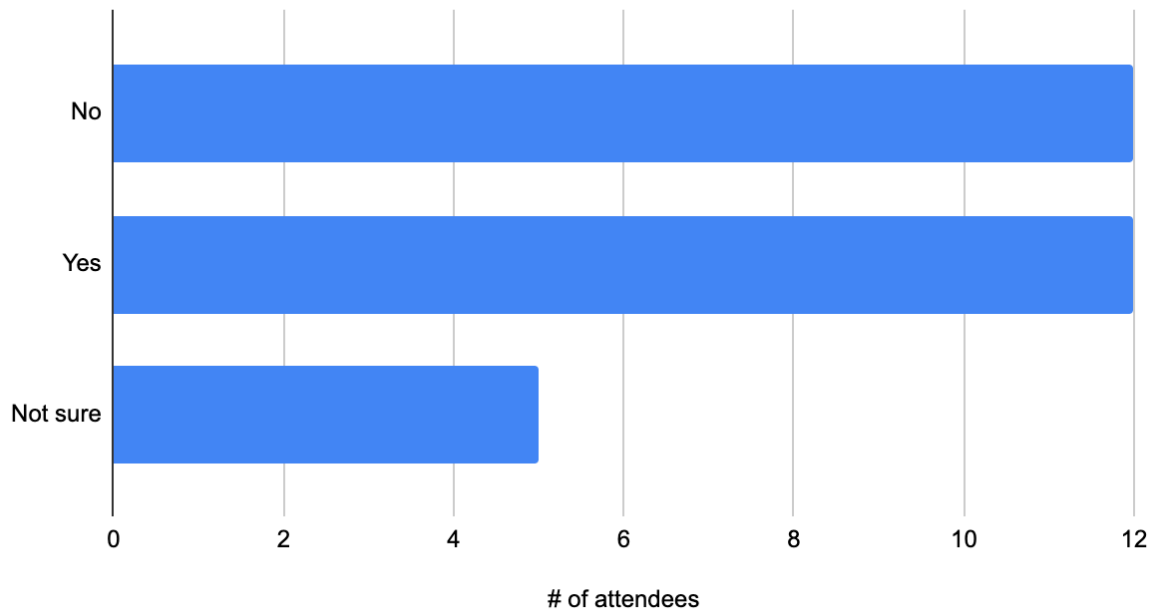


Fig. 5, *Prior Training on DV*

The pre-survey asked the attendees what they were hopeful to learn or gain from the Summit. Responses fit into five common categories:

- 1) **Cultural context.** For example, gaining an understanding of which elements their respective cultures play a role in the dynamics of DV in their communities?
- 2) **Networking.** For example, meeting and connecting with other faith leaders, or professionals in the DV field.
- 3) **Resources.** For example, having access to online, legal, and professional resources in order better to serve their communities in regards to DV issues.
- 4) **Knowledge.** For example, learning more about DV in general.
- 5) **Prevention.** For example, gaining skills to prevent DV in their respective communities.

See Fig. 6, What Attendees Hope to Learn/Gain for a breakdown of what the responses included.

## What attendees hoped to learn and gain from the Summit?

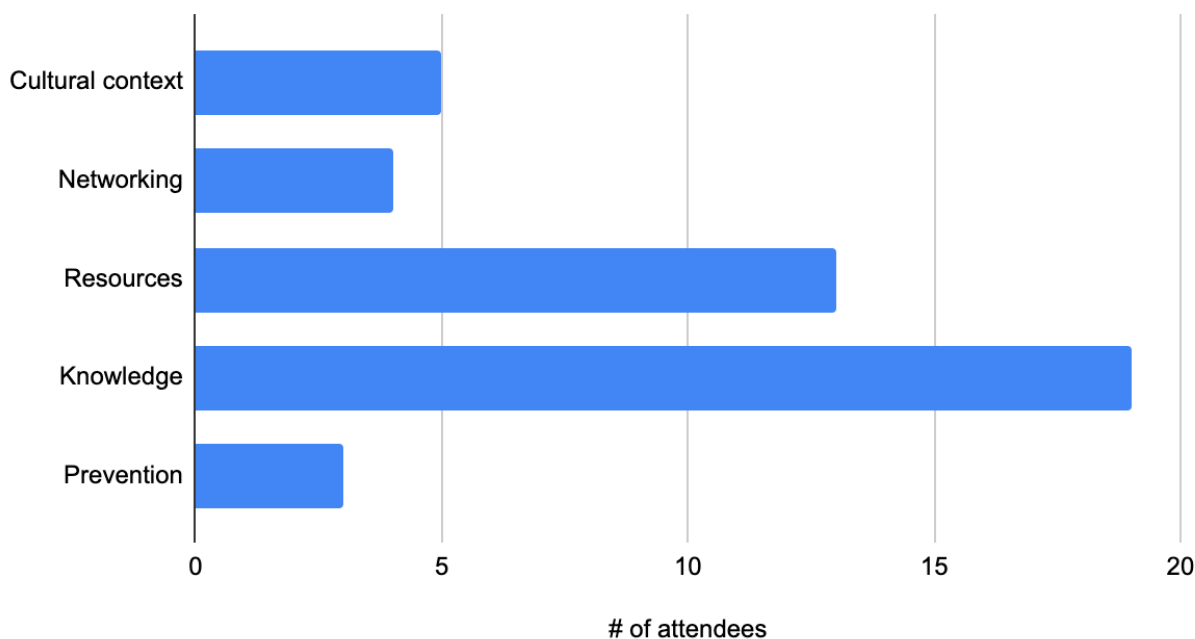


Fig. 6, *What Attendees Hoped to Learn/Gain*

In their own words, these selected quotes highlight some of the things attendees hoped to learn:

***“I hope to get the actual definition of domestic violence in the American continent, the African continent, and other cultural or global contexts. It's a topic I really want to understand and how it works in different communities. I also want to know solutions in different communities.”***

***“Appropriate ways to communicate, educate, and advocate for the community, especially for the faith community.”***

***“To hear additional insight into domestic violence and how religion may play a role.”***

### Post-Survey

At the end of the day, attendees shared their favorite takeaway from the Summit in the post-survey. Their responses fit into five common categories:

- 1) **Knowledge.** For example, increased understanding of DV in general.
- 2) **Resources.** For example, increased knowledge of online, legal, and professional resources in order better to serve their communities in regard to DV issues.

- 3) **Skills.** For example, new skills gained to be able to help their community members with any issues related to DV.
- 4) **Networking.** For example, connections with other leaders and professionals in the DV field.
- 5) **Perspective.** For example, overall thoughts on the Summit.

See Fig. 6, Favorite Takeaway, for a breakdown of what the responses included.

### Favorite takeaway from the Summit?

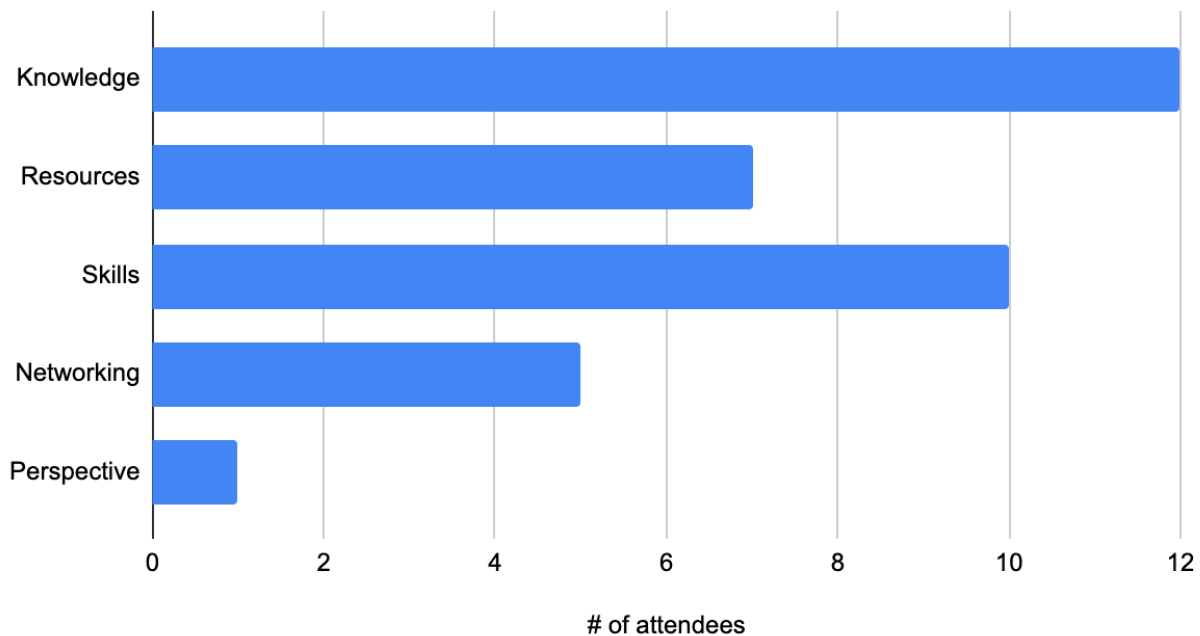


Fig. 6, *Favorite Takeaway*

In their own words, these selected quotes highlight some of the things attendees enjoyed the most:

***“Knowing when and how to report an abuse, using the legal system. All the information I gather was very very helpful.”***

***“I enjoyed each segment, but the Basic Counseling Skills was informative and interactive. Richie gave a wonderful talk about empowering women and how we can offer support.”***

***“My favorite part of the training was connected to the basic counseling skills for DV support. Also connecting with folks from different cultures and faith traditions.”***

This was the first Faith Leaders’ Summit organized by a Shared Safety working group. In order to improve quality and impact, the post-survey asked attendees to share what they hoped to see in future Summits. Their responses were organized into different categories:

- 1) **Sheet with resources.** For example, having one organized sheet with DV resources.
- 2) **Movies.** For example, visual representations of the different subjects discussed during the presentations.
- 3) **More inclusivity.** For example, language interpretation of presentations, additional material translations, and other topics like homelessness.
- 4) **Time management.** For example, wanting the training to be longer or shorter. Some attendees felt the Summit and presentations were too long. Others felt the Summit should have been longer or divided multiple days to have more time with the material.
- 5) **Respect for the presenters.** For example, some attendees mentioned the importance of paying attention to the presenters and being respectful.
- 6) **Praise.** For example, general praise of the Summit and hopes for future events like this.

See Fig. 7, Future Summits, for a breakdown of what the responses included.

What attendees hope to see in future Summits?

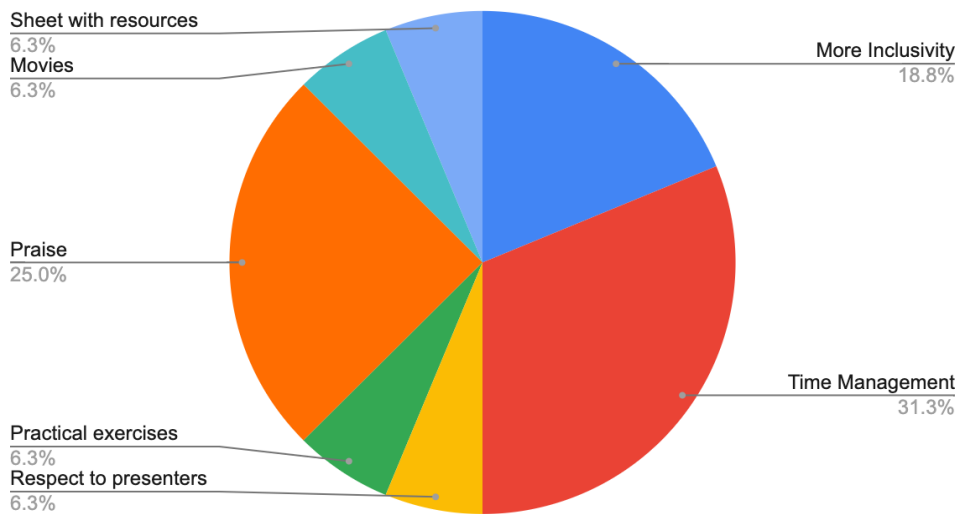


Fig. 7, Future Summits



In their own words, these selected quotes highlight some of the things attendees hope for from future trainings:

***“I loved this training and I think you guys did a great job. To enhance and help enrich the experience I would offer introducing more practical exercises, some skits/role playing with discussions or maybe ‘games’ to illustrate concepts or practices.”***

***“The presenters were great. But some of the participants were disrespectful of the presenter(s) and/or were not considering that their comments/reactions could be triggering to others in the room. Possibly need a better conversation at the beginning to set group dynamics.”***

## Suggestions & Lessons Learned

This Summit emphasized the need and desire for spaces and resources to address DV in different faith communities across Philadelphia. Faith leaders are interested in the topic and want more time and opportunities to learn. Faith leaders are also interested in more topics beyond what the Summit presented.

Engaging faith leaders is a great way to share resources in diverse communities. Faith leaders, especially in immigrant communities, are often seen as expert resources. Those leaders want information to be available to them so they can help people more effectively. Since most attendees did not have or were not sure if they had training on DV prior to this Summit, an effective recommendation would be to implement more outreach programs to faith communities, so that they are aware of the different resources that exist to decrease domestic violence.

The Shared Safety working group hopes there will be similar events in the future to continue to engage Philadelphia’s diverse faith communities in the work to end DV.

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