



Alaska Institute for Justice

Alaska Immigration Justice Project • Language Interpreter Center • Research & Policy Institute



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▶ INTERPRETER SPOTLIGHT: MEET LILIANA REY, A SPANISH INTERPRETER WITH THE LANGUAGE INTERPRETER CENTER



▶ INTERPRETER TRAININGS: THE LANGUAGE INTERPRETER CENTER RECRUITS OVER 30 NEW INTERPRETERS



AIJ Executive Director Robin Bronen (*right*) speaking at a panel discussion following the screening of “*Not My Life*,” a documentary on human trafficking and modern slavery. The film and panel discussion were sponsored by the Alaska World Affairs Council at the Bear Tooth Theatrepub in November 2013.

AIJ receives grant to advance work with victims of human trafficking

The Alaska Institute for Justice was recently awarded a 2 year grant from the Office of Justice Program—Office for Victims of Crime—to provide comprehensive services to human trafficking victims.

The Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) is the only statewide immigration legal service provider and language interpreter center with experience working with victims of human trafficking in Alaska. In the last year, AIJ has represented approximately 250 immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault – this includes services to survivors of human trafficking.

The Office for Victims of Crime (one of seven components within the Office of

Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice) recently awarded AIJ a two-year grant to provide comprehensive services to human trafficking victims.

“The purpose of the grant is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking,” says AIJ Statewide Language Access and Rural Domestic Violence Attorney/Coordinator Kari Robinson.

These services can range anywhere from

intensive case management to social, medical and legal advocacy to help victims achieve immediate safety and stability - with the ultimate goal of autonomy and economic self-sufficiency for survivors of human trafficking.

“This grant provides the opportunity to protect adult and children human trafficking victims, some of Alaska’s most vulnerable residents,” says Robinson.

According to Alaska law enforcement, both Alaska Native and immigrant women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to human trafficking in the state. Current investigations focus on increasing sex trafficking cases involving Alaska Native girls (ages 18 and under) who travel from rural villages to Anchorage, the largest population center in Alaska, where they are victimized and forced into prostitution. The Anchorage FBI reports that in the past five years alone, they have investigated and prosecuted 10 human trafficking cases – seven of which were sex trafficking cases and three labor trafficking cases.

In an effort to combat this issue, the Alaska State Legislature created the Trafficking Task Force in 2012 to better gauge the prevalence of human trafficking and prostitution in Alaska, as well as the services available to help victims. The Task Force found that AIJ was the only service provider “with a specific focus on, and expertise with, victims of human and sex trafficking. Other NGOs [non-governmental organizations] did not have any specific services for trafficking victims.”

Happy 9th Anniversary to the Alaska Institute for Justice

This year AIJ will celebrate nine years of operation as the only non-profit agency in Alaska that provides critical immigration and legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees, including survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Originally founded in 2005 as the Alaska Immigration Justice Project, the project provides civil legal advocacy, crisis intervention, and survivor advocacy and support to survivors of violence and sexual assault. Through the Language Interpreter Center, founded in 2007, AIJ has improved services for limited-English proficient individuals across the state of Alaska through access to qualified interpreter services and bilingual advocacy. Happy anniversary, AIJ!

AIJ participates in trafficking-awareness events across Alaska

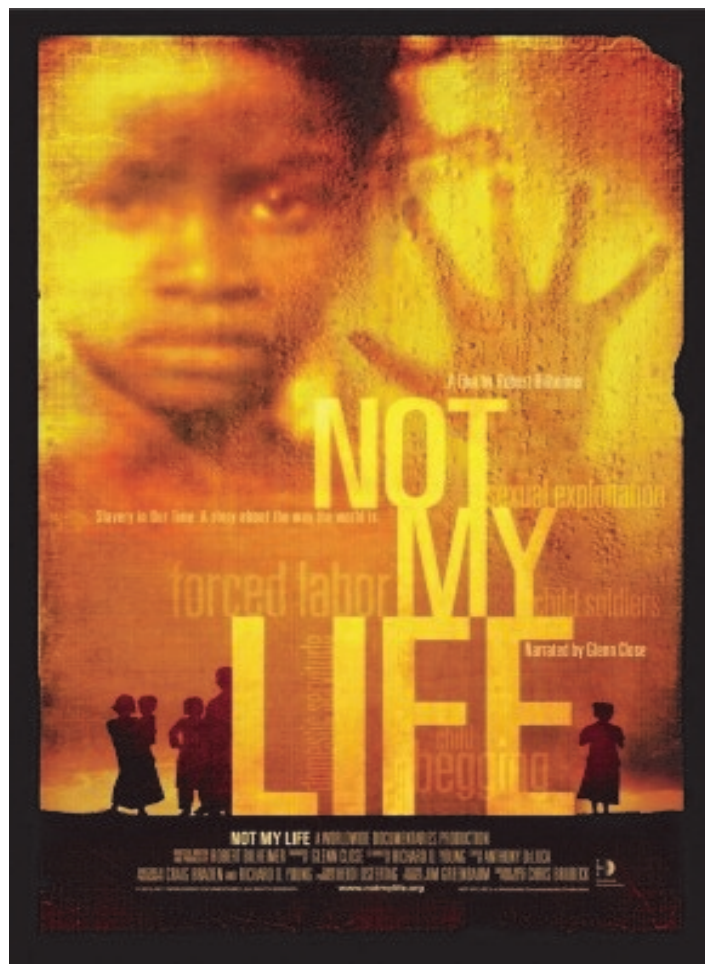
In coordination with the World Affairs Council in both Juneau and Anchorage, AIJ participated in multiple human-trafficking awareness events across the state throughout the year. The intent of the campaign is to spark dialogue and raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking at a local level. Events included the showing of *Not My Life*, a documentary by Robert Bilheimer, which examines contemporary slavery and human trafficking on a global level. Thank you to both the Anchorage and Juneau World Affairs Council for making the human trafficking awareness events possible. Thanks to the Juneau World Affairs Council Planning Committee including Joyanne Bloom, Margo Waring, and Mary Watson.

In Juneau

Not My Life was screened at the Gold Town Theater in Juneau, followed by a discussion facilitated by Bruce Botelho, retired mayor and past president of the Juneau World Affairs Council and AIJ. Guest speakers included AIJ Executive Director Robin Bronen and Matt Judy, agent for the Southeast Alaska Region FBI.

Kari Robinson, AIJ Language Access and Rural Domestic Violence Coordinator/Attorney, gave a presentation on human trafficking at a luncheon for various social service agencies and participated in a panel discussion to answer questions from participants regarding service access for survivors of human trafficking. Panel guests included Saralyn Tabachnick, executive director of Juneau's Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE); Lt. Kris Sells, chief investigator with the Juneau Police Department; and Matt Judy, agent for the Southeast Alaska Region FBI.

AIJ Executive Director Robin Bronen presented on the issue of human trafficking during a lecture at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Evening at Egan Lecture Series. This event included an abridged showing of the *Not My Life* documentary and a post-discussion facilitated by UAS Chancellor John Pugh. Panelists included AIJ Executive Director Robin Bronen; Alaska Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Mathews; and Matt Judy, agent for the Southeast Alaska Region FBI.



In Anchorage

Anchorage events included an evening showing of the documentary *Not My Life* at Bear Tooth Theatre Pub followed by a panel discussion on the topic of human trafficking in Alaska. Panelists included AIJ Executive Director Robin Bronen; Michelle DeWitt, former executive director of the Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC); Anchorage FBI agent Jolene Goeden; and first lady Sandy Parnell. Over 300 people attended the event.

AIJ is pleased to announce that we are a part of the PFD Charitable Contributions Program for 2014!

As you apply for your PFD online, we ask you to support the Alaska Institute for Justice.

Together, we can protect the human rights of immigrants and refugees.

Your generosity will help us ensure justice for all Alaskans. Apply for your 2014 PFD online and support AIJ through the Pick. Click. Give. Charitable Contributions Program!

Pick.
Click.
Give.

Language Interpreter Center recruits over 30 new interpreters

In February, the Language Interpreter Center (LIC), in partnership with the Alaska Court System, successfully completed another round of interpreter training courses – this time



recruiting nine new interpreters in Fairbanks, Alaska in the following languages: German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Thai. These new additions to the LIC program follow the previous year's series of interpreter trainings which saw

the recruitment of 23 new interpreters. As the LIC continues to expand, training is crucial to develop a sustainable model of trained bilingual Alaskans to serve the limited-English proficient population.

All LIC interpreters must successfully complete courses on community interpreting, medical interpreting, and legal interpreting, the ethics of interpreting, and the role of the interpreter, as well as a skilled-based practice training. In addition, the LIC provides continuing education opportunities to all LIC interpreters.

The LIC has trained close to 170 interpreters to work with over 300 service agencies across Alaska.

Language Interpreter Center expanding services to include Language Access Planning

Last year, the Language Interpreter Center (LIC) officially launched its Language Access Program to help agencies across the state build language access policy and procedure to better meet the needs of the limited-English proficient population of Alaska.

“Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires agencies that receive federal funding to take reasonable steps to ensure the limited-English proficient population have meaningful access to the programs, services and information these agencies provide,” explains Language Access Coordinator Susanne Falenczykowska. “This means that agencies must develop policies and procedures for interacting with populations within their community that may not speak English as a primary language.”

Interested in developing a Language Access Plan for your agency? Contact the Language Interpreter Center at (907) 279-2457.

A Language Access Program consists of 3 parts:

Policy Directive: Sets forth standards, operating principles, and guidelines that govern the delivery of language appropriate services. Policy directives may come in different forms but are designed to require the agency and its staff to ensure meaningful access.

Implementation Plan: A plan that outlines how the agency defines tasks, sets deadlines and priorities, assigns responsibility, and allocates the resources necessary to come into or maintain compliance with language access requirements.

Procedures: Specifies the steps that staff need to follow to provide language access services, gather data, and deliver services to LEP individuals. Procedures can be set forth in handbooks, internet sites, desk references, etc.

Are you Bilingual?

Talofa

안녕하세요

Nyob zoo

привет

مرحبا

Soo dhawaada

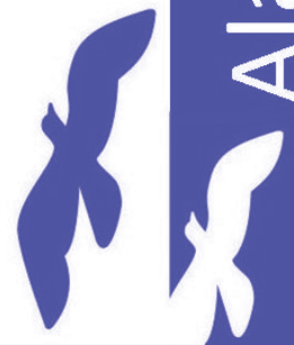
Training Interpreting Professional Development

The Language Interpreter Center is an organization that trains interpreters and is dedicated to providing quality interpreters to government, business and social service agencies.

If you are interested in becoming an interpreter with the Language Interpreter Center, please contact our office for more information.

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Interpreter Spotlight

Liliana Rey never imagined that she would become a Spanish-English language interpreter. When she first moved to Anchorage in August of 2007, she was looking to continue her dream of becoming a speech pathologist – but when she stumbled across the Language Interpreter Center she realized the possibilities of a career in the interpreting world.

Originally born in Bogotá, Colombia, Rey has called many countries and many states in the U.S. home in her lifetime. When her husband's job brought the couple to the United States, Rey was disappointed to discover that she could not find work in her desired field of speech pathology due to complications with her diploma from Colombia. She began working as a bilingual aide within the school system, where she often entered the role of interpreter between the school system and limited-English proficient parents.

Rey was trained as a Spanish interpreter through the Language Interpreter Center training program in April of 2009. Since that time, she has logged over 70 interpreting assignments for service providers in Alaska administering services to the limited-English

proficient population.

"I think interpretation services make a huge impact on the limited-English proficient population. Once they know that we are there to help them they begin to open up and start asking questions," says Rey. "I think the Language Interpreter Center does a great job of reaching out to a bigger community – a community that I think, because of the language barrier, is often times very excluded."

Though it can be a stressful job (Rey says she likes to chew gum, practice some deep breathing, and listen to Latin music on her drive to the more stressful assignments), the most rewarding part of being an interpreter, for Rey, is seeing the relief on a person's face when they feel they that their voice is being heard, and they can communicate to receive the help and services they need.

"We are not there to judge, we are not there to give advice, or be an advocate – we are not there to do absolutely anything other than to be a voice for that person or service provider," says Rey. "We want that person to leave feeling that their voice was heard in exactly the same way and same manner that they want it to be heard."



Meet Liliana Rey, a Spanish interpreter with the Language Interpreter Center

Rey plans to continue on her path as a Spanish interpreter with the Language Interpreter Center with the ultimate goal of becoming a court-certified interpreter. She is currently halfway through the certification process. When she is not interpreting, Rey enjoys crafting, yoga, and most recently, taking care of her granddaughter.

The Language Interpreter Center currently has nearly 170 trained interpreters in over 40 different languages. In the past six months alone, the Language Interpreter Center has provided over 200 hours of statewide interpretation, specifically for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Welcome to AIJ!



AIJ's Language Interpreter Center would like to welcome its new AmeriCorps VISTA, China Walker. China relocated in November of 2013 from North Carolina to begin a year of service in Anchorage. She is a recent graduate of Duke University, with a bachelor's degree in International Studies. Her area of concentration was Sustainability and Social Justice in Latin America, specifically in Brazil.

After graduation, she chose to join AmeriCorps as a way to gain experience working in the non-profit sector.

"I was drawn to the work of the Language Interpreter Center due to my own experience of working and living abroad within diverse ethnic and linguistic communities," she says.

So far, her favorite part about living in Anchorage is the visibility of the non-profit sector and the force of community activism.



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