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## ***Dismantling Misogyny***

### ***Cultivating Respect: Uprooting Misogyny in Our Own Backyards***

***Written by Manju Patnaik***



*"The king may rule the kingdom, but it's the queen who moves the board"* - D.M. Timney

Growing up in India, a country with a rich cultural heritage dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization, I experienced a paradox. Indian culture reveres women through goddess worship and celebrates powerful female figures, yet faces a dark reality where women often feel unsafe.

The brutal gang rape of Nirbhaya in 2012 and the recent assault on a female doctor highlight the severe issue of violence against women in India. These cases sparked nationwide protests and demands for justice, but they represent only a fraction of the problem.

According to the World Bank Group Gender Data Portal, 35% of ever-married women in India have experienced intimate partner violence, higher than the world average of 27%. Additionally, 6% of women have experienced some form of sexual violence. These statistics are alarming, especially considering that sexual assault is often underreported.

The root of this issue lies in misogyny, deeply ingrained in patriarchal societies. Misogyny, meaning hatred or contempt for women, persists because many cultures still view women as property. This attitude is reinforced through family, community, and media messaging during impressionable years.

To create change, we must start in our homes. As a mother, I've had candid, age-appropriate conversations with my son about gender equality. I've emphasized that chores are equally his responsibility, and opportunities are equally available to him and his sister. Before he left for college, we discussed consent, mutual respect, and the vulnerabilities both genders face.

By consciously teaching our children about gender equality and mutual respect, we can slowly but surely make a positive change. After all, it's up to us to teach our sons that the Queen moves the board.

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## ***Mai Family Services Celebrates "YAADEIN" with Fun and Splendor***



The annual "Yaadein" event on August 25, organized by Mai Family Services to commemorate National Seniors Month, was a resounding success, drawing over 150 senior members from across our community. This vibrant celebration, held at the beautiful IGGF venue in Canton, showcased the spirit and vitality of the senior community through a delightful mix of dances, music, and games.

Young volunteers, brimming with enthusiasm, were on hand to serve and engage with the seniors, creating an atmosphere of intergenerational bonding. The event provided a few hours of joyful camaraderie, allowing attendees to forge new connections and relive cherished memories.

Coordinated by a dedicated team including Radhika Shukla, Preeti Tyagi, Sujit Kulkarni, and Jolly Daniel, along with numerous other volunteers (Varsha Pathre, Deepali Kozarekar, Nayana Parekh, Smita Khosla, Vatsala Upadhyay, Dhanya Menon), the event ran smoothly from start to finish. Rajesh Sharma skillfully emceed the proceedings, keeping the energy high throughout the day.

"Yaadein" is the signature annual event of the Golden Club Program, a membership-based initiative offering seniors free access to events and premium services. The program aims to combat isolation among seniors by providing transportation for essential activities and fostering social connections.

The event was made possible through the generosity of long-time patrons and donors, Manoj and Poonam Sachdeva, who not only provided the IGGF venue but also sponsored the day's activities and meals.

The success of "Yaadein" underscores the importance of community support and volunteerism in enriching the lives of seniors. As the event concluded, it was clear that the spirit of togetherness and joy would linger in the hearts of all who attended, reinforcing the vital role of such gatherings in celebrating and supporting our senior community.

# Monthly Statistics



Mai Family Services  
Support when you need it most  
[www.maifs.org](http://www.maifs.org)

## Our world in August

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED: **50**



**37**

Current active survivors

**13**

Referrals and Resources

**1**

Closed - Empowered!

**MaiFS Free Helpline: 888-664-8624**

(Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM)



# *Did You Know?*



**Transnational abandonment** is an often-overlooked form of domestic abuse that transcends borders, leaving victims isolated and vulnerable. This insidious practice takes various forms, all with devastating consequences for abandoned spouses and their children.

Common scenarios include:

- Women living in the U.S. being coaxed or deceived into returning to their home countries, only to be abandoned there.
- Victims rendered homeless in the U.S., stripped of resources and support.
- Women attempting to return to the U.S. being redirected to unfamiliar cities, isolating them from potential support networks.
- Children suffering from disrupted relationships with their abandoned parent.

Abusive partners exploit U.S. immigration laws to deliberately strip dependent spouses of their legal status and safety nets.

As one survivor poignantly states:

*"Transnational abandonment is one of the most sinister and damaging forms of abuse I've ever witnessed. An H4 visa holder is nothing without their sponsor. Your social security number, medical insurance, driver's license, bank account, your lifeline – everything is in the hands of your H1B visa holder."*

This abuse leaves victims without access to essential resources and support systems, trapped in a legal and emotional limbo.

**If you or someone you know is experiencing transnational abandonment, help is available. Contact Mai Family Services Helpline at (888) 664-8624 or email confidentially to [info@maifs.org](mailto:info@maifs.org).**

Awareness is the first step in combating this hidden crisis. By recognizing the signs and understanding the impact, we can work towards protecting vulnerable individuals and families from the devastating effects of transnational abandonment.

# ***MaiFS Monthly Recurring Program***



## **DONATION APPEAL**

Dear Supporters,

Today, we're excited to launch our monthly recurring donation program. Your regular support, even in small amounts, can make a big difference.

Think of it this way: For less than the cost of a weekly lunch, you can fuel our mission year-round. A \$10 monthly donation adds up to \$120 annually - that's enough to provide basic services to our survivors.

By becoming a monthly donor, you're not just giving - you're joining a community of dedicated change-makers. Your steady support allows us to plan ahead and tackle long-term projects with confidence.

Ready to make a lasting impact?

Visit [Monthly Recurring Program](#) to set up your monthly gift today.

Thank you for your continued support.

MaiFS Fundraising Team



Your consistent support can make a lasting difference. By becoming a monthly donor to Mai Family Services, you help ensure we can provide ongoing, culturally sensitive support to families in need- the number which is growing every month.

**For as little as the cost of a cup of coffee per month, you can:**

- Sustain vital programs
- Empower families to break cycles of violence
- Support community education and outreach

Every month, your generosity creates ripples of positive change. Join our circle of committed supporters today!

Set up your monthly donation now and be a continuous force for good in our community.

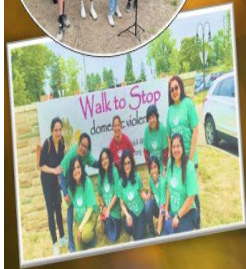
**[Become Monthly Hero](#)**



# MaiFS Walkathon

**Register Now!**

Mai Family Services invites you to our annual walkathon, where every step counts towards ending domestic violence and supporting culturally sensitive services in our community. Let's take those steps together!



Join us... to walk like a



Walk for a Super Cause



On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 am  
Lakeshore Park, 601 S. Lake Drive, Novi, MI 48377



Register at:

<https://maifs.org/2024walkathon/>

or Email: [info@maifs.org](mailto:info@maifs.org)

Entry Fee:  
\$15 – Adult  
\$10 – Youth ages 10-17  
(Children below 10 are free)



Register Now!

First 100 participants get  
T-Shirts at no cost. So register quickly.  
After that, the T-Shirt will be @ \$10/each



Food - Face Painting - Henna - Clown



Mai Family Services- Lighthouse  
Announces...



# Mental Health Hero Art Contest



Honor a mental health hero of yours – someone with a personal, local, or global mental health impact – with a work of art in our Mental Health Hero Art Contest!

Use any medium: visual art, music, or written text. Your work will be judged on **creativity, thoughtfulness, and execution.**



The contest will be held at the annual MaiFS Walkathon on **September 14th at 9 AM, Lakeshore Park, Novi, MI.** Make sure to bring a physical/shareable copy of your art for judging, and email [youthprograms@maifs.org](mailto:youthprograms@maifs.org) with any questions.

*Mai Family Services*

*maifs.org*

*@maifamilyservices*

**[Register Now!](#)**

# *Suicide Prevention Webinar*

## LIVE WEBINAR

# SUICIDE PREVENTION



Thursday,  
26 September, 2024  
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM EST

With just an hour of your time, you can become more suicide-aware and feel empowered to help create a suicide-safer community.

Suicide prevention 101

Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die but are struggling. Through their words and actions, they invite help to stay alive.

Learn steps anyone can take to help a person move away from thinking about suicide.



**FREE REGISTRATION**

<https://maifs.org/suicideprevention/>

☎ (248) 477-4985

🌐 [www.maifs.org](http://www.maifs.org)

Speaker

**Trisha Mindel**

**[Register Now!](#)**



# *MaiFS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER*

Mark your Calendar!

- **Day/Date:** Saturday, November 23
- **Location:** Radisson, Southfield
- **Details:** Our annual holiday fundraiser is an elegant evening featuring dinner, entertainment, and an auction. All proceeds support Mai Family Services' programs and services. Dress in your finest attire and join us for a night of celebration and giving.





**Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!**



**Our mailing address is:**  
MAI FAMILY SERVICES  
32401 W. Eight Mile Rd  
Livonia, MI 48152

