



*Counseling and Education to Stop Domestic Violence*

## E-Mail Newsletter

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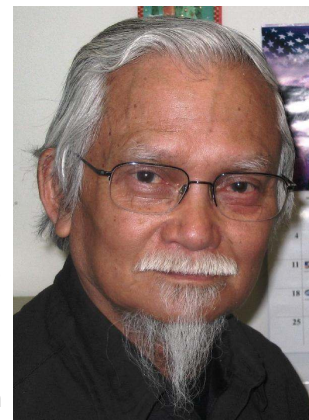
### Hoan Nghênh (Welcome)!

In this issue, you can read about the experiences of Phuoc Pham, Emerge's Vietnamese counselor. When working with different cultural groups, Emerge's goal is to provide the most culturally appropriate service possible in order to give abusers the best opportunity to make changes in their lives. Mr. Pham works hard to achieve this goal with his Vietnamese clients.

### Vietnamese Counseling Offers Opportunities for Change

*By Christopher Hall,  
Newsletter Editor*

Each group leader in an abuser education group brings a unique set of skills and experiences. Phuoc Pham, Emerge's Vietnamese Counselor, has had a life where he has faced a multitude of challenges. He has chosen to work to teach others to veer away from the path of abuse, and help them see the advantages of changing their abusive attitudes and behavior toward their family.





## Asian / Vietnamese Related Links

### [Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence](#)

The mission of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is to eliminate family violence and to strengthen Asian families and communities.

After being in the Vietnamese National Military Academy in Dalat (300km north of Ho Chi Minh City) from 1954-1960, Mr. Pham graduated and became an officer in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam against the Communist Party. He worked as a district chief and as an assessor in the Hue-Thua Thien Province Court. After a total of 20 years in the Army of the Republic, Mr. Pham was captured by the Communist Party in 1975 and was placed into the hard labor camps in the highlands of North Vietnam.

Thirteen years of hard labor as a prisoner of war allowed him to qualify for transportation to the United States via the Humanitarian Offensive [HO] program, which served Vietnamese refugees.

Beginning his career in the United States, Mr. Pham had a strong desire to help refugees like himself adjust to life in their new country. Because many Vietnamese did not understand the laws, and were unable to gather accurate information, they would sometimes get in trouble with the police.

Mr. Pham reports that in Vietnam, when people witness domestic violence, they do not report it. Neighbors and family tend to lie to protect each other from the police. If someone violates that silence, the abuser and others in the community may retaliate against the person who reports abuse.

Because of this experience in Vietnam, when Vietnamese men commit acts of abuse in the United States, they may be shocked that their neighbors call the police and that no one retaliates against the reporter.

Mr. Pham states that the Vietnamese clients he works with also have a limited understanding about what constitutes abuse and violence. As is true for abusers of other cultures, many Vietnamese men do not understand that they can be abusive and controlling verbally.

He meets individually with each man and allows them to tell their version of the story, even when he knows they are not telling him the complete story. He is friendly towards them and tells them the advantages of being honest with him. He says that he can help them learn about the laws, and support them in taking care of themselves and help them have a better relationship.

Mr. Pham makes sure that when he is educating an abuser, he also spends time educating the abuser's

[The South Asian Women's Network](#)

This forum provides many links and reading material on issues pertaining to South Asian women.

[Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence](#)

This link takes you to specific Vietnamese information and resources. There are links on this page to resources for other Asian cultures.

[The United Nations Development Fund for Women](#)

This article includes domestic violence information for a variety of South Asian countries, presented at a 2003 UNIFEM conference.

[Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by Vietnam](#)

This PDF article provides detailed information on the status of domestic violence in Vietnam, and methods to intervene in this violence.

[National DV Hotline - Information for Immigrants](#)

This article outlines various ways to support and help immigrant victims of domestic violence.

[The Family Violence Prevention Fund - Immigrant Toolbox](#)

This site provides a number of tools, books and brochures to help immigrant survivors of DV.

family. He will call older brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends, and the abuser's partner. He will educate them about abusive behavior, and he will tell them that he is working to help his client be a better person. And he will also hear from others what their experience of the abuser has been.

Mr. Pham coordinates with probation officers and child protective workers. He gives them up to date information on the abuser's progress, and will work with these referral sources to extend the time for abusers who are being dishonest or not taking responsibility for their behavior.

He offers abusers a better understanding of the consequences of being abusive, as well as an opportunity to have a better life.



If you have any additional questions about Emerge's Vietnamese program or any of our other culturally specific groups, please contact our office at 617-547-9879 or e-mail us at [emergedv@gmail.com](mailto:emergedv@gmail.com)

Thank you for your interest and support and we'll see you again next month!

Regards,

**Emerge:**  
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