



To guide refugees and immigrants in the journey toward self-determination and social equality



Multi ethnic women organizations form Refugee & Immigrant Women for Change (RIWC)

Minneapolis MN, September 30, 2009

Nine African, Asian, and Latino women-led and women-focused community-based organizations in the Twin Cities have formed a coalition, *Refugee & Immigrant Women for Change (RIWC)*, to fight poverty and social inequalities by focusing on achieving gender equality for refugee and immigrant women. Led by CAPI, they have come together to leverage their strengths and build a movement for social change that addresses systemic issues facing all refugee and immigrant women and girls.

“We believe strongly that attitudes and institutions can and must change in order for all our communities to thrive” stated Pham Thi Hoa, Executive Director of CAPI.

As a coalition, RIWC seeks to advance gender equity through leadership development and community organizing for civic engagement with the goal of building capacity and leadership among its members to plan, design, and implement programs to provide refugee and immigrant women with equal access to opportunities, delayed early marriage, reduced domestic violence, improved access to health care and life-skills training, increased access to education, and income generating opportunities.

CAPI’s Impact & Innovation manager will lead, coordinate, and manage all efforts for the RIWC employing these approaches:

- Voiced-based community engagement, leadership development, and organizing to build gender equality advocates.
- Public education & awareness to build community support and momentum for change.
- Prevention & response to add immigrant and refugee women’s perspective to policies and issues that affect our communities.
- Action learning to improve service delivery and refine programs strategies that promote gender-responsive accountability.

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