

Metro Area Support for Survivors of Torture (MASST)



Safe Horizon's *Solace* Program is the lead agency in the Metro Area Support for Survivors of Torture (MASST) Consortium, which consists of four agencies working together in the areas of community development, clinical services, capacity building through training, and ethnographic evaluation. Our partners- in both New York City and Northern New Jersey- the International Institute of New Jersey, Doctors of the World USA, and Refuge, share our community empowerment approach, while providing us with readily accessible expertise.

Training

Along with our partners, *Solace* staff provide training about the refugee experience, working with survivors of torture and trauma, and clinical and community approaches to psychosocial work throughout New York City and nationally. We are full members of the National Alliance for Multi-Cultural Mental Health (NAMMH) and the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs (NCTTP). We provide training to mental health professionals, medical professionals, social service providers, and to refugee communities.



Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon is the nation's leading nonprofit victim assistance, advocacy, and violence prevention organization. With a staff of over 800, Safe Horizon offers over 75 programs throughout New York City's five boroughs. Our programs in community offices, shelters, courts, police precincts, and schools help over 250,000 New Yorkers each year.

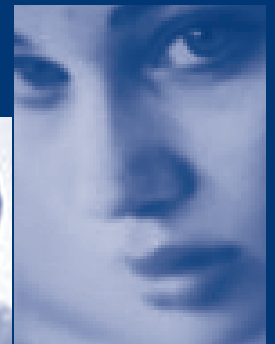
For more information about Safe Horizon, please contact us at:

Safe Horizon

2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10007
212 577 7700
www.safehorizon.org

Solace

Aiding Refugees and Survivors of Torture



What is Solace?

Torture is an international crime and a violation of human rights. *Solace* seeks to redress those wrongs and help survivors reclaim their full humanity. The experience of enduring forced migration is difficult for all refugees, but for those who have been tortured or who have witnessed war, the adjustment to life in the United States may be even more challenging.

Founded in 1996, Safe Horizon's *Solace* Program works with survivors of state-sponsored torture, political torture, and war trauma, who are refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, immigrants from refugee-like situations, and Americans tortured abroad or in the United States. *Solace* uses a community-based, decentralized approach that includes case management, counseling, and referrals, as well as ongoing support through community development efforts. Each year *Solace* provides support to more than 200 survivors, their families and communities.

Our Services Include:

- Group, family, and individual counseling
- Home visits
- Information and referrals
- Practical assistance
- Expressive art therapies
- Evaluations for political asylum
- Referrals for legal services and medical examinations

Meeting the Needs of Survivors and Refugees

All human beings need support systems. Most often, the natural support systems for survivors of torture and refugees have been fragmented or lost. They often feel extreme grief and they may experience trauma symptoms. At *Solace*, healing is a dialogue between staff and participants. We seek to learn from those we serve as much as to guide them. We converse with communities, families and individuals about how they perceive their needs, what has changed through the migration experience, and how best to become accustomed to a new culture.



Our Staff

Solace's staff reflects the diverse populations we serve. All services are provided with cultural and linguistic competency. We also work with a network of professionals that includes attorneys, psychologists, psychiatrists, primary care doctors, rehabilitative specialists, clinical social workers, and others to ensure that participants receive comprehensive services.

Mobile, Community-Based Services

Solace is located in Queens, Staten Island, and Brooklyn. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments can be made with intensive case managers, who will meet the participant at one of our program sites or at a mutually convenient location. Staff are also available to accompany participants to medical and immigration appointments, job centers, schools, hospital, clinics, courts, and other locations as needed.

Where to Find Us

To find out more about our services and opportunities to work together, or to make a referral, please contact our Jackson Heights, Queens office.

Solace

74-09 37th Avenue, Room 412
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
718 899 1233, Ext. 101

Solace is generously funded by:

- Office of Refugee Resettlement,
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- New York City Department of Youth &
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- United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims
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- Private Sources