

# Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families Bridging The Gap



**Somali  
Family Safety  
Task Force**

Presenter: Bintou Tunkara  
Program Manager

# Overview of the Somali Family Safety Task Force

The Somali Family Safety Taskforce started as an all-volunteer social and non-profit organization back in 2004 with the goal of promoting safety and well-being for Somali/African youth & families living in the Seattle area.

**Mission:** To strengthen, empower & promote self-sufficiency for immigrant and refugee women and their families by providing culturally appropriate services that embody the core values of our community.



# SFSTF PROGRAMS

Gender-Based Violence

System Navigation

Youth Program

Seniors Program

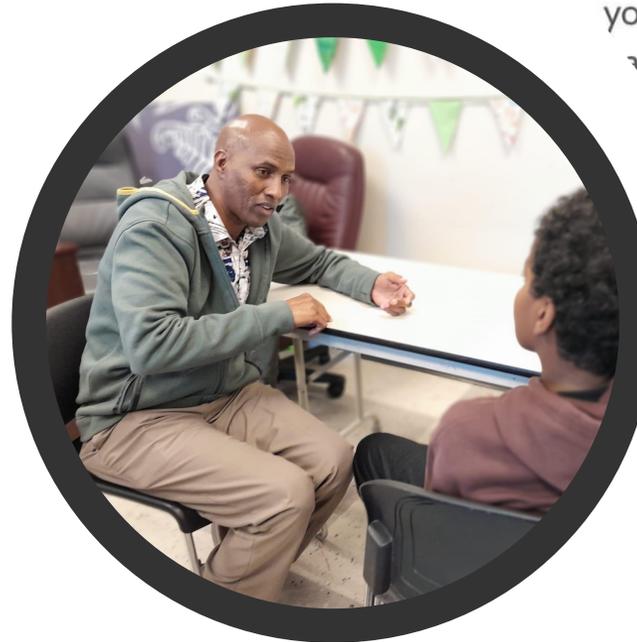
Sewing Program

Positive Family Connection

Women's Basket Weaving Group



Systems Navigation was designed to assist East African families with children and youth in South Seattle neighborhoods to navigate Seattle Public Schools and Criminal Justice Systems. Families learn how to navigate standardized testing, effective communication with teachers, how to



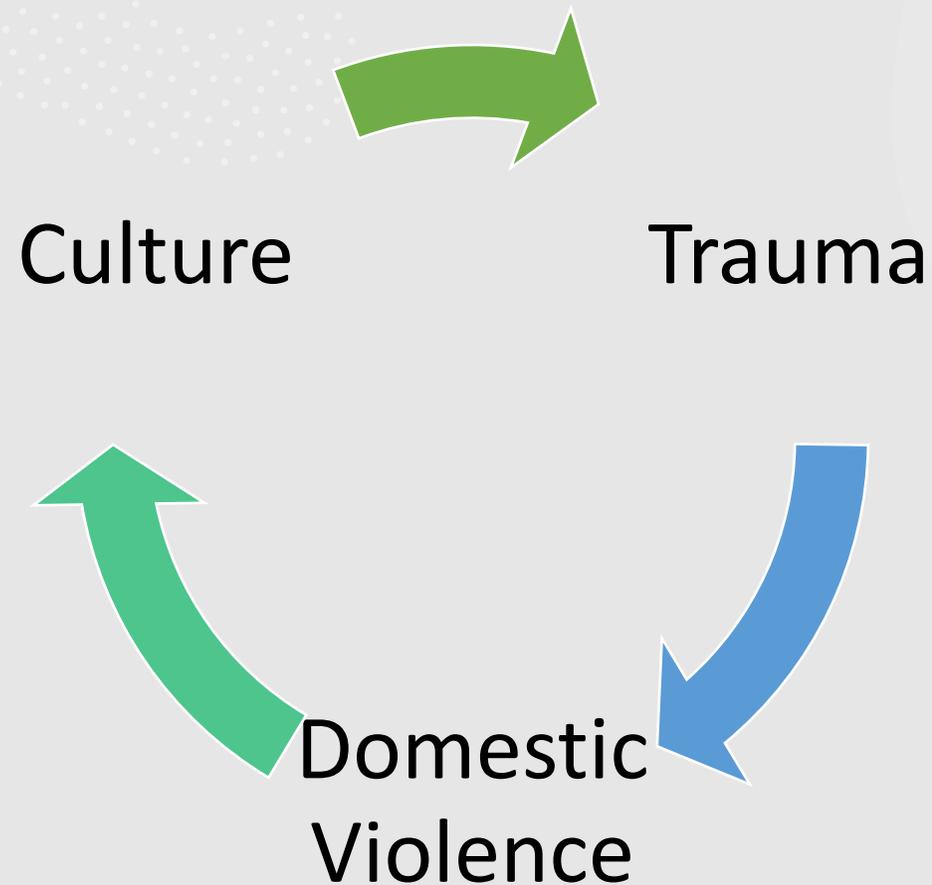


# SFSTF PROGRAMS



## Mother's Talk

Mothers Talk is under the domestic violence program, which is a support group organized by the SFSTF that aims to provide a safe space for women to discuss sensitive issues such as trauma, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, disciplinary practices for the new generation of children, the cultural upbringing they experienced back home and the challenges of raising children with autism in America.





### System Navigation

Families get the opportunity to learn about the Importance of education and navigating the school system, including parental involvement. Human Trafficking, internet safety & Strategies to protect children from Harm.

# Youth Program

All Young People Deserve The  
Opportunity To Succeed In  
School & Life.

SFSTF Provides Access To The  
Resources Needed For Our  
Youth To Beat The Odds &  
Transition Safely To Adulthood.





# Importance of Cultural Sensitivity

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## Importance of Cultural Sensitivity

Understanding the importance of cultural sensitivity in supporting immigrant and refugee families

Balancing traditional cultural norms and cultural norms of the new generation

SFSTF supports immigrant and refugee families by fostering respect, enhancing communication, supporting trauma-informed care, facilitating parent-child relationships, promoting educational success, and preventing discrimination.



# Program Outcomes

- SFSFT Serves more than 2500 people a year in the Seattle Area.
- Last year SFSTF gave out 38 housing vouchers to DV clients.
- All staff in SFSTF speaks more than 3 languages fluently.
- Last year, SFSTF helped more than 250 clients with Legal Formalities.
- This year, SFSTF helped more than 32 clients with rental assistance.
- SFSTF collaborated with LYFT Ride for quick transportation access.

My name is IBTISAM, I was referred to the Somali Family Safety Task Force by Mother Africa organization. I went through a lot of hard situations after I was abused by my husband. Meryn, my advocate helped me with many resources and assisted me with my divorce papers. They also helped with paying my rent when I was behind. The advocate usually checks and follows up on me. Anytime I have a question or concern, she is always there to help.

# Client Stories

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# Client Stories

Hi, my name is Aster Tesfassion, I live in Seattle, and I have 3 kids. I am a single mom, and I had a lot of problems with different things, but I got a wonderful service from Somali family. Meryn is the best and kind person because she helped me a lot with my parenting plan and other things like my kid's clothes and diapers. She is an amazing and polite person, so I really appreciate everything that I got from you guys. Thank you.

# Client Stories

My name is Nahid, and I'm originally from Ghana-West Africa. My ex-husband had always been abusive. One day at church, a lady told me about SOMALI FAMILY SAFETY TASK FORCE, I wasn't sure what to expect, but at this point, I needed help. I got their phone number and gave them a call, and to my surprise, I got a call the next day, and they asked me to come to the office. when my children and I got to this organization, we felt so welcomed that I cried my heart out for the first time because I couldn't believe the amount of love, and support we received. The first night in our own place was very emotional. That was the first night in months that I felt safe. That was the moment everything changed. My advocate and the organization helped me apply for all the benefits, such as EBT, TANF, WIC, and Section 8. She was with me through it all. My advocate joins me on the conference call just to show support and build my confidence in speaking and standing up for myself and my family.



## Q&A

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**You Are  
Not Alone**

**Community Makes  
Us Stronger**

Join Mother's  
Talk Group

Join Saturday  
Sewing Group

Join Seniors  
Group

Join Girls  
Guide Group

Let's  
TALK  
about  
MENTAL  
health

Somali  
Family Safety  
Task Force

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Thank You.

Bintou Tunkara



**Somali  
Family Safety  
Task Force**