

The needs of Southeast Asian young women

Banteay Srei works directly with young Southeast Asian (SEA) women in Oakland. Many SEA refugees in Oakland are still coping with the tragedies of war and genocide in their homeland, having survived extreme trauma in the form of physical violence, loss of loved ones, and rape and/or sexual violence. It is common for SEA refugees to never fully discuss their trauma with others, which leads to a form of intergenerational trauma that affects their children, many of whom also face physical and sexual violence in their lives. Sexual assault and commercial sexual exploitation is also particularly rampant in Oakland, California. The Oakland Police Department recently identified nearly 300 children under the age of 18 that were being sexually exploited by at least 155 pimp/sex traffickers in Oakland. Thus, the service we provide to the community is unique *and* critical. The needs of SEA young women are great and we are trying our best to respond to them. Please support our work; <https://www.banteaysrei.org/>

**"When I'm here, I know
what I'm doing, I feel
focused. When I'm
elsewhere, even school,
sometimes I feel
confused. But when I'm
with Banteay Srei - I feel
happy and clear."
- Jenny, youth participant**

Banteay Srei is important to us because it empowers young women + lifts their voices.

It gives them a space to be their unique selves. And it helps them become confident which strengthens them, + helps them resist / challenge society + norms around South-east Asian gender roles (sexism).

Demise.

Banteay Srei is crucial in the community

because this is one of a kind culturally specific program in the Alameda County. The program provides not only CSEC training to the community organizations and handles case managements, it provides a safe space for young Southeast Asian women and girls to learn about women bodies, reproductive justice, and women's rights to empower them.



94% of sex trafficking victims are girls/
women,

88% are minorities

There is an obvious target here, and
that's why we need to reach out to
these girls who need it most. Help

The fact that culturally, it can be much
harder for young asian girls to speak
about sexuality and sexual health with
their parents or family they can trust
because in many asian cultures such
topics are still seen as taboo, so these
girls are forced to learn these things
on their own or sometimes even fail
to learn it at all.

-Lea



UNTITLED

Anonymous, youth participant

I Love My Vagina

My vagina helps me through the better or worst

She runs her own show but she keeps me in the loop

She lets me know what about to happen and if I'm healthy

She and I are very similar, we're both germ phobic

We make sure we're clean at all times

She knows that everything is for herself and nobody else

She's good at what she does, Ladies can agree

I Love My Vagina!