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 and 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).

Denise.
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!