



Avoice

Against Violence to Overseas
Chinese Women Program



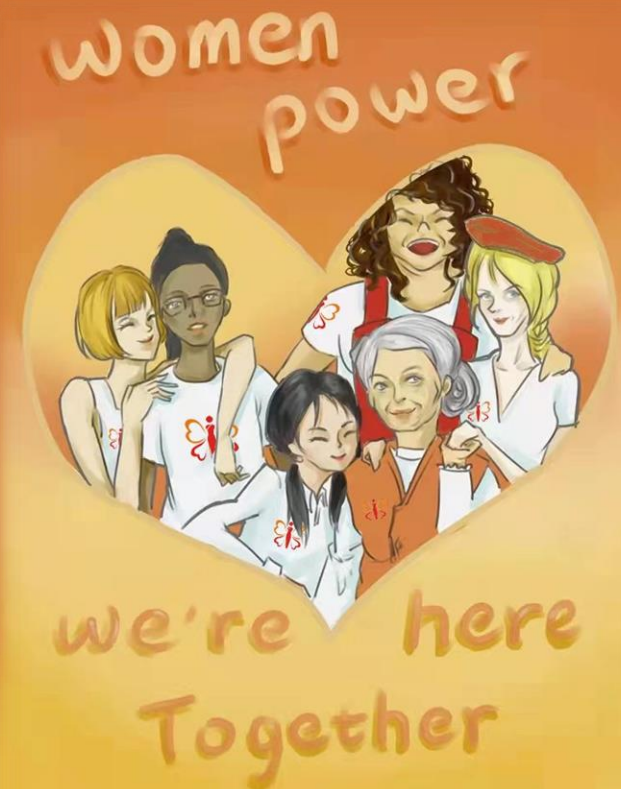
Who we are

Against Violence to Overseas Chinese Women Program

Avoice (Against Violence to Overseas Chinese Women) is a program that offers sustainable and effective aid to Chinese women who are victims of domestic violence overseas. Started in 2020 in Belgium, Avoice strives to build a powerful network of resources and volunteers, offering services ranging from medical and legal aid to psychological help, shelter, and employment opportunities. Our goal is to help and empower women toward safety and better circumstances. As of today, Avoice's service region spans three continents and 30 countries, covering all European Union countries, the UK, North America, and Australia.

Our Mission Statement: To create a loving, equal community for Women.

Our Value: Inclusivity, Equality, Liberty



Key Impact

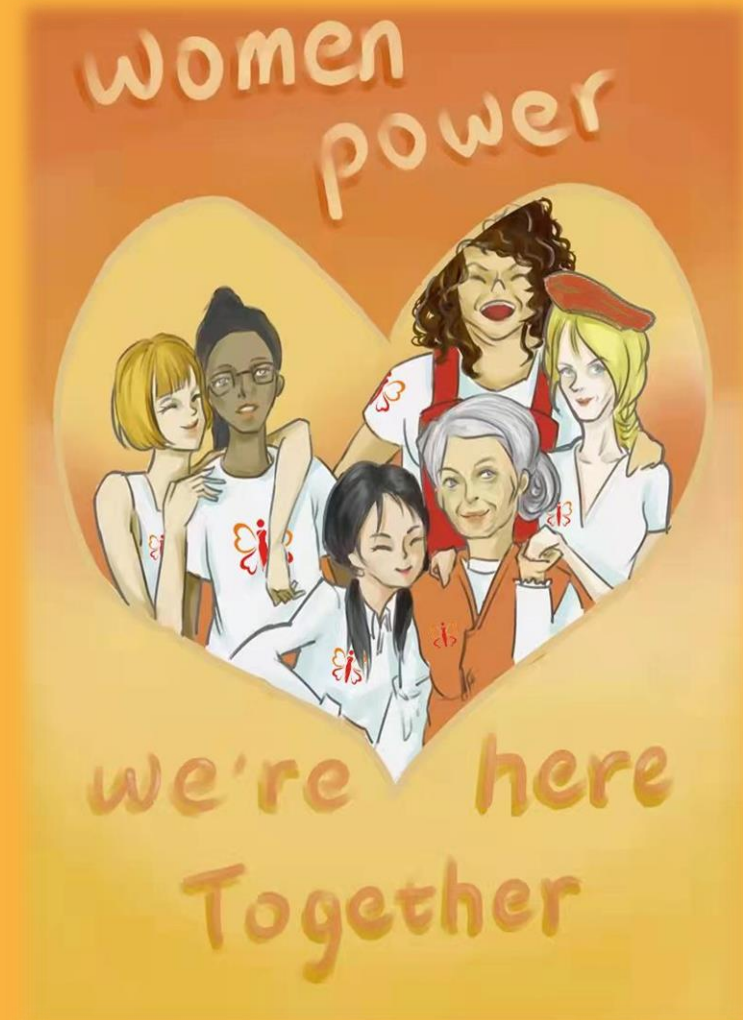
Key Impact

1. More than 1,000 women have received consultation services from us (including language support, psychological counseling, and legal counseling). More than 200 women in Europe, the UK, and the US have been protected against domestic violence via our services.

2. Over 500 overseas Chinese women have received community support from us.

3. Our research team has examined domestic violence-related issues in 15 countries, publishing 28 research articles and reports. A monthly news collection with commentary on worldwide gender equality issues is published.

4. We have launched multi-media platform campaigns with 100,000+ views and established a network of 400+ media and strategic partners, successfully raising awareness of domestic violence concerns affecting Chinese women residing abroad.





Our Support Network

- A comprehensive support system of **500+** local resource and facilities, providing resources in 30+ countries for domestic violence victims, including shelter resources, psychological support, legal aid, financial aid, and employment opportunities. Specifically **83** in US, **73** in Sweden, **45** in Britain, **40** in Germany
- Bilingual anti-domestic violence database and legal pamphlet, covering all of European Union countries.
- **12** professional psychology consultants that locate in multiples countries
- Provides translation aid service in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, Czech, as well as Dutch. So far, Avoice has translated **30** journal articles into different languages





Avoice has conducted research on overseas Chinese protection policies, filling the void in this area. Avoice has specifically investigated the current state of domestic violence concerning Chinese women in US, and studied comprehensive intervention models for eliminating gender-based violence.

- Avoice has produced **28 research papers**, with 25 of them focusing on comparative analysis, while 2 of them focus on initiatives taken at the local level. One of the papers was admitted to a prestigious academic forum held by China Agriculture University, the Chinese All-Female Federation (a state agency to safeguard the interests of the female) and one famous feminist journal
- Publishing monthly News Review on *Gender Equality Progress and Overseas Asian Development*



Media Influence

Across the world, we have established a thriving online community in **30+** countries. **2200+** Chinese women living in other countries have signed up to be part of our online group. We have registered on ten different social media platforms. Our WeChat media account have a fan base of **4,000+**, published 101 posts. Till 2022/11/1, all platform media exposure has reached **124,021**, with articles shared **8,772** times, and **5,121** followers.

100,000

Created an international media matrix, influencing **100,000+** people

150+

150+ overseas press reported

1,000,000 +

Reached over 1 million person-time



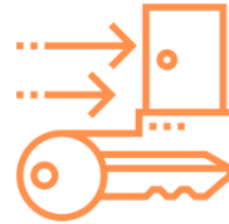
Honors and Accolades



Honors

In 2021, Avoice was awarded the Hagar Award for Changing World Women, for **“Not merely fixing a corner but laying a foundation.”**

In countries that Avoice covers, it has established reputation and influence among local Chinese communities and overseas student groups. Received positive comments and feedbacks from multiple **parties.**



Accolades

- "So far, there hasn't been any anti-domestic violence aid project for overseas Chinese women. Avoice filled the void left by the absence of domestic violence services for overseas Chinese women. " - Overseas local community leaders

- "Avoice created an innovative way for newly established international social organizations by implementing a fully remote collaboration model." - Social Work Expert

- "Avoice has formed an aid program model that could be easily promoted and implemented in various countries. " - NGO officer

Program Partners

- Established partnerships with **400+** NGO, academic institutions and overseas Chinese groups worldwide
- Through cooperation, we strengthen the integration of the advantages of resources in the protection of overseas Chinese women
- Opens up a broader cooperation channel for the exchange and sharing of expertise and research results, and brings a wider influence to the project's publicity and advocacy



What we do



Founded in Belgium in 2020

Established communities in 30+ countries in Europe, North America, Oceania, and Asia.

Target Group: Chinese women overseas

Established the first offline office in **Belgium**, plan to assemble offices in the **US and UK**

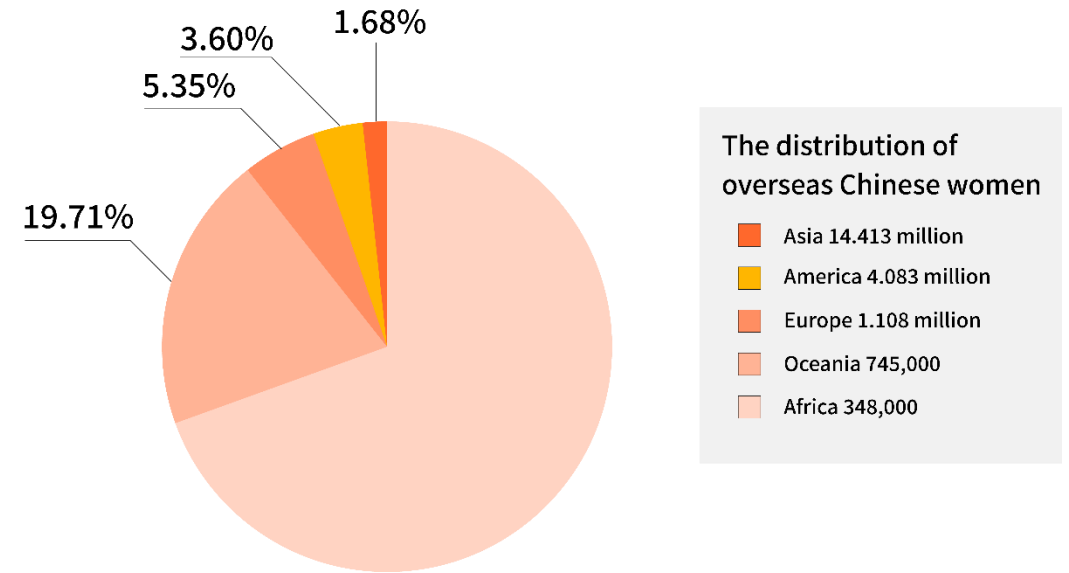
Overlooked: Overseas Chinese Women Suffering from Domestic Violence

By the end of 2019, there were approximately 20.7 million overseas Chinese women.

As for population distribution, Asia takes the lion share, followed by the Americas, Europe and Oceania, with the smallest percentage of Chinese women in Africa.

According to a random sampling study conducted in the greater Boston area on the Chinese community, 14% of the sample group reported domestic violence suffrage, while 42% indicated knowing at least one Chinese female who had experience of domestic violence.

Due to the lack of in-depth research on domestic violence concerning overseas Chinese women, we have utilized comparables approach. Avoice took several countries as benchmarks, used the number of local Chinese and the local domestic violence rate, and then estimated the scale of Chinese women suffering from domestic violence. Result is shown on the right.



The number of overseas Chinese women:
20+ million

Reference: Hicks, M. H.-R. (2006). The Prevalence and Characteristics of Intimate Partner Violence in a Community Study of Chinese American Women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 21(10), 1249–1269.

Challenges & Obstacles for Overseas Chinese Women facing Domestic Violence

○ The existing domestic violence relief system cannot address their specific needs.

Difficulties in obtaining financial and safety guarantee in a timely and sufficient manner.

○ The lack of willingness to seek help through official channels.

Due to their lack of understanding of local laws and regulations on domestic violence, together with insufficient awareness of legal rights protection, and anxiety as immigrants, they are less likely to seek help through official channels while experiencing domestic violence.

○ Difficulty to get support from external social relations.

As an ethnic minority, it is difficult for them to get support from external social relations, because language, culture and nationality all act as hurdles in their better integration into local society.

○ The lack of ability and awareness on self-protection.

The vague understanding of domestic violence, the lack of self-protection education and the deep-rooted traditional gender concept have severely weakened their awareness of taking domestic violence precaution voluntarily and their ability of self-rescue.

○ Less attention is paid to domestic violence against overseas Chinese women.

As a marginalized group, overseas Chinese women have evidently received insufficient attention and support. There have been no in-depth study, let alone relevant comprehensive intervention programs. Therefore, Overseas Chinese women, who are at high risk of suffering from domestic violence, have become the neglected and silent group in the protection system for victims suffering from domestic violence.



Objective I: Case Support



Build a comprehensive, responsive, and effective aid network for Chinese women suffering from gender violence and domestic violence.



Language

8+ language services | Sign language included



Legal

Case intervention and pro-bono service | Basic Legal Help pamphlet



Psychological

Mental health counseling, courses and learning materials



Shelters

Domestic violence shelters networks



Interview and Report

Humanitarian Interests Story: Record survivors' stories | Share aid agency management experience



Financial

Fundraising for emergency relief fund to relieve women from extreme poverty, illness, and unemployment



Network

Global aid and resources network | Global aid resources partner network



Objective II: Establish a Gender-equal Environment



Establish cooperative relations with relevant overseas departments, increase public attention and support for the overseas Chinese women involved in domestic violence.

Case Study

Focused case studies on gender-based violence and gender-related challenges.

Country Study

Research on the state of gender-based violence in specific countries/regions

Advocacy

Raise public awareness of the survival and development challenges faced by overseas Chinese women through collaboration with related organizations

Joint Appeal

Establish cooperative relations with relevant government departments, academic institutions, social organizations, and media, jointly call for strengthening the protection and support for overseas Chinese women

Case Studies



Case Interview 1

Interviewee 1: from Weifang, Shandong Province

“I came to Belgium to live with my ex-husband in September 2018. By the end of October, my ex-husband started to show signs of violence after getting drunk. But my family and friends all told me to put up with him during our chats. His parents called me and assured me that he would never do it anymore. I then chose to believe in him one more time. However, during March and April of 2019, we had quarrels and fights again. But he promised me in front of my family that this would not happen again, so I gave him another chance. When it came to the end of 2019, he hurt me again. I just could not stand it and made up my mind to leave him. I moved out. **Now when thinking back about it, I should have called the police in the first place. If I did, I could have more police records and spent less effort afterwards.**”

A typical case of domestic violence: repeated domestic violence history of the abuser; victim suffering due to familial pressure



Case Interview 2

Interviewee 2: from Yunnan Province

“I came to Italy in 2009 and moved to Netherlands in 2016. Last Christmas, I found out that my ex-husband was having an affair with another women. And he beat me. There were only that woman, her son, my ex-husband and my daughter. He and the woman denied their relationship afterwards. Since my daughter was too young to be a witness for the police, my appeal at the Italian procuratorate was denied. I thought it was so unfair. Over these years, I have been in legal battles with my ex-husband over custody of my children and property of my family. **It is really stressful because I am living abroad and there are difficulties in communication. My ex-husband is Dutch so there are a bunch of advantages for him since the battle is taking place in a country that he was born in.** But I will never give up. I am fighting just for my rights and interests. I am fighting for my kids and for their future.”

In order to prevent domestic violence from happening again, victims need not only psychological care to cultivate strong mental power, but also legal tools to protect themselves. Avoice provides professional legal assistance to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese women overseas.



Case Interview 3

Interviewee 3 : from Guangzhou

“I started my overseas study life as a student, and met my boyfriend at that time, and then formed a family. Soon thereafter, we had a child. We came from totally different cultures, which meant that our thinking patterns were also quite different. And such difference determined that our life was full of friction especially when we experienced a hasty transition to family life. Sometimes the friction was just about a little baby-sitting thing, but the anger can boil over into direct and violent action. Once, probably due to the suffer of postpartum depression and in a fit of anger, I threw a plastic basin at him and he started hitting me and pinning me to the ground.

Another time, when I was four months pregnant with my second child, we had a very emotional quarrel during a trip about problems of our child’s future life. In that quarrel, I had my glasses knocked off. For a variety of reasons, I did not leave immediately. But the continuous dizziness and headaches upset me and I was very afraid of the impact on my unborn baby. So I took my son with me to the hospital for a check-up. When the doctor found out about the abuse, he called the police. Later, I learned that local laws prohibit domestic violence, not to mention I was pregnant when going through the violent actions. **In fact, what hurts me more in my heart is that my child had to witness all this at such a young age, and I feel very sorry for my child. It had a huge impact on my life and my work.”**

The second most common case of domestic violence: choose not to escape in order to provide a stable environment for the child. But remember, only by guaranteeing your own safety, can you give your child a settled life and bright future! Avoice has a dedicated psychological team to provide psychological support services.



From the Interviewee

"For a long time, I believed that I was the only one who had ever experienced the hardships and unfairness that I had encountered in my life. There are other victims out there in the world. They suffered domestic violence abroad, didn't want their loved ones to worry about them, but were forced to endure the strain alone. People from Avoice have shown me the meaning of belonging to a caring, supportive group."



Avoice is a community that protects human right and dignity. We will always be here for you!

Program Structure



Management Team



Xinyi Yu

○ Program Originator, Program Co-Founder

Co-founder of the SRP social responsibility program of Beijing Yixingzhe Public Welfare Foundation. Global Outstanding Youth in Davos World Economic Forum. Member of the Horizon Global Youth Common Development Program of Tsinghua University. Honorary trainee of Zhejiang University Global Strong Eagle. Executive committee member of Qingfeng Forum. As a European Union intern, she participated in global issues such as economy, technology, environment, energy and epidemic. She also curated and voiced for disadvantaged children in distress at the United Nations, and participated in many international and domestic influential conferences as a youth representative.



FengLiu

○ Program Leader, Program Co-Founder

Liu has been in core management positions in international non-profit organizations for 20 years, involving in project operation, institutional management, fundraising, human resources and other departments. Her critical areas of focus include women protection and empowerment, youth and youth economic empowerment, and child protection. She has successively carried out multinational cooperation in technology research and development, project implementation and fundraising with public welfare projects in more than 30 countries and have provided training and project consultation for many domestic public welfare institutions.



Lu Zang

○ Program Co-Founder

Zang is a new-generation peace messenger and social activist, who has high-quality network resources and good reputation in Greater China and South East Asia. He has served in the government and several international organizations, and has successively founded the Oriental Miaoxi Foundation, the Maritime Silk Road Charity Museum and the Asian Women's Development Plan. He has won a number of international honors, such as the Asian Innovative Social Service Talent Award and the Andrew Award. Long been committed to promoting cross-cultural exchanges among Chinese around the world, he strives to promote gender equality and sustainable development of overseas Chinese at home and abroad.



Program Structure



Advisory Committee

Board of Directors

Chief Representatives

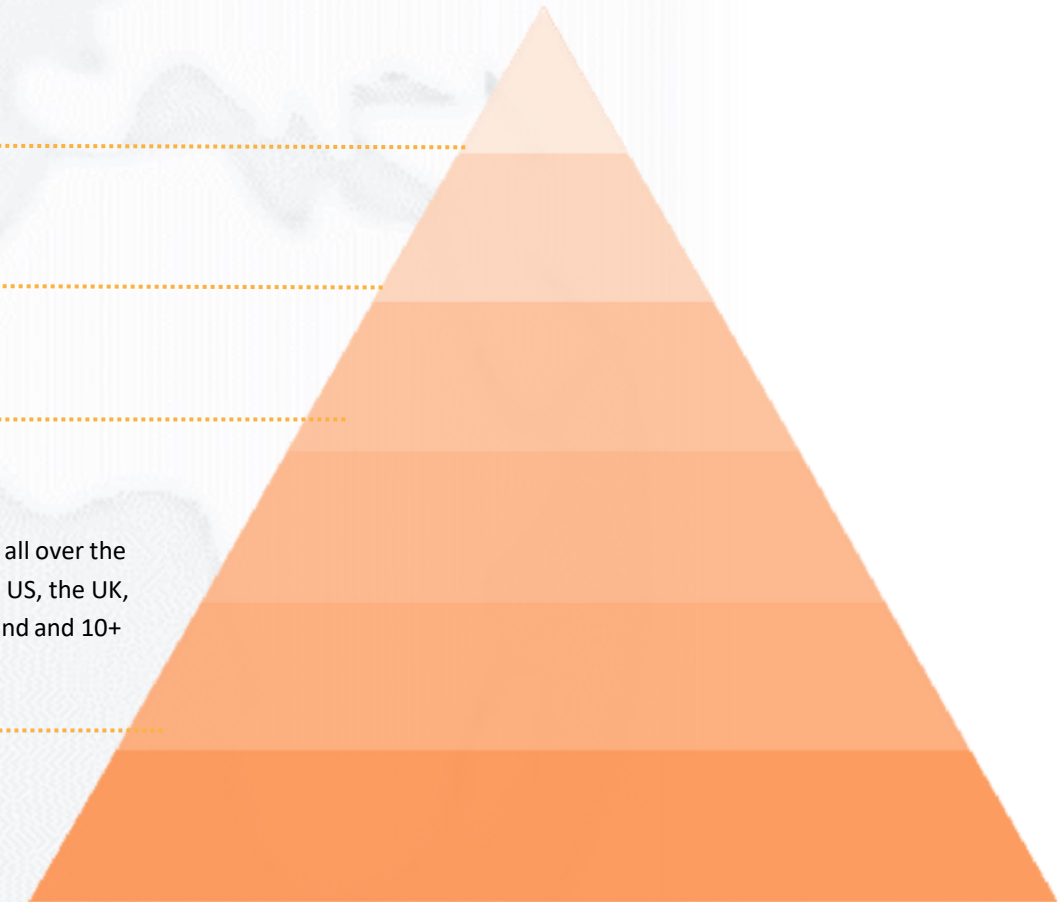
Council of Permanent State/Executive Team



Our volunteers come from all over the world, including China, the US, the UK, France, Australia, Netherland and 10+ other countries & regions

Volunteer Team with **800+ members** In 30 countries

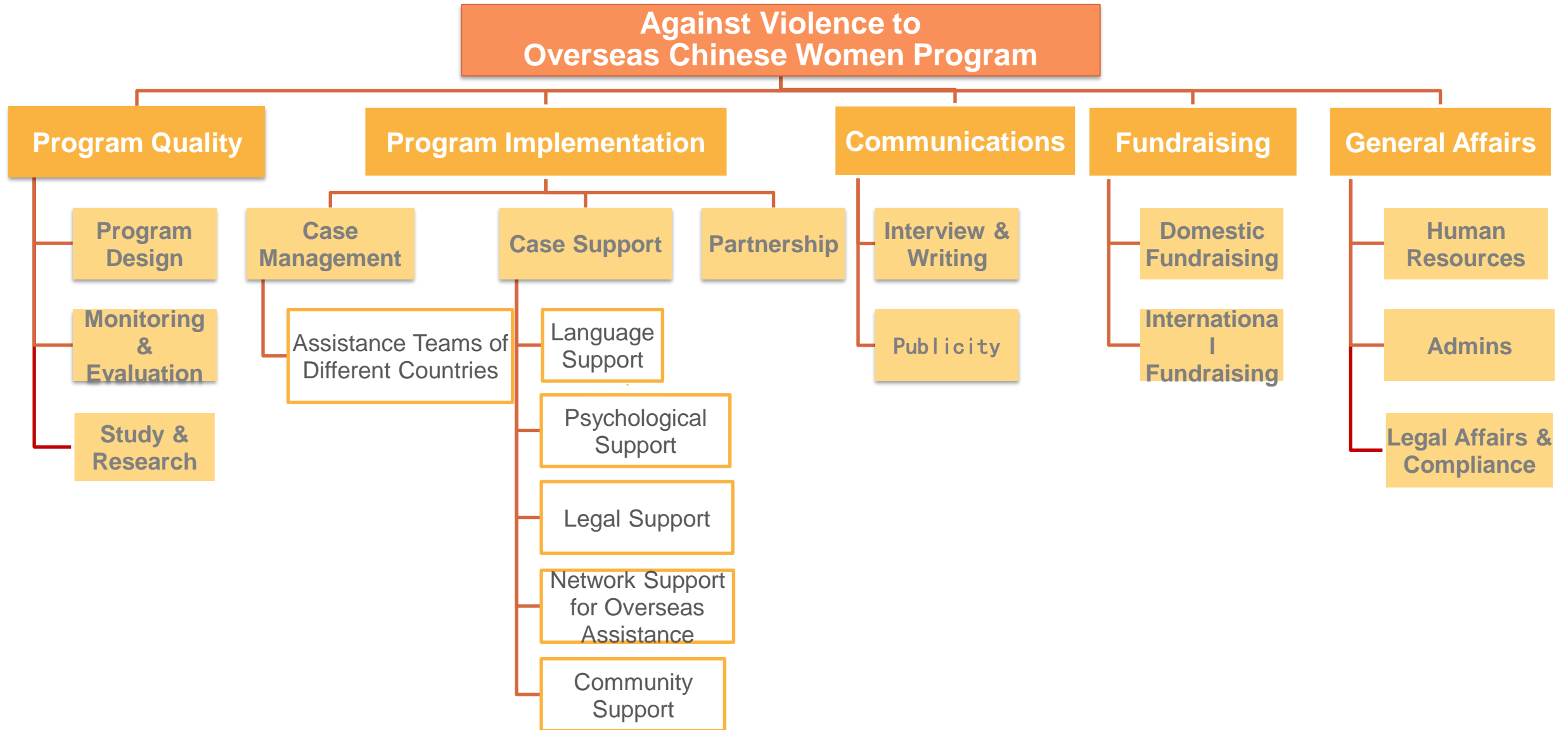
Our volunteers come from a diverse range of professional backgrounds, such as sociology, psychology, history, anthropology, engineering, computer science, law, etc.




Our volunteers graduated from prestigious universities around the world, including Harvard , Peking University, Yale, Upenn Columbia University, etc.



Program Organizational Structure





Avoice uses digital tool "Lark" as the main platform for collaboration and productivity, to arrange meetings, communicate, send e-mails, manage tasks and monitor progress.

In Avoice, 61 divisions and 394 members are connected through the Lark platform to work together. Especially, the productive functions in Lark have been found helpful in terms of establishing victims' support system, improving the workflows of registering personal information, analyzing case studies, and tracking case progress.





Further Support and Partnership



International communication and
impact boost



Professional and technical support on
gender equality, mental health, legal help
and academic research



Associated initiatives and publicity
campaigns



Funding support



Media releases and words spreading



Other forms of collaboration are
also welcomed



Contact US!



海外华人女性保护项目



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Avoice_womenaid



Womenaid Avoice



contact@Avoice.org.com

Take Action ...

If you are living overseas, facing domestic violence, please remember that it is not your fault, don't doubt yourself, and don't undermine this issue. Please seek help from organizations. Avoice is always here to meet, to be your confidential audience, regardless of your identity or the severity of your situation. We will always be here to offer solutions and walk with you towards a brighter future!