



# Task force on preventing violence against Latina women

2024 Legislative session  
Bill SF4258/HF4417

**Esperanza United mobilizes Latinas and Latin@<sup>1</sup> communities to end gender-based violence.** For more than 40 years, we have offered critical services and supports to survivors and their families including emergency shelter and prevention and social change efforts in Minnesota.

This year, Esperanza United is asking the Minnesota Legislature to adopt legislation to investigate the high incidence of violence against Latina women and fund its prevention.

## Latina Minnesotans need your help

- Gender-based violence is deadly in Minnesota. According to the 2022 Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota report, at least 21 Minnesotans were killed by a current or former partner in 2019 alone. Between 2015 and 2019, 138 Minnesotans lost their mothers to domestic violence ([bit.ly/wfmn22](https://bit.ly/wfmn22)).
- We have high rates of sexual violence in our state and communities. According to the 2022 Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota report, 42% of Minnesota women reported sexual violence in their lifetime, with 20% experiencing rape or attempted rape. Nationally, 36% of Latinas reported sexual violence in their lives (<https://bit.ly/wfmn22>).
- Family violence affects Minnesota girls. Among Minnesota students in grades 8, 9, and 11, 78% of girls from homes with domestic violence reported depression and hopelessness, 49% hurt themselves, and 40% contemplated suicide (<https://bit.ly/wfmn22>).
- A significant number of sexual assaults reported to Minnesota police are not seriously investigated according to research done at Minnesota State University. Many of these cases involve Latina women facing language barriers and social isolation(<https://bit.ly/mnsul4>).
- Gender-based violence is costly in economic terms. According to the CDC, female survivors of domestic violence lose an average of \$103,767 and female survivors of sexual violence lose an average of \$122,461 over their lifetimes thanks to related costs such as treatment for related injuries, productivity loss in the workplace, and time spent accessing the criminal justice system ([bit.ly/cdcvp](https://bit.ly/cdcvp)).
- According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 47% of victims of sex and labor exploitation in the US are Latin@ ([bit.ly/nhth21](https://bit.ly/nhth21)) – an outsized amount as Latin@s make up under 20% of the population according to the US Census ([bit.ly/USCensus22](https://bit.ly/USCensus22)).

<sup>1</sup> Esperanza United has chosen to use "@" in place of the masculine "o" when referring to people or groups that are gender neutral or both masculine and feminine. This decision reflects our commitment to gender inclusion and recognizes the important contributions that women, men, and gender-nonconforming people make to our communities. In addition, while there are differences between "Hispanic" and "Latin@," we have chosen to use "Latin@" throughout this document to avoid distraction and/or confusion.

## Minnesota is investing in solutions

The Minnesota Legislature has created statewide task forces on missing and murdered Indigenous women and Missing and Murdered African American to address violence against women from these communities.

Esperanza United is advocating for the creation of a strategy to address the significant violence impacting Latina women in Minnesota.

## Investing in Latina women is investing in Minnesota's future

Minnesota is an aging state and the Latin@ community is emerging as a unique engine of growth for us.

- Latin@s are one of the youngest, fastest growing minorities in the state. According to the MN Council on Latino Affairs, Latin@ children now comprise almost 10 percent of Minnesota's under-18 population ([bit.ly/3OLkJH8](http://bit.ly/3OLkJH8)).
- Sixty-two percent of Minnesota's Latin@ residents are native born and 91 percent of Latin@ children under age 18 are native born according to the MN Council on Latino Affairs ([bit.ly/3OLkJH8](http://bit.ly/3OLkJH8)).
- Nearly all Latin@ population growth has occurred in counties outside the metro area since 1980 ([bit.ly/3OLkJH8](http://bit.ly/3OLkJH8)).
- Seventy-one percent of adult Latin@s are working, but continue to live in poverty. The median income of a Latin@-headed household is \$18,000 less than the overall state median household income. About one in four Latin@ residents live in poverty, more than double the poverty rate for all Minnesotans ([bit.ly/3OLkJH8](http://bit.ly/3OLkJH8)).

## Why do we need bill SF4258/HF4417?

- Minnesota needs to address the root causes of gender-based violence.
- Minnesota needs to invest more resources in public policy that is trauma informed and prevention oriented.
- Investing in gender-based violence prevention is good for the economy as it helps reduce workplace-related costs. The number of Latina women reporting domestic violence at home and/or harassment in the workplace is growing. Women lose significant paid work for each incident of gender-based violence.

## Contacts

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