

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

Protecting Nail Salon Workers



(Photo courtesy of Law Students for Reproductive Justice)

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) is becoming one of the leading voices in nail salon worker advocacy. The number of nail salon workers in the U.S. has tripled over the past decade to more than 380,000 nationwide, with women making up 96 percent of the industry's workforce. Asian immigrant women in particular dominate the nail salon industry as both owners and workers. These workers, who meet the growing demand for nail services, are overwhelmingly women of color, and many are of reproductive age. Nail salon workers routinely handle toxic solvents, chemicals, and glues known to be carcinogenic and/or suspected to cause reproductive harm or other health impacts.

NAPAWF, The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, and Women's Voices of the Earth (WVE) are the three convening organizations of the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance (NHNSA), a group of local, state, and national organizations advocating for the health and safety of nail salon workers. On November 19, 2007, NHNSA had its second national call where over twenty-five callers from across the country discussed potential ways to collaborate in the future and the possibility of a 2008 national convening. NAPAWF also continues this important work through issue briefs and contributions to magazines, journals, and online blogs.

For more information, please check out:

http://www.napawf.org/file/issues/issues-Nail_Salon.pdf

<http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2007/11/13/nail-salon-workers-exposed-to-untested-chemicals>

<http://womenshealthandtheenvironment.org/article.php?id=132>