



Amani Women Center – Sewing Program Safety Policy

Overview:

Amani Women Center is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and structured learning and working environments for all participants, including students, instructors, and staff involved in the Sewing for Self-Sufficiency Program. Safety is integrated into daily operations, training, and supervision within both the classroom and production workspace.

Workplace & Classroom Safety Measures

1. Safety Orientation & Training

All participants receive a basic safety orientation upon entry into the program. This includes:

- Proper use of sewing machines and equipment
- Safe handling of tools such as scissors, needles, and cutting instruments
- Awareness of potential hazards in a sewing workspace
- Emergency procedures and reporting protocols

Ongoing guidance is provided by instructors to reinforce safe practices.

2. Supervision & Instruction

- Participants are supervised by trained instructors during all program activities.
 - Instructors provide step-by-step guidance, particularly for beginners.
 - Use of equipment is monitored to reduce risk of injury.
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3. Equipment & Workspace Safety

- Sewing machines and equipment are regularly checked and maintained.
 - Workstations are organized to prevent overcrowding and reduce tripping hazards.
 - Chairs, tables, and equipment are arranged to promote proper posture and stability.
 - Adequate lighting and ventilation are maintained in all work areas.
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4. Personal Safety Practices

Participants are encouraged to:

- Maintain focus while operating equipment
 - Keep work areas clean and free of clutter
 - Report any unsafe conditions immediately
 - Use tools only for their intended purposes
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5. Incident Response

- Basic first aid supplies are available on-site.
 - Minor incidents (e.g., small cuts, needle pricks) are addressed immediately.
 - All incidents are documented and reviewed to improve safety practices.
 - Emergency contacts and procedures are clearly communicated to staff and participants.
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Acknowledgment of Risk & Participant Responsibility

While Amani Women Center takes all reasonable precautions to maintain a safe environment, participation in sewing and production-related activities may involve inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Minor cuts from scissors or tools
- Needle punctures
- Strains from repetitive motion
- Slips, trips, or falls (including from chairs or while moving within the workspace)

By participating in the program, individuals acknowledge these potential risks and agree to follow all safety guidelines and instructions provided by staff.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Amani Women Center is committed to continuously improving safety practices by:

- Regularly reviewing procedures
- Incorporating participant feedback
- Updating training and protocols as needed

Our goal is to ensure that all participants can learn, work, and grow in an environment that prioritizes their well-being and dignity.

“Participants may be asked to sign a safety acknowledgment form prior to engaging in program activities.”

Amani Women Center

Sewing Program Participant Safety Waiver & Acknowledgment Form

Participant Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Acknowledgment of Risk

I understand that participation in the Amani Women Center Sewing Program involves certain inherent risks, including but not limited to cuts from scissors or tools, needle punctures, repetitive motion strain, and slips, trips, or falls. I voluntarily choose to participate in these activities.

Agreement to Follow Safety Guidelines

I agree to follow all safety instructions, procedures, and guidelines provided by Amani Women Center staff and instructors. I understand that failure to follow safety protocols may result in my removal from the program.

Release of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I release and hold harmless Amani Women Center, its staff, volunteers, and partners from any liability for injuries or damages that may occur as a result of my participation, except in cases of gross negligence.

Medical Consent

In the event of an emergency, I authorize Amani Women Center to seek medical assistance on my behalf if I am unable to do so.

Photo & Media Consent (Optional)

I give permission for photos/videos of me to be used for program promotion and reporting purposes: Yes [] No []

Signature

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff Witness Name & Signature: _____

Date: _____



YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Amani Women Center (AWC) serves survivors of violence and refugee women who have experienced economic hardship, language barriers, gender-based violence, displacement, and limited access to education and employment. Our target population includes low-income women, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, single mothers, and—many of whom face systemic barriers related to limited English proficiency, cultural isolation, and lack of workforce credentials. The majority of participants reside in underserved communities within our service area and come from linguistically diverse backgrounds, including speakers of Amharic, Tigrinya, Swahili, Pashto, Dari, Arabic, French, Somali, Karen, Rohingya, Nepali, Burmese, and Kinyarwanda. Many participants have limited access to culturally responsive services, affordable childcare, trauma-informed support, and pathways to sustainable income.

AWC 2025 Impact



12,928

Hours of training, coaching, outreach translation, Interpretations & workshops.



6,792

#of walk-in clients served & referrals

35

Graduated from Sewing Program in 2025

49

Currently Enrolled - 2026 program year

How We Do What We Do

Amani Women Center empowers program participants through comprehensive, culturally responsive services that address immediate needs while building pathways to long-term economic stability. Our programs include outreach and education, victim advocacy and support services, and our Sewing for Self-Sufficiency workforce development initiative.



"Amani Women Center gave me a chance to start over and build a life for myself without fear. Now, I operate my own home based sewing business."
Marie Uimana - AWC Alumnae

Delivered by a team of 16+ trained community ambassadors and instructors, services are provided to ensure accessibility and trust. By prioritizing linguistic inclusion and cultural sensitivity, we increase access to social services, enhance economic mobility, strengthen family stability, and improve overall wellbeing for victims of violence and refugee women.

Impact: Inspiring & Transformational

“Access to just one sewing machine can open a way out of poverty for a displaced family.”

• Amani Sewing Academy (ASA)

AWC graduated 35 women from its sewing program last year. (2025) Each graduate received a heavy-duty singer sewing machine and a program completion certificate; five women completed advanced training as industrial machine operators. 55% of the graduates are now generating income by sewing from home for members of their communities. Sixteen women joined AWC’s manufacturing project to master industrial machine

operations and earn income through contractual work. Six women were hired within the garment industry. Four women are currently in training to become part-time assistant teachers at AWC. The sewing training program anticipates enrolling and graduating 38 additional survivors in 2026. AWC provided weekly transportation to and from sewing classes for 16 women, reducing access barriers. 14 program participants received language access support through ESL classes provided by the AWC ESL Buddy Project volunteer team.

• Healthy Families Program (HFP)

HFP services are designed to strengthen a survivor’s emotional wellbeing and promote long-term family stability. The program integrates human and social services assistance—to reduce financial stressors and ensure families can meet their basic needs. We advance health equity through culturally responsive health education, system navigation, helping women and families access preventive care and behavioral health support. Created with cultural humility and linguistic accessibility at its core, the program provides mental health counseling referrals, domestic violence prevention education, sexual assault advocacy and FGM/C resources. By addressing the social determinants of health and economic mobility together, Amani Women Center empowers families to build safe, resilient, and thriving futures. AWC is a GA Gateway and GA Access partner and assisted over 4,200 walk-ins and program participants with screenings, translation and interpretation support while applying for public benefits, such as SNAP, CAPS, LIHEAP, TANF, and Medicaid.

• Amani Community Ambassadors (ACA)

AWC community ambassadors undergo extensive training and professional development, equipping them with the skills to serve as capable leaders within their communities. Many hold certifications in interpretation and translation, allowing them to effectively eliminate language barriers and ensure accurate communication. As front-line advocates, navigators, interviewers, researchers, and outreach specialists, they play a vital role in AWC’s mobilization efforts, community canvassing, and early identification of needs. They assist in civic engagement and organize financial and literacy workshops. Their expertise uniquely equips them to address cultural nuances, overcome taboos, and dispel myths that often hinder access to essential services. The community ambassadors represent the diverse ethnicities we serve, ensuring inclusivity and representation. By elevating community voice and leadership, the Community Ambassadors Program fosters empowerment, connection, and resilience—ensuring refugee women and families are informed, supported, and equipped to thrive.

