

Our Story



The Center for Victims of Torture works toward a future in which torture ceases to exist and survivors have hope for a new life.

Founded in 1985 in Minnesota, **CVT is the largest organization of its kind in the world** and a leader in global mental health. CVT extends healing care to more than 25,000 survivors and family members each year through rehabilitation centers in cities and refugee camps worldwide.

CVT Georgia was created in 2016 to provide life-saving care to torture and war survivors living among the state's large refugee and immigrant community. Georgia has a proud history of welcoming refugees dating back 40 years, and has provided safe haven to thousands fleeing war, torture and persecution.

Georgia survivors make vital economic, cultural and social contributions to the state. They are also remarkably resilient. **Nearly 44 percent have overcome some form of torture at the hands of political authorities** – for opposing corruption, practicing their faith, fighting for democracy or simply seeking peace during violent times.

CVT Georgia helps survivors heal from past trauma and build new and successful lives for themselves and their families in the state.

How To Help

To learn more about CVT Georgia and how you can help, visit cvt.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. To receive CVT Georgia news, event invitations and advocacy alerts, sign up at cvt.org/signup.



CVT Georgia is proud to extend healing care to Georgia residents and their families, thanks to generous financial support from federal, state and local partners and individual donors across the state.



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The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

CVT Georgia

*Rebuilding Lives and
Restoring Hope in Georgia*



Working to heal the wounds of torture on individuals, their families and their communities, and to stop torture worldwide.

CVT Georgia
Clarkston, Georgia 30021
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What is Torture?



Torture is the deliberate and systematic dismantling of a person's identity and humanity through physical or psychological pain and suffering.

Torture manifests in many ways, including physical and sexual assault, mock executions, prolonged detention, sensory deprivation, confinement in small spaces, and threats against loved ones.

Torture survivors endure chronic pain, headaches, reduced mobility and balance, and insomnia, as well as serious mental illness, such as major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Torture impacts people just like us living in all parts of the world. Survivors are teachers, business owners, doctors, lawyers, farmers, mothers, fathers and even children.

Torture is a crime under U.S. and international law, and every human being has a basic human right to live free from torture and to receive healing care if subjected to it.

What We Do



Healing

At CVT Georgia, we use a holistic model of care that incorporates psychotherapy, case management and professional interpretation. We look at the whole person, focusing on what each client needs to heal in mind, body and spirit. No individual is denied services due to inability to pay.

Research

We conduct rigorous evaluation and monitoring to ensure the work we do is effective. CVT Georgia documents significant improvements in clients' mental health symptoms and social functioning abilities.



Advocacy

At CVT Georgia, we give voice to Georgia survivors purposefully silenced by perpetrators of torture and advocate for policies that enable them to regain productive lives of dignity in the state.

Training

CVT Georgia recognizes that it can only provide care for a fraction of the torture survivors in the state. Drawing on many decades of experience, we provide training to Georgia organizations on the most effective approaches to caring for survivors of extreme trauma.

