



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER

PROMOTING JUSTICE
FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS WORLDWIDE



2002
Annual Report



The Tahirih Justice Center's logo, an illustration of a bird in flight, symbolizes a foundational principle of the Center derived from the Bahá'í Faith. Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, once stated,

The world of humanity is possessed of two wings: the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized; humanity cannot wing its way to heights of real attainment. When the two wings . . . become equivalent in strength, enjoying the same prerogatives, the flight of man will be exceedingly lofty and extraordinary.

The Tahirih Justice Center is founded on the belief that the achievement of full equality between women and men is necessary for society to progress. Tahirih works toward legal and social justice for women and girls as a critical step in making this equality a reality.

Graphic Design:



infinity

a print & design firm

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Tahirih Justice Center is to enable women and girls who face gender-based violence to access justice.

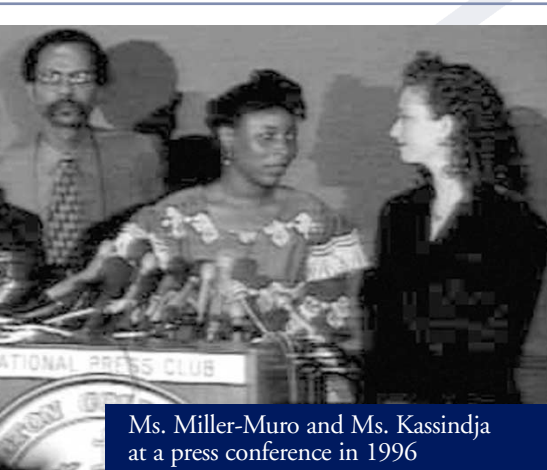
TAHIRIH

Tahirih (Tah-heh-ray) was a renowned poet, Bahá'í religious scholar and champion of women's rights during the mid-19th century. She traveled from village to village in her native Persia, campaigning for the emancipation of women, announcing the dawn of a new day, and encouraging women to oppose their systematic oppression. A member of the persecuted Bahá'í Faith, Tahirih is most famous for being the first woman in recorded Middle Eastern history to publicly remove her veil before an assemblage of men in 1848. Tahirih took this radical step in the East during the same year that the New York Seneca Falls Conference launched the first women's rights movement in the West. To her detractors, Tahirih proclaimed, *"You can kill me if you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women."* Tahirih was martyred for her beliefs in 1852 at the age of 36.



Ivan Lloyd

HISTORY



Ms. Miller-Muro and Ms. Kassindja at a press conference in 1996

Layli Miller-Muro founded the Tahirih Justice Center in 1997 following a well-publicized asylum case in which she was involved as a student attorney. The case was that of Fauziya Kassindja, a 17-year old woman who fled Togo in fear of a forced polygamous marriage and a tribal practice known as female genital mutilation (FGM). After arriving in the United States and spending more than 17 months in detention, Ms. Kassindja was granted asylum on appeal. Her case set national precedent and revolutionized asylum law in the United States, opening the door to those seeking protection from gender-based persecution. Ms. Miller-Muro provided initial funding for Tahirih through the proceeds of a book about Ms. Kassindja's case released in March 1998. The book, *Do They Hear You When*

You Cry? (Delacorte Press 1998), tells the story of Ms. Kassindja's flight from FGM in Togo, her fight for freedom from INS detention facilities, and her ultimate grant of asylum.

AN OVERVIEW OF TAHIRIH'S PROGRAMS

The Tahirih Justice Center engages in pro bono legal representation and advocacy in cases that champion the rights of women and protect them from international human rights abuses. Tahirih's advocacy includes both direct service to individual women and larger efforts to transform policies, develop regulations, and set precedent so that systemic change will ensure the long-term protection of women from violence. Through its services, the Center has assisted over 3,200 individuals in finding justice. The Center's clients are from the most underserved immigrant populations, primarily from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

- **Legal Protection from Gender-Based Persecution:** Through direct litigation and public policy advocacy, Tahirih encourages the development of laws to protect women and girls fleeing such abuses as female genital mutilation, honor crimes, forced prostitution, rape and incest, trafficking, gender-apartheid, and forced sterilization. Tahirih provides free legal representation in-house and, in an effort to maximize the number of women served, refers additional cases to law firms that have agreed to provide pro bono legal services to its clients. Taking a holistic approach to serving its clients, Tahirih also offers a range of social and medical services referrals.
- **Campaign to End Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers:** Over the past few years, the international marriage broker industry has exploded in response to American men's demands for "traditional wives." Although some of these unions are beneficial to both parties, an increasing number of women are paired with abusive men. Often unfamiliar with the U.S. social and legal systems and the English language, and told inaccurate information about their rights by agencies wanting to keep them in their contracted marriages, many women are left in dangerously violent relationships. Tahirih's Campaign advocates for legislative change, accountability of international marriage broker agencies, and protection of the women through litigation and public outreach.
- **International Projects to Promote Legal Protection for Women and Girls:** At a historic time, when many countries are passing laws and engaging in efforts to protect women from violence, the Tahirih Justice Center works to define and expand legal protections for women and girls. Tahirih's efforts span the globe and include Ghana, Gambia, Kuwait, Brazil, Australia, and Germany. Tahirih's international activities include training adjudicators and legal advocates, promoting the development of legislation and regulations, fostering grass-roots empowerment of women's rights organizations, working with local law firms to promote a culture of pro bono advocacy, and engaging in media and public advocacy.
- **Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project:** Tahirih represents immigrant women who face domestic violence in seeking lawful status such as asylum or legal permanent residence under the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act and other laws. For some of the Center's clients, this means that they are not forced to choose between deportation and remaining in an abusive relationship.



Tahirih staff meeting with a client

HOLISTIC ADVOCACY • CHANGING THE SYSTEM

The Tahirih Justice Center seeks to bring justice to the lives of women facing human rights abuses by transforming policies and law through direct services, outreach, and advocacy. Tahirih takes a holistic approach, recognizing that receiving immediate and urgent legal protection from abuse is just the beginning for women in their journey to attain justice.



The Tahirih Justice Center provides legal advocacy in cases that champion the rights of women and protect them from international human rights abuses. Through litigation, statutory and regulatory development, collaboration with government agencies and like-minded organizations, and public outreach, Tahirih seeks to transform the legal system so that women are better protected from violence. The direct services component of Tahirih's work is essential to its effective public policy advocacy. Through its intimate understanding of the abuse suffered by immigrant women and girls, the Tahirih Justice Center is better able to design and execute campaigns for systemic change.



EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY:

In order to change the system so that women are protected from violence under the law, the Tahirih Justice Center engaged in the following efforts in 2002.

- **Launched the “Campaign to End Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers:”** Tahirih is pioneering civil litigation against the “mail order bride” industry in order to end exploitation of foreign born women by international marriage brokers (IMBs). Additionally, Tahirih is proposing federal legislation that would regulate the industry and require the revelation of marital history and criminal background information to potential brides.
- **Lobbied the U.S. Department of Justice for Relief for Victims of Trafficking:** Tahirih provided valuable expertise to policy advocates based on its daily experience in working with victims of trafficking. Tahirih participated in meetings with government agencies and coalitions of immigrant rights organizations, and was interviewed extensively by the National Institute of Justice, which was researching trafficking on behalf of the Justice Department for an in-depth study of how the new trafficking legislation is being implemented on the ground. In 2002, new visas for trafficking victims were finally promulgated.

- **Enforced the Utilization of the U Visa:**

The government designed the U visa for immigrant victims of crime (such as involuntary servitude, abuse, trafficking, domestic workers, etc.), however, it requires the cooperation of law enforcement, which is difficult to obtain. Tahirih worked with INS headquarters to make the government aware of resistance from law enforcement officials and to remedy the problem. As a result of these efforts, in December 2002, Tahirih successfully obtained the first recommendation for an affirmative U visa deferred action request in the Washington, D.C. region.



Afghan client being interviewed by the press

- **Opposed the Board of Immigration Appeals Restructuring:** The Tahirih Justice Center aggressively opposed the restructuring of the Board of Immigration Appeals, which would limit the ability of immigrants to receive fair appellate review of their cases, by drafting regulation comments, participating in sign-on letters, coalition meetings, press conferences, and other initiatives to apply pressure to the Justice Department.
- **Supported the Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** The United States is one of the few countries left in the world (and the only Western country) that has yet to ratify CEDAW. In an effort to encourage its ratification, Tahirih led meetings on Capitol Hill with Congressional representatives, participated in weekly coalition meetings, helped organize press conferences, and drafted “letters to the editor.” In addition, one of Tahirih’s clients spoke at a CEDAW press conference and was featured in an informational booklet that was disseminated to lawmakers to better inform them about CEDAW.

PROTECTING WOMEN FROM INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Building upon the precedent-setting case that enabled its creation, the Tahirih Justice Center specializes in seeking asylum for victims of gender-based persecution. Tahirih's legal services cater to the unique needs of women and girls fleeing human rights abuses, particularly from such underserved areas as Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Tahirih pursues gender-based asylum claims to protect women and girls from persecution including forced FGM, rape, torture, trafficking, honor crimes, forced marriage, domestic violence, widow rituals, and sexual slavery.

The need for representation in gender-based asylum claims is acute, as violence against women continues to increase. According to the United Nations, 2 million women are forced to undergo FGM throughout Africa per year; over 12.5 million women were living under a system of gender apartheid in Afghanistan until very recently; over 850 women were killed by male relatives in Pakistan last year for 'violating family honor'; one out of every four women is a victim of domestic violence in Brazil; and nearly 50,000 women and children from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe are brought to the United States each year under false pretenses and forced to work as prostitutes, captive laborers, or servants.

In 2001 alone, the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS") received 23,261 applications for asylum from women fleeing persecution. The vast majority of those women applying for asylum were from Africa, the Middle East or Asia and do not have access to an attorney. Approximately 18.3% of foreign-born women in the U.S. live below the poverty line, making their access to legal services almost impossible. Economic hardships combined with cultural obstacles and lack of language capacity hinder immigrant women's ability to seek protection when they are victims of abuse. Although the last publicly reported nationwide rate of approval for asylum applications was 23.3%, the Tahirih Justice Center's rate of asylum grants is 98%, underscoring the importance of competent legal representation.



A CLIENT VICTORY

On March 5, 2002, the Tahirih Justice Center assisted a four-year old Nigerian girl in receiving political asylum based on the threat of FGM. Her father's family, of Urhobo ethnicity, threatened to perform FGM on her after her father, who vehemently opposed the practice, died unexpectedly. Although the girl's mother attempted to protect her, the family of the girl's father blamed her mother for his death. She fled with her mother to the United States, where she found assistance through the Tahirih Justice Center. Although only four years old, she was able to testify on her own behalf. When the girl received asylum, she signed her own asylum grant, standing on a chair in order to reach the window. After she signed her name, the INS clapped and congratulated her.

Tahirih also represented her mother, a 31-year-old Nigerian woman, who fled with her daughter and son to the United States after her husband's death. The client's in-laws accused her of killing her husband because he died at a young age. According to Urhobo custom, she was to endure certain widow-rituals to prove her innocence. As part of these rituals, the client would have to drink the bathwater that was used to bathe her husband's corpse, sleep in the same room as the body of her dead husband, and shave her head, among other mourning rituals. The client feared her in-laws would poison the bathwater. She also feared severe physical abuse if she were to return to Nigeria since they had already decided she was guilty. With the assistance of the Tahirih Justice Center, she was granted asylum shortly after her daughter.



A daughter of a TJC client (not described in the story above)

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO ARE SURVIVERS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2002, the Tahirih Justice Center received a federal grant from the Violence Against Women Office to support its Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project, which provides legal assistance to immigrant women facing domestic violence. Through this project, Tahirih helps battered immigrant women access legal protections to be freed from a cycle of violence. One of the legal remedies permits them to self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for legal permanent resident status when they are abused by U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouses. This provision prevents abused immigrant women from being forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship and possible deportation.

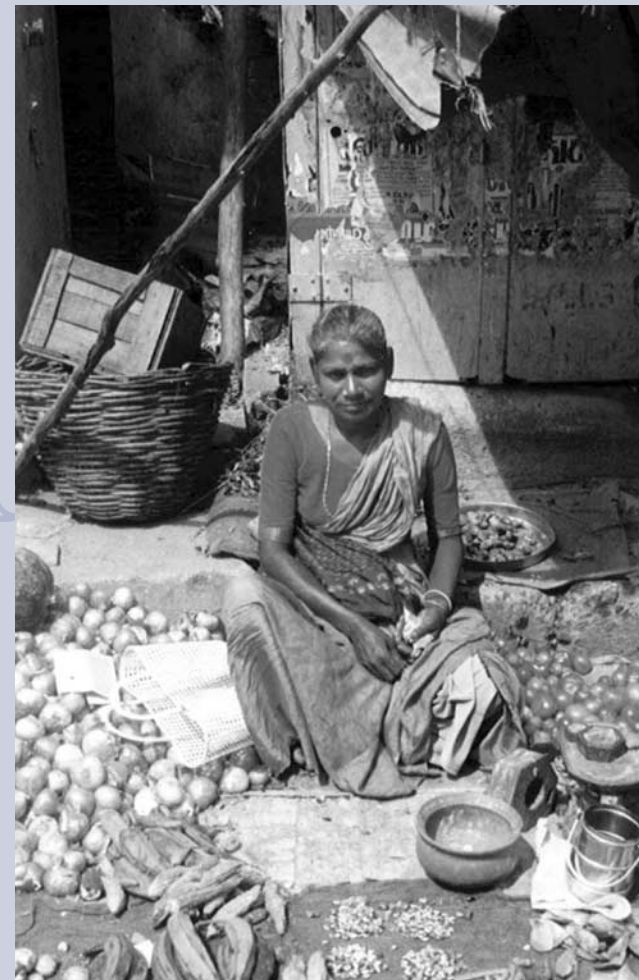
To maximize battered immigrant women's access to legal services, Tahirih gives presentations at numerous social service organizations about the special rights and needs of abused foreign-born populations. Additionally, Tahirih regularly gives trainings on how service providers can remove institutional barriers to better work with persons who have limited English proficiency, and on what immigration relief may be available to abused non-citizens.

A CLIENT VICTORY

When Sonia learned that she would be having an arranged marriage in Pakistan with Ahmed, a U.S. citizen of Pakistani descent, she was very excited to become a wife and start a family. Her excitement waned shortly after her wedding, however, as she began to learn more about her new husband. Ahmed started to verbally abuse Sonia only one week after her arrival in the United States and, in the months that followed, she discovered that Ahmed's prior wives had protective orders against him. Ahmed became obsessively jealous and possessive of her; restricting Sonia from leaving their home or from contacting her family and friends. After the birth of their child, the physical abuse began. The abuse was so severe that she lost consciousness on one occasion when she was being strangled.

Desperate to protect both herself and her child from Ahmed's cruelty, Sonia finally moved into a battered women's shelter and obtained a protective order against Ahmed. With the assistance of a pro bono attorney recruited by Tahirih, Sonia filed for legal status. Independent from her husband's abuse, Sonia has now been able to move forward and rebuild her life.

*Names have been changed.



ENDING EXPLOITATION BY INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE BROKERS

Over the past few years, the international marriage broker industry (also known as the “mail order bride industry”) has exploded in response to American men’s demands for “traditional wives.” Although some of these unions are beneficial to both parties, an increasing number of women are paired with abusive men. Often unfamiliar with the U.S. system and the English language, and told inaccurate information about their rights by agencies wanting to keep them in their contracted marriages, many women are left in dangerously violent relationships. Tahirih’s Campaign to End Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers (IMBs) advocates for legislative change, accountability of agencies, and the protection of women through litigation and public outreach.

The Campaign was inspired by one of Tahirih’s clients, a Ukrainian woman, who suffered brutal abuse at the hands of the husband she was paired with through an IMB. The woman’s husband physically and emotionally abused her throughout their two-year marriage, breaking her ribs and threatening her with a gun on one particularly traumatic occa-

sion as she breastfed the couple’s infant daughter. The woman’s efforts to seek help from the IMB president were futile. The IMB president minimized the abuse and failed to provide her with important information about her legal rights. Even more disturbing was the fact that she was not the first woman to have been placed with this abusive man by the IMB.

This case, which is merely one among so many others like it across the country, reflects the widespread abuse of immigrant women and the complicity of IMBs in knowingly or negligently pairing these women with abusive American spouses. Seeking to fill this void in the justice system, the Tahirih Justice Center, with the assistance of Arnold & Porter, is proposing federal legislation to help protect women who come to the United States through the unregulated IMB industry and is bringing civil suits against an IMB and an abusive spouse. Tahirih’s proposed bill, if passed, would be the first of its kind in the U.S. at the federal level to require the revelation of criminal background information by clients of IMBs to their potential spouses.



Photo credit: Family Photo

Anastasia King, a native of Kyrgyzstan, was only 20 years old when she was murdered in Washington State by her American husband, whom she had met and married through an international marriage broker.

THE PRO BONO REFERRAL PROGRAM

With the support of the David and Minnie Berk Foundation, the Tahirih Justice Center hired Anjum Kapoor Sikka, Esq. in 2002, to serve as a Pro-Bono Coordinating Attorney. This position has dramatically increased Tahirih's ability to represent greater numbers of abused immigrant women by developing its pro bono attorney network, referral resources, and comprehensive training materials for pro bono attorneys. Tahirih closely mentors and supports its collaborating pro bono attorneys.

Thank you to the law firms and attorneys who have taken on many cases of women and girls facing violence on a pro bono basis.

FIRMS:

- Arnold & Porter
- Covington & Burling
- Debevoise & Plimpton
- Foley, Hoag & Eliot
- Fragomen, Del Ray, Bernsen & Loewy, P.C.
- Greenburg Traurig, LLP
- Hogan & Hartson
- Jones Day
- Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP
- Maggio & Kattar, P.C.
- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo
- Patton Boggs
- Pederson & Freedman
- Pennie & Edmonds
- Piper Rudnick
- Shaw Pittman
- Wiley, Rein & Fielding, LLP
- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering

PRIVATE ATTORNEYS:

- Donna Apostol (Independent)
- Ana Avendano (Independent)
- Marisa Cianciarulo (Independent)
- Meg DeRhonge (Independent)
- Susan McGreivy (Independent)
- Kristi Severance (Independent)



TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER IS FEATURED BY CNN WORLD REPORT

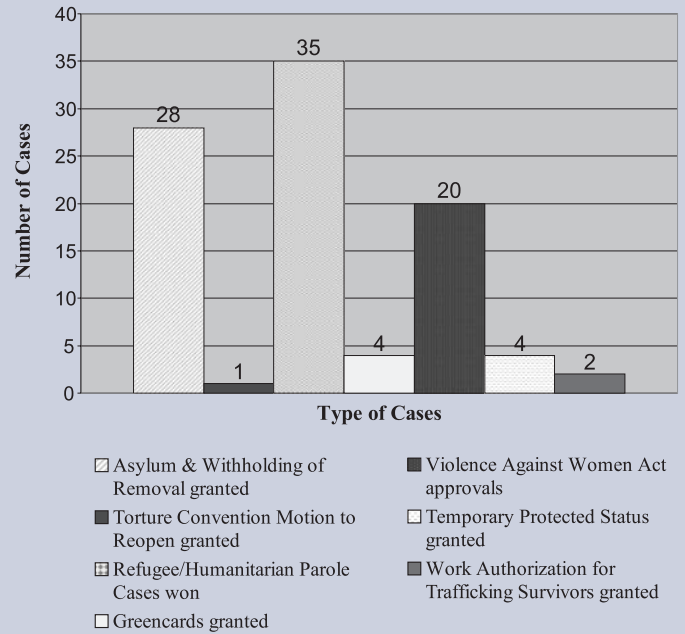
On March 3, 2002, CNN World Report aired a story detailing the Tahirih Justice Center's work on behalf of Afghan women and children. While the report focused on Tahirih's direct legal representation on behalf of Afghan women seeking resettlement and admission to the United States, it also described Tahirih's unique programs, which advocate for policy, systemic, and legal change to protect women facing violence in the U.S. and abroad. Along with the Tahirih Justice Center's staff, CNN interviewed one of Tahirih's Afghan clients named Farida - a human rights activist from Afghanistan who received protection in the U.S. with the Center's assistance. In December 2001, Farida had the honor of introducing President Bush during the signing of the Afghan Women's and Children's Assistance Act.

WOMEN AND GIRLS PROTECTED

The Tahirih Justice Center:

- Receives approximately 10 phone calls per week for assistance;
- Helped 681 people in 2002;
- Helped 3,268 people since the Center began in 1997;
- Is currently representing 198 clients in active cases; and
- Has won 98% of its cases to date. (None of its immigration clients have ever been forced to leave the country.)

Cases Successfully Litigated



LETTER FROM A TJC CLIENT

Dear Colleen Renk,

Thank you for your help, your support, and your unfailing devotion in obtaining my asylum. Thanks to you I can sleep without fear.

Thanks to all your staff for your humanitarian support to help justice triumph in favor of women and girls throughout the world who are victims of rape, genital mutilation, domestic violence, etc.

... *May God Bless you all!*

Amen,
Cisse Sissoko

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Tahirih Justice Center believes that to achieve justice for women, legal and societal institutions must be transformed to more effectively protect women from violence. In light of this, in 2002, Tahirih's staff and clients engaged in a wide range of activities designed to raise awareness about the plight of women and immigrants and to transform law and policy.

MEDIA FEATURING THE CENTER AND ITS STAFF

- Digital Freedom Network**, www.dfn.org/chat/chat-transcripts.htm, "Human rights lawyer Irena Lieberman chats with DFN readers about the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for Afghan women," January 2002
- Picayune Times**, "War Brings Attention to Women's Own Fight," February 2002
- CNN World Report**, "Helping Afghan Women," March 2002
- Channels 4 and 7**, Press Conference, March 2002
- The Telegraph**, "Lawyer Addresses Women's Rights in Speech at SIUE," March 2002
- Public radio interviews with Susan Arbetter**, March 2002
- Radio Free Europe**, June 2002
- KPFT 90.1FM**, Houston, TX, June 2002
- Interpreter Releases**, "INS Grants Asylum Based on Widow Ritual and FGM," August 2002
- Washington Times**, "Center Asks Asylum for Victims," August 2002
- American Bar Association's Women's Magazine**, column written by Layli Miller-Muro, September 2002
- Imperial Valley Press**, October 2002
- XM Radio, Radio One**, "Female Genital Mutilation," November 2002

PUBLIC SPEECHES

- Franklin & Marshall College**, Lancaster, PAFebruary
- Dickinson School of Law**, Carlisle, PAFebruary
- Tulane Law School**, New Orleans, LAFebruary
- Borders Book Store**, Rockville, MDFebruary
- Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP**,
Washington, DCFebruary
- Tulane University Women's Law Association**,
New Orleans, LAFebruary
- Korean Community Service Center**,
Washington, DCFebruary
- Maryland Multi-Ethnic Resource Center**,
College Park, MDFebruary
- National Women Law Students' Association**,
Lubbock, TXMarch
- Women's Center**, Springfield, ILMarch
- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville**, Edwardsville,
ILMarch
- University of Cincinnati**, Cincinnati, OHMarch
- Hogan & Hartson LLP Brown Bag Lunch Program**,
Washington, DCMarch
- Asian Domestic Violence Resource Center**,
Washington, DCMarch
- Girls Advisory Board**, College Park, MDMarch
- Crossways Community**, Kensington, MDMarch
- Smith College**, Northampton, MAMarch
- International Law Students Association Annual
Conference**, Washington, DCMarch

- Trinity College**, Washington, DCMarch
- Princeton University**, Princeton, NJApril
- St. Mary's College**, Notre Dame, INApril
- University of Virginia Law School**,
Charlottesville, VAApril
- Georgetown University**, Washington, DCApril
- Public Leadership Education Network**,
Washington, DCMay
- Ethiopian Community Development Council**,
Arlington, VAMay
- Ethiopian Community Development Council**,
Arlington, VAJune
- Women's Information Network**,
Washington, DCJune
- Bahá'í Justice Society Annual Conference**,
College Park, MDJune
- Human Rights Celebration event**,
Denver, COAugust
- Global Young Leaders Conference**,
Washington, DCAugust
- South Asian Bar Association**,
Washington, DCSeptember
- United Methodist Church**,
Washington, DCOctober
- American University Washington College of Law**,
Washington, DCOctober
- Social Action and Leadership School for Activists**,
Washington, DCOctober
- Vital Voices Global Leadership Institute**,
Washington, DCOctober
- Washington Area Women's Foundation**,
Washington, DCOctober
- Loudoun County Department of Mental Health**,
Mental Retardation &November
- Substance Abuse, Leesburg, VA
- Western Piedmont Community College**,
Morganton, NCNovember
- American University Washington College of Law**,
Washington, DCNovember
- National Cathedral**, Washington, DCNovember
- V-Day event**, Washington, DCDecember

PUBLICATIONS

- United Nations Chronicle**, March-May 2002
- Human Rights for All**, by Leila Rassekh Milani, 2002
- World Order Magazine**, "One Person Can Make a Difference:
The Tahirih Justice Center," Winter Issue 2002



TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER WASHINGTON LAWYERS' NETWORK

The TJC Washington Lawyers' Network (TJC WLN) was founded to mobilize and sustain a philanthropic network of Washington area lawyers to promote awareness of, and provide funding for, the Tahirih Justice Center, in support of Tahirih's efforts to enable women and girls who face gender-based violence to access justice worldwide.

In 2002, the TJC WLN planned two successful fundraising events and raised approximately \$10,000 from membership dues.

MEMBERS:

Dawn Browning, Legal Services Corporation
Jodi Finder, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP
Rachael Galoob Ortega, Cole, Raywid & Braverman, LLP
Robert Garagiola, Greenberg Traurig
Kristy Hall, Cole, Raywid & Braverman
Tania Hanna, Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Karen Harbaugh, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP
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Amy Ralph Mudge, Arnold & Porter
Leslie Nickel, Arnold & Porter
Ronald Schechter, Arnold & Porter
Michael Sozan, Arnold & Porter
Julie Stapel, Patton Boggs
Jonathan Stoel, Hogan & Hartson LLP
Marti Thomas, Quinn Gillespie



Attendants at a WLN event

Honored by the Washington Area Women's Foundation

On October 1, 2002, the Tahirih Justice Center was honored by the Washington Area Women's Foundation for its pioneering efforts to protect immigrant women and girls in the Washington, D.C. area from violence. The award provided a grant of \$5,000 and organizational capacity building training opportunities.



BANQUET

TJC 2002 Banquet Honors the Role of Women in Achieving Peace and Receives Support from First Lady Laura Bush

The Tahirih Justice Center's Fifth Annual Fundraising Banquet was held on June 27, 2002 at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. "Honoring the Role of Women in Achieving Peace" was the theme and highlighted the tremendous contributions women have made toward the advancement of humanity and global peace. First Lady Laura Bush sent a letter to the banquet attendants in which she wrote, "I commend you for your extraordinary work. Your advocacy on behalf of women and girls promotes justice and fights violence." The "TJC Volunteer Service Award" was given to Kavian and Leila Milani for their generosity and service towards the Tahirih's clients, one of whom has lived in the Milanis' home. Michael Maggio, of Maggio & Kattar, was the recipient of the "TJC Pushing the Envelope Award" for his pioneering legal work and generous service to immigrants. Tahirih Justice Center clients Marian Ogodi Jenkins from Nigeria, and Farida from Afghanistan, spoke with passion about their experiences.



TJC client speaking at 2002 banquet

CONGRESSIONAL CO-CHAIRS FOR THE 2002 ANNUAL BANQUET

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 Senator Lincoln Chafee
 Senator Mark Dayton
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 Senator Daniel Inouye
 Senator Mary Landrieu
 Senator Robert Torricelli
 Congressman Neil Abercrombie
 Congressman Brian Baird
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DONORS

The Tahirih Justice Center has been an organization fueled by an outpouring of support from concerned organizations and individuals throughout the world. These supporters have provided both financial and in-kind donations, and have formed the broad foundation of volunteers on which Tahirih has been built. Without the help of individuals, like you, the Tahirih Justice Center would not be able to do the work that it does. Thank you.

FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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Brightland Charitable Fund
The David & Minnie Berk Foundation
Meyer Foundation
The Moriah Fund, Inc.
Third Wave Foundation
Trellis Fund
United States Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Office
V-Day
Washington Area Women's Foundation
Women's Bar Association Foundation

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TJC Washington Lawyers Network

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Editor's Note: Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this listing, we may overlook someone. If this is the case, please accept our apology and notify us immediately.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

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 Michael J. Colella
 Sarah Collins
 Gayle and Craig Forrest
 Michael A. Hairston
 Dr. Kavian Milani
 Gil Miller-Muro
 Gilbert Muro, Sr.
 Dr. Ilham Nasser
 Damian Odess-Gillette
 Connie Sterling
 Athena Viscusi
 Washington Wizards



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial Position

Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents..... | \$181,457 |
| Accounts Receivable..... | \$500 |
| Prepaid Expenses..... | \$2,797 |
| Inventory | \$1,396 |
| Property and Equipment..... | \$13,841 |
| Rent Deposit..... | \$2,700 |

Total Assets..... \$202,691

Liabilities

| | |
|--|----------|
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses..... | \$14,506 |
|--|----------|

Net Assets

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Unrestricted | \$187,635 |
| Temporarily Restricted | \$1,000 |

Total Net Assets \$188,635

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$202,691

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Unrestricted support

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Donated professional services..... | \$1,040,949 |
| Grants..... | \$288,559 |
| Banquet revenues..... | \$101,224 |
| Direct benefits to banquet attendees | \$22,019 |
| Contributions | \$69,049 |
| Honorarium..... | \$35,150 |
| Interest income | \$3,085 |
| Income generating activities..... | \$2,270 |
| Miscellaneous income | \$263 |

Total Unrestricted Support \$1,518,530

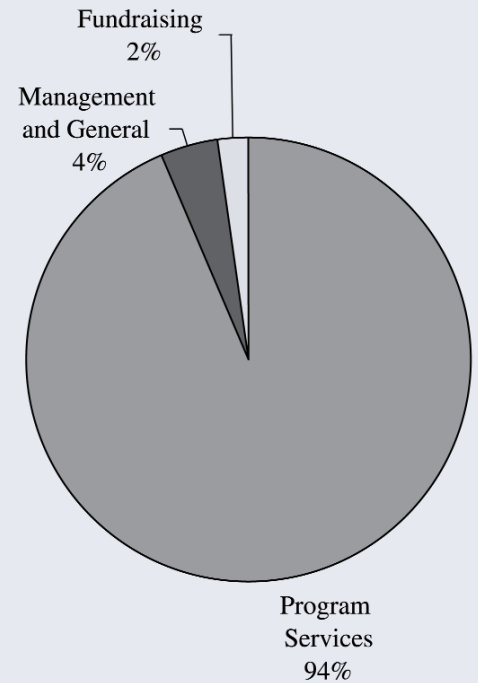
Expenses

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Program Services | \$1,344,752 |
| Management and General | \$60,115 |
| Fundraising | \$33,303 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,438,170 |
| Change in Unrestricted Net Assets | \$80,360 |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year | \$86,787 |
| Net Assets - End of Year | \$188,635 |

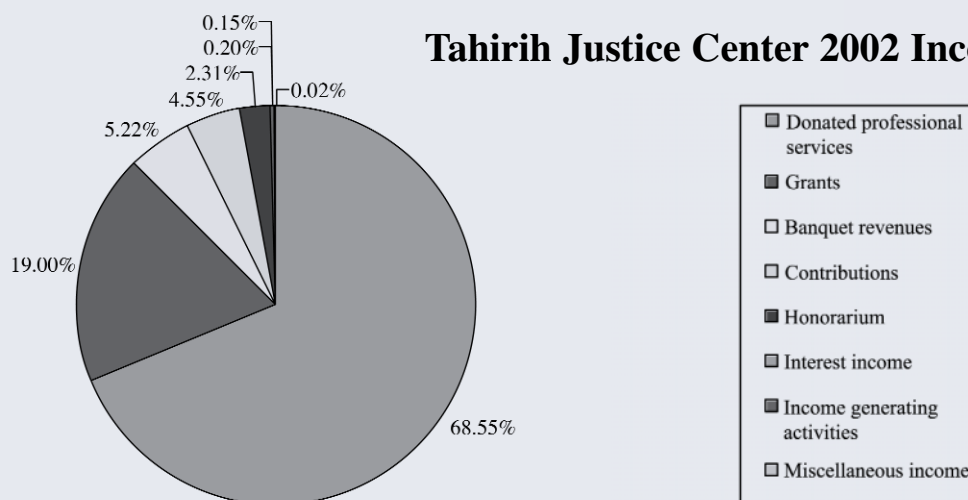
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | \$101,848 |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Used | |
| for Operating Activities: Depreciation | \$3,091 |
| (Increase) Decrease in: | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | \$1,076 |
| Inventory | \$1,396 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$500 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$2,797 |
| Net Cash provided by Operating Activities | \$99,176 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities Purchases of Property and Equipment | \$8,894 |
| Net Cash provided by Investing Activities | \$8,894 |
| Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$90,282 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents - December 31, 2002 | \$181,457 |

Tahirih Justice Center 2002 Expenses



Tahirih Justice Center 2002 Income



COLLABORATIONS

Understanding the importance of working collaboratively with like-minded organization to promote justice for women and girls fleeing violence, Tahirih has developed working relationships with the following organizations:



- American University Human Rights Law Clinic
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Asian (Women's) Self Help Association
- AYUDA
- Betty Ann Kranke Shelter
- Boat People SOS
- Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights
- Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
- Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services
- Center for Multicultural Human Services
- Crossways Community
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- D.C. Bridge Builders Community
- Fairfax County Domestic Violence Pilot Project, Region II
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Freedom Network
- Hogar Hispano
- International Human Rights Law Group
- Korean American Women in Need
- Korean Community Service Center
- Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights
- Legal Services of North Carolina
- Loudoun County Transitional Housing Program
- Loudoun County Department of Mental Health
- Mary House
- Migrant Immigrant Refugee Cultural Support (MIRECS)
- Montgomery County Abused Persons Program
- My Sister's Place
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Working Group on CEDAW Ratification
- North American Council for Muslim Women
- NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Support Our Survivors (S.O.S.)
- Virginians Against Domestic Violence
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- WEAVE Inc.
- Women for Afghan Women
- Women's Alliance for Peace & Human Rights in Afghanistan



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2002 Annual Report

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