



TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER®

Promoting Justice for Women & Girls Worldwide



2 0 0 3 A N N U A L R E P O R T



Promoting Justice
for Women & Girls
Worldwide

Dear Friends,

2003 was a productive, challenging and rewarding year for the Tahirih Justice Center. Thanks to our dedicated staff and exemplary corps of pro bono lawyers, scores of immigrant women fleeing gender-based violence, and their children, obtained legal protection in the United States.

In this our seventh year, the Center initiated a comprehensive strategic review and planning process, with assistance from the Meyer Foundation, to guide the Center's long-term development. As a result of this process, we have grown — in programmatic activity, number of staff, institutional infrastructure and office space. Of particular note is the blossoming of our public policy practice. The hallmark of this practice is our use of the substantive expertise and practical knowledge gained through direct service to our clients to pursue systemic change. Also of note is the leadership role we have played in developing and building support for federal legislation to redress the abuse of foreign women by international marriage brokers (IMBs) (also known as "mail order bride" agencies) and their clients. Too often these agencies recruit foreign women from impoverished countries as potential spouses for their U.S. clients without first obtaining information about the marital history or any violent criminal history of their clients. The goal of the legislation is to ensure that foreign women who meet their potential spouses through IMBs have the information they need to protect themselves and their children.

In order to facilitate the Center's growth and enable us to serve more women, we have created a superb development team through a generous grant from the Bridgeway Fund. We also continued to expand our education and outreach activities.

We at the Center have been richly blessed—with courageous clients, challenging work, talented and hardworking colleagues and extraordinary supporters and funders. It is an honor to serve this organization. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Layli Miller-Muro
Executive Director

Leslie Nickel
Chair, Board of Directors



Layli Miller-Muro,
J.D., M.A.
Executive Director



Leslie Nickel, Esq.
Chair,
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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."

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.

Mission Statement

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

Tahirih

Tahirih (*Tah-heh-ray*) was a renowned poet, 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 remove her veil in public before an assemblage of men. Tahirih took this radical step in 1848 during the same year that the New York Seneca Falls Conference launched the 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.



Painting of Tahirih by Ivan Lloyd.

History

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 and Ms. Kassindja

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.

Since hiring its first paid staff in August 1998, Tahirih has grown to a paid staff of 12 in early 2004. This development has been a natural outgrowth of the need for Tahirih's services and of Tahirih's growing record of success and integrity in pursuit of its mission. We have continued to increase the number of clients we are able to serve; but Tahirih is now also able to commit resources to formal engagement in advocacy efforts on behalf of systemic changes that address issues of gender-based violence and persecution.



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OVERVIEW OF TAHIRIH'S PROGRAMS

Among Tahirih's current programmatic initiatives are the following:

Legal Protection for Immigrant Women and Girls

Through direct litigation and public policy advocacy, Tahirih encourages development of laws to protect women and girls fleeing gender based human rights abuses. Tahirih provides free legal representation in-house and has cultivated a large network of *pro bono* attorneys from local firms that assist in providing representation for the many women who seek our assistance.

Campaign to End Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers

The international matchmaking industry has exploded in response to American men's demands for "traditional wives." Some of these unions are beneficial to both parties, but an increasing number of women are paired with abusive men. The Campaign advocates for legislative change, accountability of agencies, and protection of the women through litigation and public outreach.

Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project

Tahirih advocates on behalf of battered immigrant women before the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Immigration Courts in obtaining lawful permanent residence.

Ensuring Police Protection for Immigrants

In response to the CLEAR Act, legislation introduced in July 2003 to compel local and state police enforcement of immigration law, Tahirih advocates on behalf of abused immigrant women to ensure their ability to obtain police protection without fear of deportation or detention.

International Projects to Promote Legal Protection for Women and Girls

Tahirih works to define and expand legal protections for women across the globe in countries like Ghana, Kuwait, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Russia, and New Zealand. Its international activities include training adjudicators and legal advocates, promoting the development of legislation and regulations, fostering grassroots 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.

Holistic Approach

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 attainment of justice.

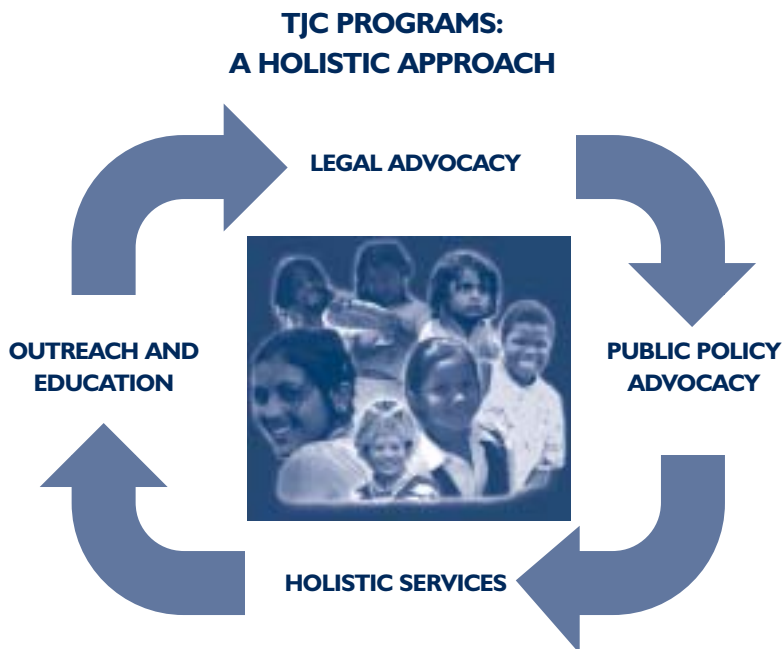
The Tahirih Justice Center provides *pro bono* legal advocacy in cases that champion the rights of women and girls and protect them from gender-based human rights abuses.

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. Tahirih has built a network of service agencies and service providers that provide essential assistance to Tahirih's legal clients while their matters are going through courts—services such as temporary housing and refuge, food, medical and dental services, English-language training, assistance in accessing public benefits, and job training.

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.



Tahirih International Service Fellow Olya Vinnik consulting with a woman in need.





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GENDER-BASED ASYLUM CLAIMS

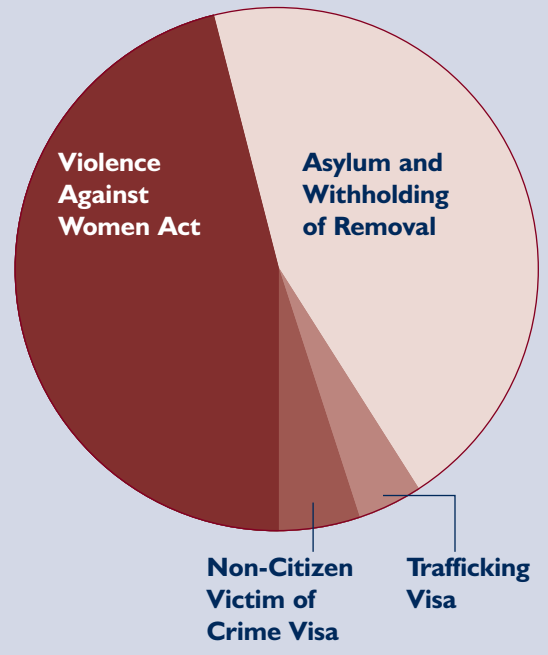
Since its inception in 1997, the Tahirih Justice Center, a pioneer in the gender-based asylum movement, has been pursuing asylum claims for women and girls. *Asylum* is a remedy that offers protection to those who have suffered persecution or have a well-founded fear of persecution in a foreign country on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. *Gender-based asylum* claims derive from persecution where an underlying characteristic causing the persecution is gender. In other words, gender-based persecution claims result from acts of persecution that are unique, in most instances, to women. Examples of gender-based persecution include: female genital mutilation, honor crimes (the killing, torture or mutilation of women who “dishonor” their families through behavior or suspected behavior deemed unacceptable in their communities), forced marriage, forced pregnancy, sterilization, rape as a weapon of war, and domestic violence.

Tahirih Justice Center has made successful arguments that governments around the world have responsibility for acts of gender-based persecution, whether it is through failure to provide domestic violence victims with shelters and responsive police forces or through overt policies that advance the rape of women for purposes of suppression and incitement of fear. In addition, it is finally being acknowledged that the forms of persecution that women suffer, although often at the hands of private actors, are just as horrendous and pernicious as other forms of persecution.

Women and Girls Served in 2003

- In 2003, the Tahirih Justice Center assisted over 700 women and girls
- Received approximately 10 phone calls per week for assistance
- Assisted over 4000 women and girls since Tahirih opened in 1997
- Won 98% of its cases to date. (None of its immigration clients have ever been forced to leave the country.)

Types of Cases Litigated in 2003



Does Rape Constitute Torture?

Tahirih Justice Center Pioneers Torture Convention Case

Few in the United States could relate personally to the horrors that Tahirih's asylum client, Josephine,* has suffered.

Josephine is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country notorious for gruesome human rights violations, prominent among them being the rape of women as a weapon of war. In addition to enduring persecution of her family for political activism, Josephine herself had been horrendously violated. Soldiers chasing student protesters into a hospital where she worked had publicly raped her. A number of years later, when soldiers came looking for her father and she denied knowing his whereabouts, she was arrested, taken to their military commander, and tortured for espousing political opinions and failing to cooperate. She was forced to stare at the sun and when she looked away, her feet were beaten.

Josephine was threatened with death, and upon her continual refusal to disclose her father's whereabouts and because she was a known activist, the commander ordered the soldiers from his office, ripped off her clothes and brutally raped her. She was then thrown into a dark, cold, feces-littered cell with four to five other people. She received no food or blanket. Josephine escaped to the United States on September 3, 1997, under threat of a government summons that would likely have resulted in further torture and death if she were forced to return to the Congo.

By the time Josephine arrived in the United States, she was severely traumatized. It took awhile before she was able to seek legal help and file for political asylum. Unfortunately, the asylum officer referred her case to an immigration judge who denied her claim on the basis of credibility, despite a tremendous amount of evidence. On appeal, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), which is the highest immigration court, determined that her brutal rape did not constitute torture under the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Tahirih has appealed Josephine's case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The case has the potential to be of great importance to the advancement of women's human rights and to Tahirih's continuing efforts to ensure that the abuses suffered by women are recognized under the law.

* Not her real name.



As we go to press, we have learned that Josephine was granted asylum on May 28, 2004, by the Board of Immigration Appeals, thus bringing to close a case that Tahirih has been litigating for five years.



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PUBLIC POLICY

2003 was a banner year for the Tahirih Justice Center’s efforts to push for systemic change to protect immigrant women and girls from violence. While Tahirih had always endeavored to contribute at the highest levels of policymaking on issues affecting our clients, our ability to engage deeply and consistently had been constrained by the lack of dedicated public policy staff. Recognizing that Tahirih’s vital—and fairly unique—interplay of direct services and advocacy work enables us to serve our clients best, we took steps to reflect that balanced approach in our staffing. During 2002 and early 2003 Tahirih was host to Heidi Boas, a John Gardner Fellow from Stanford University, as Public Policy Associate. With Heidi’s departure in August 2003, Tahirih brought on board Jeanne Smoot, formerly of the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, as permanent Public Policy Counsel. Tahirih’s now full-fledged advocacy capacity has meant not only a greater involvement with other organizations’ policy priorities but also a new ability to spearhead our own initiatives.

In 2003, Tahirih was involved in a wide range of public policy initiatives including the ratification of the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the promotion of legislation to assist victims of trafficking, and the protection of gender-based persecution as a grounds for asylum. While assisting with many public policy initiatives, Tahirih played a leadership role in advocacy efforts to ensure police protection for immigrants and spearheaded the Campaign to End Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers.

Campaign To End the Exploitation and Abuse of Women by International Marriage Brokers and their Clients

The Tahirih Justice Center has launched a multi-track campaign to help protect women who are recruited by international marriage brokers (“IMBs”, also known as “mail-order bride” agencies) from abuse and to call the industry to account for the heightened risks of violence that its business model creates. In addition to providing direct services to women abused by husbands they met through IMBs, the Tahirih Justice Center has also engaged in extensive education and outreach on the problem of abuse in “brokered” marriages, including a presentation in June at the “Women Working to Make a Difference” Conference of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.



The cornerstone of the Campaign, however, is federal legislation entitled “The International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2003” (S. 1455/H.R. 2949), introduced July 25, 2003, by Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Rick Larsen. Both legislators are from Washington State, which passed state regulations on the industry after two highly publicized and brutal murders of young women from the Philippines and Kyrgyzstan by husbands they had met through IMBs. The federal bill seeks to ensure that a foreign woman recruited by an IMB has important information regarding the marital and criminal past of her prospective husband and her legal rights should she find herself in an abusive relationship.

The Tahirih Justice Center helped draft the bill and is working with a broad-based coalition of human rights organizations, women’s rights groups, law firms, religious coalitions, and social justice organizations nationwide to ensure its passage. Early activities in this federal legislative campaign included inaugurating a “sign-on” drive to contact other legal and social services providers working with battered immigrant women to garner their support and to learn from their own experiences of this problem. Over 80 like-minded organizations across the country had voiced their support for the legislation by fall 2003, including Amnesty International, Gabriela Network USA, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Center for Women Policy Studies—and those numbers continue to climb. The former General Counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Bo Cooper, a member of Tahirih’s Board of Directors, also spoke out in favor of the legislation.

In the summer of 2003, Tahirih also conducted research into the international matchmaking industry’s size and practices and the nature and scope of the problem of abuse in IMB marriages. Tahirih identified nearly 400 websites operated by U.S.-based IMBs, indicating a steep increase since a 1999 INS report’s estimate of 200 IMBs. Perhaps not surprisingly, then, Tahirih also learned that of 75 legal service providers representing battered immigrant women nationwide, **55% had assisted women who met their abusers through IMBs**—confirming that Tahirih’s experience is not unique. Many of the men were repeat abusers who habitually use IMBs to find their next victims.



Website of an International Marriage Broker



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PUBLIC POLICY (CONTINUED)

Protecting the Access of Immigrant Crime Victims and Witnesses to Police

In July and November of 2003, legislative initiatives to deputize more than 600,000 state and local police nationwide to begin enforcing federal civil immigration law were introduced in the House (the “CLEAR Act”) and in the Senate (the “Homeland Security Enhancement Act”), respectively. The Tahirih Justice Center immediately sprang into action to highlight the terrible “chilling effect” such measures would have on the willingness and ability of immigrant women to report abuse or other violent crimes and seek help from the authorities, rightfully fearing they would be met by deportation rather than assistance. Tahirih Justice Center emerged as an early leader in the opposition movement among advocates for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other violent crimes nationally and among all like-minded organizations regionally. Thanks to the quick and concerted marshalling of advocates nationwide by the National Immigration Forum, we successfully held these measures at bay in 2003 but anticipate tough battles on these and other anti-immigrant initiatives in 2004.



Public Policy Counsel Jeanne Smoot and Development Associate Nuvyn Peters discuss the IMB Campaign.

NATIONAL OPPOSITION ADVOCACY. Tahirih, together with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers' Guild (the three co-chairs of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women), spearheaded a national "sign-on" letter campaign that garnered over 80 signatures and was transmitted to all members of Congress before the Hearing of the House Subcommittee on Immigration on the CLEAR Act. Tahirih was also regularly invited to join delegations of national immigrant-rights groups on lobby visits and in meetings with the Administration. Having been identified as a national point of contact and resource on immigrant crime victims' concerns, Tahirih also assisted numerous legal and social services providers around the country to organize and frame their own opposition advocacy. Tahirih was also invited to share our advocacy insights before an audience of nearly 100 other activists from across the country during the Strategic Planning Session of the National Immigration Forum.



REGIONAL OPPOSITION ADVOCACY. Tahirih has engaged in direct education and outreach to police in the Washington, DC, area on the threats posed by the CLEAR Act and the Homeland Security Enhancement Act. In October and November of 2003 and January of 2004, Tahirih also convened a series of briefing and strategic brainstorming sessions on how to oppose these measures and to strengthen the relations between police and the immigrant community. These meetings brought a rich and diverse mix of grassroots service and advocacy organizations together with police and local government representatives. Tahirih's leadership on this issue was also recognized by other local speaking invitations to immigrants' and women's rights groups and domestic violence service providers. In the months ahead, Tahirih plans to engage more deeply on the regional level, fighting both CLEAR Act-like legislation and policies in the DC metro area and mobilizing the DC metro area to secure a common police policy of non-inquiry into immigration status.



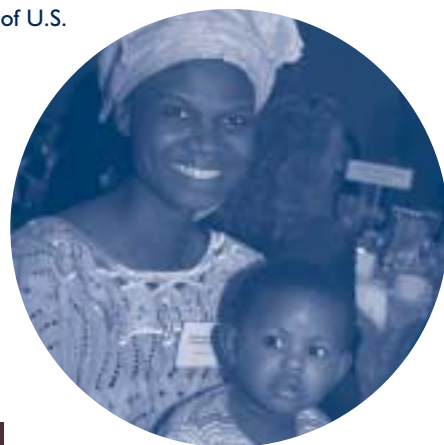
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ASSISTING WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT

The Tahirih Justice Center's **Battered Immigration Women Advocacy Project** was created through a grant in 2000 from the National Association for Public Interest Law (now Equal Justice Works). Through this project, Tahirih assists battered immigrant women to access legal protections to free themselves from a cycle of violence. A battered immigrant woman whose immigration status is tied to her marriage may find that her husband can wield significant power and control over her. Over the last decade, several immigration remedies that allow battered immigrant women to obtain immigration status independent of their husbands have been enacted. These remedies prevent abused immigrant women from being forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship and possible deportation.

The cases represented through Tahirih's Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project include:

- The *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition* that enables abused spouses of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents to become lawful permanent residents independent of their husbands;
- The *Battered Spouse Waiver Petition* for conditional permanent residents whose status expires after two years to enable them to remove the condition without requiring their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident husband to join their petition;
- The Battered Immigrant Cancellation of Removal for spouses of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents placed in removal ("deportation") proceedings to enable them to obtain lawful permanent residency; and
- The Crime Victim ("U") Visa for victims of specific enumerated crimes, including domestic violence.



Tahirih Staff Examining Case Work.

When Rashmi* began receiving love letters from Kalpan,* she thought she had found someone special. She was still living in India, when Kalpan—a U.S. citizen of Indian descent—began to write beautiful letters and express his love for her. Soon, he began visiting her in India and promised that he would marry her if she left India and moved to the United States. When she arrived in the U.S., she and Kalpan married.

Soon after, Rashmi became pregnant. At first Kalpan was happy, but then Rashmi noticed a change. After several months, he became very angry and impatient with her over everything. Soon, he was abusing her physically, as well as emotionally. He insisted that she sleep on the kitchen floor and would kick her to wake her if he needed something in the middle of the night. Eventually, he forced her to have an abortion.



As the abuse continued, Rashmi felt trapped. She could not return to India, as her separation from Kalpan would be considered a disgrace to her family. In desperation, she sought assistance from the Tahirih Justice Center. Tahirih filed for immigrant status for Rashmi under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and for employment authorization. The Tahirih Justice Center scrambled to find Rashmi emergency housing because she was facing the danger of becoming homeless. Finally, the breakthrough came—Rashmi’s applications were approved. After her ordeal, she will now be able to move forward and rebuild her life. Tahirih is grateful for having had the opportunity to assist her.

** Names have been changed.*



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THE PRO BONO REFERRAL PROGRAM

Legal representation of Tahirih's clients by *pro bono* attorneys expands Tahirih's resources, allowing Tahirih to advance its mission of providing access to justice for women and girls fleeing violence. In 2002, with the assistance of the David and Minnie Berk Foundation, Tahirih created the Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney position for the management and facilitation of this crucial resource. This position allowed Tahirih in 2003 to significantly increase the number of abused immigrant women and girls represented by *pro bono* attorneys. Tahirih received \$1,708,276.81 in donated legal services from *pro bono* attorneys representing 31 Tahirih clients in 2003.

Tahirih's *Pro Bono* Program involves a network of *pro bono* attorneys and referral resources for Tahirih's clients. The program offers individual and group trainings for *pro bono* attorneys representing Tahirih clients and continued mentorship on these cases. Clients in the *Pro Bono* Program also receive assistance from Tahirih on connecting with other community resources such as peer support groups, medical and mental health services, housing and public benefits. Through this holistic approach, Tahirih ensures that it provides comprehensive services to address diverse client needs.

Through the *Pro Bono* Program, Tahirih's staff engages in educational initiatives regarding Tahirih's services and the special rights and needs of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence to immigrant community groups, social service programs, and legal service providers. The *Pro Bono* Program's educational activities in 2003 were directed at a wide variety of audiences, including the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project, the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, American University's South Asian Law Students Association, the Asian (Women's) Self Help Association, the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program, the Silver Spring Muslim Community Center and the District of Columbia Bar Association.



Tahirih would like to express its gratitude to the following law firms that in 2003, participated in Tahirih's Pro Bono Program:

Arnold & Porter LLP
Brand & Frulla, PC
Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, PC
Jones Day
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP
Hale & Dorr, LLP
Hogan & Hartson, LLP
Maggio & Kattar, PC
O'Melveny & Myers, LLP
Patton Boggs, LLP
Perkins Coie, LLP
Piper Rudnick, LLP
Shaw Pittman, LLP
Wiley, Rein & Fielding, LLP

Tahirih Justice Center's Washington Lawyers' Network

Pro Bono Coordinator Anjum Kapoor Sikka Training a Group of Lawyers

The Tahirih Justice Center's Washington Lawyers' Network (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.

Members of WLN make an annual cash commitment to Tahirih and form a cadre of committed supporters within the legal community.

In 2003, through WLN fundraising events and membership drives, over \$12,000 was raised for the Tahirih Justice Center.



A Pro bono Attorney Success Story

Amena* came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in March 2000 after her arranged marriage to Syed*, a U.S. Citizen of Bangladeshi origin. Soon after Amena's arrival in the U.S., Syed became controlling, often subjecting her to verbal, emotional, and physical abuse. One incident of physical abuse resulted in Amena losing consciousness from being strangled by Syed. After the birth of their son, Syed became increasingly abusive towards Amena and physically abused their son. When Amena became pregnant with their second child, Syed continued to beat her, causing her to suffer a miscarriage. Twice, Amena attempted to leave Syed to find safety for herself and her child, but each time she returned to him hoping that he would change. Amena was worried Syed would force her return to Bangladesh, where she knew that as a divorced woman with a child, her situation would be hopeless. Through the support of community social service organizations, Amena left Syed permanently in January 2002, receiving a protection order against him and finding safety at a battered women's shelter. Amena was referred by a social services organization to the Tahirih Justice Center for assistance with her immigration status to allow her to legally reside in the U.S. without dependence on her husband. Tahirih placed Amena's case in its *Pro Bono* Program for representation on a "battered spouse waiver" immigration petition to provide her with lawful permanent resident status in the U.S. independent of Syed. In June 2003, Amena received the approval of her battered spouse waiver petition and is finally assured that she is independent of her husband and he can no longer exert control over her. Amena has started a new life for herself and her son, and has become involved in providing support to other battered immigrant women.

**Names have been changed.*



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PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Tahirih Justice Center believes that to achieve justice for women and girls, legal and societal institutions must be transformed to more effectively protect women and girls from violence. In light of this, in 2003, 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 Outlets that Featured Tahirih and Its Staff in 2003

Members of Tahirih’s staff are regularly called on by a wide variety of media outlets as experts on topics pertaining to gender-based violence and persecution. In 2003, Tahirih staff or cases were featured in the following media outlets:

- ABCNews.com
- Associated Press
- Baltimore Sun
- Brennan Center for Justice of
New York University
- Capital News Services
- Courier-Post Online
- Everett (Washington) Daily Herald
- Fox News
- Ladies Home Journal
- The (London) Observer
- London Telegraph
- National Public Radio
- NBC Nightly News
- Newsweek
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- San Antonio Express-News
- Seattle Post-Intelligencer
- The Seattle Times
- Stanford Daily
- Voice of America
- WAMU 88.5 FM
- Washington Post
- Women’s eNews

Public Speeches

Tahirih’s staff frequently give presentations across the country on issues ranging from the equality of men and women in religious traditions, to gender-based violence and persecution. In 2003, staff gave over 35 presentations including keynote addresses at Stanford University and Stanford Law School, American University, Macalester College, Wake Forest University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, Trinity College and Xavier University.



Executive Director Layli Miller-Muro

Polishing Our Presence

This past year Tahirih's visual image took a giant step forward through the help of strategic design services donated by Kircher, Inc., a Washington, DC-based marketing firm.

Kircher reviewed Tahirih's collective output of printed materials, resources and messages in order to gauge how we were presenting the Tahirih face to our various constituencies. The goal of this process was to refine our materials to create a single voice and look that would be recognized as ours.

Kircher worked with our existing logo and built upon its brand equity. They enhanced the bird symbol and developed a comprehensive range of materials for the Tahirih's public communications.

Kircher continues to work with us on various projects to ensure that our brand remains strong and our important communications are being presented in a consistent and harmonious fashion. Tahirih is grateful for the help that Kircher has provided in establishing a Tahirih image. This Annual Report is one of the first manifestations of Kircher's work. Thank you Kircher for helping us polish our presence!



Tahirih's New Visual Image

TAHIRIH'S SIXTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET:

Ending Exploitation by International Marriage Brokers

Tahirih Justice Center hosted its Sixth Annual Banquet June 26, 2003, at the Wyndham City Center Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme of the Banquet highlighted Tahirih's efforts to end the exploitation of women by IMBs. Guests heard stories of women affected by the negligence of IMBs and Tahirih's Public Policy Associate spoke of recent developments of the IMB Campaign.



Bo Cooper accepts the Pushing the Envelope Award at Tahirih's Banquet.

Tahirih's "Pushing the Envelope" Award was presented to Bo Cooper, former General Counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, for his dedicated service in the development of gender-based asylum law. Guests were inspired as they listened to Tahirih client, Shade Mosunmade, tell her story of

how she escaped domestic violence with the help and support of the Tahirih Justice Center and received assistance under the Violence Against Women Act.



Congressional Co-Chairs

Senator Joseph Biden
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Thomas Carper
Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator Carl Levin
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Ted Stevens

Representative Gary Ackerman
Representative Tammy Baldwin
Representative Howard L. Berman
Representative Benjamin L. Cardin
Representative Julia M. Carson
Representative Lloyd Doggett
Representative Eliot L. Engel
Representative Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Representative Barney Frank
Representative Raul Grijalva
Representative Michael M. Honda
Representative Steny H. Hoyer
Representative Jay Inslee
Representative Steve J. Israel
Representative Rick Larsen
Representative Zoe Lofgren
Representative Carolyn McCarthy
Representative Jim McDermott
Representative Kendrick B. Meek
Representative Gregory W. Meeks
Representative George Miller
Representative James P. Moran
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Layli Miller-Muro accepting a donation from the Zonta Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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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.



FINANCIAL

INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$245,960
Grant Receivable	\$31,247
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,818
Inventory	\$1,396
Property and Equipment	\$12,656
Rent Deposit	\$13,131

Total Assets **\$306,208**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$22,839
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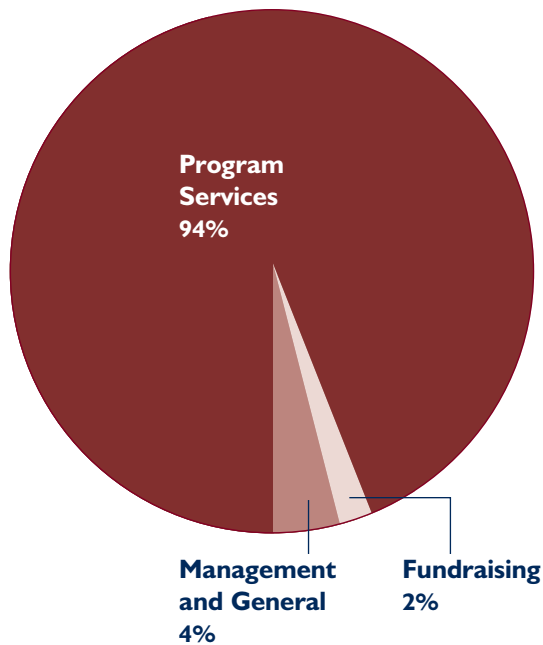
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$261,369
Temporarily Restricted	\$22,000

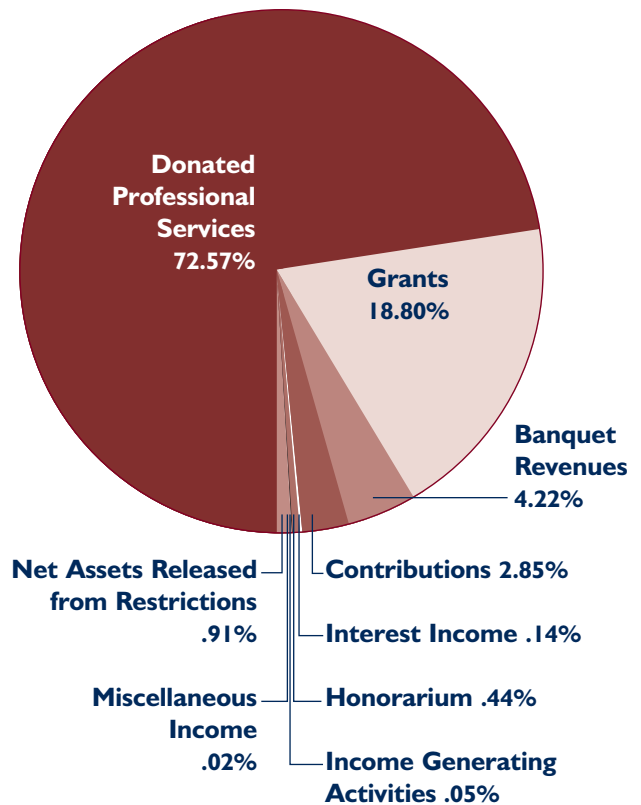
Total Net Assets **\$283,369**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$306,208**

2003 Expenses



2003 Income



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT

Donated professional services	\$1,708,277
Grants	\$442,522
Banquet revenues	\$129,134
Direct benefits to banquet attendees	(\$29,834)
Contributions	\$66,995
Honorarium	\$10,420
Interest income.....	\$3,317
Income generating activities	\$1,204
Miscellaneous income	\$567
Net assets released from restrictions.....	\$21,343
Total Unrestricted Support	\$2,353,945

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$2,134,388
Management and General.....	\$92,984
Fundraising.....	\$31,496
Total Expenses	\$2,258,868
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets.....	\$95,077

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions.....	\$21,000
Net Assets released from restrictions	(\$21,343)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(\$343)

Change in Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	\$94,734
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$188,635
Net Assets – End of Year	\$283,369

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Change in Net Assets.....	\$94,734
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash	
Used for Operating Activities: Depreciation	\$3,141
(Increase) Decrease in:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$8,783
Inventory	—
Accounts Receivable	(\$30,747)
Rent Deposit	(\$10,431)
Prepaid Expenses.....	\$979
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities.....	\$66,459
Cash Flows from Investing Activities Purchases	
of Property and Equipment.....	(\$1,956)
Net Cash provided by Investing Activities	(\$1,956)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$64,503
Cash and Cash Equivalents – December 31, 2003	\$245,960



WITH THE HELP OF OUR FRIENDS

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

African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation	Fairfax County Domestic Violence Pilot Project, Region II	National Council of Women's Organizations
Alexandria Department of Human Services	Family Violence Prevention Fund	National Immigration Forum
Alexandria Domestic Violence Intervention Project	Feminist Peace Network	National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United
Alexandria Multicultural Coalition	Foundation for Appropriate and Immediate Temporary Help	Native American Family Healing Circle
Alexandria Office for Women, Domestic Violence Program	Freedom Network	No One Alone
Alexandria Office on Women	Friendship Foundation of American-Vietnamese, Inc.	North American Council for Muslim Women
Alternatives to Family Violence	GABRIELA Network - USA	Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Seattle, WA)
American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee	General Federation of Women's Clubs	NOW – Seattle
American Friends Service Committee	Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
American University Human Rights Law Clinic	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Amnesty International USA	Heart Haven: Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence	Peace Place, Inc.
Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Hispanic Committee of Virginia	Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence	Hogar Hispano	Phoenix Women Take Back the Night
Asian (Women's) Self Help Association (ASHA)	House Judiciary Committee	Presbyterian Church USA, Washington Office
Asian American Community Services	Human Rights Law Group	Progreso Hispano
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)'s Domestic Violence Program	Human Rights Watch	Project KESHER
Asian Family Center	INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence	Project VOICE
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	International Institute of the East Bay	Seattle Women in Black
Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project	International Labor Rights Fund	Shimtu: Korean Domestic Violence Program (Oakland, CA)
AYUDA	International Women's House	Social Action Committee for Women's Psychological Health
Bethany House of Northern Virginia	International Women's Policy Roundtable	Somali Family Care Network
Betty Ann Kranke Shelter	John's Hopkins University's Protection Project	Soroptimist International of Coupeville
Boat People SOS	KARAMAH: Muslim Lawyers for Human Rights	Soroptimist International of Fidalgo Island
Break the Chain Campaign	King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Soroptimist International of Friday Harbor
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR)	Korean American Women in Need	Soroptimist International of Renton, WA
CARECEN	Korean Community Service Center	Soroptimist International of Anacortes
CASA of Maryland	La Raza Centro Legal (San Francisco, CA)	Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE) Project, Inc.
Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services	Human Rights First	States Working Group on CEDAW Ratification
Catholic Immigration Service	Legal Services of North Carolina	Support Our Survivors (S.O.S.)
Catholic Social Services, Immigration Services	LegalAid DC	Tapestri, Inc.
Center for Multicultural Human Services	Loudoun County Department of Mental Health	The Crafts Center
Center for Women and Policy Studies	Loudoun County Transitional Housing Program	The Salvation Army USA
Church Women United	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	The Women's Center
Civic Research Institute, Domestic Violence Report	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Civic Research Institute, Sexual Assault Report	MALDEF	University of Washington Women's Center
Community Foundation	Mary House	Virginia Justice Center
Community Resilience Project	Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	Virginians Against Domestic Violence
Council of Latino Agencies	Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	Vital Voices Global Partnership
Crossways Community	Mediart Communications/ Advocacy & Training Services: Human Rights and Domestic Violence	Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
DC Bridge Builders Community	Migrant Immigrant Refugee Cultural Support (MIRECS)	WEAVE Inc.
Daya Inc.	Missouri Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services
DC Area VAWA Network	Montgomery County Abused Persons Program	Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
DC Asians for Peace and Justice	Montgomery County Commission for Women	Women and Children's Horizons, Inc.
DC Asians for Peace and Justice/DC Collective	My Sister's Place	Women for Afghan Women
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Na Loio Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center	Women for Humanity
Domestic Abuse Center	Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Women for International Peace and Arbitration
Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline	National Center for Victims of Crime	Women's Alliance for Peace & Human Rights in Afghanistan
Ethiopian Community Development Council	National Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Women's EDGE
Fairfax Area Christian Emergency Transitional Services	National Coalition for Haitian Rights	Women's Supportive Services
Fairfax County Department of Family Services	National Consumers League	World Organization Against Torture USA
	National Council of LaRaza	

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**Farida is a client of the Tahirih Justice Center; her last name is omitted for reasons of security.*

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