



TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS FLEEING VIOLENCE

Violence Against Women and Girls



Photo by Steve Jeter

WORLDWIDE:

- ◇ **1 in 3 women** will be raped, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.¹
- ◇ **142 million girls** will be married before the age of 18 by 2020 if present trends continue.²
- ◇ **5,000 women and girls** are murdered every year for being a perceived dishonor to their families.³
- ◇ **30 million girls under age 15** are at risk of female genital mutilation/cutting.⁴

IN THE UNITED STATES:

- ◇ Every **6.2 minutes**, someone is raped.⁵
- ◇ As many as **3,000 known or suspected forced marriages** were reported in a two-year period.⁶
- ◇ An estimated **14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked** every year, 80% of whom are women and girls.⁷

A Population at Greater Risk

- ◇ Immigrant women are **2x more likely** to experience domestic violence than the general population.⁸
- ◇ **72% of abusive partners** fail to give their spouses legal immigration status as a tool of control.⁹
- ◇ **1 out of 5 battered immigrant women** cite immigration consequences as a reason for staying with her abuser.¹⁰
- ◇ Only **2% of immigrants** facing removal are able to obtain pro bono representation.¹¹

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Resources

- ¹ United Nations, “UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: The Secretary General’s Campaign Fact Sheet, last accessed July 1, 2015, <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf>.
- ² United Nations Population Fund, “Marrying Too Young,” UNFPA Website, last accessed July 1, 2015 at <http://www.unfpa.org/end-child-marriage>.
- ³ United Nations Population Fund, “Lives Together, Worlds Apart: Men and Women in a Time of Change,” UNFPA Website, last accessed July 1, 2015, <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2000/english/ch03.html>.
- ⁴ United Nations Population Fund, “Fewer Girls at Risk of Female Genital Mutilation, UNFPA Website, last modified Feb. 5, 2013, <http://www.unfpa.org/news/fewer-girls-threatened-female-genital-mutilation>.
- ⁵ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Crime in the United States: 2012,” FBI.gov, last accessed July 1, 2015, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/national-data>.
- ⁶ Tahiri Justice Center, “Forced Marriage in Immigrant Communities in the United States: 2011 National Survey Results,” [Tahiri.org](http://preventforcedmarriage.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/REPORT-Tahiri-Survey-on-Forced-Marriage-in-Immigrant-Communities-in-the-United-States-September-201151.pdf), last modified June 30, 2015, <http://preventforcedmarriage.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/REPORT-Tahiri-Survey-on-Forced-Marriage-in-Immigrant-Communities-in-the-United-States-September-201151.pdf>.
- ⁷ Clawson, Heather J., Dutch, Nicole, Goldblatt Grace, Lisa and Solomon, Amy, “Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature,” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services , U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Website, last modified August 2009, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/litrev/#How>.
- ⁸ Aguilar Hass, Giselle; Ammar, Noel; and Orloff, Leslye, “Battered Immigrants and U.S. Citizen Spouses,” Legal Momentum, [Academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu/2236701/Battered_Immigrants_and_U.S._Citizen_Spouses), last modified April 24, 2006, http://www.academia.edu/2236701/Battered_Immigrants_and_U.S._Citizen_Spouses
- ⁹ Dutton, Mary Anne; Orloff, Leslye; Aguilar Hass, Giselle, “Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications,” *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy*, Volume VII, Number 2, Summer 2000, last accessed July 1, 2015, http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/cultural-competency/research-publications/CULTCOMP_Georgetown-Imm-Victim-Helpseeking2000.pdf.
- ¹⁰ Dutton, Mary Anne; Orloff, Leslye; Aguilar Hass, Giselle, “Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications,” *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy*, Volume VII, Number 2, Summer 2000, last accessed July 1, 2015, http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/cultural-competency/research-publications/CULTCOMP_Georgetown-Imm-Victim-Helpseeking2000.pdf.
- ¹¹ Eagly, Ingrid V. and Shafer, Steven, A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court. 164 *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* (2015, Forthcoming); UCLA School of Law Research Paper No. 15-10

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