

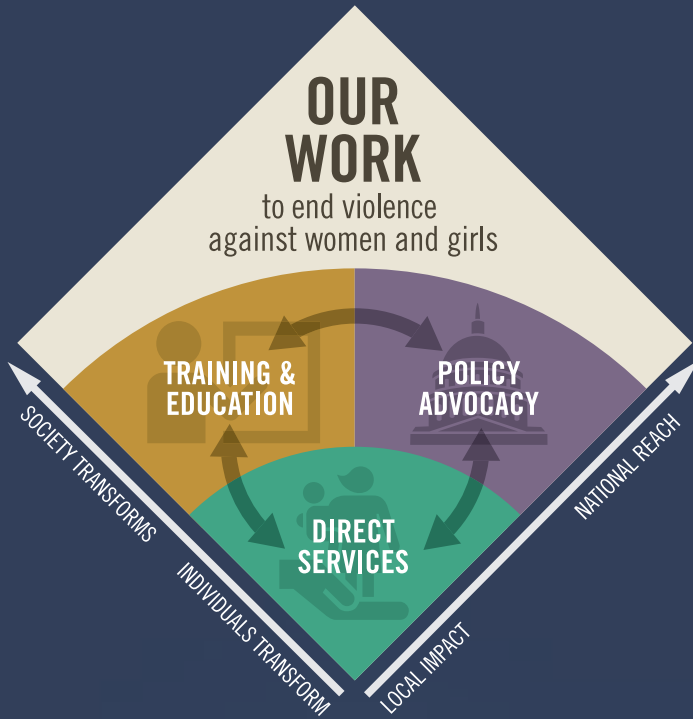


TAHIRIH  
JUSTICE  
CENTER®

2015 IMPACT REPORT

# *protecting*

COURAGEOUS IMMIGRANT WOMEN  
AND GIRLS FLEEING VIOLENCE



Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence.

Our award-winning model for protection combines free legal and social services with bridge-building policy advocacy, training, and education. We efficiently and effectively leverage donated professional services from a vast network of attorneys, medical professionals, and experts to serve as many women and girls as possible.

Inspired by principles of the Bahá'í Faith, Tahirih is committed to promoting the equality of women and men and creating a world where women and girls can live in safety and with dignity.



A TAHIRIH CLIENT HUGS HER DAUGHTERS.  
PHOTO BY ASA PHOTOGRAPHY.

WE EMPOWER SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE THROUGH

# legal and social services

Since 1997, Tahirih has served nearly 19,000 individuals seeking protection from gender-based human rights abuses such as rape, female genital mutilation/cutting, domestic violence, human trafficking, and forced marriage.

**IN 2015, WE:**

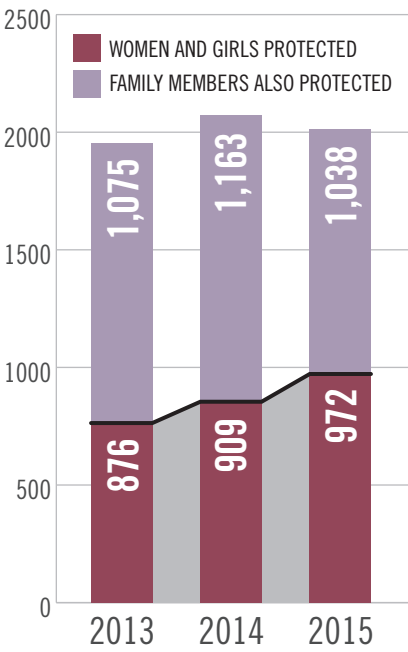
Provided free legal services to **972** immigrant women and girls and **1,038** of their family members—clearing obstacles to safety, dignity, and freedom for **2,010** individuals.

Connected **644** clients and family members with vital social services, including emergency shelter, food and clothing, and healthcare.

Enlisted **1,949** attorneys at **337** law firms and corporations in our Pro Bono Network to leverage donated resources and maximize our capacity.

Completed an **in-depth, independent evaluation** of our award-winning pro bono model of service to measure impact and identify areas for improvement.

## INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES



## ODDS OF WINNING ASYLUM DEPEND ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION

We maintain a 99% success rate, despite accepting complex, protracted, and rejected cases other attorneys have deemed “unwinnable.”

**99%**  
If represented by Tahirih

**46%**  
If represented by others

**16%**  
If unrepresented



WE ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS THROUGH

# *training and education*

Our outreach programs build understanding of the unique obstacles that immigrant women and girls face in the wake of violence and give communities essential tools to help survivors in crisis.

## IN 2015, WE:

Conducted **187** trainings and events that reached **8,754** community members and frontline professionals, including attorneys, police, judges, and doctors.

Answered calls from **244** lawyers and service providers from **16** countries and **18** states who needed expert advice on protections available to immigrant survivors of violence.

Connected **millions of people** to the plight of immigrant women and girls through **80** articles in prominent media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *NPR*.

Launched **2** new websites, [Tahirih.org](http://Tahirih.org) and [PreventForcedMarriage.org](http://PreventForcedMarriage.org). The sites were visited **80,791** times, connecting more people than ever before with our urgent mission.

Surpassed **2.6 million views** on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media outlets, sparking vital conversations about issues that impact the safety and dignity of women and girls.

**25%**

Increase in training volume since 2014

**724**

Visits to our new Pro Bono Attorney E-Library (online resource with practice tips and guidelines)

**77%**

Increase in media coverage since 2014

WE FOSTER LASTING CHANGE THROUGH

# policy advocacy

Our non-partisan policy team closes gaps in the U.S. justice system so that immigrant women and girls are less vulnerable to violence and exploitation.

## IN 2015, WE:

Safeguarded **legislative protections** for immigrant survivors of violence in a climate of deepening political divisions.

Shifted asylum policy resulting in **nationwide acceptance** of survivors of female genital mutilation/cutting as qualifying for asylum.

Developed and proposed **practical solutions** to the nation's chronic and growing immigration court backlog.

Forged **robust partnerships** across sectors to welcome refugee women and children fleeing persecution.

“TAHIRIH IS GENUINELY BREAKING NEW GROUND IN EXPANDING PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. WE COUNT ON THEM AS A TRUSTED AND RESPECTED LEADER IN THE FIELD.”

LYNN ROSENTHAL

*former White House Advisor on Violence Against Women*



## ENDING THE INHUMANE DETENTION OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Asylum-seeking mothers from Central America are being imprisoned in the U.S. with their children, sometimes for months on end, in remote facilities with minimal access to health and legal services. For a full timeline of what we did in 2015 to right this wrong, please visit [www.tahirih.org/EndFamilyDetention](http://www.tahirih.org/EndFamilyDetention).

211

Legislators marshaled to support the release of mothers and children

14k+

Individuals who received our eye-opening report on detention of mothers and children

134k+

Reach, by views, of our #EndFamilyDetention social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter



WE ARE ENDING

# *child and forced marriage in the United States*

Our bold Forced Marriage Initiative, launched in 2011, is a lifeline for individuals facing or fleeing forced marriages across the United States and a vehicle to address systemic issues that leave hundreds of women and girls—and men and boys—vulnerable to this human rights abuse every year.

## IN 2015, WE:

Launched a one-of-a-kind website, [PreventForcedMarriage.org](http://PreventForcedMarriage.org), that serves as a critical resource hub for service providers and individuals in need of help.

Sparked a **federal, inter-agency response** to forced marriage as a U.S. problem through a series of meetings with the White House and Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, and Health and Human Services.

**Exposed alarming cases** of child marriage and set in motion a broad, bipartisan movement to protect vulnerable children across the U.S., starting by reforming states' minimum age of marriage laws.

Triaged **171** emergency requests from individuals facing forced marriage issues—from **32** states across the country and nearly every region of the globe.

Equipped more than **800** frontline professionals with critical tools to identify forced marriages and protect victims.

Grew our National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage by nearly **2,000%** through outreach and education.

# ALL THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE

*to end child and forced marriage*

Every action you take matters at this critical juncture in the movement to end child and forced marriage in the United States. Your support in 2015 opened the door for a meeting in March with the White House Council on Women and Girls. Here's a look back at how we made it happen.



**700**

People who attended our “Heartbeats Tour” to end forced marriage in New York City, Houston, San Francisco, New Brunswick, Chicago, and DC.

**50+**

News outlets that featured our groundbreaking work to end forced marriage in the U.S.

**125k+**

People who signed our Change.org petition to create a national action plan to address forced marriage in the U.S.

*Top: Tour partners, Pomegranate Tree Group, before a Heartbeats event in DC.  
Bottom: Petition partners before a meeting with the White House.*

WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, SURVIVORS, AND OTHER CHAMPIONS TO ENSURE THAT **EVERY PERSON CAN CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER, WHEN, AND WHOM TO MARRY.**

OUR AWARD-WINNING MODEL OF SERVICE IS NOW OFFERED IN THREE, HIGH-NEED LOCATIONS:

# Baltimore

**IN 2015, WE:**

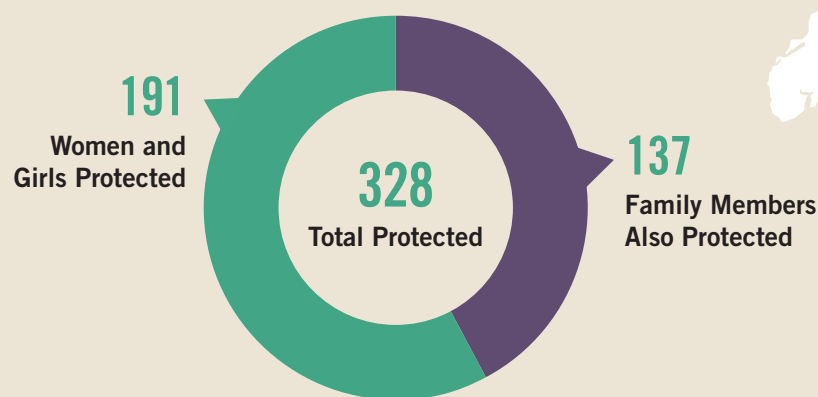
Hosted weekly **bilingual support groups** in English and Spanish to empower survivors of violence.

Launched **innovative partnerships** with like-minded organizations to fill service gaps for survivors of torture, individuals who identify as LGBTQ, and refugees from conflict-torn regions.

Equipped attorneys with tools to **represent asylum-seeking mothers** upon release from detention as part of a unique partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review.

Established the **Baltimore Advisory Council** to champion the local office, garnering support and resources for immigrant women and girls throughout the Baltimore region.

**INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN BALTIMORE THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN 2015**



**BALTIMORE BY THE NUMBERS**

**100** Clients and their family members connected to social services

**506** Community members and frontline professionals trained

**14** Trainings and events conducted

“WHEN I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ISSUES IN THE IMMIGRATION ARENA, I KNOW I CAN TURN TO TAHIRIH.”

CATE HULME

Project Manager at Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland

# Houston

**IN 2015, WE:**

Provided **free legal and social services** to unaccompanied children fleeing one of the world's most dangerous regions, Central America.

Developed a **rapid-response plan** to meet the emergency needs of refugee women and children detained in jail-like facilities in Texas.

Supported litigation to **end the inhumane detention of mothers and children**, providing testimony to uphold *Flores v. Johnson*, a 1997 court settlement to protect children.

Raised **public awareness** of the city's acute immigration court backlog, which is one of the nation's largest, via multiple interviews with the *Houston Chronicle*.

**INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN HOUSTON THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN 2015**



**HOUSTON BY THE NUMBERS**

**333** Clients and their family members connected to social services

**3,717** Community members and frontline professionals trained

**78** Trainings and events conducted

# Greater DC

**IN 2015, WE:**

Trained **150 community members** on ways to combat human trafficking in Northern Virginia.

Expanded our **partnership with key law firms** to help former Tahirih clients and their children become permanent U.S. residents.

Launched the **Medical Advocacy Project** to remove barriers to medical services for immigrant survivors of violence.

Established the **Greater DC Advisory Council** to champion the local office, garnering support and resources for immigrant women and girls throughout the Greater DC region.

**INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN GREATER DC THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN 2015**



**GREATER DC BY THE NUMBERS**

**211** Clients and family members connected to social services

**2,772** Community members and frontline professionals trained

**58** Trainings and events conducted

“I SUPPORT TAHIRIH BECAUSE OF THE DEPTH OF PASSION, ENERGY, AND DEDICATION ITS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS DISPLAY IN PROTECTING THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF ITS COURAGEOUS CLIENTS.”



To answer more pleas for help from courageous women and girls across the country, we are planning to open two new offices. Please help us grow! Learn more at [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org).

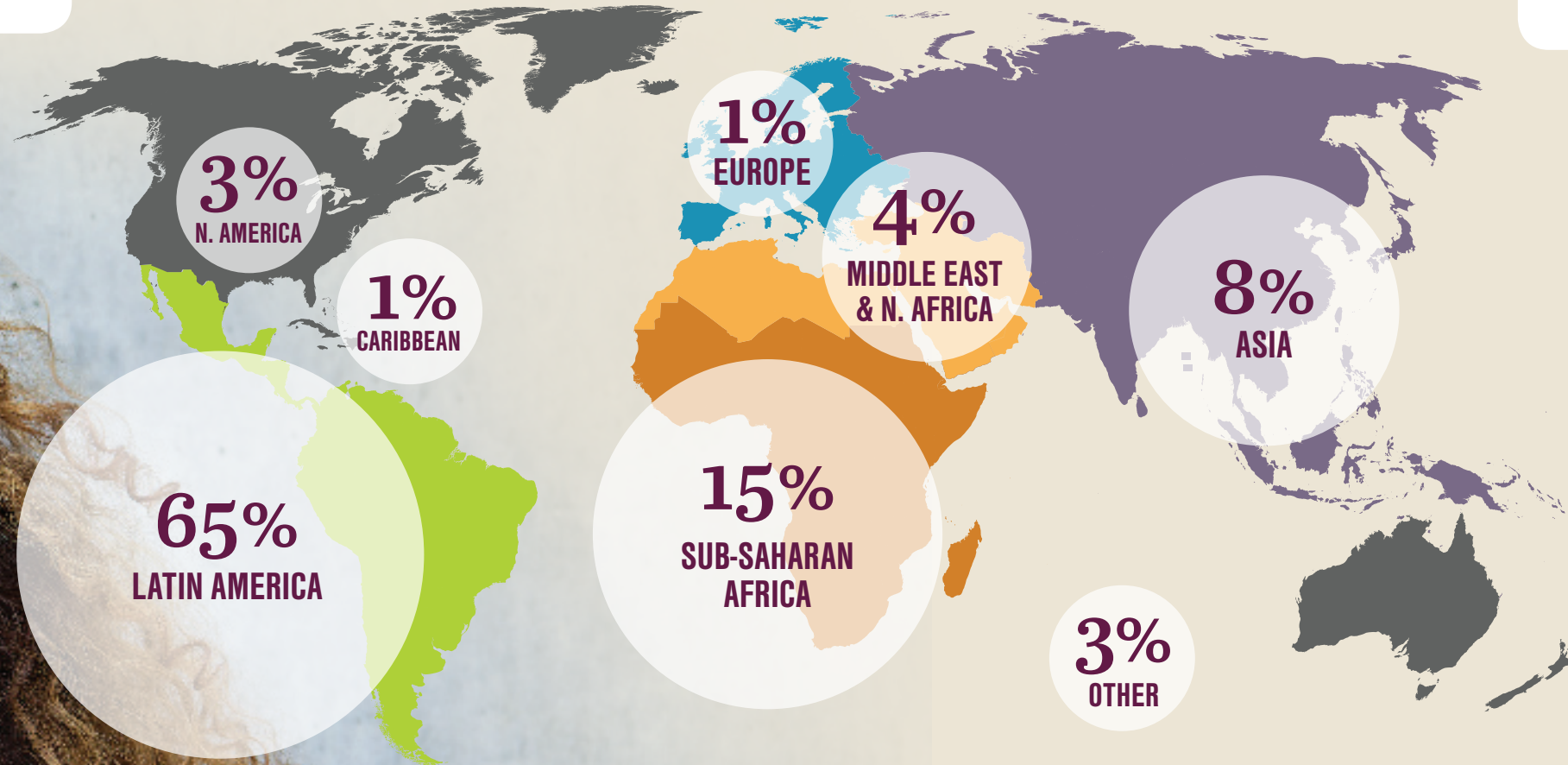


“I HAVE MY DIGNITY BACK. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, TO GREATER THINGS AND BIGGER THINGS. I’M NOT THAT PERSON THAT WAS SHRANK TO NOTHING.”

**MERCY**  
survivor of domestic violence from West Africa



Our clients come from every corner of the globe, but now live in the United States. About 70% have experienced violence in the U.S., and every woman and girl we serve is entitled to protection under existing U.S. law.



“THERE WAS A SWORD OF FEAR HANGING ON MY HEAD ALL THE TIME. WHEN I GOT MY VISA, IT FELT SO PEACEFUL, SAFE, AND FREE. THANKS TO TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER FOR GIVING ME HAPPINESS, HOPE, DIGNITY, AND FREEDOM BACK. I AM NOT FEARFUL ANYMORE. I AM FREE NOW AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE GREAT THINGS IN THE FUTURE.”

**SARAH**  
survivor of human trafficking from Pakistan

“HAVING YOU GUIDE ME HAS MEANT THE WORLD TO ME. IT’S GIVEN ME THE CONFIDENCE I’VE ALWAYS DESIRED. I KNOW THAT I’M NOT COMPLETELY ALONE. SOMEONE OUT THERE ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS ME. TAHIRIH’S FORCED MARRIAGE INITIATIVE IS SAVING LIVES.”

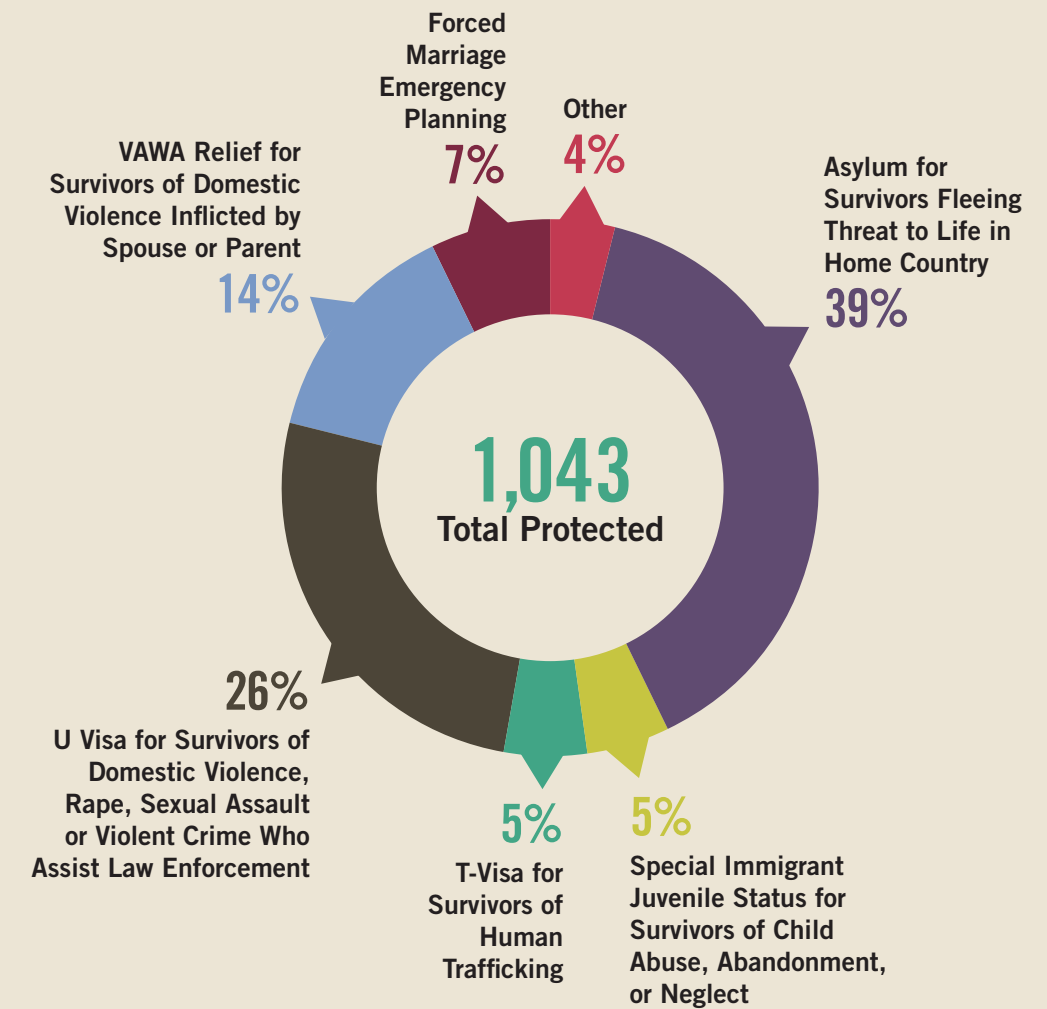
**NOREEN**  
survivor of forced marriage



TOP FIVE CLIENT COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN 2015

1. *El Salvador*
2. *Honduras*
3. *Mexico*
4. *Guatemala*
5. *Cameroon*

PROTECTIONS PROVIDED FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN 2015



“MY DAUGHTER WAS GRANTED HER ASYLUM AND HER LIFE HAS DRAMATICALLY CHANGED. SHE USED TO BE WORRIED AND SAD ALL THE TIME. NOW, SHE IS A HAPPY GIRL. SHE WAS GIVEN A NEW CHANCE IN LIFE.”

**ELENA**  
mother of 16-year-old client from El Salvador

Names and identifying details may be changed to protect client safety and confidentiality.

# Your support is fueling new projects

IN BALTIMORE, WE'RE

## *empowering survivors of torture*

**THE ISSUE:** From 2010 to 2014, as many as 3,700 survivors of torture called Maryland their new home. *Source: Maryland Office of Refugees and Asylees*

**OUR SOLUTION:** Fill acute gaps in services for survivors of torture trying to rebuild their lives in Maryland. In 2015, we:

Secured a government grant to **meet the unique needs of survivors** in partnership with Asylee Women Enterprise and Intercultural Counseling Connection.

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Developed a **collaborative plan** to provide housing, health care, legal services, and other resources to survivors.

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Committed to training **hundreds** of frontline professionals with tools and resources to identify and support survivors.

IN GREATER DC, WE'RE

## *increasing survivors' healthcare access*

**THE ISSUE:** Language barriers, lack of access to publicly-funded programs, and negative healthcare experiences prevent many survivors of violence from getting the healthcare they need. *Source: Tahirih Medical Advocacy Project Client Survey*

**OUR SOLUTION:** Increase our clients' access to quality, survivor-informed medical services through training and outreach. In 2015, we:

Identified **common barriers** that our clients face in obtaining medical care.

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Enrolled **90%** of eligible clients in Affordable Care Act insurance programs.

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Expanded our **network** of pro bono medical professionals.

IN HOUSTON, WE'RE

## *protecting children at our border*

**THE ISSUE:** Nearly 124,000 unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico were apprehended at the Southwest Border from FY 2014 to FY 2016. *Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

**OUR SOLUTION:** Marshal as many resources as possible at the epicenter of the crisis in Texas to protect children with nowhere else to turn. In 2015, we:

Provided free legal and social services to **115** children.

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Strengthened the **network of support** for refugee children through technical assistance, trainings, and coalition building.

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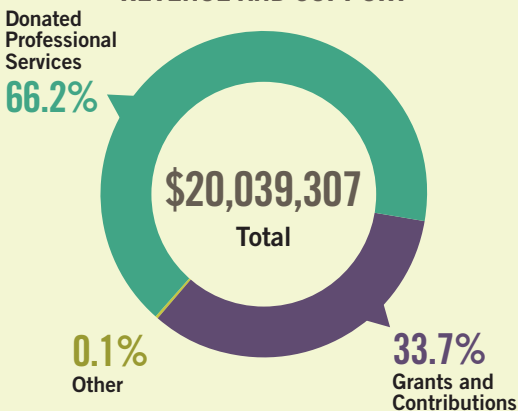
Partnered with **Las Americas Middle School** to support newly-arrived refugee children.

# 2014 Audited Financials

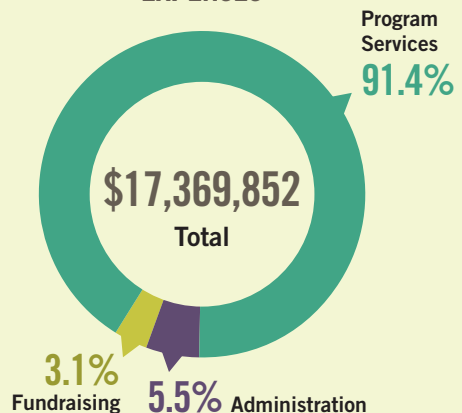
In 2014, Tahirih had a cash operating budget of **\$4.1M**. However, thanks to the generosity of our Pro Bono Network, the value of donated professional services reached a historic **\$13.2M**. This enabled us to serve more women and children around the country and **multiply every \$1 donated into \$4 of impact**.

	2014		
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>			
Donated (In-Kind) Professional Services	\$ 13,262,495	\$ -	\$ 13,262,495
Grants and Contributions	3,263,009	3,491,151	6,754,160
Investment Income	1,523	-	1,523
Fundraising Sales, Net of Expense	4,492	-	4,492
Other Income	16,637	-	16,637
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	764,280	(764,280)	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>17,312,436</b>	<b>2,726,871</b>	<b>20,039,307</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	-	-	-
Services	14,192,607	-	14,192,607
Advocacy	1,684,782	-	1,684,782
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>15,877,389</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,877,389</b>
Supporting Services			
Administration	949,286	-	949,286
Fundraising	543,177	-	543,177
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>1,492,463</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,492,463</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,369,852</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,369,852</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(57,416)</b>	<b>2,726,871</b>	<b>2,669,455</b>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	889,905	846,963	1,736,868
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 832,489</b>	<b>\$ 3,573,834</b>	<b>\$ 4,406,323</b>

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT



## EXPENSES



Our full 2014 financial statements and Independent Audit Report issued by Raffa, P.C. can be viewed at [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org). Our 2015 financial statements and audit report were not available at the time of this publication, but will be available online upon completion.



# *thank you*

to our Lifesavers who made our work possible  
through generous financial support in 2015:

## **CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

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Akin Gump Strauss  
Hauer & Feld LLP

Arnold & Porter LLP

Baker & McKenzie LLP

Baker Botts LLP

Ballard Spahr LLP

BP America Inc.

Buckley Sandler LLP

Caterpillar Inc.

Cooley LLP

Covington & Burling LLP

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Crowell & Moring LLP

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Direct Energy

Eileen Fisher Inc.

The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Hilton Worldwide

Hogan Lovells LLP

Houston Night Court

Jones Day

King & Spalding LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Latham & Watkins LLP

Mayer Brown LLP

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

PepsiCo Inc.

Sidley Austin LLP

Visa Inc.

Wilmer Cutler Pickering

Hale and Dorr LLP

Winston & Strawn LLP

XO Communications

## **FOUNDATIONS**

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Aaron and Lillie  
Straus Foundation Inc.

Abell Foundation

Albert and Ethel Herzstein  
Charitable Foundation

Alice Kleberg  
Reynolds Foundation

Charles Crane Family Foundation

DLA Piper Foundation

Equal Justice Works

Eugene and  
Agnes E. Meyer Foundation

Foundation for a Just Society

The Frees Foundation

Gallogly Family Foundation

George L. Shields Foundation

Goldseker Foundation

Harris and Elizabeth  
Kempner Fund

Harry and Jeanette  
Weinberg Foundation

Heising-Simons Foundation

The Herb Block Foundation

Houston Endowment

Houston Foundation

Jacob and Hilda  
Blaustein Foundation

Journey Charitable Foundation

Marjorie Cook Foundation

Moriah Fund

The Morris and Gwendolyn  
Cafritz Foundation

Morton K. and Jane  
Blaustein Foundation

MuniMae Foundation

NoVo Foundation

Philip L. Graham Foundation

Ralph M. Cestone Foundation

Rotary Club of Washington, DC

Shell Oil Company Foundation

Simmons Foundation

State Bar of Texas,  
Litigation Section

The Steptoe Foundation  
Texas Access to Justice Foundation  
Texas Annual Conference of the  
United Methodist Church  
Texas Bar Foundation  
Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation  
University of Houston Law Center  
University of Houston  
Law Foundation  
Venable Foundation  
William J. and Dorothy K.  
O'Neill Foundation  
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

## GOVERNMENT

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Commonwealth of Virginia,  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Services, Sexual and Domestic  
Violence Victims Fund

Commonwealth of Virginia,  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Services, STOP Violence Against  
Women Program

County of Fairfax, Virginia,  
Consolidated Funding Pool

Department of Health and  
Human Services, Office on  
Refugee Resettlement, National  
Trafficking Victim Assistance  
Program (via U.S. Committee  
for Refugees and Immigrants)

Department of Justice, Office on  
Violence Against Women, Legal  
Assistance for Victims Program

State of Maryland, Governor's  
Office on Crime Control and  
Prevention, STOP Violence  
Against Women Program

State of Maryland, Governor's  
Office on Crime Control and  
Prevention, Victims of Crime  
Assistance Program

State of Texas, Department of  
Criminal Justice Services, STOP  
Violence Against Women Program

State of Texas, Department of  
Criminal Justice Services, Victims  
of Crime Assistance Program

State of Texas, Office of the  
Attorney General, Other Victims  
Assistance Program

## INDIVIDUALS

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### \$500,000 +

Laura and John Arnold

### \$100,000 +

Paul Glist and Karla Jamir

### \$50,000 +

Molly Gochman

### \$30,000 +

Carelle L. Karimimanesh

Benny and Noushin  
Malek Khosravi

Mojgan and David Shin

Payam and Gouya Zamani

### \$20,000+

Anonymous

Mary Patricia Davis  
and Wesley Callender

Dr. Jackie Eghrari-Sabet  
and Sina A. Sabet

Abdolhossein and Guitty Ejtemai

Suzy and Jeff Elghanayan

George Lord

### \$10,000 +

Anonymous

Helen Jafari and Nash Alaei

Tahirih Baker and  
The Late Ahang Rabbani

Douglas and Suzanne Henck

Christine and Craig LaFollette

Laura Loeb

The Estate of Michael MacLeod

Alex and Homa Sabet-Tavangar

Christine Savage

Hannah Sibiski and Stuart Nance  
Ferialeh and Farhang Zamani  
Robert and Edith Zinn

### \$5,000 +

Anonymous

Kenneth Anderson  
and Andreeanne Vachon

The Buck Family Fund

Constance Chen

Martha Cochran

Robert Cook

Susan Crown

David and Afsaneh Dean

Paul and Linda Dobson

Karen Fananapazir

Michael and Debora Goldberg

Kimberly Graham

André and Lauren Granello

Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro

Kyle and Carmen Green

Mina Haidarian

Frank Kendall  
and Elizabeth Halpern

Charles and Christine Henck  
Audrey Hendricks

Lisa and Sanjay Kalavar

Wendy and Grant Kvalheim

Kathrine McLendon

Jamie Miller

Christina Morin

Jane Northern

Lydia Protopapas

Soula Proxenos and Bruce O'Brien

Matthew Quinn

Bayan Rabbani

James J. Sandman and  
Elizabeth D. Mullin

Rabia and Kashif Sheikh

Sheila and John Tweed

Susannah Weiss

Clifford Yee and Heather Joyner

Mary Menell Zients