



Layli's Book Club Guide: *"Do They Hear You When You Cry"*

Thank you for reading "Do They Hear You When You Cry" in honor of the 20th anniversary of Fauziya Kassindja's groundbreaking asylum victory. In this guide, you will find five topics to guide your book club discussion from co-author and Tahirih founder Layli Miller-Muro.

JUSTICE

A *Newsweek* review of "Do They Hear You When You Cry" reads: "Moving and powerful though this story is, it exposes such unremittingly grim truths that it is impossible to close the book and feel at peace." How did you feel after you finished the book? Did it change your perspective on the asylum and immigration system in the United States? If so, how?

FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP

From her father to fellow asylum seekers to attorneys, Fauziya's family and friends play an important role in her life. Discuss their impact.

FAITH

Discuss the role of faith in Fauziya's arduous journey to justice.

ADVOCACY

Near the end of her first year in prison, Fauziya's case received high-profile media attention from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other news outlets, as well as members of Congress who petitioned for her release. Discuss the role of media and the public in Fauziya's case and in matters of injustice in general.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

In the book's epilogue, attorney Karen Musalo writes:

This story would not be complete without asking if we have learned any lessons from the mistakes we made in treating Fauziya as we did. Have we learned that asylum seekers are not criminals and should not be treated as they were? Have we come to accept that immigration judges — like all human beings — *can* and *do* make mistakes? And knowing that those immigration judges make mistakes, have we made sure that there is the opportunity to correct those mistakes? Have we come to acknowledge that women's human rights are legitimate human rights, and that women have the right to be protected as refugees even if the persecution they fear is female genital mutilation, or some other harm unique to women which is an accepted norm in the culture in which they live?

Please discuss the points that Karen raises, using current affairs to gauge progress since Fauziya's victory in 1996.



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THANK YOU FOR HELPING TAHIRIH SOAR AT
THIS EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY.

YOUR BOOK CLUB'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BRINGING US CLOSER
TO A WORLD WHERE ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS ENJOY EQUALITY
AND LIVE IN SAFETY AND WITH DIGNITY.

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