




TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®

2016 IMPACT REPORT

protecting

COURAGEOUS IMMIGRANT WOMEN
AND GIRLS FLEEING VIOLENCE



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

Our award-winning, holistic model for protection combines free legal and social services with bridge-building policy advocacy, training, and education. Our programs 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, we are committed to promoting the equality of women and men and creating a world where all women and girls can live in safety and with dignity.

WE ARE EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE THROUGH

legal and social services

Since 1997, Tahirih has answered more than 22,000 pleas for help from individuals seeking protection from gender-based human rights abuses such as domestic violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, forced marriage, honor crimes, rape, torture, and human trafficking.

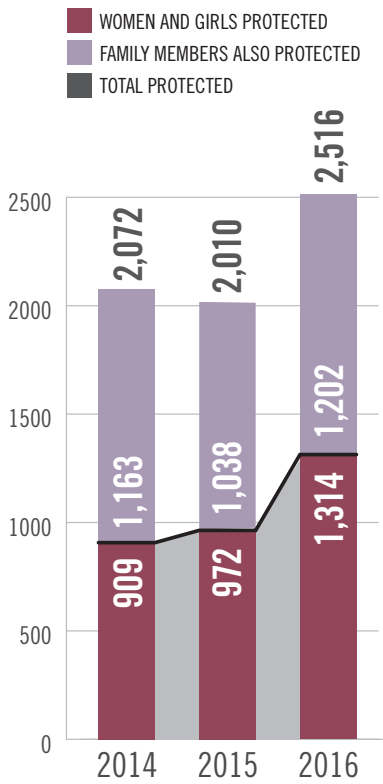
IN 2016, WE:

Provided free legal services to **1,314** immigrant women and girls and **1,202** of their family members

Connected **715** clients and family members with vital social services including emergency shelter, food and clothing, and healthcare

Marshaled an army of **1,976** attorneys in our Pro Bono Network to leverage donated resources and maximize our capacity, turning every **\$1** donated to Tahirih into **\$4** of impact

INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES



ODDS OF WINNING ASYLUM DEPEND ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Tahirih maintains a 99% success rate despite accepting complex and protracted cases, and cases other attorneys deemed “unwinnable.”

WE ARE ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS THROUGH

training and education

Tahirih's 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 2016, WE:

Trained and educated **11,662** frontline professionals, including attorneys, police, judges, doctors, and community leaders—a **31%** increase from 2015

Responded to calls from **419** lawyers and service providers from **8** countries and **28** states who needed expert advice on protections available to immigrant survivors of violence

Linked millions of people to the plight of immigrant women and girls through **89** articles in prominent media including the *Washington Post*, *PBS NewsHour*, and *NPR*

Welcomed **145,550** user visits on Tahirih.org and **16,426** user visits on PreventForcedMarriage.org, connecting more people than ever before to our urgent mission

Surpassed **3.3 million** views on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube, sparking vital conversations about issues that impact the safety and dignity of women and girls

Saw **1,074** visits to our Pro Bono Attorney E-Library (an online resource with practice tips and guidelines)



Kursten Phelps, Tahirih's Director of Legal and Social Services, presents to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists



Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih's Senior Counsel for Policy and Strategy (bottom right), witnesses Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signing historic House Bill 703, making Virginia the first state in the country to limit marriage to legal adults

WE ARE FOSTERING LASTING CHANGE THROUGH

non-partisan advocacy

Tahirih's policy team elevates the voices of immigrant women and girls in communities, courts, and Congress to effect systemic change, ensuring that laws and policies protect them from violence and exploitation.

IN 2016, WE:

Achieved a major victory in how asylum applications are filed so that asylum applicants can meet critical filing deadlines

Won a new parole system for U visa waitlist derivatives, which will allow thousands of women eligible for U visas to bring their children to the U.S.

Secured a commitment from the Administration to begin a new trauma-informed program in immigration detention

Celebrated the announcement of a hard-won new policy allowing women who have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting to more readily win asylum protection



Casey Swegman, Tahirih's Forced Marriage Initiative Project Manager, presents at the National Center for Victims of Crime's 2016 National Training Institute

WE ARE WORKING TO END

child and forced marriage in the united states

Tahirih's Forced Marriage Initiative leads the national movement to protect the rights of individuals fleeing forced marriages across the United States and is 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 2016, WE:

Triaged **215** emergency requests from **66** individuals seeking protection and **149** professionals helping those facing forced marriage issues—from **26** states and nearly **every region** of the globe

Trained and educated **1,103** frontline professionals on the critical tools they need to identify forced marriages and protect victims

Achieved a historic new **minimum marriage age law** in Virginia that was signed by the governor in March and went into effect in July

Trained all of Virginia's **150** juvenile and domestic relations judges on the new minimum marriage age law, which was critical for the law's successful roll out

Reached **thousands** of service providers through a peer-reviewed article published by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence that shows how forced marriage intersects with other forms of abuse in the U.S.

Convened **30** service providers, advocates, experts, and survivors from across the country for the first-ever national consultation on whether forced marriage should be criminalized in the U.S.

Secured a **high-level roundtable** with the U.S. Department of State and members of the Tahirih-led Forced Marriage Working Group to discuss improving responses to U.S. victims taken overseas for forced marriages

Published a groundbreaking report with a complete **50-state** analysis of laws that allow child marriages to occur in the U.S.

ISABEL'S STORY

I am a senior in high school. A good student. A dancer. If you asked my friends to describe me, those are all things they might say. And I'm glad they think of me as a normal teenage girl. Because until a few years ago, my life was anything but normal.

I grew up in a small, rural community in Central America. I never knew my father, and my mother moved away when I was young. I lived with my aunt, where I endured physical and emotional abuse, including being sexually assaulted by my older cousin when I was just seven years old.

As a teenager, I had to live in abandoned buildings. Local gangs tried to force me into sexual slavery. I was afraid for my life every single day.

That's when I fled to the United States, all alone. I was terrified. I spent the first few months in a detention center, which was basically like a prison. Night after night, I would lie awake worrying that they would deport me.

Luckily, that didn't happen. And when I finally got out, the Tahirih Justice Center was there. That's the day my life began to change for the better.

Tahirih was with me every step of the way, getting me the help I needed to recover from everything that happened, going to court with me, and eventually convincing the judge to grant me protection in the United States.

Tahirih gave me my life back. For the first time since I was five years old, I'm not afraid. I'm not fighting to survive. I'm free to just be a teenager.

Thank you for helping me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.





PBS 
**NEWS
HOUR**

**IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT...**

**PBS NEWSHOUR AIRED TWO IN-DEPTH SEGMENTS
ON FORCED MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.**



With a reach of over 2.5 million viewers each night, journalist Gayle Tzemach Lemmon put survivor stories front and center, highlighting not only the human rights abuse that is forced marriage, but also the courageous ways in which women and girls all over the U.S. have survived and forged new paths of healing, safety, and success.



Each survivor featured in this two-part series—Jada, Lina, and Nina—was a hero long before she sat before the camera. These former Tahirih clients courageously stepped forward to tell their stories and pursue justice, bringing forced marriage out of the shadows and into mainstream American consciousness.

“THEY ARE SPEAKING OUT WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO COME FORWARD AND BREAK THE SILENCE. THEY ARE SHARING THEIR DEEPEST STRUGGLES SO THAT OTHER SURVIVORS WILL NOT FEEL ALONE, AS THEY DID.”

CASEY SWEGMAN

Tahirih Forced Marriage Initiative Project Manager

“TO HAVE THAT SUPPORT AND HAVE THAT LOVE FROM SOMEBODY YOU HAVE NEVER EVEN MET BEFORE, IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE. LIKE TAHIRIH AND LIKE CASEY – I FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE ALL OF THAT. BECAUSE IF IT WEREN’T FOR THOSE PEOPLE, YOU DON’T KNOW WHERE YOU WOULD BE.”

LINA

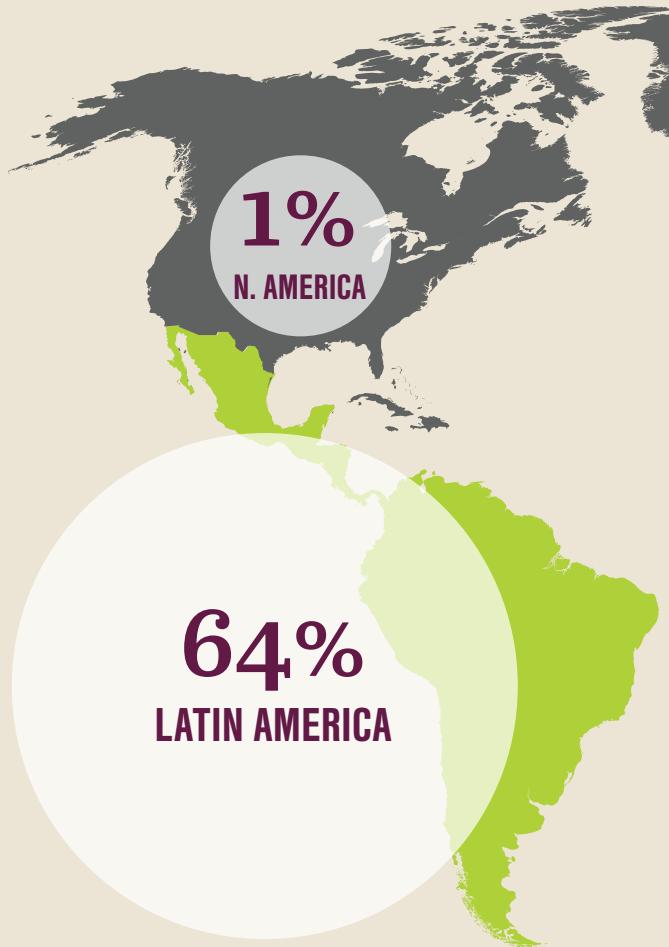
survivor of forced marriage

OUR CLIENTS COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, BUT NOW LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES.

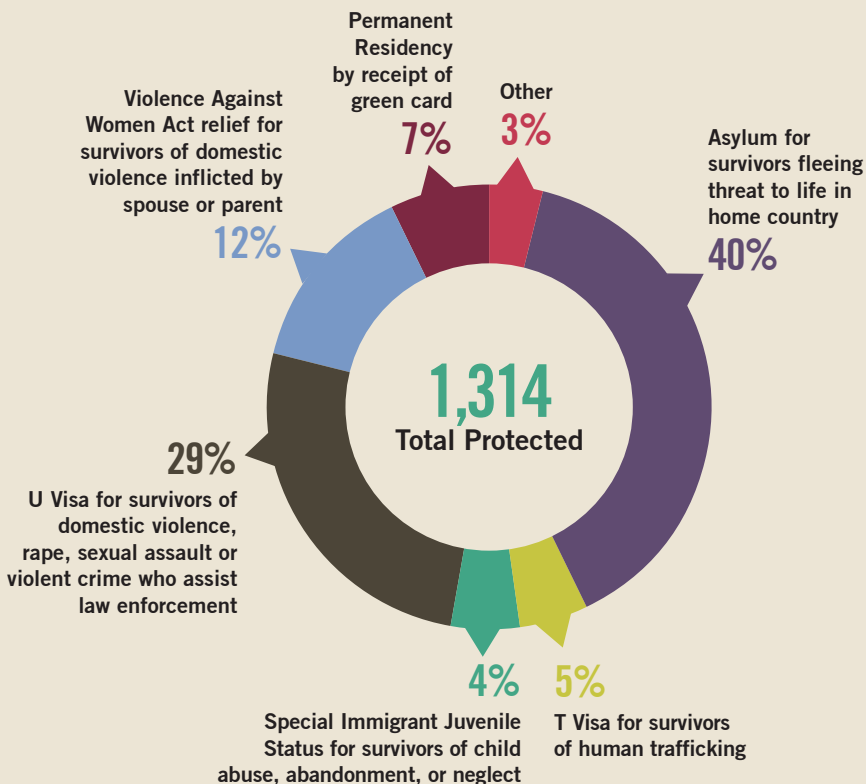
In 2016, our top 5 countries of origin were:

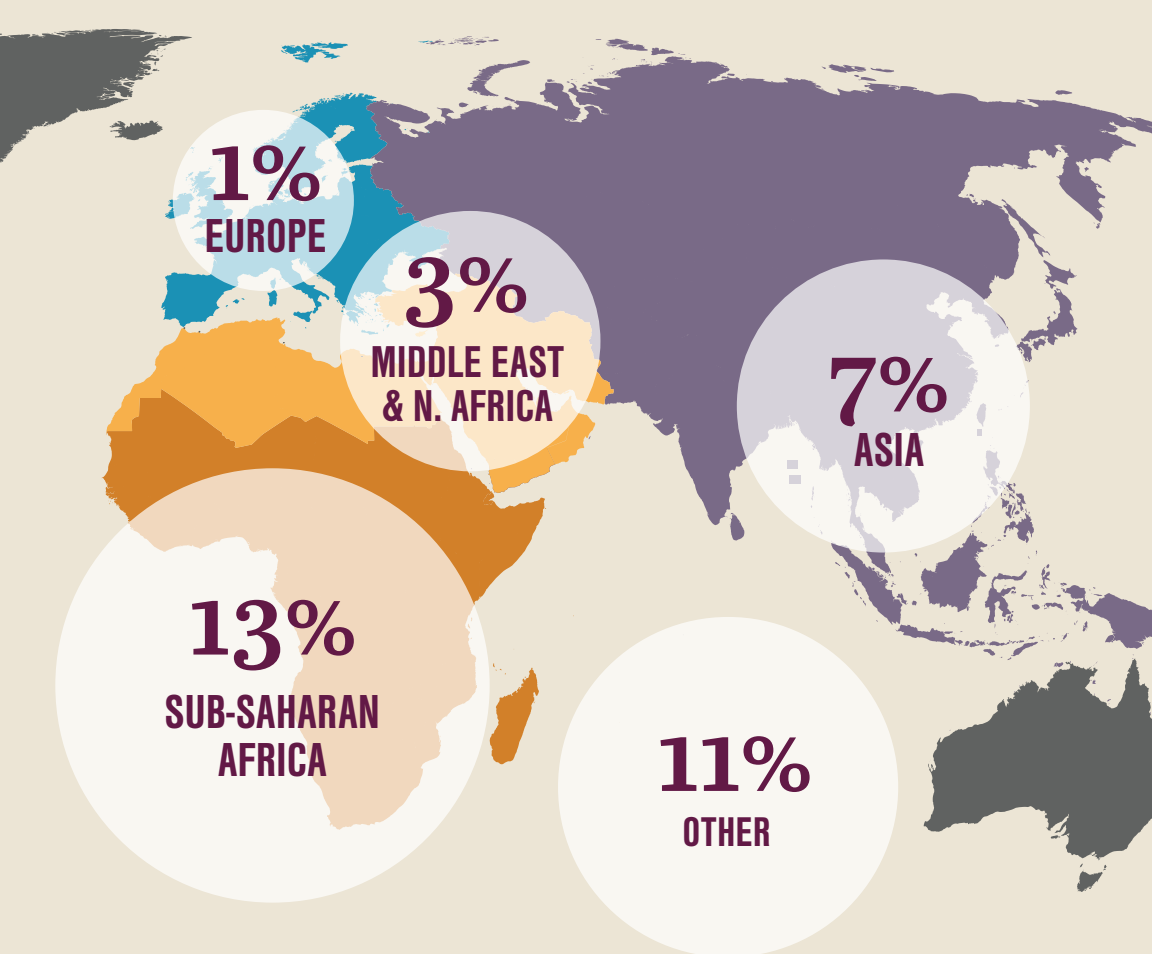
- 1. El Salvador**
- 2. Honduras**
- 3. Mexico**
- 4. Guatemala**
- 5. Cameroon**

In addition to experiencing violence in their origin country, about **70% of our clients have also experienced violence** since coming here to the U.S.



TYPES OF IMMIGRATION PROTECTIONS IN 2016





2016 TRENDS

Asylum cases increased by

↑ **28%**

U Visa cases increased by

↑ **38%**

Green card applications increased by

↑ **10x**

Individuals provided direct representation services increased by

↑ **35%**

Exceeded Goal for number of individuals provided direct representation and brief advice services by

↑ **23%**

**“TO ALL THE OTHER WOMEN WITH A STORY LIKE MINE:
STAY BRAVE. WE HAVE TAHIRIH. WE CAN DO IT.”**

MARITZA

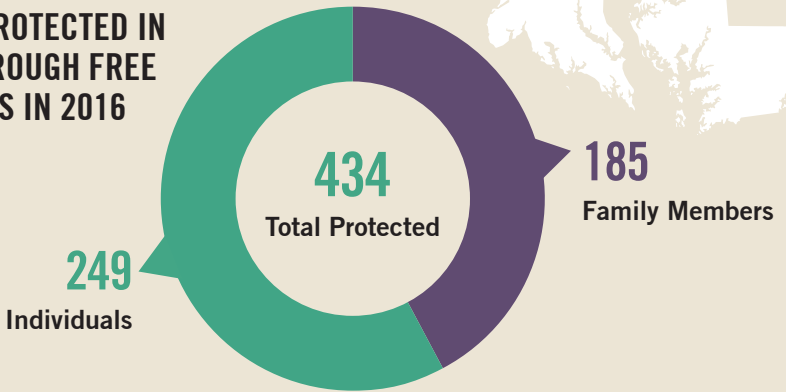
survivor of human trafficking and rape

OUR AWARD-WINNING MODEL FOR SERVICE
IS IN FOUR, HIGH-NEED LOCATIONS

Baltimore



INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN
BALTIMORE THROUGH FREE
LEGAL SERVICES IN 2016



BALTIMORE BY THE NUMBERS

125

Clients and their family members connected to vital social services

121

Pro bono attorneys who co-counseled cases

1,403

Community members and frontline professionals trained

IN 2016, BALTIMORE:

Increased Direct Service staff by 75% in order to address the growing needs of the community

Began Financial Literacy workshops in response to the high financial service needs (38%) of our clients

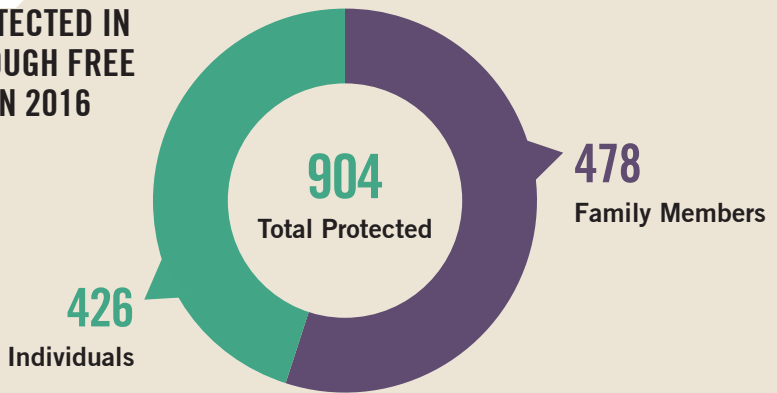
Continued involvement in coalitions such as the Human Trafficking Taskforce, the Pro Bono Resource Center's Pro Bono Committee, and the Baltimore City Police Commissioner's Hispanic Advisory Council

Conducted a cultural humility training for victim-witness advocates at the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office



Greater DC

INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN
GREATER DC THROUGH FREE
LEGAL SERVICES IN 2016



GREATER DC BY THE NUMBERS

258

Clients and family members
connected to vital
social services

1,368

Attorneys in
Pro Bono Network

2,670

Community members
and frontline
professionals trained

IN 2016, GREATER DC:

Launched our first medical-legal partnership with La Clinica del Pueblo, a non-profit, federally qualified health center that serves Latino and Immigrant populations of Greater DC

Received the Hispanic Bar Association of DC Hugh A. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award for demonstrated commitment to quality service provision and principles of equality, cultural respect, and social justice

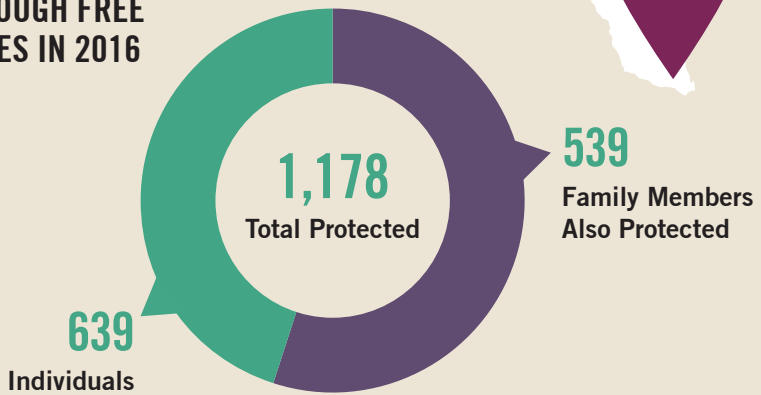
Negotiated a direct enrollment system with the free clinic network in Fairfax County, facilitating access to holistic healthcare for over 50% of clients as part of the local Medical Advocacy Project

Trained service providers on working with gender-based violence survivors at the Ethiopian Community DC Annual Conference on Immigrants and Refugees

Houston



INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN HOUSTON THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN 2016



HOUSTON BY THE NUMBERS

332

Clients and their family members connected to vital social services

236

Pro bono attorneys who co-counseled cases

4,533

Community members and frontline professionals trained

IN 2016, HOUSTON:

Increased Direct Service staff by 33% in order to address the growing needs of the community

Partnered with Human Rights First and the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative to expand legal assistance to mothers and children fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, and gang violence in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala

Conducted over 60 trainings and educational outreach events to provide information, tools, and strategies for protecting vulnerable women and girls

Cultivated a diversified, engaged constituent base, increasing revenue diversity through additional partnerships gained from the 5th Annual Houston Gala



San Francisco Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO BY THE NUMBERS

530,000

undocumented immigrants living in the San Francisco Bay Area

29.8%

of the Bay Area is foreign-born, making the region more than twice as diverse as the U.S. overall

19%

of foreign-born residents in the Bay Area are more likely to be living in poverty

IN 2016, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA:

Opened Tahirih's fourth local office in the San Francisco Bay Area in December, initially in office space donated by Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer

Began hiring for five staff positions

To answer more pleas for help from courageous women and girls across the country, Tahirih is planning to open another new office in the coming year.

Please help us grow!
Learn more at tahirih.org.



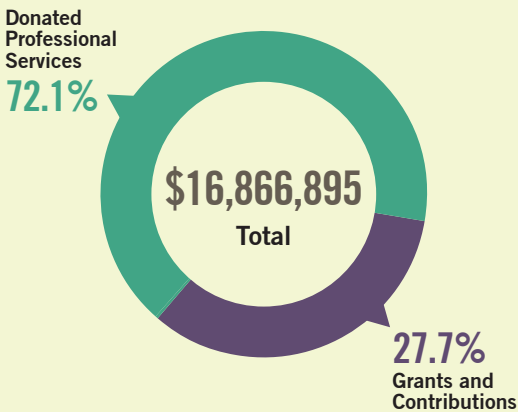
2015 Financials

WE ARE TURNING EVERY \$1 DONATED INTO \$4 OF IMPACT

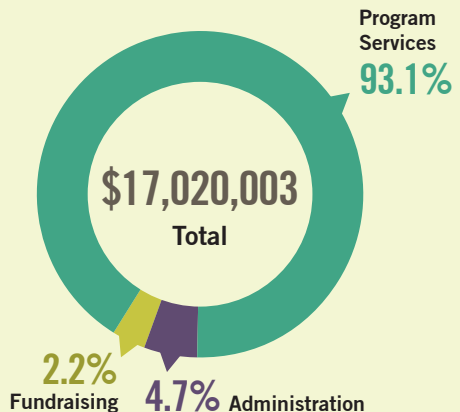
In 2015, Tahirih had an operating budget of **\$4.7M**. Thanks to the generosity of our Pro Bono Attorney Network, the value of in-kind donated professional services was **\$12.3M**, bringing our total budget to **\$17M**.

| | 2015 | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | UNRESTRICTED | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | TOTAL |
| REVENUE AND SUPPORT | | | |
| Donated (In-Kind) Professional Services | \$ 12,349,173 | \$ 0 | \$ 12,349,173 |
| Grants and Contributions | 3,322,753 | 1,209,890 | 4,532,643 |
| Fundraising Sales, Net of Expense | 24,874 | - | 24,874 |
| Investment Income | (42,878) | - | (42,878) |
| Other Income | 3,083 | - | 3,083 |
| Net Assets Released from Program Restrictions | 1,266,420 | (1,266,420) | - |
| Net Assets Released from Time Restrictions | 175,000 | (175,000) | - |
| Total Revenue | 17,098,425 | (231,530) | 16,866,895 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Program | - | - | - |
| Services | 14,065,365 | - | 14,065,365 |
| Advocacy | 1,106,959 | - | 1,106,959 |
| Total Program Services | 15,172,324 | - | 15,172,324 |
| Supporting Services | | | |
| General and Administration | 1,264,765 | - | 1,264,765 |
| Fundraising | 582,914 | - | 582,914 |
| Total Supporting Services | 1,847,679 | - | 1,847,679 |
| Total Expenses | 17,020,003 | - | 17,020,003 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 78,422 | (231,530) | (153,108) |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year | 832,489 | 3,573,834 | 4,406,323 |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | \$ 910,911 | \$ 3,342,304 | \$ 4,253,215 |

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



TOTAL EXPENSES



Our full 2015 financial statements and Independent Audit Report issued by Raffa, P.C. can be viewed at tahirih.org. Our 2016 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 donors who make our work possible
through generous financial support in 2016:

CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer
& Feld LLP

Anesthesia Business
Consultants, LLC

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer

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Baker Botts LLP

BP America Inc.

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& Hamilton LLP

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Fragomen Worldwide

GE Oil & Gas

Girls Rights Project

gouya&shannon

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Hilton Worldwide

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Houston Night Court

Houstonian Dental,
Helen Jafari DDS

Immigration Legal
Services Collaborative

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Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale
& Dorr LLP
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FOUNDATIONS

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Guity Ejtemai Foundation
The Abell Foundation
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Charles Crane Family Foundation
Citi Foundation
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Family Foundation
Enrico and Sandra di Portanova
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The Frees Foundation
The Fund for Change
The Gallogly Family Foundation
George L. Shields Foundation Inc.
Harris and Elizabeth
Kempner Fund
Haskell Fund
Heising-Simons Foundation
The Herb Block Foundation
Houston Endowment

Houston Immigration Legal
Services Collaborative
Jacob & Hilda
Blaustein Foundation
Journey Foundation
Julian Grace Foundation
Lucius and Eva
Eastman Fund Inc.
Marilyn & Jim Simons Foundation
M & T Charitable Foundation
The Moriah Fund
The Morris and Gwendolyn
Cafritz Foundation
National Christian
Foundation Houston
Newman's Own Foundation
NoVo Foundation
One Foundation
PepsiCo Foundation
Progress Family Foundation
Ralph M. Cestone Foundation
Simmons Foundation
The Steptoe Foundation
Taslimi Foundation
Thomson Family Philanthropy
Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation
Venable Foundation
Virginia Law Foundation
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
Zellerbach Family Foundation

GOVERNMENT

Commonwealth of Virginia,
Department of Criminal Justice
Services, V-STOP Violence Against
Women Program
Commonwealth of Virginia,
Department of Criminal Justice
Services, Victims of Crime Assis-
tance Program
Commonwealth of Virginia,
Department of Criminal Justice
Services, Virginia Sexual and
Domestic Violence Victims Fund

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 Health and
Human Services, Office on
Refugee Resettlement,
Survivors of Torture Program
Department of Justice, Office
for Victims of Crime, Comprehen-
sive Services for Survivors
of Human Trafficking Program
(via TurnAround, Inc.)
Department of Justice, Office on
Violence Against Women, Legal
Assistance for Victims Program
State of Maryland, Governor's
Office on Crime Control and
Prevention, Maryland Victims
of Crime Program
State of Maryland, Governor's
Office on Crime Control and
Prevention, 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
Texas Access to Justice
Foundation (TAJF)

INDIVIDUALS

\$500,000 +

Laura and John Arnold

\$100,000 +

Suzy and Jeff Elghanayan
Douglas and Suzanne Henck

\$60,000 +

Bahia and Daniel Muriello

\$50,000 +

Mehran and Laila Taslimi

\$40,000+

Paul Glist and Karla Jamir

\$30,000+

Benny and Noushin
Malek Khosravi
Payam and Gouya Zamani

\$20,000+

Anonymous
Mary Patricia Davis
and Wesley Callender
Dr. Jackie Eghrari-Sabet
& Sina A. Sabet
Carelle L. Karimimanesht
Christine and Craig LaFollette
Kerry Mogharebi
Moujan and Elham Vahdat

\$10,000+


Anonymous
Tahirih Baker and
the late Ahang Rabbani
Ric and Maureen Campo
Diana and Frederick Elghanayan
Raed Gonzalez
Jamie Gorelick
Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro
Carol and Alan Kelly
Frank Kendall and
Elizabeth Halpern

Masu and Badar Khan
Martha MacLachlan
Amy and Wilson Mudge
Abbaseh Samimi
Christine and James Savage
Mojgan and David Shin
Hannah Sibiski and Stuart Nance
Barry and Mitra Solomon
Ann and Tim Stout
Melonie and John Sullivan
Sarah and David Vanderveen
Dawn Vermilya
Mary and Jeffrey Zients
Robert and Edith Zinn

\$5,000+

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Elizabeth Avery
Babak Bahador and
Sharon Eblaghie Bahador
Judy Blade
Jamie Boucher
The Buck Family
Anne and Albert Chao
Kelly Cobb
Marjorie De La Cruz
David and Afsaneh Dean
Matthew Dowell
Rita Egrari
Karen Fananapazir
Mina Haidarian
Charles and Christine Henck
Audrey Hendricks
Lynne and Joe Horning
Helen Jafari and Nash Alaei
Lisa and Sanjay Kalavar
Caroline Kim
Wendy and Grant Kvalheim
Cathie and Michael Lawler
Fariba Mahjoor and
Farajollah Farshad Mahjoor
The Marek Family
Kathrine McLendon

Bryan and Rachel Milton
Joanne Moore
Karen Otazo-Hofmeister
and John Hofmeister
Laura Parcher
Lydia Protopapas
Soula Proxenos and Bruce O'Brien
Vafa and Ladan Rakshani
Amy Nicolle Rodgers
James J. Sandman and
Elizabeth D. Mullin
Paul Strain
Diana Strassman and Jeff Smisek
Homa Sabet Tavangar
and Alex Tavangar
Sheila and John Tweed
William Walther



“The world of humanity has two wings: one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly.”

— BAHÁ'Í WRITINGS

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER LOCATIONS

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