Tahirih Justice Center

Promoting Justice for Women and Girls Worldwide

Annual Report 2000 & 2001
Dear Friends,

We live at an incredible time in human history when women and girls, who have faced violence from their societies and families for thousands of years, are standing up and rejecting their oppressed status. Many women and girls, demanding to be free from violence, face no alternative but to flee their situation. They often flee without material resources, without knowledge of their new land, and without access to assistance. Without legal advocacy, they are powerless to secure meaningful protection. The Tahirih Justice Center supports the steadfast courage and determined character of these women. For the last five years, it has dedicated itself to their assistance and continues to pioneer the cause of protecting women and girls from human rights abuses.

The need for the Center’s legal advocacy is overwhelming. We receive an average of five requests for assistance per day and, in this post-September 11th environment, find that the numbers are increasing. In response to the overwhelming need for our services, the Center has increased its staff and programs. Over the past two years, the Center doubled its staff and budget, hired a full-time executive director, transitioned from a founding board to a governing board, solidified its institutional infrastructures, and further developed its programs.

With this Annual Report, we attempt to capture and convey the dizzying growth we have experienced over the past two years. Having served women and girls fleeing human rights abuses for over five years, the Tahirih Justice Center is now firmly established as a well-respected organization known for making a significant difference in the lives of abused women and girls and for contributing to the transformation of the justice system to provide for their protection. We hope that, in these pages, you will be able to feel the thrill of our development and understand the importance of our work.

With warmest regards,

Executive Director  Chair, Board of Directors
MISSION STATEMENT

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

HISTORY

The Center was founded in 1997 by Layli Miller-Muro, Esq., with resources that became available 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. 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 provided initial funding for the Center 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 Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detention facilities, and her ultimate grant of asylum.

TAHIRIH

Tahirih (Tah-heh-ray) was a renowned poet, 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 publicly discard the symbol of women’s inequality by removing her veil before an assemblage of men in 1848. This act was so shocking, at that time, that a man in the audience stood up and slit his throat at the sight of her. Tahirih took this radical step in the East during the same year that the New York Seneca Falls Conference launched the first women’s rights movement in the West. To her detractors, Tahirih proclaimed, “You can kill me as soon as you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women.” Tahirih was martyred for her beliefs in 1852 at the age of 36.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER LOGO

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. When the two wings...become equivalent in strength, enjoying the same prerogatives, the flight of man will be exceedingly lofty and extraordinary.*

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, and the Center works toward legal and social justice for women and girls as a critical step in making this equality a reality.
Selected Historical Events Demonstrating the Progress of Women's Rights

1848

Tahirih inspires women in Persia to reject their oppressed status and publicly removes her veil.

A conference in Seneca Falls, New York marks the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in the United States.

1948

The United Nations adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration affirms the principle that human beings "shall enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination."

1954

The Geneva Conventions establish that a refugee may not be forcibly returned to his or her home country to suffer persecution on account of his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. The convention is ratified by the United States in 1980.

1979

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is adopted by the United Nations and later ratified by 165 countries. The United States is one of the few countries yet to ratify the Convention.
1994

The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in the U.S. enables immigrant women suffering domestic violence at the hands of their U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouses to petition on their own behalf for immigrant status, thereby thwarting abusers’ attempts to use the victims’ dependent immigration status as a tool for further abuse.

1996

The Board of Immigration Appeals, the highest U.S. immigration tribunal, issues the landmark decision, Matter of Kasinga, holding that a woman may receive asylum because of the threat of female genital mutilation (FGM). This case establishes gender-based persecution as a basis for asylum.

1997

The Tahirih Justice Center is incorporated and begins to assist women facing gender-based persecution. In August 1998, the Center hires its first full-time staff.

2000

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act becomes law, creating new legal relief for immigrant victims of crime and human trafficking.
An Overview of the Center’s Programs

The Tahirih Justice Center engages in legal advocacy designed to champion the rights of women and girls and protect them from international human rights abuses. The Center’s initiatives include both pro bono representation of individual women and larger efforts to transform policies, develop regulations, and set precedent so that systemic change will ensure the long-term protection of women from violence. From 1997 to 2001, the Center assisted over 1,804 individuals in their efforts to be free from violence, and furthered the establishment and enforcement of laws which provide women with greater access to justice. The Center aids some of the most traditionally underserved populations in the world, including those from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Legal Protection for Immigrant Women and Girls:

The Tahirih Justice Center is a pioneer in the protection of women and girls from violence under U.S. immigration law. Through direct litigation and public policy advocacy, it encourages the development of laws to protect women and girls fleeing abuses such as female genital mutilation, honor crimes, forced prostitution, rape and incest, trafficking, forced marriage, involuntary servitude, gender apartheid, widow rituals, sexual orientation persecution, forced sterilization, and domestic violence. The Center provides free legal representation in-house and, in an effort to maximize the number of women served, refers additional cases to law firms that have agreed to provide pro bono legal services to the Center’s clients.

Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project:

The Center represents battered immigrant women married to U.S. citizens or permanent residents so that they can legalize their immigration status without depending on the cooperation of their abusive spouses. By obtaining lawful permanent residence, these women are not forced to choose between deportation and remaining in abusive relationships.

Refugee Women and Girls Advocacy Project:

Working primarily with Afghan women and their families, the Center advocates for improvements in the refugee processing system and assists women who are at risk of violence during their applications for resettlement and admission to the United States. The Center has worked closely with the White House, U.S. Department of State, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and United Nations agencies to promote the expedient protection of refugee women and girls.

The Nataliya Campaign - To Prevent Exploitation by “Mail Order Bride” Agencies:

Over the past few years, the “mail order bride” industry has exploded in response to American men’s demand for foreign-born wives whom they perceive as “traditional.” Although some of these unions may be beneficial to both parties, an increasing number of women, in search of loving relationships and a family, are paired with abusive men. Often unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system and the English language, and told inaccurate information about their rights by agencies that want to keep them in their contracted marriages, many women are left in dangerously violent relationships. Named after one of the Center’s clients, the Nataliya Campaign advocates for legislative change, accountability of “mail order bride” agencies, and protection of the victims through litigation and public outreach.

International Projects to Promote Legal Protections for Women and Girls:

At a historic time, when many countries are passing laws and engaging in efforts to protect women from violence, the Center works to define and expand legal protections for women and girls. The Center’s efforts span the globe and include Ghana, Gambia, Kuwait, Brazil, Australia, and Germany. 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.
Dear Tabirih Justice Center,

Thank you for helping us, and giving us support. Your help led to my mom getting an apartment. You also helped my mom to get a job. Thanks for all of your love and kindness and generosity. I also give special thanks to my mom’s legal advisor, Nam Mee Cho.

Dear Mrs. Irena Lieberman,

Your yesterday’s phone call made us so happy that you make this effort to send a letter to UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] of Islamabad, Pakistan on behalf of our family. Words are not enough to thank you. We deeply appreciate your kindness, generosity, and understanding. It means a lot to us. We are sure that your contact is helpful. We have tried through every legal channel but always there was a dead end. There is no doubt that your help will make a big difference to their life and to their future, most important it will save their lives. The civil war in Afghanistan took a lot of lives. It will be sad to lose more lives. Thanks to all your staff for devotion of Human Rights. Dear Irena, thank you again. God blesses you.

Hi Nam Mee,

I received the letter and miss you very much. Last year was a very hard time for me. But when I look back, I see you giving me advice, money, faith, clothes, your time, and your energy. God Bless you! I appreciate your loving and caring ways toward my son and me. Thank You.

Dear Irena Lieberman,

We are thankful for your effort to track the case of our relatives. It has been great news to us that they are registered at the United Nations at Islamabad. We don’t know what we could do without your help. Thank you and we appreciate this forever. My mom is so happy and says “Dear Irena, thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Taking a Holistic Approach

The Center approaches its service to clients from a holistic perspective, seeking not only to resolve the legal issues that clients face, but also to connect clients with other community resources that will assist them in living independent, safe, and healthy lives. The Center recognizes that the attainment of freedom from persecution is only the first step in helping women achieve well-being and a larger sense of justice in their lives. For many women, the process of dealing with the abuses they have suffered takes many years, and it can be compounded by the challenges of adjusting to their new lives in the United States. In an effort to assist clients with this process, the Center coordinates their access to social services, medical services, and psychological counseling through an extensive referral network.
A Pioneer in Gender-Based Asylum Claims

Building upon the precedent-setting case that enabled its creation, the Tahirih Justice Center specializes in seeking asylum for victims of gender-based persecution. The Center’s legal services cater to the unique needs of women fleeing human rights abuses, particularly from such underserved areas as Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Center clients face abuses such as FGM, rape, torture, honor crimes, forced marriage, trafficking, domestic violence, widow rituals, and sexual slavery.

The need for representation in gender-based asylum claims is acute, as violence against women continues to increase. According to the United Nations, 2 million women undergo FGM throughout Africa per year; over 12.5 million women were living under a system of gender apartheid in Afghanistan until very recently; over 850 women were killed by male relatives in Pakistan last year for ‘violating family honor’; one out of every four women are victims of domestic violence in Brazil; and nearly 50,000 women and children from Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe are brought to the United States each year under false pretenses and forced to work as prostitutes, captive laborers, or servants.

In 2000 alone, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) received 15,091 applications for asylum from women fleeing persecution. Approximately 12,000 of those women applying for asylum were from Africa, the Middle East, or Asia. Although the last publicly reported nationwide rate of approval for asylum applications was 23.3%, the Tahirih Justice Center’s rate of asylum grants is 98%.

In March 2002, the Center’s Director of Legal Services, Irena Lieberman, Esq., successfully represented a four-year old Nigerian girl in her political asylum case based on the threat of FGM. Her father’s family was threatening to perform FGM on her after her father, who vehemently opposed the practice, died unexpectedly. The girl fled with her mother to the United States, where she found assistance through the Tahirih Justice Center. Although only four years old, she was able to testify on her own behalf. When the girl received asylum, she signed her own asylum grant, standing on a chair in order to reach the window. After she signed her name, the INS applauded and congratulated her.

Ms. Lieberman also represented the girl’s mother in her asylum case. The client’s in-laws accused her of killing her husband because he died so young, and they threatened to force her to endure certain widow-rituals to prove her innocence. Among other rituals, she would have had to drink the bath-water that was used to bathe her husband’s body, sleep in the same room as the body, and shave her head. The client, who was pregnant at the time, was particularly fearful that her in-laws would poison the bath-water or subject her to severe physical abuse. Once the client fled to the United States, she was able to receive assistance from the Tahirih Justice Center. Center Paralegal Gwen Forrest-Brake prepared this client for her rigorous asylum interview, and she was commended by the INS for her country conditions research. The client was granted asylum and is now living in the United States with her two daughters and son.
Helping Afghan Women

Since its inception, the Tahirih Justice Center has focused special attention on the human rights issues faced by women from Muslim societies. This group has been traditionally underserved by human rights organizations and faces unique issues by virtue of the cultural context in which their subjugation occurs. Beginning in the spring of 1999, the Center assisted Afghan women in collaboration with the Feminist Majority Foundation and its ‘Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan.’ At this time, the Center began providing legal assistance to individual women and their families who were targeted by the Taliban in order to help them obtain refugee status and resettle in the United States. Long before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 focused the world’s attention on the Taliban’s abusive treatment of women, the Center was providing legal assistance to Afghan women in their efforts to escape horrific human rights abuses.

In addition to the assistance provided to individual women, the Center has engaged in policy work designed to improve the status of all Afghan women. The Center has served as a legal advisor for the Feminist Majority Foundation in its efforts to influence United States policies toward the Taliban and Afghan women refugees. As one of the only organizations engaged in direct and specialized legal assistance to Afghan women, the Center has gained unique insight into the obstacles faced by these women, and it has imparted this critical information to high ranking policy makers through participation in meetings with the White House, the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

On December 12, 2001, the Center and one of its clients had the privilege of participating in the signing of the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act - a bill that authorizes the allocation of funds for educational and health care programs that benefit women and children in Afghanistan and in refugee camps in neighboring countries. The Center’s Director of Legal Services, Irena Lieberman, and her client, Farida, were invited to take part in the presentation of the bill. Farida was given the special honor of introducing the President and First Lady. With assistance from the Center, Farida and her children received asylum in the United States last year, after being persecuted by the Taliban for engaging in human rights activism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since arriving in the United States, Farida has continued to decry the abuse of women in Afghanistan and has served as a consultant to various human rights groups in Washington, D.C.
With a grant from the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL)¹ and funding from Greenberg Traurig LLP, the Center initiated the Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project in 2000 to provide holistic legal services and education to battered immigrant women. Through this project, the Center helps battered immigrant women self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for legal permanent resident status when they are being abused by a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse. This provision prevents abused women from being forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship and possible deportation. The Tahirih Justice Center is one of only a few Washington, D.C. area advocacy organizations with an attorney who provides full-time assistance to women under VAWA.

The Center’s VAWA attorney, Nam Mee Cho, Esq., organized the "D.C. Area VAWA Network," a coalition of advocates for battered immigrant women in the Washington, D.C. area, for the purpose of sharing information about resources for their client base. One of the Center’s Americorps fellows, Claire Trickler-McNulty, created a brochure listing resources for immigrants and battered immigrants. This brochure will be translated into nine languages and distributed in the summer of 2002.

To maximize access to legal services for battered immigrant women, the Center gave presentations at numerous social service organizations about the special rights and needs of abused foreign-born populations. In particular, the Center regularly gave trainings on how existing service groups can remove institutional barriers to better work with persons who have limited English proficiency and on what immigration relief may be available to abused non-citizens.

¹ Since 2002, NAPIL’s name has been changed to "Equal Justice Works."

Through the Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project, the Center has helped to free many women from a life of violence. In one recent case, Ms. Cho obtained legal permanent resident status for a 25-year-old Ugandan woman whose husband had subjected her to mental and sexual abuse. Ms. M.’s husband had wrongfully accused her of having extra-marital affairs and repeatedly raped her. After she left him, Ms. M’s husband stalked and harassed her. He also lied to the INS and said that she was a prostitute in an effort to have her deported. With the Center’s assistance, Ms. M. applied for and obtained legal permanent resident status and employment authorization— independent of her abusive husband.

Another VAWA success story is that of Ms. S - a 32 year old Ethiopian woman who was pregnant and still living with her physically and mentally abusive husband when she contacted the Center in March of 2001. After hearing her cries for help during one of her husband’s violent outbursts, Ms. S’s neighbors called the police, who found Ms. S badly bruised and shaken from her husband’s attack. Through referrals from the Deputy Director of Social Services, Claire Trickler-McNulty, Ms. S. obtained a Protective Order and gained entry into a battered women’s shelter. Through the legal assistance of Ms. Cho, Ms. S. was approved for work authorization under the Violence Against Women Act.
Recognizing that laws are important to protect women from violence, over the past two years, the Center has collaborated with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Brazilian Ministry of Justice to train adjudicators on domestic violence and promote a culture of pro bono legal representation in Brazil.

In the summer of 2000, the Center’s Executive Director, Layli Miller-Muro, Esq., spoke with women’s rights organizations in Brazil that expressed the need to access affordable legal representation on behalf of their clients. Pro bono representation is rare in Brazil and officially opposed by the Bar Association in some states. After meeting with lawyers from several of Brazil’s largest law firms, a conference was organized to raise awareness of the need for pro bono legal representation among private lawyers and law firms in Brazil. In October of 2001, Ms. Miller-Muro returned to Brazil to give the keynote address at the conference. The conference’s main benefactor was the law firm of Rubes, Naves, Santos Jr. and Hesketh. It was also supported by the Ministry of Justice, UNESCO, and many other law firms and non-profit organizations. The conference was well-publicized and received both newspaper and television coverage.

During October of 2001, Ms. Miller-Muro was also invited to provide a three-day training on domestic violence enforcement for judges and prosecutors from 20 regions in Brazil. The training was funded by the Ministry of Justice and coordinated by the Brazilian Bahá’í community. Participants went through a rigorous application process and committed to replicate the training in their regions. In preparation for the training, the Center developed a Portuguese manual and an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Over 3,000 copies of the manual were distributed to prosecutors and judges throughout Brazil and a second printing of the manual has been issued.
Public Policy Advocacy to Protect Women and Girls from Violence

The Center engages in a wide range of efforts to ensure systemic change so that women have access to legal protection and can be freed from a cycle of violence. To transform public policy and bring justice to the lives of women, the Center has done the following:

• Advocated for the INS to adopt an agency-wide policy to shield abused domestic workers from prosecution for immigration status violations, which result after they escape their abusive employers;

• Engaged in discussions with the UNHCR, U.S. State Department, and the White House to promote increased refugee protections for Afghan women and girls, as well as increased accountability of NGO’s in Pakistan;

• Serves as a consultant to the U.S. State Department on issues relating to human trafficking;

• Serves as a consultant to the INS on the condition of women around the world;

• Participates in Congressional briefings and other events, and the compilation of written materials to promote United States ratification of CEDAW;

• Opposed INS regulations that dramatically restructured the Board of Immigration Appeals and commented on other proposed regulations that affect the legal relief available to the Center’s clients;

• Met with Congressional staffers to advocate for the passage of a resolution calling on Japan to acknowledge its role in, and issue an apology for, the sexual enslavement of “comfort women” during the World War II era;

• Provided testimony to the Office of Management and Budget regarding proposals to increase federal funding for agencies to improve access to social services for persons with Limited English Proficiency; and

• Trained Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights attorneys on how to work with interpreters and persons with Limited English Proficiency.
1804 People Helped from 1997 to 2001

618 People Helped in 2001

406 People Helped in 2000

86 Represented Cases from 1997 to 2001

41 Represented Cases in 2001

19 Represented Cases in 2000

Law Type

Regions Where Our Clients Are From

- Africa: 32%
- Central Asia: 8%
- Middle East: 8%
- South America: 6%
- Central America: 6%
- Eastern Europe: 4%
- North America: 4%
- South Asia: 3%
- East Asia: 3%

Other (such as U/T-Visa): 0%
Understanding the importance of working collaboratively with like-minded organizations to promote justice for women and girls fleeing violence, the Center has developed working relationships with the following organizations:

- American University, Washington College of Law, International Human Rights Law Clinic
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- AYUDA
- Betty Ann Kranke Shelter
- Boat People SOS
- Campaign for Migrant Domestic Workers Rights
- Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition
- CASA of Maryland
- Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services
- Center for Multicultural Human Services
- Crossways Community
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- D.C. Bridge Builders Community
- Fairfax County Domestic Violence Pilot Project, Region II
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- Hogar Hispano
- International Human Rights Law Group
- Korean American Women in Need
- Korean Community Service Center
- Lawyer’s Committee for Human Rights
- Legal Services of North Carolina
- Loudoun County Transitional Housing Program
- Loudoun County Department of Mental Health
- Mary House
- Migrant Immigrant Refugee Cultural Support (MIRECS)
- Montgomery County Abused Persons Program
- My Sister’s Place
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’í of the United States, Working Group on CEDAW ratification
- North American Council for Muslim Women
- NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Support Our Survivors (S.O.S.)
- Virginians Against Domestic Violence
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- WEA VE Inc.
- Women for Afghan Women
- Women’s Alliance for Peace & Human Rights in Afghanistan

Debi Sanders from the Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition, being honored by the Tahirih Justice Center advisory board member Michael Maggio, for her work with the immigrant community

TJC Staff: Katy Parsi-Boetig and Irena Lieberman
Public Outreach and Education

The Tahirih Justice Center believes that to achieve justice for women, the law and societal institutions must be transformed to more effectively protect women from violence. Thus, in 2000 and 2001, the Center’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 Featuring the Center and its Staff

- Today Show, Australia, January 2000
- KZFR Radio, “Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan,” January 2000
- A Tarde, “Todo Prazer Será Castigado,” August 2000
- Newspaper article on FGM and one of the Center’s clients, by Catherine Vuylsteke, Brussels, August 2000
- Korean Broadcasting Network, December 2001

Public Speeches

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Center client from Afghanistan being interviewed
Tahirih Justice Center Washington Area Lawyers’ Network

In 2001, a committed volunteer and communications lawyer, Rachael Galoob-Ortega, founded the TJC Washington Lawyers’ Network in order to organize those interested in providing financial support for the Center’s work. The Network has grown impressively and organized several valuable fundraising events.

Mission Statement:

The TJC Washington Lawyers’ Network 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 the Center’s efforts to enable women and girls who face gender-based violence to access justice worldwide.

Members:

1. Dawn Browning, Legal Services Corporation
2. Jodi Finder, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP
3. Rob Garagiola, Greenberg Traurig, LLP
4. Rachael Galoob-Ortega, Cole, Raywid & Braverman, LLP
5. Tania Hania, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
6. Karen Harbaugh, Sanders & Dempsey, LLP
7. Jennifer Hodges, Attorney at Law
8. Don Luther, Katten, Muchin, Zavis, Rosenman
9. Shirley Marshall, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services
11. Kendall Millard, Arnold & Porter
12. Erika Moritsugu, Hogan & Hartson, LLP
13. Amy Mudge, Arnold & Porter
14. Leslie Nickel, Arnold & Porter
15. Jonathan Stoel, Hogan & Hartson, LLP
17. Julie Stapel, Patton Boggs, LLP

Bricks

During the fall of 2001, many individuals made donations to the Tahirih Justice Center. These donations were vital to the Center’s continuation of services. A number of supporters made donations of $3,360, the cost of the Center’s monthly operating budget. At the suggestion of Sina and Jackie Eghrari-Sabet, these donors have been designated as ‘Bricks,’ as each one provided a building block for the foundation of the Center’s long-term sustenance. (Sina and Jackie Eghrari-Sabet became the Center’s first brick.) To commemorate the generosity of these individuals, the Center held a reception in December 2001, at which it presented each donor with a terracotta brick representing the month during which that donor funded the Center’s work.

Los Angeles Fundraiser

On December 8, 2001, Kathy and Soheil Rabbani and KC and Aimee Porter hosted a fundraiser for the Tahirih Justice Center at the Rabbani residence in Los Angeles, California. Several local restaurants donated food for the event, and Andy Vargas (lead singer for Carlos Santana’s band) and KC Porter (winner of the 2001 Latin Grammy for Producer of the Year) provided entertainment. The organizers raised over $15,000 for the Center through the sale of tickets and an auction. Special thanks to Mina and Christopher Bogen, Emily and Scott Norris, and Samira Zebian who helped organize the event.

Dr. Soheil Samini bidding at the L.A. auction

Neda and Farzad Ghassemi being presented with a brick by Irena Lieberman and Layli Miller-Muro
Thank you to individuals whose generosity protects the lives of women and girls.

B
ricks

donations of $3,360, providing one month of the Center’s overhead expenses

Hoori Ahdieh & John Kruszewski
Dan & Merisa Corbett
Sandi & Mack Crippen
Jackie Eghrari & Sina Sabet
Paul Glist & Karla Jamir
Neda & Farzad Ghassemi
Dawnbreaker Systems (Ivan Prueitt)

M
ortsars

(individual donations over $250)

Val Abassi
Maryam Afshar
Faranak Aghdasi-Assl
Hussein Ahdieh
Robert Ahdieh
Mohabatullah Ahdiyyih
Chad & Tara Ahkavan
Runa Alam
Harold Alderman
Jonathan & Barbara Alexander
Hormoz Alizadeh
Allen & Jahangir Families
David & Beth Anderson
Catherine Arenas
Abbas & Irma Bashir-Elahi
Chris Biskett
Manijeh Javid Bayzaee
Kathleen Behan
James Benson
Susan Berlow
Blake Biles
Meridith Brown
Dawn Browning
Thomas Butler
Anita & Christian Chapman
Martha Cochran
Sandra Crippen
Mark Dayton
Elizabeth Derbes
Mary DeRosa
Regina Derzon
Deanna DeYoung
Jack Edlow
Mark Epstein
Rachael Galoob

Val Abassi
Dr. Michael Goldberg
Gerald & Irma McDonald
Larry & Carole Miller
Mary DeRosa
Dr. Soheil Samini

Dr. Michael Goldberg
Gerald & Irma McDonald
Larry & Carole Miller
Mary DeRosa
Dr. Soheil Samini

Thomas Gibian
Shawn Eshragh
Farshad Farhoumand
James Forsythe
Elizabeth & Douglas Gibson
Teresa Gimbrete
Paul Glist
Lynda Godwin
Michael Goldberg
Tabassum Jahangir
Edward Jaycox
Carelle Karimimanesh
Gregory & Teresa Kelly
Amy Lear
Julia Shane Li
Marylin Love
Martha Maclauchlan
Sandra Maddock
Ruhollah Manavi
Dorothy Marcic
Mariln Marcosson
Joan Maxwell
Irma McDonald
Georgia McLaughlin
Pamela Melendy
Richard & Sarvna Mereness
Luann Fox Merritt
Kavian Milani
Kendall & Katherine Millard
Lawrence & Carole Miller
Rouha Minnerly
Neda & Hamid Moayad
Zia Mody
Marlene Muller

Gilbert S. Muro Jr.
Jennifer Murphy
Papa Madiaiw Ndiaye
Leslie Nickel
Samia Patel
Yasmina Patel
G. Kirk & Virginia Pusey
Moeen Qureshi
Amy Ralph
Sohaila & Firouz Rezazadeh
Elizabeth Rose
Cornelia Rutledge
Kia Saedian
Noah Samara
Fardin Sanai
Ronald Schechter
Marie & Alan Scheffer
John & Ginny Schisler
Robert Shoun
Carrie Smith
Richard Smith
Michael Sozan
David Spratt
John Stewart
Jeannie Stripling
Michael Tacelosky
Elizabeth Tankel
Janet Taylor
Anna Thum
Farhad Vojdani
Mary K. Whalen
Nahid Wilf
Michael Winger-Bearskin
Thank you to donors whose support constitutes the life-blood of the Tahirih Justice Center and enables us to bring justice to the lives of women and girls.

Foundations

2000

- Americorps/ARISE program
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- Meyer Foundation
- National Association for Public Interest Law
- Paul & Annetta Himmelfarb Foundation
- ...

2001

- Americorps/ARISE program
- AOL Time Warner Echo Fund
- Bridgeway Charitable Foundation
- Charitable Gift Fund
- David and Minnie Berk Foundation
- Equal Justice America
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- Jewish Communal Fund
- Meyer Foundation
- Philip Morris Doors of Hope
- Sister Fund
- Trellis Fund
- V-Day Foundation
- William Randolph Hearst Foundation
- Women's Bar Association Foundation

Corporations and Organizations

2000

- American University, Washington College of Law
- Arnold & Porter
- AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
- Bahá’ís of San Diego
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation
- Dominion Ventures, Geoffrey Wooley
- Harbour City Chapter of the Links
- Lexis Publishing
- Maggio & Kattar, PC
- News Africa
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers Corporation
- Quinn Gillespie & Associates
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
- Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals
- ...

2001

- AFL/CIO/CLC
- Allied International Corporation
- American University, Washington College of Law
- Arnold & Porter
- Associated Students of the University of California
- Bahá’ís of Bloomington Township
- Bahá’ís of Licking County
- Bahá’ís of Muncie, Indiana
- The Chevron Companies
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation
- Dawnbreaker Systems
- ExxonMobil
- Emerging Markets Partnership, Africa Fund
- ERL Services
- Foley, Hoag, & Eliot LLP
- KMPG
- Maggio & Kattar, PC
- Miller & Chevalier, Chartered
- New Directions
- Pederson & Freedman
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Pipe Vine, Incorporated
- Quinn Gillespie & Associates
- Science Applications International Corporation
- Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Stanford
- Skinner, Incorporated
- Star Tech, Incorporated
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
- Zonta Club of Fort Wayne, IN
Banquet Congressional Co-Chairs

2000
Honorary Co-Chair - Hillary Rodham Clinton
Co-Chairs
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Robert G. Torricelli
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek
Congressman Gregory Meeks
Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald
Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink
Congresswoman Connie Morella
Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

2001
Congressman Gary L. Ackerman
Congresswoman Judy Biggert
Senator Byron Dorgan
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Mark Dayton
Congressman Patrick Leahy
Congresswoman Dianne Feinstein
Congressman David E. Bonior
Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin
Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton
Congressman Joseph Crowley
Congressman Danny K. Davis
Congressman Lloyd Doggett
Congressman Eliot L. Engel
Congressman Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Congressman Gene Green
Congressman Stephen Horn
Congressman Steve Israel
Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Congressman Jim McDermott
Congressman Michael R. McNulty
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congressman George Miller
Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink
Congressman James F. Moran
Congresswoman Constance A. Morella
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II
Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Congressman Jim McDermott
Congressman Michael R. McNulty
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congressman George Miller
Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink
Congressman James F. Moran
Congresswoman Constance A. Morella
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II
Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Debra Winger, keynote speaker at the 2001 Banquet
Thank You

The Tahirih Justice Center is an organization that has been fueled by an outpouring of support from concerned individuals throughout the world. These individuals have provided both financial and in-kind support to the Center, and they have formed the broad foundation of volunteers on which the Center has been built. Without the help of individuals like you, the Center would not be able to do the work that it does. Thank you.

Thank you to the law firms and attorneys who have taken on many cases of women and girls facing violence on a pro bono basis.

- Arnold & Porter
- Covington & Burling
- Foley, Hoag & Eliot
- Greenburg Traurig, LLP
- Maggio & Kattar, P.C.
- Hogan & Hartson
- Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
- Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP
- Pederson & Freedman
- Shaw Pittman
- Wiley, Rein & Fielding, LLP
- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
- Donna Apostol (Independent)
- Ana Avendano (Independent)
- Marisa Cianciarulo (Independent)
- Meg DeRhonge (Independent)
- Susan McGreivy (Independent)
- Kristi Severance (Independent)

Thank you to others who have offered their professional services free to the Center and our clients.

- Angela Angelovska-Wilson
- R. Martin Bashir, MD
- Abbas Bashir-Elahi, MD
- George Cherry
- Dina Darwish, MD
- Mark Epstein
- Monica Flores
- Craig Forrest
- Gayle Forrest
- Sania Frei-Harper
- Justin Gerensky-Greene
- Esmail Husseini
- Ann McNulty
- Jock McNulty

- Leila Milani
- Kavian Milani, MD
- Gil Miller-Muro
- Langdon Miller
- Gil Muro, Sr.
- Brian Parsi-Boetig
- Mrs. Pham
- Mr. Pham
- Hamid Samandari
- Thom Thompson
- Michael Winger-Bearskin

Daughter of a Center client
Thank you to the other valuable volunteers and many others who are not mentioned.

Peter Adriance
Riva Adriance
Faranak Aghdasi
Semira Ahdiyyih
Shirin Ahlhauser
Barbara Alexander
Gail Amare
Allison Anolik
Nagar Ashtari
Katie Atkinson
Bruce Bachmann
Mohammad Bahudori
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Kelli Griffin
Diane Grzyb
Sharon Gadick
Meghna Gapta
Shirin Hakimzadeh
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Karen Hopkins
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Emily Hughes
Kristen Zinger
Daria Ilb-Tamas
Sara Jackson
Eileen Kelley
Carmel Kelly
Leslie Keniston
Leonda Keniston
Gresou Khadvian
Kaveh Khamooshi
Dr. Maimud Khan
Gina Klick
Mina Kirkova
Lisa R. Knapp
Genevieve Kolasa
Amanda Koman
Hanny Lightfoot-Klein
Nicole Lisa
Marlcorea Lizarraga
Ashlin Malouf
Robin McGee
Jock McNulty
Ann McNulty
Mollie Malone
Beverly Miller
Roja Mirzadeh
Evelina Miteva
Neda Moayad
Mary Katherine Morgan
Aline Moukhtara
Grace Mueller
Parisa Narangar
Amin Neshati
Lily Neyestani
Kate Nicholson
Lauren Palm
Kristen Parsi
Mr. & Mrs. Pham
Shadi Peikari
Angela Pelletier
Christina Petrilli
Regan Postma
Colleen Renk
Ryan Koreen Richards
Hadia Roberts
Matt & Nancy Rome
Bridget Rouhan
Cherish Rufus
Ruth Sakwa
Mitra Sanai
Mami Sato
Liz Seyer
Katie Shnay
Tahirih Shear
Kadria Simons
Aubrey Smith
Kat Stangler
Gary C. Steiger
Cassandra Stekly
Constance Stirling
Jaleh Sharon Tahzib
Filmon Tekeste
Jacinta Testa
Liz Thomas
Isabella Trauttmandorff
Claire Trickler-McNulty
Ritu Tuteja
Kevin Underhill
Mary Urelch
Cara Walsh
Mary Wagner
April Whitworth
Tiffany Wooten
Sonja Williams
Susan Wright
Hamed Yazhari
Carin Zeltzer

Layli Miller-Muro, Esq., at a women’s conference in Kuwait

Center staff and interns
## Financial Information

### Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>$75,610</td>
<td>$91,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>$10,242</td>
<td>$8,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent Deposit</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$88,552</td>
<td>$101,913</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$933</td>
<td>$15,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$933</td>
<td>$15,126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$87,619</td>
<td>$85,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities &amp; Net assets</strong></td>
<td>$88,552</td>
<td>$101,913</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Statement of Cash Flows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>($25,735)</td>
<td>($832)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$1,997</td>
<td>$2,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Increase) Decrease in:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Rent</td>
<td>($2,700)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Decrease) In Accounts payable</td>
<td>($2,282)</td>
<td>$14,193</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash (used in) Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td>($8720)</td>
<td>$15,565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investing Cash Flows:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Equipment</td>
<td>($8,149)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investing Cash Flows</strong></td>
<td>($8,149)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Decrease in Cash And Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>($16,869)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase in Cash And Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$15,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and Cash Equivalents-</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>$75,610</td>
<td>$91,175</td>
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</table>

*In 2000, our Executive Director donated her professional services. In addition, Board members donated their accounting, managerial and other consulting services. In 2001, these roles were integrated into paid staff positions.*
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Jan Pederson, Esq., Pederson & Freedman
Jamin Raskin, Esq., Law Professor, American University; Washington College of Law, Washington D.C.

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

Executive Assistant
Christopher Martin, M.A.

Director of Legal Services
Irena Lieberman, J.D.

Equal Justice Works VAWA Staff Attorney
Nam Mee Cho, J.D., M.A.

Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney
Anjum Kapoor, J.D.

Director of Programming and Administration
Katauyoon Parsi-Boetig

Paralegal (Americorps)
Gwen Forrest-Brake, M.A.

Deputy Director of Social Services (Americorps)
Claire Trickler-McNulty

Accountant (part-time)
Naghmeh Platenburg

Paralegal (in 2000)
Carina Ndiaye

Director of Outreach (Americorps) (in 2000)
Meghna Gupta