



# TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

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*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 11<sup>th</sup> 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,

Layli Miller-Muro, Esq.  
Executive Director

Robert Ahdieh, Esq.  
Chair, Board of Directors

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER  
2000-2001  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

## 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.

## T'AHIRIH

Tahirih (Tah-heh-ray) was a renowned poet, scholar, and champion of women's rights during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## T'AHIRIH 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.



Ivan Lloyd

Depiction of Tahirih publicly removing her veil in 1848

## 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.



Layli Miller-Muro and Fauziya Kassindja (1998)



Tahirih Justice Center Client, Farida, and President George W. Bush at the signing of the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act (December 12, 2001)



# 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.

# LETTERS FROM CLIENTS

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*Dear Tahirih 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.*

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*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.*

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*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.*

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*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."*



Irena Lieberman and clients after arguing before the Board of Immigration Appeals

## 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

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.





Press conference featuring a Tahirih Justice Center client upon her arrival in the U.S. from Pakistan

# H elping 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.



The signing of the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act

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



President George W. Bush with Center client Farida (*Reuters -Kevin Lamarque*)

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.

# A Leader in Utilizing Protections Under the Violence Against Women Act

With a grant from the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL)<sup>1</sup> 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.

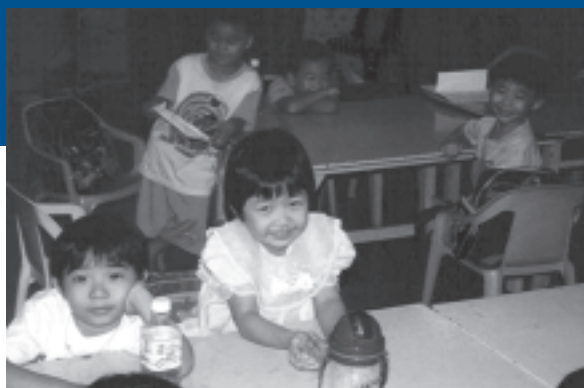
To maximize access to legal services for battered immigrant women, the Center gave presentations at numerous social service organizations about the special rights and needs of abused foreign-born populations. In particular, the Center regularly gave trainings on how existing service groups can remove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

<sup>1</sup> 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.*



A Center Client



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.



# Promoting the Protection of Women from Violence Worldwide:

## AN EXAMPLE IN BRAZIL

In spite of the many progressive laws designed to protect women from violence, Brazil is plagued with high rates of domestic violence and low rates of conviction. It is estimated that one in four women in Brazil are victims of domestic violence and only two percent of cases result in convictions.

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.



Horácio Bernardes, Layli Miller-Muro, and Rubes Naves at a Pro Bono Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil

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



Layli Miller-Muro with prosecutors and judges for a domestic violence training in Brazil, Brazil

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.





# Women and Girls Protected

**1804** PEOPLE HELPED FROM 1997 TO 2001

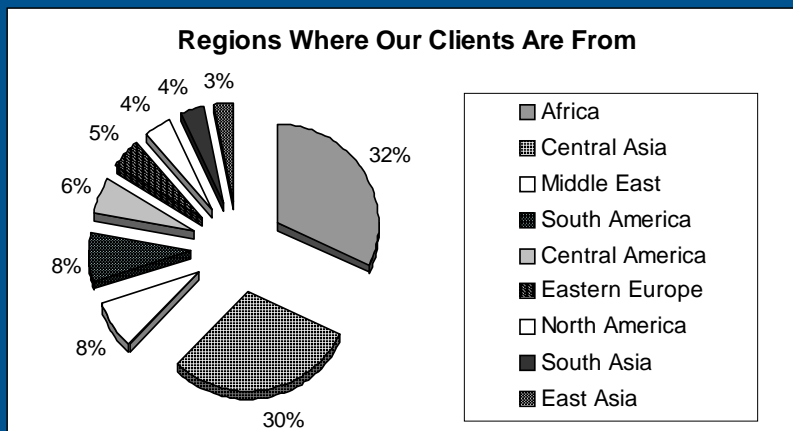
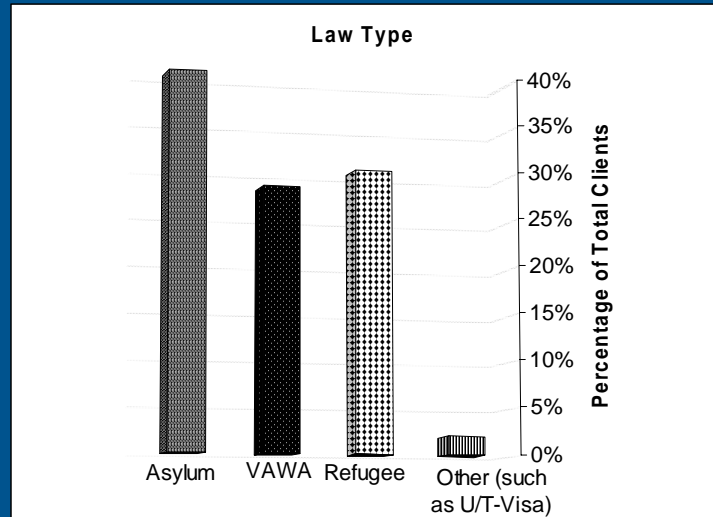
**618** PEOPLE HELPED IN 2001

**406** PEOPLE HELPED IN 2000

**86** REPRESENTED CASES FROM 1997 TO 2001

**41** REPRESENTED CASES IN 2001

**19** REPRESENTED CASES IN 2000



# Collaborations

*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



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

- 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'ís 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
- WEAVE Inc.
- Women for Afghan Women
- Women's Alliance for Peace & Human Rights in Afghanistan



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  
Arts & Entertainment documentary, "Love Chronicles: Runaway Brides," April 2000  
Oxygen Media, www.oxygen.com, Tahirih Justice Center client story featured, May 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  
Deborah Duncan Show, "Women Under Attack," October 2000  
Korean Broadcasting Network, December 2001  
Washington, D.C. Legal Times, "Seeking Shelter," July, 2001  
Istoé, "Direitos Das Islamicas Em Debate," July 2001  
WELW, *Women Speak Out* radio program: "Trafficking of Women and Girls," May 2001  
Ms. Magazine, "Women to Watch," Fall 2001  
Sister Says, "Tahirih Justice Center," Volume 8, Number 3, Fall 2001  
Folha de S. Paulo, "Para Advogada, Cultura Não é Pretexto Para Violência," November 2001



A Center client from Afghanistan being interviewed

## PUBLIC SPEECHES

### 2000

Human Rights Conference, Accra, Ghana	January
Nat'l Family Planning & Reproductive Health Ass'n, Washington, DC	February
Horace Mann High School, New York City, NY	March
United Nations Association, San Diego, CA	March
University of San Diego Law School, San Diego, CA	March
Catholic University Law School, Washington, DC	March
Mary Washington College, VA	March
Georgetown University, Washington, DC	March
Feminist Expo 2000, Baltimore, MD	March
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA	March
Monterrey Institute of International Studies, Monterrey, CA	March
Washington, D.C. Bar Association	April
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA	April
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD	April
American University, Washington, DC	May
Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Silver Spring, MD	June
Human Rights Conference, Canberra, Australia	June
UN Beijing + 5 International Women's Conference, New York City	June
National Audubon Society, Washington, DC	July
UNESCO Conference, Brasília, Brazil	August
MIRECS, Silver Springs, MD	August
World Expo 2000 (World's Fair), Hannover, Germany	October
Washington, D.C. Asylum Clinic, Washington, DC	October
Greenberg Traurig, LLP Brown Bag Lunch Program, Washington, DC	October
Washington, D.C. Bar Association, Washington, DC	November
Fullbright Youth Conference, New York City, NY	November
Empower Program, Washington, D.C.	December
Highpoint High School, Beltsville, MD	December
Cosmos Club, Washington, DC	December

### 2001

Emory University, Atlanta, GA	March
Youth Conference, Toronto, Canada	March
Kuwaiti Women's Social and Cultural Society Conference, Kuwait	March
University of California Berkeley, CA	April
Stanford University, CA	April
University of California Davis, CA	April
Montgomery County Abused Persons Program Staff Training, Rockville, MD	May
Int'l Conference on Gender-Based Persecution, Montreal, Canada	May
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Washington, DC	May
Refugee Crime Prevention Conference, San Diego, CA	May
Public Leadership Education Network, Washington, DC	May
University of Maryland, College Park, MD	June
Building the Kingdom Conference, Milwaukee, WI	July
Bahá'í World Center, Haifa, Israel	July
Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, PA	September
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center Annual Reception, Washington, DC	September
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Annual Conference, DE	October
DC Area VAWA Network, Washington, DC	October
Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA	October
Hood College, Frederick, MD	October
Trinity College, Washington, DC	October
Georgetown University, Washington, DC	October
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center Fall Training, Washington, DC	October
Patton Boggs Brown Bag Lunch Program, Washington, DC	November
Georgetown University, Washington, DC	November
Women for Afghan Women, New York City, NY	November
Pro Bono Law Conference, Sao Paulo, Brazil	November
Domestic Violence Training, Brasília, Brazil	November
Bates College, Portland, Maine	November
Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Washington, DC	December
Human Rights Day Award, Los Angeles, CA	December
Americorps, Falls Church, VA	December
Department of Justice Brown Bag Presentation, Washington, DC	December

# 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, Squire, 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
10. Bridget McGovern, Brand & Frulla, P.C.
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
16. Michael Sozan, Arnold & Porter
17. Julie Stapel, Patton Boggs, LLP



Neda and Farzad Ghassemi being presented with a brick by Irena Lieberman and Layli Miller-Muro

## 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



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 & Merlisa Corbett  
Sandi & Mack Crippen  
Jackie Eghrari & Sina Sabet  
Paul Glist & Karla Jamir  
Neda & Farzad Ghassemi  
Dawnbreaker Systems (Ivan Prueitt)

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



## M ortars

*(individual donations over \$250)*

2000

Val Abbassi  
Drs. Tahereh & Hussein Ahdieh  
Charles A. Allen  
Anonymous  
Lorie Badiyan  
Abbas & Irma Bashir-Elahi  
Diana Chambers  
Patricia Cott  
Elizabeth Derbes  
Jerry Flowler  
Justin Gerensky-Greene  
Thomas Gibian  
Paul Glist  
Michael Goldberg  
Dana Greene & Richard Roesel  
Ashwini Gupta  
Edward Jaycox  
Bunny Lederer  
Sean Long  
Downey McGrath  
Peggy McLeland  
Larry & Carole Miller  
Layli Miller-Muro  
Hamid & Neda Moayad  
Gisou Mohadjer  
Cornelia Rutledge  
Hormoz Sabet  
Noah Samara  
Stephanie & Abe Shnay  
Cleeretta Smiley  
Carrie Smith  
Marianne Tafflinger  
Geoffrey Woolley  
Maggio & Kattar, PC

2001

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 Baskett  
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

Thomas Gibian  
Shawn Eshragh  
Farshad Farhoumand  
James Forsythe  
Elizabeth & Douglas Gibson  
Teresa Gimbrere  
Paul Glist  
Lynda Godwin  
Michael Goldberg  
Donna Haver  
Tabassum Jahangir  
Edward Jaycox  
Carelle Karimimanesh  
Gregory & Teresa Kelly  
Amy Lear  
Julia Shane Li  
Marilyn Love  
Martha Maclachlan  
Sandra Maddock  
Ruhollah Manavi  
Dorothy Marcic  
Marilyn Marcossan  
Joan Maxwell  
Irma McDonald  
Georgia McLaughlin  
Pamela Melendy  
Richard & Sarvnaz 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 Madiaw Ndiaye  
Leslie Nickel  
Samia Patel  
Yasmina Patel  
G. Kirk & Virginia Pusey  
Moeen Qureshi  
Amy Ralph  
Sohaila & Firouz Rezazadeh  
Elizabeth Rose  
Cornelia Rutledge  
Kia Saeian  
Noah Samara  
Fardin Sanaei  
Ronald Schechter  
Marie & Alan Scheffer  
John & Ginny Schisler  
Robert Shoun  
Carrie Smith  
Richard Smith  
Michael Sozan  
David Spratt  
John Stewart  
Jeannie Stripling  
Michael Tcelosky  
Elizabeth Tankel  
Janet Taylor  
Anna Thum  
Farhad Vojdani  
Mary K. Whalen  
Nahid Wilf  
Michael Winger-Bearskin

# Donors

*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



## FOUNDATIONS

### 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

### 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

## 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

# TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUETS

## 2000

### 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

#### 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 P. Moran  
Congresswoman Constance A. Morella  
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II  
Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez  
Congresswoman Janice D. Schakowsky  
Congressman Christopher Shays  
Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis  
Congressman Edolphus Towns  
Congressman Henry A. Waxman  
Congresswoman Lynn C. Woolsey



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  
Negar Ashtari  
Katie Atkinson  
Bruce Bachmann  
Mohammad Bahudori  
Kristy Balsanek  
Marianne Baune  
Megan Beneke  
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Angela Bullock  
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Christian and Anita Chapman  
Emily Chew  
Louise Cook  
Nicky Corbett  
Shaun Michael Taylor-Corbett  
Susan Cortez  
Cara Coyne  
Rebeca De La Vega Perez  
Dee Dee Debartlo  
Paymon Dehghani  
Marta Eckert-Mills  
Sandy Eichert  
Aylene Fallah  
Sima and Bita Farhoumand  
Monica Flores  
Rachel Galoob  
Tracey Glover  
Leah Golshani  
Cynthia Gorman  
Lauren Gray  
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Amanda Koman  
Hanny Lightfoot-Klein  
Nicole Lisa  
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Isabella Trauttmansdorff  
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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

Afghan refugee client reunited  
with her family in the U.S.



## Financial Information

### FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2000	2001
Cash & cash equivalents	\$75,610	\$91,175
Furniture and Equipment	\$10,242	\$8,038
Rent Deposit	\$2,700	\$2,700
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$88,552</b>	<b>\$101,913</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$933	\$15,126
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$15,126</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$87,619	\$85,787
Restricted		\$1,000
<b>Total liabilities &amp; Net assets</b>	<b>\$88,552</b>	<b>\$101,913</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue and Other Support	2000	2001
Grants	\$40,833	\$94,304
Interest Income	\$2,483	\$802
Contributions	\$28,963	\$120,820
Special Events	\$69,316	\$82,214
Special Events Expense	(\$15,732)	(\$21,626)
Book Sales/Income		
Generating Activities	\$344	\$70
Newsletter	-	\$2,515
Miscellaneous Income	-	\$1,483
Donated Office Space	\$27,820	-
Donated Professional Services*	\$451,81	\$184,942
Donated Expenses	\$14,000	-
Speaking Fees	-	\$7,930
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$619,837*</b>	<b>\$473,454*</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Program Services	\$528,378	\$394,676
Management and General	\$94,829	\$51,747
Fundraising	\$22,365	\$28,863
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$645,572*</b>	<b>475,286*</b>
Net Assets –Beginning of Year	\$113,354	\$87,619
Net Assets-End of Year	\$87,619	\$86,787

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2000	2001
Change in net assets	(\$25,735)	(\$832)
Adjustments to Reconcile		
Change in Net Assets:		
Depreciation	\$1,997	\$2,204
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Grants	\$20,000	-
Prepaid Rent	(\$2,700)	-
(Decrease) In Accounts payable	(\$2,282)	\$14,193
Net Cash (used in) Operating Activities	(\$8720)	\$15,565
Investing Cash Flows:		
Purchase of Equipment	(\$8,149)	-
Total Investing Cash Flows	(\$8,149)	-
Net Decrease in Cash And Cash Equivalents	(\$16,869)	-
Net Increase in Cash And Cash Equivalents	-	\$15,565
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents-</b>		
December 31	\$75,610	\$91,175



\*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.

## Board of Directors

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 Debbie Biller, B.A., XM Satellite Radio  
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 Farida, Vital Voices Global Partnership  
 Rachael Galoob, J.D., L.L.M., Cole, Raywid & Braverman  
 Andra Grant, Independent Consultant  
 Layli Miller-Muro, J.D., M.A., Tahirih Justice Center (ex-officio)  
 Vasu Mohan, M.S., International Foundation for Election Systems  
 Leslie Nickel, J.D., Arnold & Porter  
 Michael Sozan, J.D., Arnold & Porter  
 Marti Thomas, J.D., Quinn Gillespie & Associates  
 Marla Zometsky, National Democratic Institute

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Center Staff, Board Members, and Permanent Members

## Staff

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 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



Center Staff and Board Members

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