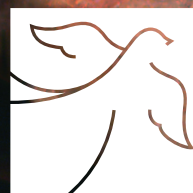
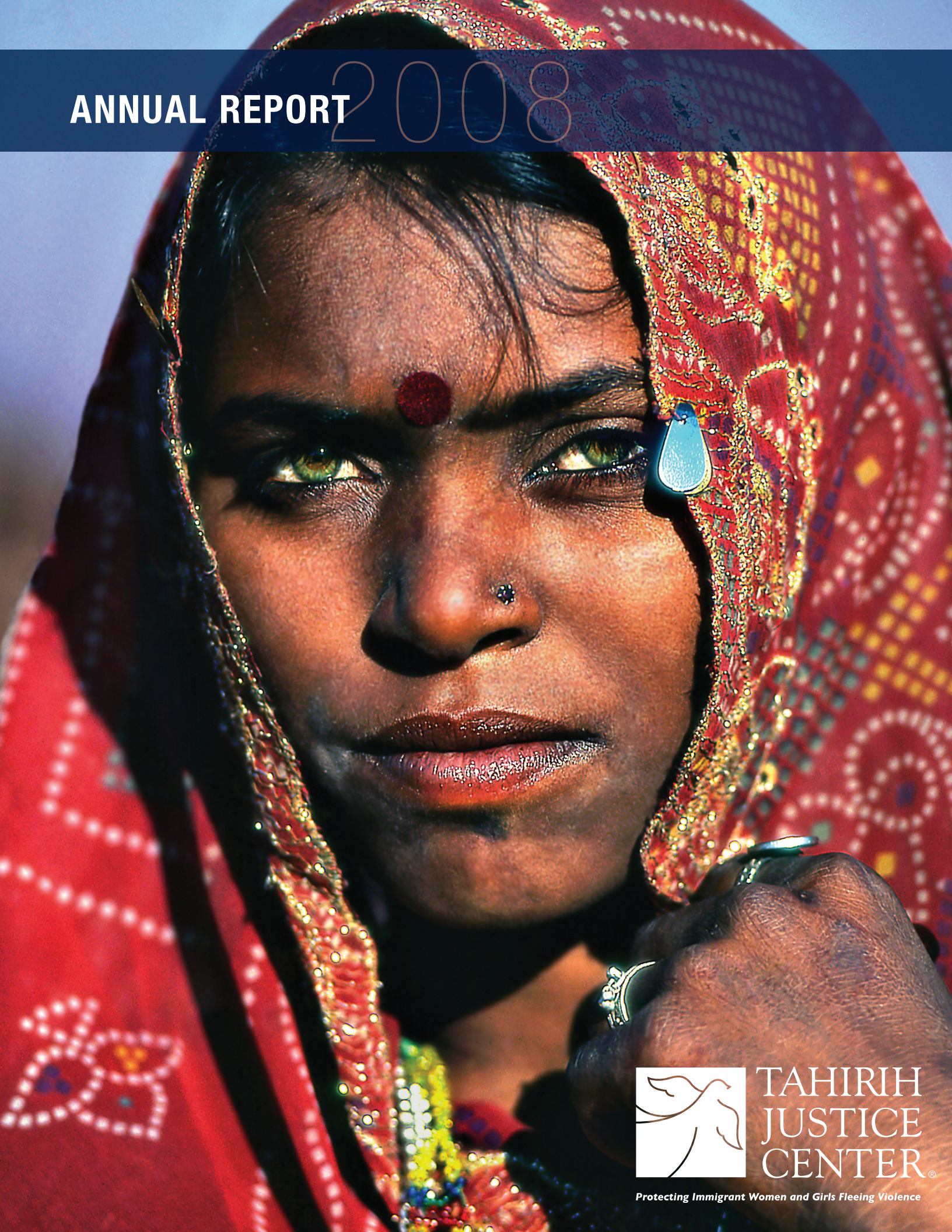


ANNUAL REPORT 2008



TAHIRI
JUSTICE
CENTER®

Protecting Immigrant Women and Girls Fleeing Violence

Table of Contents

Our Mission	2
Our History	3
Our Programs	4
Our Impact	6
Going National	7
Resources and Value	8
Highlights and Events	10
Contributors	12
Financial Summary	14
Staff and Board	15
Notes and Special Thanks	16

ABOUT THIS REPORT

In an effort to save funds, this year we produced our annual report in-house and with pro bono support for the cover, without hiring a designer. While not as graphically polished, we hope that you will find the content—and Tahirih's efforts to protect immigrant women and girls fleeing violence—informative and inspiring.

Dear Friends:

The scale of violence against women today is so pervasive that we can no longer deny that we are facing the seminal humanitarian crisis of our time. Sadly, in many places around the world girls are still born into an environment where they are devalued and persecuted solely because of their gender. One out of every three women has faced abuse or sexual violence in her lifetime.

Despite the odds, heroic women and girls fight with courage to escape the violence they have suffered—often leaving their families, scorned by their communities, and unaware of what their fate may be as they flee in search of safety.

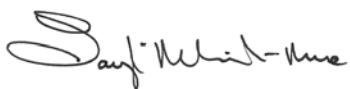
If they are brave enough, and lucky enough, to reach the United States, immigrant women and girls fleeing violence face additional obstacles that magnify the difficulty of finding safety—language barriers, a confusing and seemingly callous or indifferent bureaucracy, cultural stigmas on reporting abuse, and lack of work authorization. These women and girls have complex cases that require cutting-edge legal expertise, and without the Tahirih Justice Center to advocate on their behalf, many would have no hope of finding a place where they can be safe.

With your support, Tahirih has assisted nearly 10,000 women and children fleeing violence since 1997. Now, at a time when many nonprofits are struggling to survive, Tahirih faces possibly the greatest challenge it has ever faced—to grow in spite of the economy and not neglect those who need us more than ever.

Amidst the financial challenges of 2008, Tahirih has made deliberate efforts to stretch every dollar to serve more women and girls, tightening our belts and cutting costs where possible. Although we did not anticipate the financial crisis, prior to and throughout 2008, we fortuitously invested in improving our capacity in order to yield higher impact results. In 2008, donated services amounted to \$6.5 million, four times Tahirih's cash receipts of \$1.6 million. Tahirih is proud to multiply every \$1 donated into \$5 of value for our clients.

We know you want to have the greatest possible impact on ending violence against women and girls. We at Tahirih share that goal. We hope that you will find this annual report a testament to how you make it possible for women and girls to obtain freedom from violence and new lives full of hope.

With gratitude,



Layli Miller-Muro, Executive Director



Frank Kendall, Chair, Board of Directors

Our Mission

The Tahirih Justice Center protects
immigrant women and girls seeking justice
in the United States from gender-based violence.

Violence against women and girls is the most widespread violation of human rights—globally and locally. It devastates individual lives, corrodes communities, and cripples human progress.

Today, millions of women and girls live in fear, pain, hunger, and sickness simply because they were born female. Around the world, at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.¹ The serious consequences of violence against women result in ongoing health problems that have been linked to the effects of living in a war zone.²



The Tahirih Justice Center is a Bahá'í-inspired organization founded on the belief that the achievement of full equality between women and men is necessary for society to progress. Every day, we work to address violence against women and girls as a critical step in making equality possible.

Tahirih fights against gender-based violence by protecting and advocating for women and girls fleeing human rights abuses such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, torture, rape, domestic violence, so-called “honor” crimes, human trafficking, and life-threatening widow rituals. When courageous women and girls escape abuse and demand justice, it is our privilege to support their efforts to achieve protection under United States law.

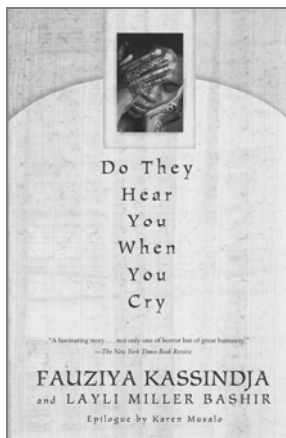


Our logo, an illustration of a bird with equal wings, symbolizes a foundational principle of the Tahirih Justice Center derived from a quote in Bahá'í writings:

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

Our History

Tahirih was founded following the case of 17-year-old Fauziya Kassindja, who fled Togo in fear of female genital mutilation and a forced polygamous marriage.



Layli Miller-Muro established the Tahirih Justice Center in 1997, following her involvement as a student attorney in the high-profile case that set national precedent and revolutionized asylum law in the United States. After arriving in the United States and spending more than 17 months in detention, Ms. Kassindja was granted asylum in 1996 by the Board of Immigration Appeals—the highest US immigration court. This decision opened the door to gender-based persecution as grounds for asylum in the United States.

Using 100% of her portion of the proceeds from a book she and Ms. Kassindja co-authored about the case, Ms. Miller-Muro established the Tahirih Justice Center to offer legal assistance to other immigrant women and girls seeking asylum or protection from gender-based violence.

OUR NAME

Tahirih (*TAH-beh-ray*) was a prominent figure in Middle Eastern history—an exemplar of women’s strength in mid-19th century Persia during a time and place when most women were kept illiterate and hidden from the public sphere. In 1848, as a symbolic pronouncement that a new day was dawning for the status of women, Tahirih became the first woman in recorded Middle Eastern history to publicly remove her veil before an assemblage of men. At the age of 32, she was executed for her beliefs and activities. Her last recorded words were, “You can kill me as soon as you like, but you will never stop the emancipation of women.”



Scene depicting Tahirih's removal of her veil, painting by Ivan Lloyd

FACT | *In the next decade, more than 100 million girls worldwide will marry before their 18th birthday. Some will be as young as eight or nine; many will marry against their will.*³

Our Programs

A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Tahirih's innovative and comprehensive approach leverages pro bono resources to provide a combination of legal services, advocacy, and public education programs. Through this coordinated effort, Tahirih seeks to ensure the protection and safety of its clients, as well as their long-term well-being, by raising their voices in the public policy arena, informing the public of the unique challenges immigrant survivors of violence face, and, ultimately, creating lasting legal and social change.



Services



Client with Tahirih's Managing Social Worker, Allison Medina

Tahirih protects women and girls through pro bono legal services in immigration and family law, as well as holistic social and medical service referrals.

Tahirih provides free legal representation in immigration and family law matters, as well as holistic social and medical service referrals to ensure that our clients can truly access justice and become self-sufficient members of our community. To maximize the number of women and girls we serve, Tahirih partners with law firms and maintains a network of over 700 attorneys who donate their time to represent our clients.

Since opening our doors in 1997, through direct services and referrals, Tahirih has assisted nearly 10,000 women and children fleeing abuse. Even as we handle a high volume of complex cases, Tahirih maintains a 99 percent success rate—a measure of our dedication to excellence and to our clients, as well as to the compelling nature of our clients' stories. Tahirih provides direct services and referrals in the following areas:

- **Immigration Law Services:** Tahirih provides legal representation for women and girls seeking refugee status in the United States because of gender-based violence as well as for survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and other violent crimes seeking protection in the United States.
- **Family Law Services:** Tahirih provides legal representation to help clients receive temporary and permanent orders of protection, divorce, custody, and visitation.
- **Social and Medical Service Referrals:** Tahirih helps its clients holistically address their non-legal needs, by helping them find shelter, counseling, food, clothing, and urgent medical care.

Advocacy



Congressional briefing on gender-based asylum

Tahirih amplifies women's voices and shares their experiences with policymakers to ensure systemic change and long-term protection.

Through an approach to advocacy that is rooted in our direct services experiences, Tahirih seeks to amplify the voices of the women and girls it serves in critical public policy debates at the federal, state, and local levels on issues that directly impact them. Tahirih's intimate understanding of the abuse suffered by our clients provides unique insights that enable us to design and execute effective campaigns for systemic change and the long-term protection of women and girls.

While most organizations focus on either direct services or public policy advocacy, Tahirih is unusual in its commitment to engage in both, providing a critical bridge between local direct services agencies and national advocacy organizations. Tahirih is a leader in a range of public policy debates concerning violence against immigrant women and girls, including preventing abuse and exploitation through the international marriage broker industry (so-called "mail-order bride" agencies), protecting the rights of immigrant survivors of crime, and promoting access to asylum for women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution.

Education



Presentation at Hogan & Hartson

Tahirih engages in outreach and training to educate law enforcement, service agencies, and the public on the unique needs of immigrant women and girls.

Tahirih actively engages in outreach activities to ensure that the public and those working on issues of gender-based violence are aware of the unique challenges and obstacles faced by our clients. Tahirih trains attorneys, police officers, judges, prosecutors, legislators, social and medical service providers, and others who serve immigrant women and girls about the issues facing immigrant women and girls fleeing violence and the legal remedies available to them. We also work closely with the media, speak at universities and law schools around the country, and raise awareness at community religious institutions such as mosques, churches, and temples.

FACT | *There are an estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation. Currently, about three million girls, the majority under 15 years of age, undergo the procedure every year.*⁴

Our Impact in 2008

Through Direct Services, Tahirih:

Assisted 901 women and children through direct services and referrals

Litigated 558 separate legal matters as part of **345** new and continued immigration and family law cases. Specifically, Tahirih:

- Won asylum for a client whose case was considered “unwinnable” by other attorneys who refused to represent her because recent legal precedent prohibited protection on the basis of a fear of female genital mutilation to her daughters
- Won a stay of removal to prevent deportation in a complex case involving a mother whose daughter was repeatedly raped, sodomized, and molested by her stepfather
- Won a client’s release from detention who was wrongfully jailed for nine months and separated from her four-year-old daughter because of false charges that were brought by her abuser and his family
- Received asylum for a woman who fled 25 years of sexual, physical, and emotional torture by her husband, and threats to her and her family after she filed for a divorce

Provided holistic social and medical service referrals to **132** clients. Specifically, Tahirih:

- Secured food, shelter, and medical services
- Coordinated with law enforcement agencies to assist victims

Through Policy Advocacy, Tahirih:

Engaged in national and local public policy advocacy to ensure long-term protection of women and girls. Specifically, Tahirih:

- Pressed for implementation of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act to prevent abuse and exploitation of foreign brides
- Promoted statewide legislation to ensure that immigrant victims feel safe reporting crimes by rallying a diverse bipartisan coalition of over 35 agencies
- Held a briefing for Congress on gender-based asylum
- Advanced precedent-setting cases and developed cutting-edge legal issues through amicus briefs, comments on government regulations, and other coalition efforts



Through Education and Outreach, Tahirih:

Provided over 80 trainings, speeches, or presentations to educate police officers, judges, prosecutors, legislators, service providers, advocates, universities, law schools, and religious institutions.

Raised public awareness of gender-based violence and the unique challenges facing immigrant women through Tahirih’s own publications and by appearing in over 15 media outlets, such as *Fox News* and the *Washington Post*.

Going National

Serving Houston, Texas



Photo by Daniel Arizpe

Over the years, Tahirih has received heart-wrenching phone calls from immigrant women and girls throughout the United States who are fleeing violence and desperate for legal representation that they cannot find locally. Some have even moved to the Washington, DC area to receive our services. In response, Tahirih made the strategic decision to expand nationally.

In 2009, we opened our first field office in Houston, Texas, with the hiring of a Houston Director. After the Houston office becomes well-established, we will refine our expansion model and open additional field offices in locations around the country. Through a national presence we hope to provide legal services to more immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence and increase the impact of their voices in important public policy debates.

Over a decade of serving the Washington, DC community, Tahirih has refined a model for providing high-quality services that is efficient, holistic, and replicable. Our partnerships with pro bono attorneys and other professionals, who donate their time and expertise to protect our clients, more than quadruple our impact. Moreover, our model for service delivery protects the lives of the women and girls we serve and, despite the complex cases we litigate, we have maintained a 99 percent success rate.

Tahirih also decided to grow nationally in order to make a greater impact on federal laws and policies affecting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. Our advocacy has always been valuably informed by the grass-roots experiences of the women and girls we serve, and our national expansion will strengthen that perspective and allow us to speak to lawmakers with an understanding of national trends. We will continue to be involved in appellate litigation to establish legal precedent on issues affecting our clients.

During 2007 and 2008, Tahirih took deliberate and concrete steps to determine how national expansion would unfold. Tahirih's Board and senior management were involved in an intensive process of preparing internal infrastructure for growth and researching best practices for replication. Guiding our city selection process were several factors including immigration trends, the location of our pro bono partner law firms, the availability of complimentary services for clients, the presence of like-minded organizations, and the support of local foundations, corporations, and individual donors. To ensure that our growth is informed by the lessons of other organizations, Tahirih Board members and senior staff conducted interviews with 10 nonprofit and for-profit organizations that have undergone successful expansion.

While we understand that a process of growth is never easy, nor entirely predictable, we are confident that through our thoughtful reflection and planning, we will be able to protect the lives of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence on a national scale.

FACT | *Every year, in 65 countries combined, more than 250,000 cases of rape or attempted rape are recorded by police.*⁵

Resources and Value

Improving Organizational Capacity to Stretch Resources

During 2007 and 2008, guided by a strategic blueprint for national expansion, Tahirih made significant improvements in its technology infrastructure, organizational design, policies, and physical space. These investments are vital to Tahirih's capacity for organizational growth and long-term stability, and ultimately, its ability to better serve immigrant women and girls fleeing violence.

Some of the most noteworthy system improvements include the following:

- Legal Services: Tahirih transitioned to a web-based case management system powered by PS Technologies Inc. The software, which unifies clients' immigration, family law, and social and medical service referral information in the same system, has dramatically enhanced Tahirih's ability to manage cases, track clients' overall needs, and efficiently identify trends. In addition, Tahirih has created an e-forum for its network of over 700 pro bono attorneys to streamline information sharing.
- Financial Management: With revenue exceeding \$8.2 million in 2008, including in-kind donated services, Tahirih reached an organizational milestone and recognized the need for greater sophistication of its financial management systems. As a result, Tahirih restructured its accounting and financial systems to improve the information available for management decision-making, allowing for increased analysis, projections, and tracking.
- Online Presence and Communications: Tahirih produced a new, professionally designed website that amplifies Tahirih's ability to champion the protection of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence and provides valuable information to the public. Alongside the new website, Tahirih streamlined the structure and image of online communications to better describe Tahirih's work.

Though we did not then anticipate the current economic crisis, we count ourselves incredibly fortunate that we are now more efficiently able to meet today's challenges and better serve our clients due to these infrastructural improvements.

The Value of Your Investment in Tahirih

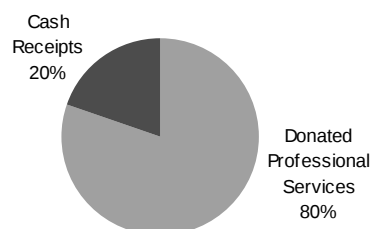
While Americans nationwide are tightening their belts to make ends meet, the demand for charitable services escalates. Now, more than ever, the need for nonprofits to stretch every dollar's impact to serve more disadvantaged people with fewer resources is paramount. Essentially, nonprofits must do more with less.

Tahirih makes a deliberate effort to ensure that the investments of its supporters yield high impact results—both for the women and girls we serve directly and for those who will receive long-term protection from enduring systemic change we affect through public policy advocacy. We invest donations wisely by: 1) strategically developing holistic programs, 2) leveraging donated professional services, and 3) increasing efficiency over time.

Multiplying Every \$1 Donated into \$5 of Value by Leveraging Professional Volunteers

Donated professional services are a vital resource for Tahirih and allow us to maximize the number of women and girls for whom we can provide high-quality legal representation. In fact, Tahirih partners with over 700 volunteer attorneys from the nation's top law firms on over 75% of its incoming cases. In 2008, donated services amounted to \$6.5 million, representing four times Tahirih's cash receipts of \$1.6 million, and significantly increasing the impact of our work.

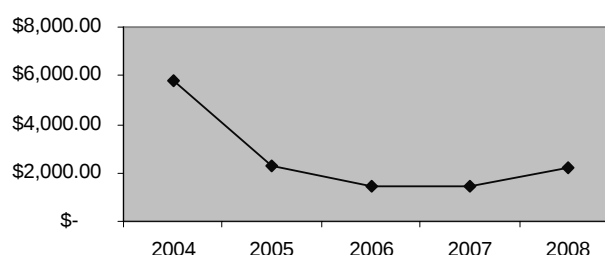
2008 Revenue and Support



Reducing Cost and Increasing Efficiency

Tahirih has worked over time to efficiently manage our programs and maximize our resources. Due, in large part, to the expanded use of pro bono services, Tahirih has significantly decreased the average cost per matter litigated to protect women and children from violence since 2004.

Cost Per Active Matter



These efforts and your support enable us to impact the lives of more women and girls.

FACT | Every year, 5,000 women and girls throughout the world are murdered by members of their own family in the name of honor.⁶

2008 Highlights and Events

Awards & Recognition

The Tahirih Justice Center and its staff have been recognized for their commitment to women and girls in need, innovative approach to providing services, visionary leadership, and efficient management. Examples of honors and awards received in 2008 are listed below:

- Jeanne Smoot, Director of Public Policy, received the 2008 “Agent of Change Award” from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.
- Layli Miller-Muro, Executive Director, received the Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman 2008 “Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership (EXCEL) Award” from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement.
- The Tahirih Justice Center was selected as one of the best local charities by The Washingtonian magazine and featured as one of “64 Ways to Do Good” in the December issue’s cover story.

In the Media

Since its inception, Tahirih has engaged numerous media sources to increase awareness of the abuse our clients face. Below are some of the news outlets where Tahirih appeared in 2008.

- ***Fox News***, January 31, 2008, “Abuse of Muslim Women is Greater than Reported, Advocacy Groups Say.”
- ***Washington Post***, November 3, 2008, “Area Immigrants With Wounds That Won't Heal: Mutilated Women Seek Asylum in US.”
- ***The Boston Globe***, March 29, 2008, “Locals Crack Down on Immigration.”
- ***ABA Journal***, February 2008, “For Mail-Order Brides, Happily Ever After.”
- ***The Hill***, September 25, 2008, “Don’t Rainn on his Anti-Political Parade.”
- ***The Examiner***, November 24, 2008, “Special Visas Available to Illegals Aiding Investigation.”
- ***Revolution***, Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance Journal, Summer 2008: “How Local Enforcement of Federal Immigration Laws Threatens the Safety of Immigrant Survivors.”
- ***Domestic Violence Report***, February/March 2008, “The U-Visa: A Tool for Some Non-Citizen Battered Women.”
- ***Domestic Violence Reporter and Sexual Assault Reporter***, August 2008, “An Overview of Female Genital Mutilation as a Basis for Refugee Status.”

Special Events

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

On March 11, 2008, together with Honorary Co-Hosts Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA) and Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Tahirih held a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill on gender-based asylum. The event marked Tahirih's Ten Year Anniversary and offered a moment for a critical retrospective on the development of US gender-based asylum law over the past ten years. Speakers included Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas and Bo Cooper, former General Counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.



Congressman Moran, Bo Cooper, and a former Tahirih client

11TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BENEFIT



Rainn Wilson

Tahirih's annual fundraising benefit is our single largest income-generating event of the year, as well as an important platform for spreading awareness about the plight of women and girls in need. The 11th Annual Fundraising Benefit was held on September 27, 2008, and included over 400 attendees. Rainn Wilson, star of the hit TV series *The Office* on NBC, served as the evening's master of ceremonies, and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan chaired the Benefit Committee for the third year in a row. Other past distinguished participants include Congressman James Moran, then-Senator Joseph R. Biden, Senator Sam Brownback, human rights activist Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, Hauwa Ibrahim and Oscar-nominated actress Debra Winger.

Tahirih's Wings

Created in 2008, Tahirih's Wings is a group of courageous women—Tahirih Justice Center clients and their families—who provide support for each other, speak out against the violence they have suffered, and support the Tahirih Justice Center. The members of Tahirih's Wings have suffered abuses not only as a result of the violence they have fled, but also as a result of the US immigration system they have had to navigate. Having found justice and now feeling safe, members of Tahirih's Wings seek to help other women and girls like themselves. The name, "Tahirih's Wings," was chosen as a symbol of how the strength they find in each other can uplift those in need and support the work of the Tahirih Justice Center.

FACT | *Internationally, 700,000 to two million women are trafficked across borders annually. The volume of trafficking grew by almost 50 percent from 1995 to 2000.*⁷

2008 Contributors

Foundations and Governments

AARP Foundation
Allstadt Hardin Foundation
The American Gift Fund
The Baxter International Foundation
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Morton K. & Jane Blaustein Foundation
Bridgeway Charitable Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
City of Alexandria, Department of Health and Human Services
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Consumer Health Foundation
Equal Justice Works
The Herb Block Foundation
George Mason University Foundation
The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Steven and Sheila Miller Foundation
Office of Justice Programs, Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program
Office on Violence Against Women, Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program
William & Jane Schloss Family Foundation
George L. Shields Foundation, Inc.
The T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving
Trellis Fund
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Virginia Law Foundation
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
The Emanuel and Anna Weinstein Family Foundation
The Whitehead Foundation

Corporations and Organizations

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Allstate Giving Campaign
Altria Group, Inc.
American University Washington College of Law
American University Washington College of Law, Women's Law Association
Arent Fox LLP
Arnold & Porter LLP
Bahá'í LSA of Clackamas Co. South
Baker & Hostetler LLP

Baker Botts LLP
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Blank Rome LLP
British Pine Emporium
Cable Television Laboratories, Inc.
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Calvert Asset Management
Chadbourne & Parke LLP
The Chadderdon Group
Chevron
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Clifford Chance US LLP
Cohen, Milstein, Sellers & Toll
Cooley Godward Kronish LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Crystal City Business Improvement District, Inc.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Dechert LLP
Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP
DLA Piper LLP
Dow Lohnes PLLC
Easton Cardiovascular Associates, P.C.
Eileen Fisher
Enumclaw Internal Medicine and Diagnostics, P.S.
The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.
Exelon
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
The George Washington University
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goldman Sachs & Co.
GoodSearch
Goodwin Procter LLP
Highland Village Bahá'í Fund
Hogan & Hartson LLP
Holland & Hart LLP
Holland & Knight LLP
Howrey LLP
Human & Civil Rights Organizations of America
Hunton & Williams LLP
Illumine LLC
Jenner & Block LLP
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Kaye Scholer LLP
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
King & Spalding LLP
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
LexisNexis
Lifetime Entertainment Services

Littler Mendelson PC
Local Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Montgomery County South West
Maggio & Kattar
Marshfield Associates
Mayer Brown LLP
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
McGuire Woods LLP
McKee Nelson LLP
McKinsey & Company
Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo PC
MissionFish.com
Montagut & Sobral LPC
Motir Services, Inc.
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Patton Boggs LLP
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
Pederson & Freedman LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Pitney Bowes
The PNC Financial Services Group
Proskauer Rose LLP
Public Opinion Strategies
Quinn Gillespie & Associates
Robbins Russell Englert Orseck Untereiner & Sauber LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
SheandMe Intimates, LLC
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Shell Oil Company
Sidley Austin LLP
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Beltrami County
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Hempstead, NY
St. Charles Church
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Troutman Sanders LLP
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
United Way of the National Capital Area
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Venable LLP
Viacom, Inc.
White & Case LLP
Wiley Rein LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP

Wilmer Hale LLP
Winston & Strawn LLP
World Bank Community Connections Fund

Lifesavers (\$5,000 or more)

Laurie Plessala Duperier & Juan Carlos Duperier
Jamshed & Parvati Fozdar
Betsy & Frank Karel
Hamid & Neda Moayad
Joanne Moore
Paul Glist & Karla Jamir
Vicki & Roger Sant

Advocates (\$1,500 or more)

Joan and Richard Abdoo
Maye Aghazadeh
Kathleen Behan
Donna Callejon and Deborah Whiteside
Jackie Eghrari-Sabet and Sina Sabet
Caela Farren
Michael and Debbie Goldberg
Dana Greene
Emmanuel and Ogay Irono
Frank Kendall & Beth Halpern
Michael MacLeod
Barbara Miller and Vahid Alavian
Randall Miller
Amy and Wilson Mudge
Victoria Nerenberg
Vigo Nielsen
Fern O'Brian
Mary O'Neal
Anis Ragland
Leah Rampy
Laila and Mehran Taslimi

Partners (\$500 or more)

Peter and Riva Adriance
Kirsten Albers
Jim Alexander
Blake Biles and Laura Sessums
Inger Andersen
Eugene Andrews
Katherine Ashley
Lorie Badiyan
Irma Bashir
Susan and Alan Berlow
Karen Bowman
Meridith Brown
Thomas and Ralph Buerger
Maria Cestone
Anita and Christian Chapman
David Chilman
Lynda Clarizio
Afsaneh Davenport
Sheila Dean
Kathryn Drinkwater

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this listing, we may have unintentionally overlooked someone. If this is the case, please accept our apology and notify us immediately.

Sharru Duggal
 Laurie E. Duncan
 Shawn Eshragh
 Karen Fananapazir
 Daryl Fields
 Robert E. and Diane Findlay
 Her Royal Highness Princess
 Dana Firas
 Michelle Fisher
 Geraldine Gennet
 Janet Gent
 Farzad and Neda Ghassemi
 Charlotte Gillingham
 Elena Glas
 George Grandison
 Milton H. Hamilton, Jr.
 Wesley R. Heppler
 Sandra Hoehne
 Victoria and Edward Jaycox
 James Joseph
 Mahmood and Carelle
 Karimimanesh
 Meetu Kaul
 Karen and David Koplow
 Susan Lee
 Hoda Martorana
 Casey and Courtney McGinnis
 Richard Martin Miller
 Glenford and Bahia Mitchell
 Herminia Moreno
 Kamran and Melanie Mouzoon
 Gilbert and Leigh Muro
 Alfred Neumann
 Leslie Nickel
 Chip Nielsen
 Milly Osman
 Trish Perkins
 Sholeh Quinn
 Cynthia Richmond
 Hamid Samandari
 Michael and Inger Schafer
 James Schear
 Ronald Schechter and Susan
 Gilbert
 Peter Schildkraut
 Lawrence Schneider
 Julia P. Sorrentino
 Michael Sozan
 Jonathan Stoel
 Tim and Maria Tassopoulos
 Petra A. Vorwig
 Blythe and Mona Walker
 Rainn Wilson and Holiday
 Reinhorn
 Suzanne and Enrique Zaldivar

**Allies
(\$250 or more)**

Elena Behouzi
 Janet K. Brown
 Judson Cary
 J Chung
 Patricia S. Cervini
 Shireen Connor

Anisa Cott
 Tracey E. Crookes
 Helen J. Davidson
 Amanda Deaver
 Angela DeMent
 Elizabeth Marcotte and Lloyd
 Feinberg
 Tamara Goff
 Michael Goodin and David
 Bronder
 Bobbi and Rick Henderson
 Mr. Darren Hiebert
 Cathy Giebitz Higgins
 Julie Kearns
 Diane Kienast Ahearn
 Meredith Kimbell
 Hoori Ahdieh and John
 Kruszewski
 Ellen McVickar Layman
 Kevin Leddy
 Dana Lenchman
 Jennifer Loiter
 Cheryl M. Long
 Marilyn Love
 Brenda MacEoin
 Martha MacLachlan
 Colleen M. Maguire
 Yoss Missaghian
 Gladys Moses
 Phyllis Newton
 Judi Panetta
 Rebecca K. Ratner
 Joiwind Ronen
 Annie Santin
 Heather S. Searle
 Roya Shadravan
 Mojgan Shin
 Anjum Sikka
 Alyssa Simpson
 Hallie Smith
 Jeanne Smoot
 Germaine and Tony Sobral
 Patricia Stasco
 Judith Stehling
 Iris Tarafdar
 John von Rosenberg
 Patricia Whiteford

**Friends
(\$100 or more)**

David and Beth Anderson
 Laura Ardito
 Alecia Asiamigbe
 Allison Asplin
 Zabrina and E. Taylor Atkins
 Alexander Auer
 Shirin Bahreman
 William Berger
 Jessica Bergstrom
 Katherine Bigelow
 Ernestine Blango
 Stefanie Bogdanoff
 Anne Breneman
 Sara Burson

Carol and Tom Butler
 Kyle M. Byrnes
 William Campbell
 Donald Cassiday
 Neil D. Chase
 Gary Christensen
 David Cohen
 Margaret and James Crouch
 Warren Dodge
 Sarah Dolan
 Amy Dolgin
 Holly Dowden
 Brian Dunlop
 Patricia S. DuPre
 Aleksandra G. Egorova
 Rebecca Weslie Ellison
 Jacqueline Ferrand
 Margot Finn
 Rebecca Fishman
 Mercedes Fitchett
 Jim and Sandy Fitzpatrick
 Corinne H. Frassa
 Donald and Margaret
 Fredericksen
 Maura Ryan Fritz
 Perry Gawen
 Jeanne Gazel
 Michele L. Gibbons
 Fataneh and Rick Green
 Sallie Ebert Grundman
 Barbara Bradley Hagerty
 Laura Hall
 Patricia M. Hanrahan
 Mary M. Harrison
 Leslye Herrman
 Anushay Hossain
 Jennifer M. Howard
 Marcia Hyatt
 Daria Ibn-Tamas
 Suja and Jobby Jacob
 Christine and Mitchell
 Jacobson
 Stephen Jones
 Kyle Kelhofer
 David Kendell
 Matthew and Julia Kepniss
 Mona Khademi
 Elizabeth King
 Beatrice Kirkbright
 Gini Kopecky Wallace
 Brian Korchin
 Jillian Laudin
 Adeyemi Lawal
 V. A. Lewellen
 Deborah and Robert Litt
 Nancy M. Loudon
 Carol Ann Lowe
 Melissa Lupella
 Maria Mahecha
 Vivien K. Marion
 Benson Massey
 Joan and Albert McGovern
 Richard Mebane
 Beverly Mediate

Montserrat Miller
 Judy, Abbie and Rebekah Mills
 Rouha Minnerly
 Kian Momeni
 Tannaz and Piero Morano
 David and Dara Morenoff
 Mr. David Mueller
 Tonya Muro
 Sarah Noland
 Urmila Oberoi
 John Odenwelder
 Maevae O'Higgins
 Jennifer Perkins
 Danielle Polen
 Elissa Preheim
 Evelyn Pritchard
 Lisa M. Pruessing
 Beverly Rezneck
 Burdett Rooney
 Randy Rosso
 Minou E. Sadeghi
 Torres Samuel
 Deborah Sanders
 Karen Schiffrin
 Mike Sicoli
 Carole Sky
 Erin Smith
 Jamey Stowell
 William Summa
 Natacha Thys
 Linda M. Tolkan
 Marjorie Torres
 Donna M. Turner
 Franca Ukpai
 W. Gijs and Manousheed Van
 De Fliet
 Homa Villagomez
 Ms Kristen Walsh
 Karen L. Ward
 Gwendolyn Marie Watson
 Ellen Weintraub
 Kate Weisman
 Ann M. West
 Barbara Wildern
 Rosemary Williamson
 Stuart Wolpert
 Ardesheer and Susan Yazdani
 Verna Zuttermeister

FACT | An estimated 11,000 to 16,000 women, representing 1/3 to 1/2 of all foreign fiancé(e)s admitted to the United States each year, may have met their husbands through marriage brokers.⁸

2008 Financial Summary

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	702,426
Grants Receivables	285,219
Other Receivables	47,103
Prepaid Expenses	40,125
Inventory	3,617
Property and Equipment	30,464
Rent Deposit	17,844
TOTAL ASSETS	1,126,798
CURRENT LIABILITIES	70,049
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	933,693
Temporarily Restricted	123,056
Total Net Assets	1,056,749
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,126,798

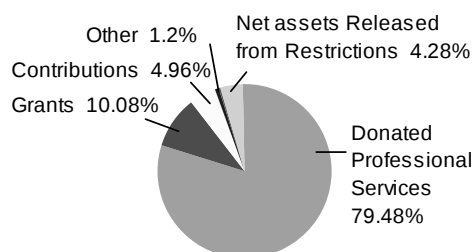
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Change in Net Assets	98,216
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Used for Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	9,833
(Increase) Decrease in:	
Grants Receivables	(174,895)
Other Receivables	(33,672)
Prepaid Expense	(23,218)
Inventory	570
Other Assets	(813)
Accounts Payable	(260)
Accrued Payroll	(1,159)
Net Cash (Used in) Provided by Operating Activities	(125,398)
Purchases of Property and Equipment	(13,382)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(138,780)
Cash and Cash Equivalents-Beginning of year	841,206
Cash and Cash Equivalents-End of year	702,426

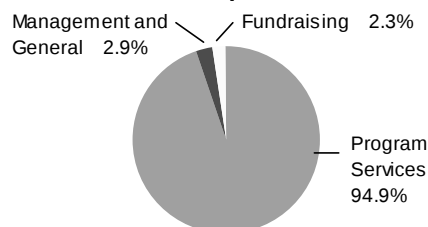
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Donated Professional Services	6,535,884	-	6,535,884
Grants	828,955	235,000	1,063,955
Contributions	407,913	-	407,913
Interest Income	22,201	-	22,201
Fundraising Sales, net of expenses	40,893	-	40,893
Honorarium	300	-	300
Miscellaneous Income	35,532	-	35,532
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	351,682	(351,682)	-
Total Revenue	8,223,360	(116,682)	8,106,678
EXPENSES			
Program Services	7,597,720	-	7,597,720
Management and General	229,050	-	229,050
Fundraising	181,692	-	181,692
Total Expenses	8,008,462	0	8,008,462
Change in Net Assets	214,898	-116,682	98,216
Net Assets-Beginning of Year	718,795	239,738	958,533
Net Assets-End of Year	933,693	123,056	1,056,749

2008 Revenue and Support



2008 Expenses



Taken directly from the 2008 Independent Audit Report produced by LarsonAllen LLP. The complete report can be found at <http://www.tahirih.org/about-us/financial-statements/>

Our Staff and Board

Staff

Samira Ahmed, *Administrative Assistant*
Deepika Allana, *Senior Public Policy Attorney*
Shirey Baig, *Operations Associate*
Peggy Carrington, *Finance Associate*
Anne Chandler, JD, *Houston Director*
Rená E. Cutlip-Mason, JD, *Director of Legal Services*
Razan Fayeze, JD, MPA, *Managing Family Law Attorney*
Daria Fisher Page, JD, *Senior Staff Attorney*
Heather Heiman, JD, *Public Policy Attorney*
Beth Ann Hellert, *Program Administrative Assistant*
Ivi Kolasi, *Grants Manager*
Laura Macrorie, *Paralegal*
Andrea Mangones, JD, *Volunteer Attorney*
Ana Sofia Martinez, *Bahá'i Service Fellow*
Lourdes Martinez, JD, *Staff Attorney*

Allison Medina, MSW, *Managing Social Worker*
Layli Miller-Muro, JD, MA, *Executive Director*
Natalie Nanasi, JD, *Staff Attorney*
Nirupa Narayan, JD, LLM, *Managing Immigration Attorney*
Jenny Nuber, *Special Events Manager*
Maeve O'Higgins, MBA, *Director of Operations*
Anne Paschke, *Executive Assistant*
Adrienne Ramos, JD, *Family Law Attorney*
Caitlin Rogell, *Bahá'i Service Fellow*
Naomi Sadighi, *Bahá'i Service Fellow*
Jessica Salsbury, JD, *Staff Attorney*
Jeanne Smoot, JD, MALD, *Director of Public Policy*
Subin G. Varghese, *Development and Communications Associate*
Alfredo Vasquez, *Paralegal*

Board of Directors

Sarah Compter, *SynACT, Inc.*
Jacqueline Eghrari-Sabet MD, *Family Allergy & Asthma Care*
Randa Fahmy Hudome, *Fahmy Hudome International*
Sara Glenn, *Shell Oil Company*
Paul Glist, *Davis Wright Tremaine LLP*
Emmanuel Irono, *Motir Services*
Kellye Jennings, *Argy, Wiltse & Robinson PC*
Frank Kendall, *Renaissance Strategic Advisors*
Randall Miller, *Arnold & Porter LLP*

Layli Miller-Muro, *Tabirih Justice Center (ex-officio)*
Jeannie Nguyen, *Hawthorne & Nguyen, PLLC*
Laurie Plessala Duperier, *Gunny's Rainbow, LLC*
Leah Rampy, *Illumine LLC*
Ruth,* *Fairfax County Government*
Lidia Soto-Harman, *Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital*

*Former client

Board of Advisors

Jamshid Amini, *American Executive Limousine Service*
Kathleen Behan, *Behan Law*
Lynda Clarizio, *Strategic Consultant*
Bo Cooper, *Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP*
Mark Epstein, *Consultant*
Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas
Karen Otazo Hofmeister, *Author; Global Leadership Network*
Hauwa Ibrahim, *Nigerian Women's Rights Attorney*

Theresa Loar, *CH2M HILL*
Clovis Maksoud, *Arab League to the United Nations; American University Washington College of Law*
Lorraine Riffle Hawley, *Chevron*
Judge Dorothy Nelson, *US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit*
Jan Pederson, *Pederson Immigration Law Group, PC*
Jamin Raskin, *American University Washington College of Law*

Permanent Members

Anita Chapman
Larry Miller
Layli Miller-Muro
Michael Penn
Puran Stevens

FACT | A wave of genocide created 500,000 widows in Rwanda. After the genocide, many widows were further victimized by their husbands' male relatives.⁹

End Notes

- 1 UN General Assembly, “In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women,” Report of the Secretary General, 2006. A/61/122/Add.1. July 6, 2006.
- 2 MSNBC.com, “Quarter of US women suffer domestic violence,” Feb 7, 2007.
- 3 UNFPA, “Married Adolescents Ignored in Global Agenda,” press release, June 4, 2004, <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=456>.
- 4 WHO, Female Genital Mutilation Factsheet, <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/fgm/>, last visited June 8, 2007.
- 5 UNODC, “Total Recorded Rapes,” The Eighth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (2001 - 2002), <http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/eighthsurvey/8sv.pdf>: Table 2.8.
- 6 UNFPA, “Chapter 3: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls,” State of the World Population 2000, <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2000/english/ch03.html>.
- 7 Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Women in an Insecure World, http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/women_insecure_world.pdf: 12, last visited June 8, 2007.
- 8 Tahirih Justice Center, Frequently Asked Questions about the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005, Statistic derived from US Citizenship and Immigration Services, “Nonimmigrant Admissions by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 1998 to 2007,” Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2007, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgt/statistics/publications/YrBk07NI.shtm>, Table 25, Column K, Row 77.
- 9 UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Women 2000, Widowhood: invisible women, secluded or excluded. (December 2001): 9.

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to Brandy Cohen of Studio Bluesky for supporting Tahirih through her pro bono design work, including the amazing cover of this annual report. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to Sergio Pessolano for allowing us to use his stunning portraits of women and girls from around the world.

Take Action Today

The Tahirih Justice Center is fueled by an outpouring of support from concerned individuals throughout the world. Your financial donations enable us to continue protecting and providing care for vulnerable immigrant women and girls. From one-time donations, to sustaining contributions, to honorary gifts, there are a variety of ways to make a difference. Thank you for joining us to end violence against women.

Thank you very much, without you in me
and my childrens lives, I don't know
what would have become of us today.
May God Almighty continue to bless
you and give you the strenght to help
other women and children like me.
God bless. Pls accept my little token.
We love you all,



The Tahirih client who sent this touching letter along with a kind donation.

FACT | With your support, Tahirih has assisted nearly 10,000 women and children fleeing violence since 1997.

www.tahirih.org

Tahirih Justice Center
6402 Arlington Blvd, Suite 300
Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 571-282-6161
Fax: 571-282-6162
Email: justice@tahirih.org



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®