

* PHOTOS BY
STEVE JETER

PHOTO ESSAY IN THEIR OWN WORDS

THE SAYING ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IS TO 'GIVE ME YOUR TIRED AND YOUR POOR'... AMERICA REALLY NEEDS TO REMEMBER THAT WE ARE THE STRONGEST BECAUSE WE HAVE BROUGHT IN SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE IN AMERICA AND SHARE WHAT WE HAVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

—MADELEINE ALBRIGHT



IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD,
BUT A HAPPY ENDING.
I'M A FREE BIRD TODAY.
WHEN I RECEIVED MY
WORKER AUTHORIZATION
IT FELT LIKE A PASSPORT
TO FREEDOM. I THOUGHT,
'I'M FREE. I'M FINALLY
FREE.' I AM A NURSE NOW
AND EVERY DAY I ASK,
'WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE
SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE
BETTER?' BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN
THROUGH TAHIRIH.

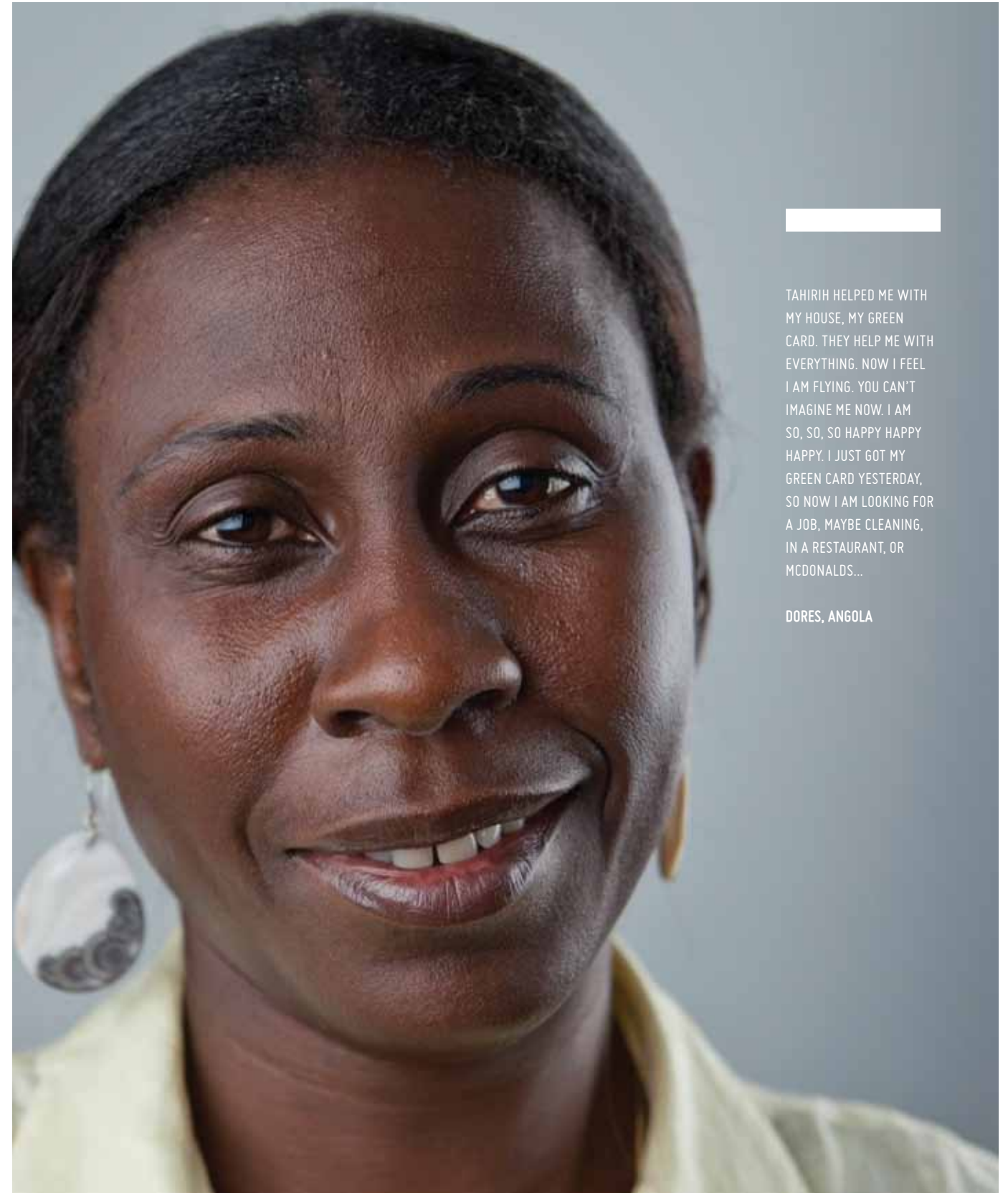
AYESHA, SRI LANKA






IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT I HAD NOTHING WHEN I CAME HERE. TAHIRIH HELPED ME GET A WORK PERMIT, NOW I AM ABLE TO GET WORK. AND THEY HELPED WITH THE CHILDREN BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY HERE.

ALEJANDRA, PERU



TAHIRIH HELPED ME WITH MY HOUSE, MY GREEN CARD. THEY HELP ME WITH EVERYTHING. NOW I FEEL I AM FLYING. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE ME NOW. I AM SO, SO, SO HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY. I JUST GOT MY GREEN CARD YESTERDAY, SO NOW I AM LOOKING FOR A JOB, MAYBE CLEANING, IN A RESTAURANT, OR MCDONALDS...

DORES, ANGOLA



FOR A WOMAN IN THIS
TYPE OF SITUATION, YOU
THINK YOU ARE STUCK: YOU
DON'T HAVE PAPERS, YOUR
HUSBAND IS CONTROLLING
YOU, BUT YOU HAVE KIDS
TO TAKE CARE OF. YOU HAVE
NO HOPE, THERE'S NO JOY
IN THAT BLACKNESS. I FELT
LIKE I WAS IN A GREAT
BLACK HOLE AND I NEVER
KNEW IF I WOULD GET
OUT OF IT.

EVERYONE AT TAHIRIH
MADE ME FEEL SO
WONDERFUL, THEY'RE SO
KIND, SO HELPFUL. FROM
THE RECEPTIONIST TO THE
LAWYERS TO THE SOCIAL
WORKER, EVERYONE
WAS UNDERSTANDING,
RESPECTFUL, AND
CARING. NOW I HAVE A
BRIGHT LIFE. I'M HAPPY.

DARINA, CZECH REPUBLIC



ORGANIZATION BIO TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

The Tahirih Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that has provided services to over 12,000 through referrals, direct legal services, and case management from offices in Greater Washington, DC (main office); Houston, Texas; and Baltimore, Maryland. Tahirih's clients are fleeing human rights abuses such as forced marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation, torture, rape, and domestic violence.

Tahirih seeks to ensure the protection and safety of their 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.



Watch a short
8-minute
documentary on
Tahirih's work.

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BEFORE I CAME TO TAHIRIH, I THOUGHT I WAS NOBODY. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD FIND A SOLUTION, I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE I'D KILL MYSELF BECAUSE I COULD NOT GO BACK TO AFRICA FOR SHAME. THE FIRST TIME I CAME, I WAS SO DISTRUSTFUL, BUT THEY TALKED TO ME AND WHEN I LEFT I FELT LIKE SOMEBODY. I'M NOT 100% NOW, BUT THE WAY I AM NOW, I AM PROUD OF MYSELF.

MARIAM, MALI



YOU CAN DO SOMETHING.

Give

When you donate to Tahirih, every dollar counts!

- \$15 Pays for a trip to a local court
- \$40 Provides for one hour of a client's representation
- \$120 Pays for an outside attorney to be trained to represent pro bono cases
- \$320 Provides client representation for one day
- \$1,600 Provides for a week of client representation

Professional Services

The Tahirih Justice Center is recruiting volunteer medical and dental service providers, pro bono attorneys, public policy professionals, and interpreters and translators. Tahirih invites you learn to more about their work and to join them in their efforts to overcome gender-based violence and achieve justice for women and girls in need.