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STATEMENT ON U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES GUIDANCE FOR ASYLUM

In response to asylum guidance provided by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in line with Attorney General Jeff Session's decision in *Matter of A-B-*, Archi Pyati, Chief of Policy at Tahirih Justice Center, issued the following statement:

"The Tahirih Justice Center is dismayed that the [USCIS Asylum Division has issued instructions](#) that import large swaths of the Attorney General's deeply flawed decision in *Matter of A-B-*. The AG's decision muddied long-settled legal standards and demonstrated a complete lack of understanding about domestic violence and the social and political conditions that allow it to flourish. By instructing asylum officers to give credence to this decision, which remains to be challenged through litigation, the Asylum Division is now complicit in the disgraceful rejection of claims by women who cannot protect their lives if they stay in their home countries. While the guidance issued by the Asylum Division may leave room for some women to succeed in their claims, for women being screened by officers at the border and those who do not have high quality legal counsel – which is the majority – this guidance is a significant set-back. It will result in the turning away of many courageous women who made the bold step of fleeing and seeking safety, but now may perish at the hands of their abusers."

[Archi Pyati](#), Chief of Policy, is available for comment on this topic. Please contact dhajjar@mrss.com to arrange an interview.

About the Tahirih Justice Center

The Tahirih Justice Center is the largest national direct service and policy advocacy organization focused on assisting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. Tahirih will continue to monitor policy shifts that impact women and girls fleeing violence and advocate for the United States to honor its legal obligations to protect those fleeing human rights abuses.

Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence through free legal and social services, public policy advocacy, and training and education. Visit www.tahirih.org for more information.