

2018 IMPACT REPORT



COURAGEOUS IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO REFUSE TO BE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE The Tahirih Justice Center is a national, nonprofit organization that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence, such as rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation/ cutting, forced marriage, and human trafficking.

Our holistic model for protection combines free legal services and social services case management with bridge-building policy advocacy and research-based training and education.

Our programs efficiently and effectively leverage donated professional services from a vast network of attorneys, medical professionals, and other experts to serve as many women and girls as possible.

By elevating the voices of women and girls seeking justice in communities, courts, and Congress, Tahirih's mission is to create a world where women and girls enjoy equality and live in safety and with dignity.

direct services

Since 1997, Tahirih has answered more than 27,000 calls for help from women and girls fleeing violence, providing free legal services needed to achieve the immigration status to which they are entitled under U.S. law and vital social services needed to rebuild their lives.

IN 2018, WE:

Provided free legal services to **1,974** immigrant women and girls and **1,518** of their family members

Connected **633** clients and their family members with vital social services, including emergency shelter, food and clothing, and healthcare

Marshaled an army of **2,569** attorneys from **474** top law firms in our Pro Bono Network to leverage donated resources and maximize our capacity

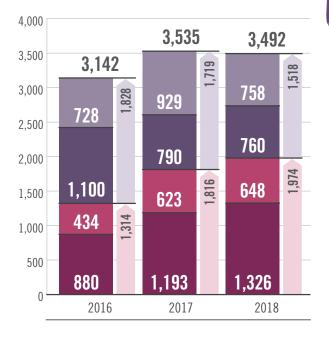
INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED Through free legal services

INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED DIRECT REPRESENTATION

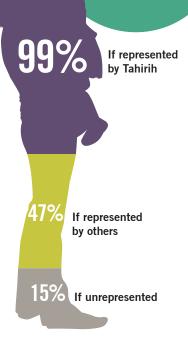
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED BRIEF ADVICE AND COUNSEL

FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO PROTECTED THROUGH DIRECT REPRESENTATION

FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO PROTECTED THROUGH BRIEF ADVICE AND COUNSEL



ODDS OF Winning Asylum Depend on Legal Representation



training and education

Tahirih's outreach programs provide thousands of frontline professionals and community members with an understanding of unique obstacles that immigrant women and girls face in the wake of violence, as well as the essential tools needed to help.

IN 2018, WE:

Trained and educated **15,093** frontline professionals and community members, including attorneys, judges, police officers, healthcare staff, and social service providers

Responded to calls from 621 lawyers and service providers from 3 countries and 23 states who needed expert advice

Educated the public and influenced the national dialogue about the impact of federal and local policies on immigrant women and girls fleeing violence through **1,145** articles, radio and television spots in prominent media, including *The New York Times, The Washington Post, TIME Magazine, CNN, Associated Press,* and *Reuters*

Welcomed **127,978** users to Tahirih.org and **15,549** users to PreventForcedMarriage.org, connecting more people than ever before to our urgent mission

Surpassed **3.19 million** views on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, sparking vital conversations about issues that impact the safety and dignity of women and girls

Saw **2,632** visits to our Pro Bono Attorney E-Library (an online resource with practice tips and guidelines)



Tahirih Houston Executive Director, Anne Chandler, presents at *Immigration and Family Separation Crisis*: *A Call to Understand, Connect and Act*, sponsored by the Rothko Chapel and Houston Immigration Legal Services. Thirrih Chief of Policy, Archi Pyati, is interviewed on NBC News 4 about the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

WE ARE FOSTERING LASTING CHANGE THROUGH

non-partisan advocacy

Tahirih's policy team elevates the voices of immigrant women and girls in communities, courts, and Congress to bring about systemic change, ensuring that laws and policies protect survivors from violence and exploitation.

IN 2018, WE:

Educated over 100 members of Congress about the impact of major shifts in immigration policy on women and girls fleeing violence and encouraged oversight; published over a dozen rapid, unique analyses and testimonies to inform Congress on issues such as increasing arrests, detention, and deportation of survivors, legal decisions that limit eligibility for asylum such as *Matter of A-B-*, and changing border practices such as family separation and prosecution of asylum seekers

Led advocacy for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in partnership with national domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, and served as an expert to law makers on the need for legal protections for immigrant survivors of violence

Litigated to defend constitutional rights and legal protections for immigrant women in federal court, submitting legal briefs in 15 different cases

Submitted public comments on proposed policies and engaged with the Administration to advocate for fairness and humanitarian solutions for immigrant survivors

Tahirih Senior Counsel for Policy and Strategy, Jeanne Smoot (far left), witnesses the signing of SB 48—a bill to overhaul Kentucky's lax minimum marriage age laws—by Kentucky Governor, Matt Bevin.

WE ARE WORKING TO END

child and forced marriage in the united states

Tahirih's Forced Marriage Initiative leads the national movement to protect the rights of individuals fleeing forced marriages and is a vehicle to address systemic issues that leave hundreds of women and girls (and men and boys) vulnerable to this human rights abuse every year.

IN 2018, WE:

Triaged **156** emergency requests from advocates, allies, and other professionals helping a total of **246** individuals fleeing forced marriage issues—from **25** states and nearly **every region** of the globe—and equipped **1,178** frontline professionals with critical tools to identify forced marriage and protect victims

Worked closely with survivor-advocates and pro bono partners to achieve or inspire **new laws against child marriage** in **9** states: Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Tennessee, and advised advocates and legislators in **17** additional states on ways to strengthen their laws

Began development of a help room project offering Tahirih's Forced Marriage Initiative the opportunity to facilitate a confidential, **virtual survivors' forum** to connect survivors across the U.S. with each other

Researched and submitted **recommendations to help prevent child and forced marriages** through abuse of the immigration system

MARIA'S STORY

Maria* was widowed and left alone with two children to raise when her husband was murdered. Several years later, Maria began dating Manuel* who, about a year into the relationship, began to abuse her verbally, physically, and sexually, and continued to do so over a period of several years. Although Maria tried to escape Manuel's horrific violence repeatedly by fleeing to her parents' home, Manuel always found her and threatened to hurt both Maria and her family. Maria sought help from the police, but they refused to intervene in what they deemed to be family matters.

One night, Manuel beat Maria to the point of unconsciousness and left her for dead. When she woke up in the hospital, she made the courageous decision to flee for her life immediately, never to return home.

After a harrowing journey to reach the United States, where she was lost in the desert without food or water for days, Maria was apprehended by immigration officials and detained for several months in an immigration detention center, during which time she continued to suffer the effects of her trauma. Maria was physically ill, had difficulty sleeping, suffered frequent headaches and nausea, and experienced nightmares that Manuel was still threatening her. Finally, Maria was released from the detention center when a family member was able to pay her bond.

However, due to Maria's severe trauma from the domestic violence she endured, she was not able to file her asylum application timely within the one year that was required because she was not ready to speak with anyone about what had happened to her. When Maria had to recount the details of the abuse, it was like reliving it all over again.

Then, two years after her initial entry into the U.S., Maria found Tahirih and began building trust with her pro bono attorneys. Thereafter, Maria persevered through a complex, grueling, and tumultuous legal battle. After seven years, she was granted asylum in the U.S and was finally able to begin to rebuild her life in safety and with dignity.



TAHIRIH IS building

As a nation, we have long recognized that when people seek refuge from persecution, we must treat them with care and respect. But in 2018, a number of shifts in policy put the lives of individuals and families fleeing violence at risk. These shifts included threats to due process, "zero tolerance" prosecutions of asylum seekers, family separation, and legal decisions that undermine protections for survivors of gender-based violence.

Tahirih responded by filing a record number of legal briefs in court cases that impact women and children like our clients. We impacted public dialogue by targeting popular news outlets with unprecedented success. And we submitted complaints and objections to many new rules. Across the country and in Washington D.C., we fought for immigrant survivors and their rights to safety and due process under the law.

MATTER OF A-B-

IN JUNE 2018, AN HISTORIC DECISION SOUGHT TO ROLL BACK ASYLUM PROTECTION FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STATING THAT THESE CLAIMS WOULD GENERALLY NOT BE VALID. IT UNDERMINED DECADES OF PROGRESS THAT BEGAN WITH THE VICTORY IN THE SEMINAL *KASINGA* CASE, WON IN PART BY OUR FOUNDER, LAYLI MILLER-MURO.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS DECISION, WE:

Filed multiple briefs challenging the decision

Conducted extensive outreach to members of Congress, organizing and participating in Congressional briefings to educate Hill staff about this issue

Secured an oversight letter from dozens of members of Congress pressing the Department of Justice to support asylum for survivors of domestic violence

Worked with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky on a resolution condemning the decision

Boosted media attention to this critical case, including hosting a press briefing that featured national advocates and a former Tahirih client

Began litigation in a number of cases of directly impacted Tahirih clients

Visit tahirih.org/buildingbridges to see what you can do to help

bridges to safety

TAKING ACTION FOR REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS



Read firsthand accounts from Tahirih staff who have journeyed to the border to meet with migrants



Utilize our social ambassador toolkit to inspire friends and family to learn more, give, and share



Read Tahirih's analyses on legal decisions, current policies, and presidential executive orders



Donate to the Campaign to help Tahirih build our army of legal advocates



Watch video explanations from Tahirih experts on key legal decisions and policy implications



Access current news coverage highlighting Tahirih's efforts and beyond

"ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE—INCLUDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS—MUST BE ABLE TO GET THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN TO SAFETY. WE CAN HELP BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND ERADICATE ABUSE IF WE SUPPORT IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS IN ACCESSING THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS. WE ARE PROUD TO BE IN THIS FIGHT, AND WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US."

> **ARCHI PYATI** Tahirih's Chief of Policy

protect courageous immigrant women and girls fleeing violence.

OUR CLIENTS COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, BUT NOW LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2018, our top 5 countries of origin were:

1. Honduras

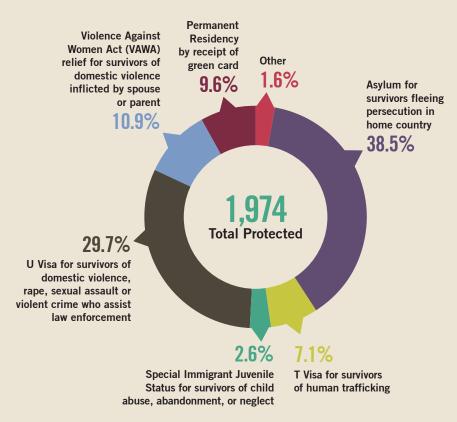
- 2. El Salvador
- **3.** Mexico
- 4. Guatemala
- 5. Nigeria

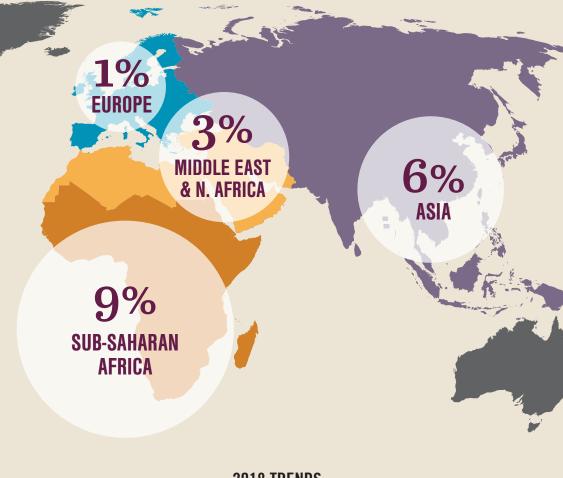
In addition to experiencing violence in their origin country, about **27% of our clients have also experienced violence** since coming here to the U.S. 1% N. AMERICA

1% CARIBBEAN

79% LATIN AMERICA

TYPES OF IMMIGRATION PROTECTIONS IN 2018





2018 TRENDS

Individuals provided direct representation services increased by



Individuals provided Forced Marriage Initiative case management services increased by

↑ **30%**

Individuals provided support in Permanent Residency cases increased by



"WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY, I FELT DEPRESSED AND DISAPPOINTED. WHEN I FOUND TAHIRIH AND WE STARTED DISCUSSING THE OPTIONS I HAD, I BECAME OPTIMISTIC THAT I COULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE. EVEN THOUGH I STILL WORRY, I FEEL THAT THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER AND I AM SO MUCH HAPPIER. I HOPE THAT TAHIRIH IS ABLE TO HELP OTHER WOMEN LIKE ME."

> **LINDA** former Tahirih client, survivor of rape and domestic violence

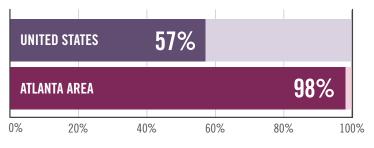
OUR AWARD-WINNING MODEL FOR Service supported clients in Five, high-need locations





In 2018, Tahirih completed the last goal of its Ready to Soar Expansion Campaign, opening a new office in Atlanta, GA with a special Appellate Litigation project to challenge the 98% asylum denial rate in the area.

ASYLUM DENIAL RATES, PERCENT DENIED IN 2016



Source: Executive Office Of Immigration Review Statistics Yearbook 2016

IN 2018, ATLANTA:

Recruited start-up team, including staff, Advisory Council, Pro Bono Network, and local partnerships

Launched Appellate Project with Emory University and the Mayor of Atlanta's Office

Served 10 clients and 7 family members in the second half of the year, appealing four claims that were denied

Partnered with actor Penn Badgley on a campaign featured in 12 media outlets to successfully obtain the release of a client from detention

Filed 3 appeals with the Board of Immigration Appeals and 1 appeal in Federal Court

Drafted two amicus briefs in support of asylum seekers in ongoing, national, precedent-setting cases

Conducted more than 10 education and training events, reaching 40 professionals and 210 community members



INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN Baltimore through free Legal services in 2018

Total Protected

196 Family Members

Individuals

BALTIMORE BY THE NUMBERS

132 Clients and their family members connected to vital social services

25

Clients provided family law services

100

Pro bono attorneys who co-counseled cases Community members and frontline professionals trained

IN 2018, BALTIMORE:

Secured government funding to move to a larger office and hire additional legal staff

Added four new members to Advisory Council, for a total of nine

Conducted two Community Advocates Program trainings for clients who want to advocate against gender-based violence in their communities; topics included recognizing the dynamics of violence, trauma-informed communication skills, history of women's movements around the world, capacity building, and power mapping

Offered clients weekly support groups, summer events (including yoga in the park and a visit to Ripley's Believe It or Not), and a holiday party



INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN GREATER DC THROUGH FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN 2018



Family Members

GREATER DC BY THE NUMBERS

93

Clients and their family members connected to vital social services 44

564

Individuals

Clients provided family law services 312 Pro Bono attorneys who co-counseled cases 2,230

Community members and frontline professionals trained

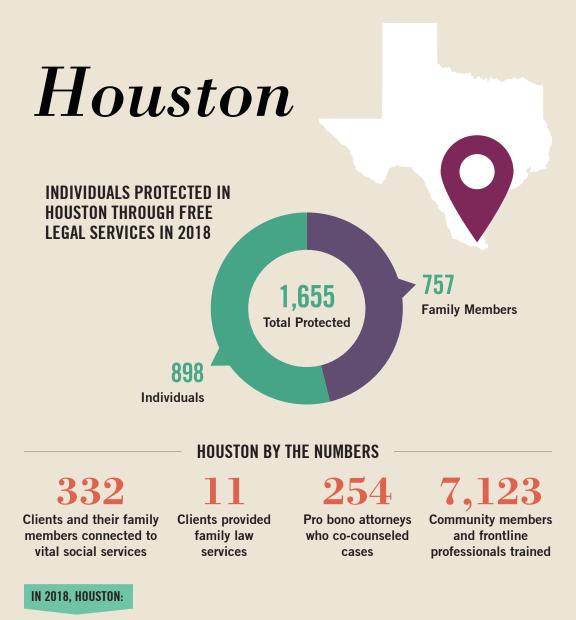
IN 2018, GREATER DC:

Hired new executive director, Barfonce Baldwin

Increased pro bono recruitment efforts through multiple legal clinics and grew rate of cases co-counseled by pro bono attorneys to 71%

Presented at the National Association of Social Workers Conference and a Washington Area Women's Foundation meeting to provide policy recommendations to help improve the status of young girls in D.C.

Presented to law enforcement from the Fairfax County Police Department, to the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy, and at the statewide Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' annual conference



Launched the Breaking Down Barriers to Justice Project, Tahirih's first local public policy advocacy team, which aims to combat the climate of fear in Texas by creating meaningful change through public policy advocacy

Established an Immigrant Survivor Legal Clinic at the Montgomery County Women's Center to provide holistic legal services to women who are unable to travel to Houston to obtain services

Worked with partners in Houston and along the U.S.-Mexico border to shed light on the cruelty of family separation by maintaining public pressure to end the practice, providing coordination and legal services to survivors of violence in children's and adult detention centers, and gathering data and testimony from victims of child separation to aid the efforts of Tahirih's national policy team

Joined forces with the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC) Access to Services committee on the Harvey Systems Project to create a more responsive on-line referral system, "NeedsHOU", that better addresses the needs of immigrants seeking services in the face of natural disasters



INDIVIDUALS PROTECTED IN SAN FRANCISCO Through Free Legal Services in 2018

400 Total Protected

271 Individuals

SAN FRANCISCO BY THE NUMBERS

64

Clients and their family members connected to vital social services

89

Pro bono attorneys who co-counseled cases



129

Family Members

Community members and frontline professionals trained

IN 2018, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA:

Hosted "In Her Shoes" experiential learning exercise for local Advisory Council members and Airbnb staff members

Partnered with American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Silicon Valley Chapter and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights to conduct immigration trainings

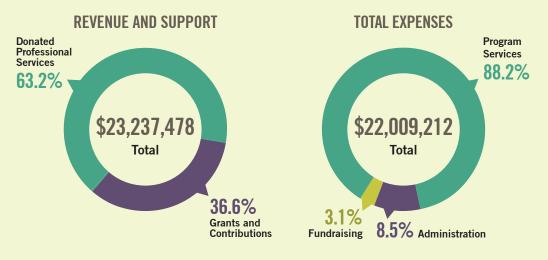
Filed an appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals for a client who was detained but released based on our efforts in Habeas petition

Conducted Know Your Rights presentations for survivors of gender-based violence at the California and Texas borders

2017 Financials

In 2017, Tahirih had an operating budget of **\$9M**. Thanks to the generosity of our Pro Bono Network of attorneys, medical professionals, and other experts, the value of in-kind donated services was **\$14.7M**, bringing our total budget to **\$23.7M**.

		2017	
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Donated (In-Kind) Professional Services	\$ 14,696,708	\$ 0	\$ 14,696,708
Grants and Contributions	7,415,165	1,105,416	8,520,581
Investment Income	15,713	-	15,713
Other Income	4,476	-	4,476
Net Assets Released from Program Restrictio	ns 1,734,903	(1,734,903)	-
Net Assets Released from Time Restrictions	367,084	(367,084)	-
Total Revenue	24,234,049	(996,571)	23,237,478
EXPENSES			
Program	-	-	-
Services	16,823,553	-	16,823,553
Advocacy	2,597,264	-	2,597,264
Total Program Services	19,420,817	-	19,420,817
Supporting Services			
General and Administration	1,885,122	-	1,885,122
Fundraising	703,273	-	703,273
Total Supporting Services	2,588,395	-	2,588,395
Total Expenses	22,009,212	-	22,009,212
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,224,837	(996,571)	1,228,266
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	1,539,976	4,147,248	5,687,224
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,764,813	\$ 3,150,677	\$ 6,915,490



Our full 2017 financial statements and Independent Audit Report issued by Raffa, P.C. can be viewed at tahirih.org. Our 2018 financial statements and audit report were not available at the time of this publication, but will be available online upon completion.

A very special thanks to our donors who made our work possible through generous financial support in 2018:

CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Akerman I I P Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP Andrews Kurth LLP - Dallas Arnold & Porter Baker & McKenzie LLP Baker Botts LLP BP America Inc. Bruch Hanna LLP CenterPoint Energy **Century Natural Resources** Chloe Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP **Continuum Analytics** Cooley LLP **Covington & Burling LLP** Crowell & Moring LLP **Davis Wright Tremaine LLP** Dechert LLP **DLA Piper LLP** Ernst & Young Farella Braun + Martel LLP Foster I I P Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher LLP Gonzales Olivieri LLC Greenberg Traurig, LLP Hewlett Packard Enterprise Hilton Worldwide Hogan Lovells LLP Holwell Shuster & Goldberg Host Hotels & Resorts Jones Dav Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP King & Spalding LLP Kirkland & Ellis LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Dr. Paul Lee, DDS Leidos Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP Littler Mendelson M&T Bank Mayer Brown LLP McDermott Will and Emery Modern Luxury Orange County Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP Night Court Noble Energy, Inc. Northrop Grumman

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GOVERNMENTS

City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office Commonwealth of Virginia Victims of Crime Assistance Program Virginia Sexual and **Domestic Violence Victims Fund** Virginia STOP Violence Against Women County of Fairfax, Consolidated **Community Funding Pool** County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive Crime Victim Justice Corps Fellowship - VOCA Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Refugee Resettlement Direct Services for Survivors of Torture National Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Comprehensive Services for Survivors of Crime Specialized Services for Survivors of Trafficking

Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Legal Assistance to Victims

Government of the District of Columbia, Executive Office of the Mayor, Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants State of Georgia, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Victims of Crime Assistance Program State of Maryland Maryland Victims of Crime Fund STOP Violence Against Women Victims of Crime Assistance State of Texas Other Victims Assistance Victims of Crime Assistance Texas Access to Justice Foundation

FOUNDATIONS

Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation Abell Foundation Adventures for the Mind Foundation Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation Annenberg Foundation **Anonymous Foundation Baltimore Community Foundation** Baltimore Women's Giving Circle **Blatt Family Foundation** Blue Shield of California Foundation Borealis Philanthropy Brotman Foundation of California Change a Life Foundation **Charles Crane Family Foundation Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta Corner Foundation** Dan L Duncan Foundation **Douglas Elliott Family Fund** Wagner Family Fund **Emerson Universalist Unitarian Church** Equal Justice Works Foundation for a Just Society **Gaby Foundation** George L. Shields Foundation **Girls Rights Project** Global Fund for Children **Goldseker Foundation Greater Washington Community Foundation** Gunzenhauser - Chapin Fund Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund Haskell Fund **Heising-Simons Foundation Hickey Family Foundation** Houston Association of Women Attorneys Foundation Houston Endowment Houston Young Lawyers Association Jewish Women's Giving Foundation of Baltimore

Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund Julian Grace Foundation Latino Community Fund Lincoln Financial Foundation Marek Family Foundation Mary Moody Methodist

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INDIVIDUALS

\$900,000 +

Laura and John Arnold

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous Donor Jeremy and Holly Taylor Payam and Gouya Zamani

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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"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."

— BAHÁ'Í WRITINGS

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER LOCATIONS

NATIONAL & GREATER DC AREA

6402 Arlington Blvd. Suite 300 Falls Church, VA 22042 (p) 571-282-6161 (f) 571-282-6162 Justice@tahirih.org GreaterDC@tahirih.org

ATLANTA, GA

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