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TAHIRIH STATEMENT ON CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF APPLICANTS FOR U VISAS

On September 17, the Tahirih Justice Center filed a [class action lawsuit](#) on behalf of applicants for U visas who have been denied their legal rights. Right now, thousands of survivors of violence and other victims of crime are waiting four years or more just to get on a wait list, after which they'll wait another several years to receive a U visa. [Read more here.](#)

In the meantime, USCIS is not even considering their requests for work permits, as required under the law. Congress created the U visa to protect victims of violence who are working with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice, and to incentivize immigrants to report crimes and keep all of our communities safe.

“Not having a work permit can place an immigrant in dire straits, and can leave victims of violence stuck in abusive and exploitative situations,” said Archi Pyati, Tahirih Chief of Policy and Communications. “The current backlogs and flat-out refusal to adjudicate work permits leave victims out in the cold and undermine the U visa itself. As advocates for victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and other crimes, we cannot stand by as our clients face these impossible hurdles to their safety and well-being.”

Tahirih’s lawsuit is filed on behalf of 13 plaintiffs with protected identities. If successful, the lawsuit will help thousands of victims of crime in similar situations.

Archi Pyati 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.