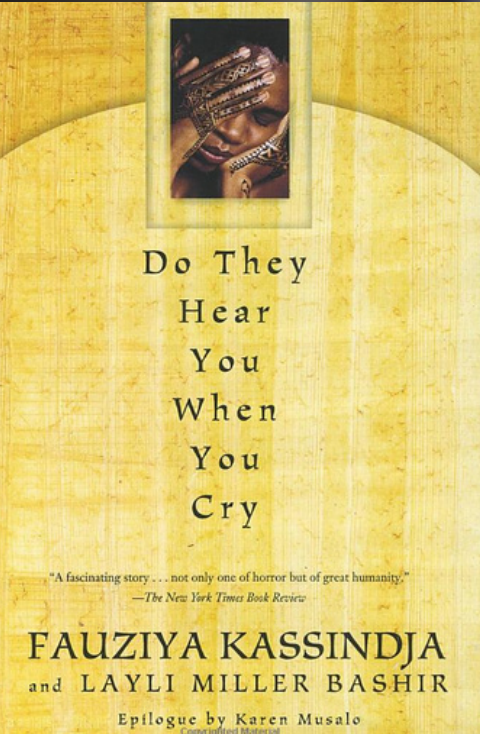


Who We Are



OUR HISTORY

At the age of 17, Fauziya Kassindja fled her home country of Togo in fear of a forced polygamous marriage and female genital mutilation. She sought asylum in the United States, but instead of finding protection, she spent more than 17 months in detention.

Layli Miller-Muro, a student at American University's Washington College of Law, heard of Fauziya's case and brought it to the highest immigration court in the nation. Finally, in 1996, Fauziya was granted asylum by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and the revolutionary decision set national precedent, establishing gender-based persecution as grounds for asylum.

Following the publicity of the case, Layli received numerous requests for help from women in similar circumstances as Fauziya, but she found few organizations able to assist. Using 100% of her proceeds from the book she and Fauziya co-authored, *Do They Hear You When You Cry*, Layli created the Tahirih Justice Center in 1997 to protect women and girls in need.

CEO & FOUNDER, LAYLI MILLER-MURO

Since 2001, Layli Miller-Muro has led the Tahirih Justice Center in its service to more than 27,000 women and girls seeking protection from gender-based human rights abuses such as rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, forced marriage, honor violence, and human trafficking.

In recognition of its sound management and innovative programs, Tahirih won The Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management and received commendation for its innovative use of pro bono attorneys in the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

Prior to joining Tahirih as Executive Director, Layli was an attorney at the law firm of Arnold & Porter where she practiced international litigation and maintained a substantial pro bono practice. Prior to joining Arnold & Porter, Layli was an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals. Layli received her JD and MA in International Relations from American University and BA from Agnes Scott College.

Layli is a frequent lecturer and has appeared in numerous news outlets, including CNN, Fox News, *The New York Times*, NPR, PBS, and *The Washington Post*. She lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband and three children.



Awards & Recognition

Newsweek/Daily Beast's 150 Most Fearless Women in the World
Goldman Sach's Top 100 Most Innovative Entrepreneurs
Diane Von Furstenberg People's Voice Award
Meyer Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management
DC's 2015 Young Mother of the Year



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®

VIOLENCE AGAINST *women and girls*

WORLDWIDE

Overall, **35% of women** worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.¹

If present trends continue, **142 million girls** will be married before the age of 18 by 2020.²

5,000 women and girls are murdered every year for being a perceived dishonor to their families.³

At least **200 million women and girls** alive today, living in 30 countries, have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting.⁴

IN THE UNITED STATES

Every 3.9 minutes, someone is raped.⁵

Between 2000 and 2015, well **over 200,000 children** under the age of 18 were married in America.⁶

In 2018, **more than 82%** of the cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline involved female victims.⁷

IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE AT GREATER RISK

Immigrant women are **2x more likely** to experience domestic violence than the general population.⁸

72% of abusive partners fail to give their spouses legal immigration status as a tool of control.⁹

78% of agencies said that immigrant survivors of violence have concerns with contacting the police since the enactment of immigration enforcement policies in early 2017.¹⁰

Only **2% of immigrants** facing removal from the United States are able to obtain pro bono representation.¹¹

Resources

¹World Health Organization; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and the South African Medical Research Council, "Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence," Who.int, 2013.

²United Nations Population Fund, "Marrying too Young," Unfpa.org, 2012.

³United Nations Population Fund, "State of World Population 2000," Unfpa.org, 2000.

⁴The United Nations Children's Fund, "Female genital mutilation," data.unicef.org, last modified February 2018.

⁵Federal Bureau of Investigation, "2017 Crime Clock Statistics," FBI.gov, last accessed April 11, 2019.

⁶Amico, Chris; Nolan, Dan; and Tsui, Anjali, "Child Marriage in America: By the Number," Frontline.org, July 6, 2017.

⁷National Human Trafficking Hotline, "Hotline Statistics," Humantraffickinghotline.org, last accessed April 11, 2019.

⁸Aguilar Hass, Giselle; Ammar, Noel; and Orloff, Leslye, "Battered Immigrants and U.S. Citizen Spouses," Legal Momentum, Academia.edu, last modified April 24, 2006.

⁹Aguilar Hass, Giselle; Dutton, Mary Anne; and Orloff, Leslye, "Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications," Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy, Volume VII, Number 2, Summer 2000.

¹⁰Tahirih Justice Center, "2017 Advocate and Legal Service Survey Regarding Immigrant Survivors," Tahirih.org, last modified May 18, 2017.

¹¹Eagly, Ingrid V. and Shafer, Steven, "A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court," University of Pennsylvania Law Review, Volume 164, Number 1, December 2015.