



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®

Who We Are



Do They
Hear
You
When
You
Cry

"A fascinating story... not only one of horror but of great humanity."
—The New York Times Book Review

FAUZIYA KASSINDJA
and LAYLI MILLER BASHIR

Epilogue by Karen Musalo
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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, then 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 serve immigrant survivors of gender-based violence seeking safety and justice.

CEO & FOUNDER, LAYLI MILLER-MURO

Since 2001, Layli Miller-Muro has led the Tahirih Justice Center in its service to nearly 29,000 survivors seeking safety 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 Sachs's Top 100 Most Innovative Entrepreneurs

Diane Von Furstenberg People's Voice Award

Meyer Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management

The Huffington Post's 50 Most Powerful Women on International Women's Day

Forbes Magazine's 8-Awe-Inspiring Women on World Refugee Day



TAHIRIH
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GENDER-BASED *violence*

WORLDWIDE

Overall, **35%** of women and girls have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence¹

If present trends continue, **150 million** more children will be married before the age of 18 by 2030.²

Almost **4 million** women and girls are subjected to genital mutilation/cutting annually.³

As many as **5,000** women and girls are murdered every year for being a perceived dishonor to their families.⁴

Over **2,300** transgender individuals are known to have been killed in the last decade in dozens of countries.⁵

IN THE UNITED STATES

On average, **nearly 20 individuals per minute** are victims of domestic gender-based violence.⁶

Since 2007, there have been **56,504 cases** reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.⁷

Between 2000 and 2015, well **over 200,000** children under the age of 18 were married.⁸

In 2018, there were **130 cases** of anti-transgender fatal violence across more than 30 states and nearly 100 cities nationwide.⁹

40% of transgender individuals held in U.S. state and federal detention report being sexually abused.¹⁰

IMMIGRANTS ARE AT GREATER RISK

Immigrant women are **2x more likely** to experience domestic violence than the general population.¹¹

72% of abusive partners fail to give their spouses legal immigration status as a tool of control.¹²

78% of agencies said that immigrant survivors of violence have concerns with contacting the police since the enactment of immigration enforcement policies in early 2017.¹³

LGBTQ people are **97x more likely** to report being sexually abused in immigration detention.¹⁴

Resources

¹ United Nations Population Fund, "Annual Report 2018," unfpa.org.

² Girls Not Brides, "About Child Marriage," GirlsNotBrides.org.

³ United Nations Population Fund, "Annual Report 2018," unfpa.org.

⁴ United Nations Population Fund, "State of World Population 2000," unfpa.org.

⁵ Human Right Campaign Foundation, "A National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in America 2018," hrc.org.

⁶ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "National Statistics," ncadv.org.

⁷ National Human Trafficking Hotline. "Hotline Statistics," humantraffickinghotline.org.

⁸ Amico, Chris; Nolan, Dan; and Tsui, Anjali, "Child Marriage in America: By the Numbers." Frontline, pbs.org, last modified July 6, 2017.

⁹ Human Right Campaign Foundation, "A National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in America 2018," hrc.org.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Aguilar Hass, Giselle; Ammar, Noel; and Orloff, Leslye, "Battered Immigrants and U.S. Citizen Spouses," Legal Momentum, Academia.edu, last modified April 24, 2006.

¹² Aguilar 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* 7 (2000): 2.

¹³ Tahirih Justice Center, "2017 Advocate and Legal Service Survey Regarding Immigrant Survivors," Tahirih.org.

¹⁴ Human Right Campaign Foundation, "A National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in America 2018," hrc.org.