

Tahirih Justice Center's Services

Presented by

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TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER'S VIDEO



Agenda

Welcome

Introduction to Tahirih and our Impact

Direct Services and Our Unique Pro Bono Program

How to Get Involved

Questions/Contact Information

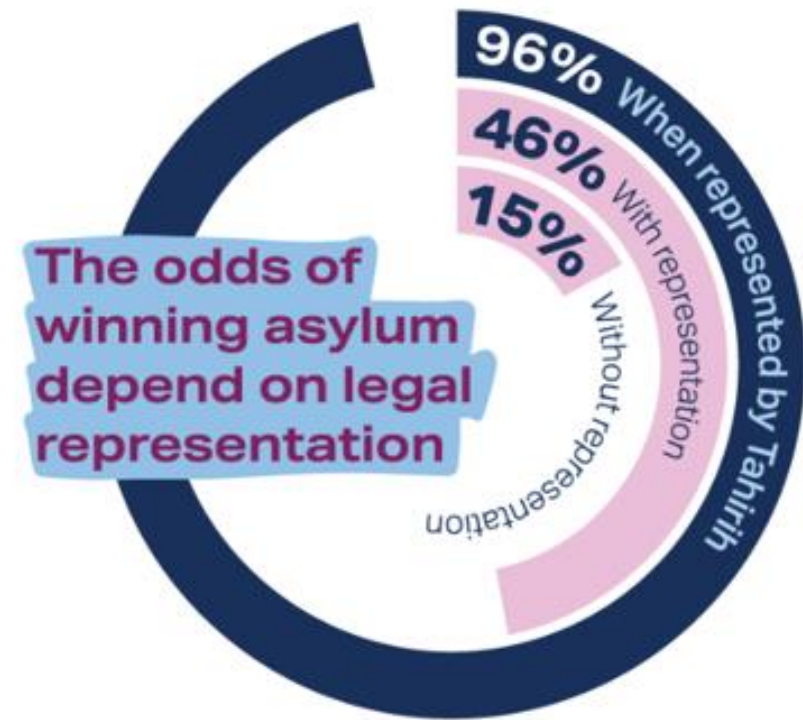
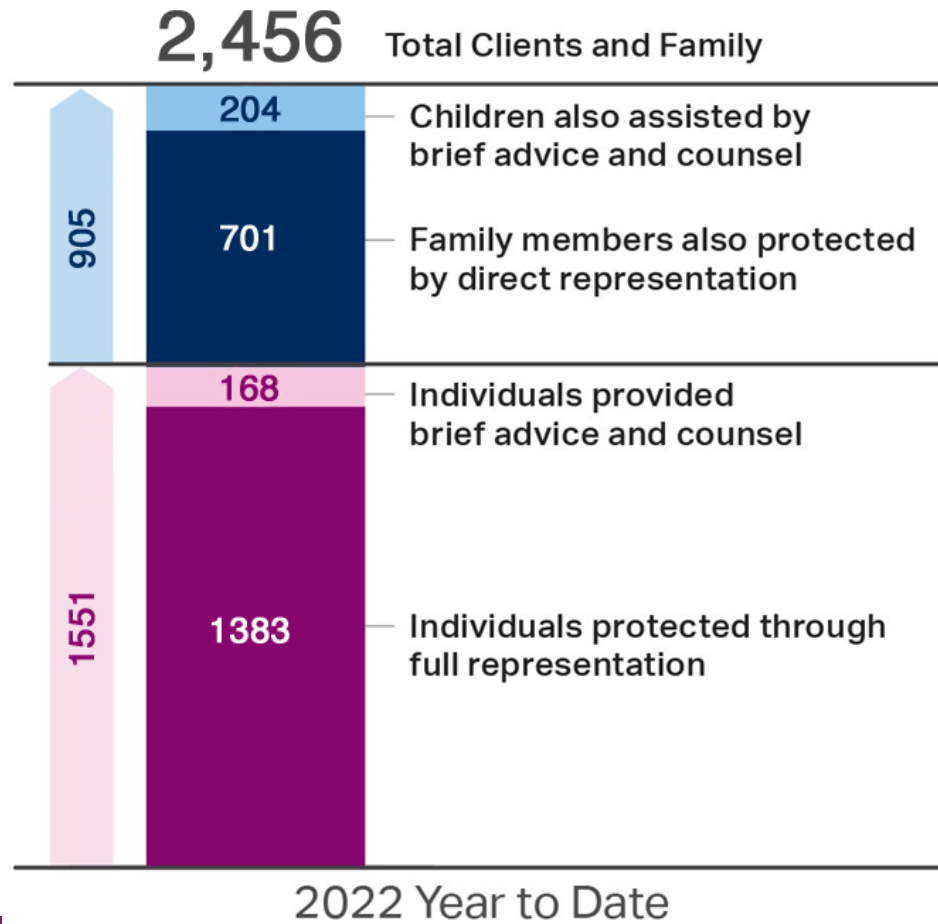
Introduction to Tahirih and our Impact

Who we are



- 25 years of service as a Bahá'í inspired organization
- Our mission: serve immigrant survivors of gender-based violence
- One client services team working together with the client leading
- Our three-pronged approach to ensuring immigrant survivors of violence can live in safety and with dignity

Our impact



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Office Snapshot



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

- **Legal Services:** 321 clients and their family members impacted
- **Social Services:** 39 clients and their family members served
- **Pro Bono Network:** 391 attorneys from 102 firms/corporations
- **Outreach and Training:** events reaching 1,209 individuals
- **Staff:** currently a team of 8, recruiting 1 additional staff in 2022
- **Budget:** \$2M



2021

Impact

- **Organized and coordinated** outreach events and legal clinics for more than 800 community members, pro bono attorneys, lawyers, social services and mental health professionals, and medical students.
- **Distributed** more than \$35,000 in financial assistance to clients to help them with basic needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Spearheaded** client-centered Tech Access Projects under the leadership of Tahirih San Francisco Bay Area's Weil Legal Innovator, including Google Maps resource lists, a direct cash transfer pilot program, and short "Tech 101" educational videos for clients, pro bono attorneys, and other service providers around the country.

Direct Services

We offer a range of legal and social services to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence can rebuild their lives in safety.

Immigration Law

We represent immigrant survivors who we believe have a legitimate claim to legal status under U.S. immigration law as survivors of gender-based violence.

Family Law

We ensure our clients' legal needs are met in family courts, safeguarding children against abuse and helping women divorce their abusers.

Civil Law

We engage in appellate advocacy and impact litigation, and support clients as they recover damages from harms they have suffered, such as trafficking

Forced Marriage Protection

We provide confidential support and assistance to individuals in the U.S. who are facing forced marriages in this country or abroad.

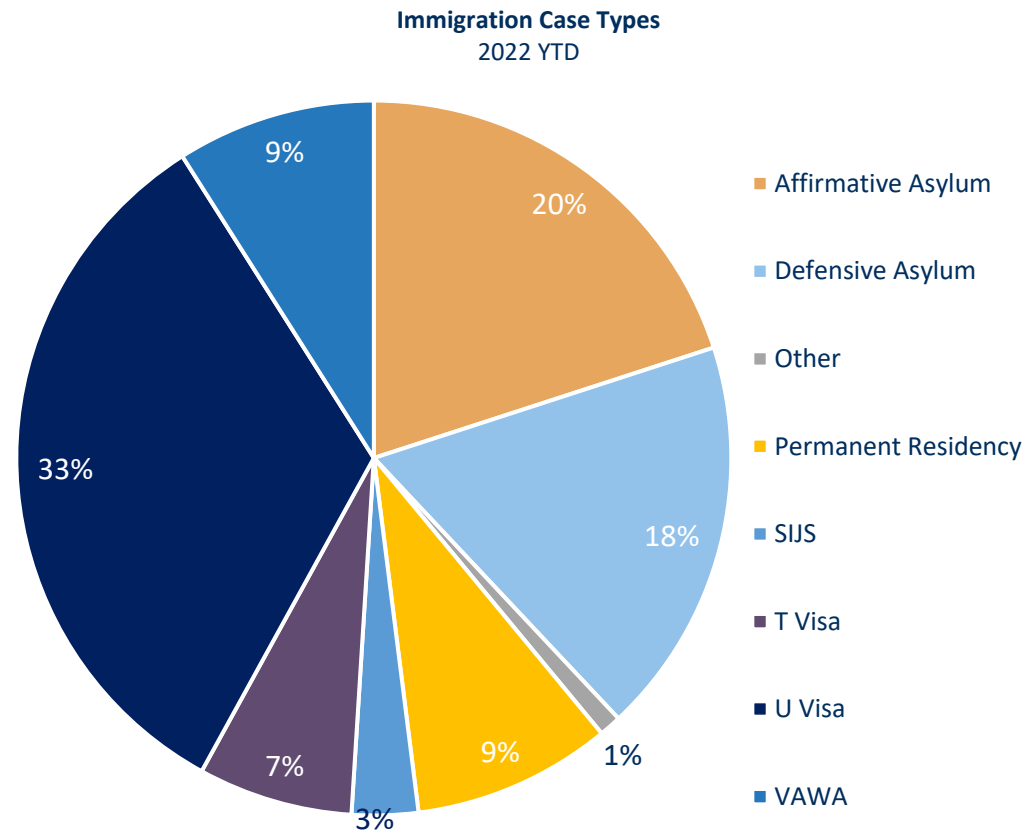
Social Services

We connect our clients to shelter, employment-related training, food pantries, and other services so they can gain greater control over their lives.

Medical Services

We help our clients obtain medical and mental health services, a vital step in the road to recovery from physical and psychological trauma.

Our work



Types of Tahirih Cases

- Asylum
- U visa
- T visa
- VAWA
- SIJS
- Affirmative (USCIS)
- Defensive (Immigration Court)
- Appeals
- Litigation

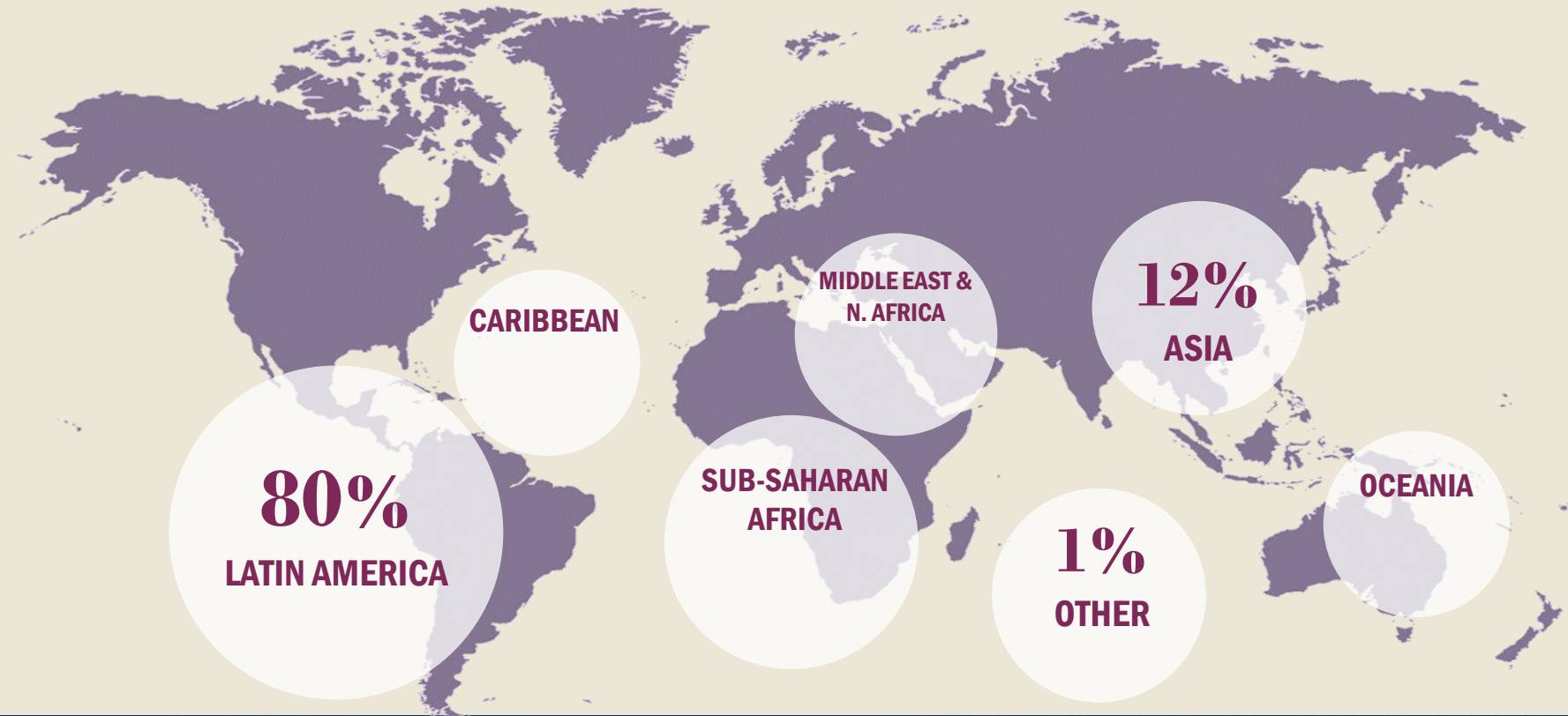
Where Our Clients Come From



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

In 2021, our top five countries of origin were:

1. El Salvador
2. Guatemala
3. México
4. Honduras
5. Philippines



Our Unique Pro Bono Program

Our pro bono partnership model

The Co-Counsel model

- Nearly 2,000 individual pro bono attorneys in our network
- 56% cases currently co-counseled
- Clients retain access to social services
- Tahirih and Pro Bono Firm execute a co-counsel agreement prior to placing a matter

Benefits to the pro bono attorney

- Work directly with clients
- Hands-on mentorship by experts in the field and access to samples and templates
- Expansion of litigation and legal writing skills

What does co-counseling look like?

- Kick-off call with the Tahirih Mentor
- Ongoing strategy conversations
- Review of documents and deadlines
- Support with witness preparation
- Support with interview preparation
- Mock hearing/interview
- Access to in-house social services support for clients

- Training on the subject matter for all interested attorneys
- Training on Trauma Informed and client centered lawyering
- Special Summer Associates Projects available
- Short term project related to specific matters available

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Pro Bono Network



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

391

Individual attorneys in network

102

Firms/corporations in network

99

Attorneys who co-counseled cases in 2021



““In the past year, my work with each Tahirih client has given me meaning and purpose. As I listen to their stories, work to earn their trust, and advocate on their behalf, I learn from them. Each person has a different perspective. Each interaction broadens my own. And my life is fuller and more meaningful because of this work.”

– Maria Segarra

How to get involved

San Francisco Opportunities

*More SF Office Case Opportunities can be found at **Paladin Platform** and our periodic Newsletter. If you are not a receiving ProBono Newsletter, please contact us.*

Our upcoming project include:

- 1. Country Condition Research (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador) -The research focus on written documents that help explain the danger and lack of protection in these country for survivors of gender-based violence; include reports from human rights organizations, newspaper articles, or government publications that can be used to explain the circumstances that exist in the country of origin. (Opportunity for Non- Attorneys/Attorneys)*
- 2. Employment Authorization Clinic – Assisting clients with renewing their application for work authorization and filing fee waiver application. (Opportunity for Non-Attorneys/Attorneys)*

San Francisco Opportunities

3. *Adjustment of Status Clinic: Assisting clients in preparing application for permanent residency, that would provide them a path to citizenship and family unification. (Opportunity for Attorneys)*
4. *U Visa Application Assistance Clinic: Assisting victims of crime in applying for Immigration remedy with USCIS in affirmative form, that would provide them an opportunity for work authorization, driver licenses, social security and a path to residency in the United States. (Opportunity for Attorneys and Non Attorneys- team)*
5. *VAWA Self Petition Application Assistance Clinic- Assisting victims of domestic violence by an abusive US Citizen/ LPR spouse or child or parent by filing affirmative relief at USCIS, allowing such survivors a path free from violence (Opportunity for Attorneys and Non Attorneys- team)*

How to get Involved

- Memorandum of Understanding with agencies with similar missions
- Comprehensive Services to Survivors
- Resource Sharing and Trainings

Thank you!

Contact Us



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