Economic Justice: Living in the Margins
For National Network to End Domestic Violence

Pronita Gupta
June 19, 2019
Three New Standards

- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Paid Sick Days
- Fair and Predictable Work Schedules

Implementation and enforcement are key!
The Need for Job Quality

- Growth of low-wage jobs
  - Fastest growing job sector
  - “Fissuring” of the workplace
  - Growth in involuntary part-time work

Most impacted = women & people of color
Paid Family & Medical Leave

• 84% of private sector workers have no access to PFL
  - 93% of low-wage workers have no access
  - 94% of part-time workers have no access

• States leading the way – DC & 6 states, including NJ!

• Growing need for a national standard – the FAMILY Act
Paid Sick & Safe Days

• Over 35 million workers have NO paid sick days
• 12 states, DC & 22 localities are leading the way
• Need national standard – the Healthy Families Act
Fair & Predictable Work Schedules

• Increase in “just-in-time” management practices
  
  ❏ 1 in 6 workers have schedules that change based on the needs of their employer.
    ○ Of those with volatile schedules, over 50 percent report being told that their hours have changed 3 or less days in advance.
  
  ❏ 83 percent of hourly part-time workers have volatile schedules

• 5 cities & 1 state have fair work schedules laws – need national standard = the Schedules that Work Act
LIVING IN THE MARGINS

Barriers Faced by Immigrant Survivors of Violence Seeking Economic Justice

JESSICA HOWTON
Managing Attorney, Tahirih Justice Center
Overview

INTRODUCTION TO TAHIRIH

PARTICULAR VULNERABILITIES OF IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS

BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LESSONS LEARNED & STRATEGIES
THE TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

OUR MISSION

To partner with courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence by elevating their voices in communities, courts, and Congress.
Tahirih’s holistic model for protection combines free legal and social services case management with bridge-building public policy advocacy, community outreach, training, and education.
Forced Marriage Initiative

https://preventforcedmarriage.org/

GET HELP

It's Confidential

We will discuss your rights and your options, guide you through steps you can take to keep safe, and help you to find resources in your area.
Our Clients Come From All Over the World

- 1% N. AMERICA
- 1% CARIBBEAN
- 77% LATIN AMERICA
- 1% EUROPE
- 3% MIDDLE EAST & N. AFRICA
- 11% SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
- 6% ASIA
Why Tahirih Exists

Tahirih works with individuals within the U.S. who are statistically more vulnerable – noncitizens who, because of their gender and status, are more likely to experience violence and face additional barriers in accessing protection.

- 70% of Tahirih’s clients are fleeing gender-based violence that occurred on U.S. soil.
- 1 in 5 battered immigrant women cite immigration consequences as a reason for staying with her abuser.
- 72% of abusive partners fail to give their spouses legal status as a tool of control.
- Immigrant women are 2x more likely to experience domestic violence than the general U.S. population.
Barriers for Immigrant Survivors

- Language
- Fear of Authorities
- Complexity of System
- Economic Challenges
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Trauma
- Ongoing Abuse/Violence
BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE
BARRIERS TO

Economic Justice

- Increased vulnerability for future abuse/crimes
- Lack of information around financial literacy and resources
- Lack of I.D., documentation, and SS#}

- Lack of knowledge or support by service providers and financial systems
In May 2019, a coalition of national organizations, including NNEDV and Tahirih, gathered feedback from nearly six hundred advocates and attorneys across the United States. The advocates report that survivors have an increased fear of deportation, retaliation by their abusers, and separation from their children.
Delays in the Adjudication of Applications for Immigrant Survivors of Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated time range</th>
<th>Form type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 Months to 51.5 Months</td>
<td>Provide temporary immigration benefits to an alien who is a victim of qualifying criminal activity, and their qualifying family (Time from Initial Filing to Waiting List Determination)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.5 Months to 22.5 Months</td>
<td>Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Months to 23.5 Months</td>
<td>Provide temporary immigration benefits to an alien who is a victim of trafficking in persons, and immediate family</td>
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SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS
Overcoming Barriers

Helping immigrant survivors of violence access protections under U.S. law and access mainstream financial systems.

**INFORMATION**
How can we avoid providing services within silos to ensure survivors know the rights and protections they are entitled to.

**ACCESS**
Ensuring laws and policies do not bar immigrant survivors because of their status.

**SUPPORT**
How can we advocate for immigrant survivors to financial institutions, employers, benefits offices, and housing officials, etc.
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“Freedom is the most beautiful thing.”
—Tahirih Client