

# CLASP

Policy solutions that work for low-income people

## 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



# 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

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Barriers Faced by Immigrant Survivors of Violence Seeking Economic Justice

JESSICA HOWTON

Managing Attorney, Tahirih Justice Center



JUNE 19, 2019

# Overview

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INTRODUCTION TO TAHIRIH



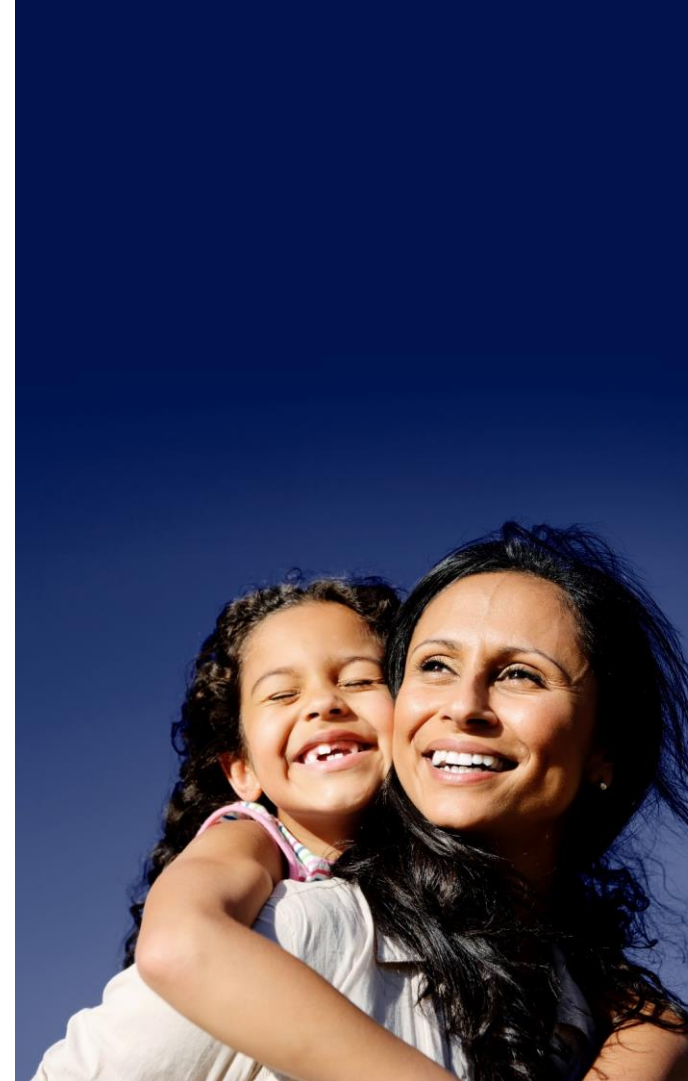
PARTICULAR VULNERABILITIES OF  
IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS



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.

# Programs & Services

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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/>



Forced Marriage Initiative

🔍 Contact Us | [FMI@Tahirih.org](mailto:FMI@Tahirih.org) | 571-282-6161

Join the National Network

Escape This Page ⚠️

HOME

ABOUT FORCED MARRIAGE

GET HELP

RESOURCES

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT US

## 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.

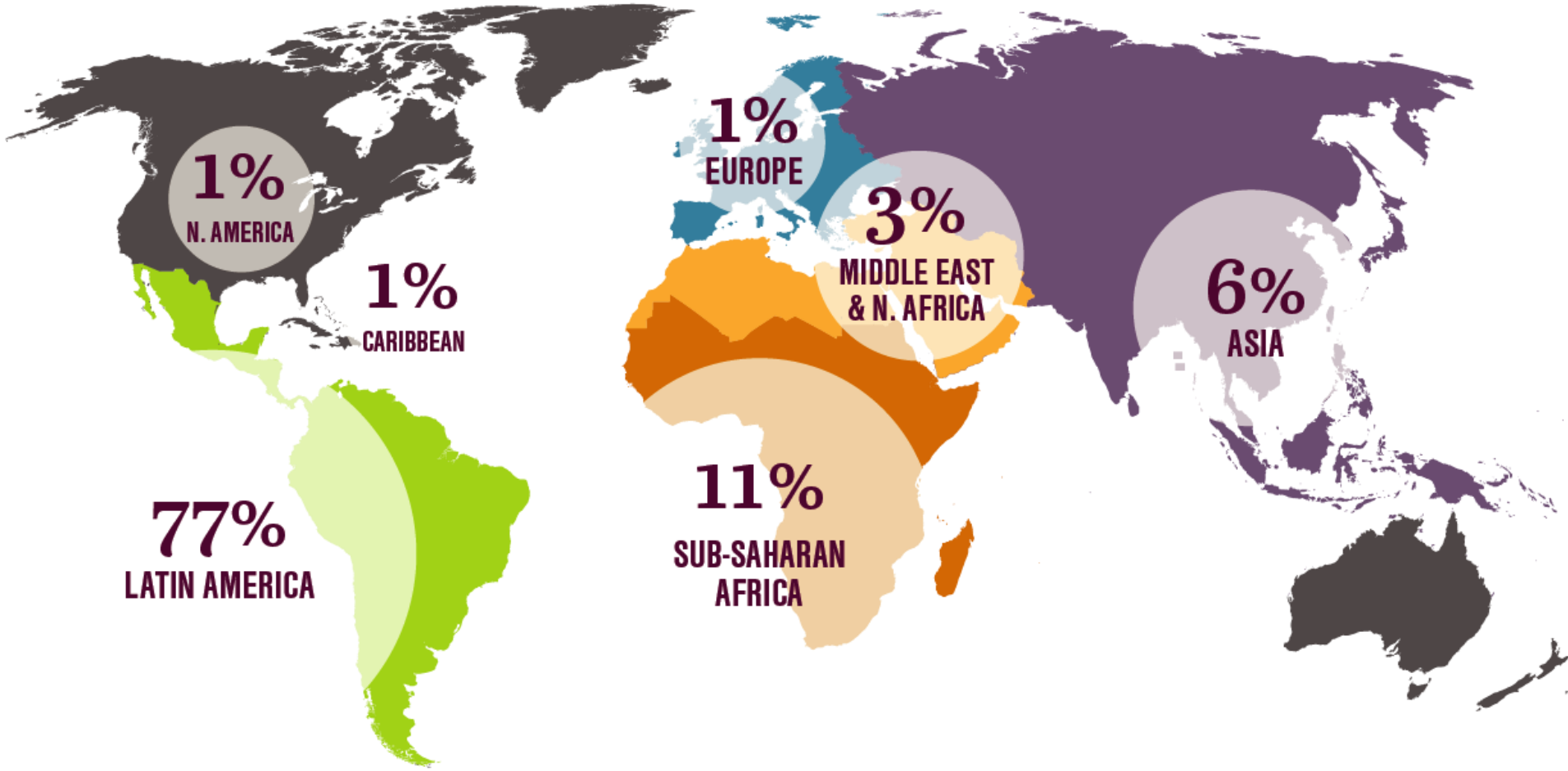


News and Resources

Events and Trainings

Take Action

# Our Clients Come From All Over the World



# 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<sup>IN</sup>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

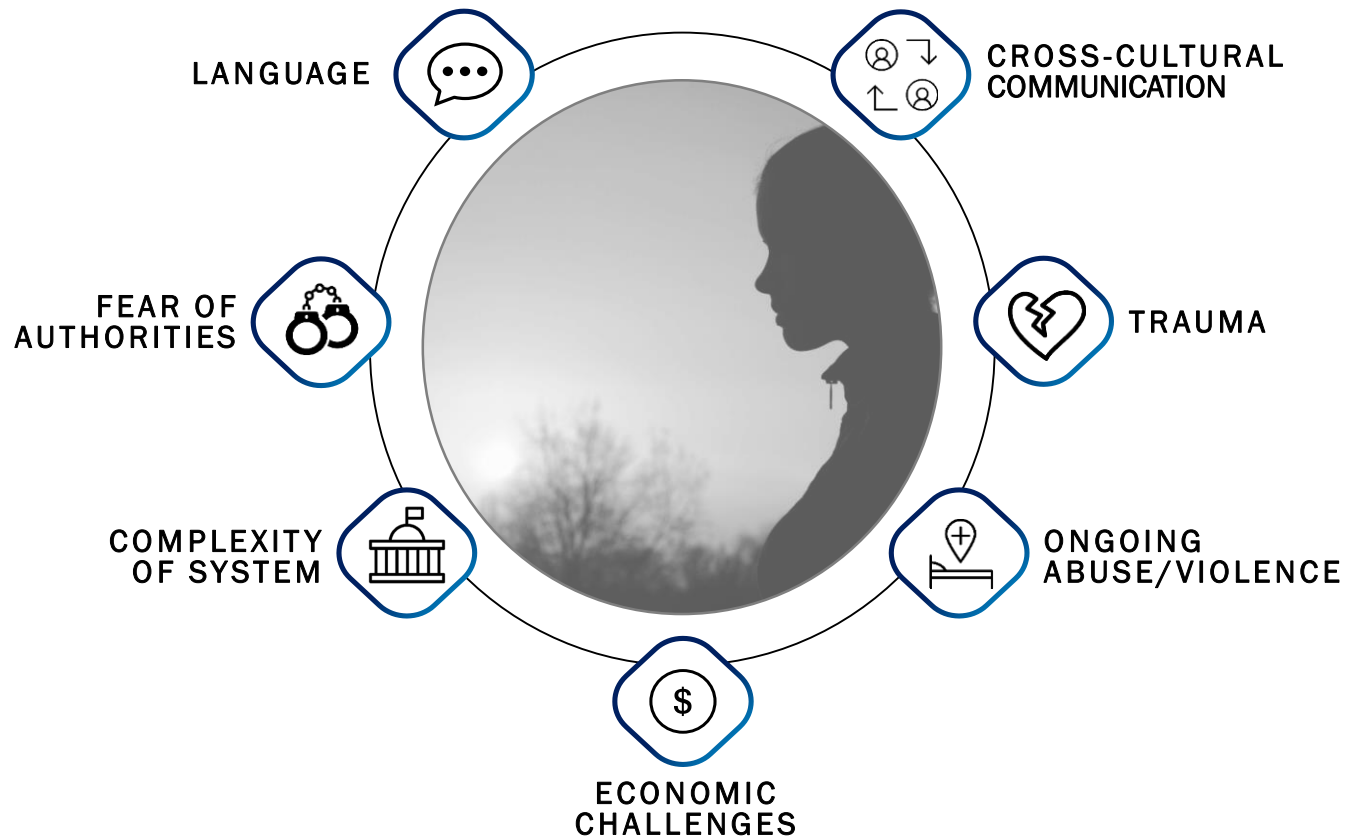


**2x**

Immigrant women are 2x are likely to experience domestic violence than the general U.S. population.

# Barriers for Immigrant Survivors

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# **BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

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BARRIERS TO

# Economic Justice

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**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**





# The Climate of Fear

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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.

**76.25%**

of advocates report that immigrant survivors have concerns about contacting police

“SURVIVORS ARE AFRAID THAT THEY WILL BE REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE), AND BE REMOVED FROM THEIR CHILDREN. THIS HAS HAPPENED ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND CONTINUES TO HAPPEN.”

“MANY VICTIMS ARE AFRAID THEY WILL BE DEPORTED WHEN THEY REPORT THEIR DOMESTIC ABUSE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT. THEY ... ARE FEARFUL THAT ANY **CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT PUTS THEM IN A MORE DANGEROUS POSITION THAN STAYING SILENT.**”

“IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS NO LONGER WANT TO GO TO FAMILY COURT. THEY ARE TOO SCARED. THEY PUT UP WITH ABUSE AND THEY REFUSE TO GET CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY ARE SCARED THEY WILL BE REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION [AUTHORITIES].”

“VICTIMS ALSO BELIEVE THAT COURTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY SIDE WITH THE ABUSER REGARDLESS OF EVIDENCE OR VICTIM'S TESTIMONY, SOLELY BECAUSE THE ABUSER IS A U.S. CITIZEN. **IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSURE VICTIMS THAT COURTS ARE MEANT TO BE FAIR AND LOOK THROUGH ALL INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN ... THE NEWS SOUNDS ANTI-IMMIGRANT.**”

**3 OUT OF 4  
ADVOCATES**



report that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court for a matter related to the abuser/offender

# Delays in the Adjudication of Applications for Immigrant Survivors of Violence

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Estimated time range	Form type
51 Months to 51.5 Months	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)
17.5 Months to 22.5 Months	Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
16 Months to 23.5 Months	Provide temporary immigration benefits to an alien who is a victim of trafficking in persons, and immediate family



# **SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS**

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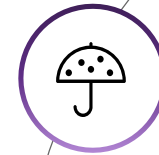
# Overcoming Barriers

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

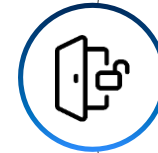
## INFORMATION

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



TAHIRIH  
JUSTICE  
CENTER®