

CONTACT: Danny Hajjar  
[dhajjar@mrss.com](mailto:dhajjar@mrss.com), 202-478-6182

## STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON ASYLUM

The Tahirih Justice Center is deeply concerned about the likelihood of new regulations pursuant to yesterday's presidential proclamation. The proclamation describes measures that will make it nearly impossible for asylum seekers to access the rights to which they are entitled under international and domestic law.

"The current proposal is another example of downright poor policy, and is also heartless," said Archi Pyati, Chief of Policy at Tahirih. "This scheme will fail to bring protection to those who need help, and will cripple the already broken system even further."

Asylum seekers are fleeing persecution, and have left their families, communities, homes, jobs, and possessions behind in order to save their lives. Instituting a new fee for asylum applications and work permits will simply drive asylum seekers deeper into poverty and leave them more vulnerable to victimization and predation by unscrupulous representatives, traffickers, and abusers.

Particularly vulnerable to trafficking and abuse will be women, children, and those who have already experienced domestic and sexual violence.

Earlier this year the White House made budget proposals to siphon off money from much-needed adjudications teams in USCIS in order to fund extreme border measures and extraordinary efforts to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants in America – including while they are waiting for their court hearings or serving as witnesses in criminal actions. After seeking to divert money away from USCIS, the administration now wants to make applicants pay for humanitarian protection.

The Tahirih Justice Center will file comments opposing proposed regulations and will continue to expose policies that harm those who need protection and harm our system, while doing nothing to protect Americans.

*Archi Pyati is available for comment on this topic. Please contact [dhajjar@mrss.com](mailto:dhajjar@mrss.com) to arrange an interview.*

### **About the Tahirih Justice Center**

The Tahirih Justice Center is the largest national direct service and policy advocacy organization focused on assisting immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. Tahirih will continue to monitor policy shifts that impact women and girls fleeing violence and advocate for the United States to honor its legal obligations to protect those fleeing human rights abuses.

*Tahirih Justice Center is a national non-profit that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence through free legal and social services, public policy advocacy, and training and education.  
Visit [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org) for more information.*