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## **STATEMENT ON DOJ AND DHS RULE BARRING IMMIGRANTS FROM APPLYING FOR ASYLUM AT THE SOUTHERN U.S. BORDER**

The [interim final rule being issued tomorrow](#) by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security will bar asylum for everyone approaching the southern border, with few exceptions. The rule will be applied at the screening stage at the border as well as in immigration courts. Families, unaccompanied children, survivors of violence – all will be prohibited from obtaining asylum. The standard for obtaining asylum has always been high, and the requirements stringent. Now, people will be barred before they can even demonstrate their need for protection.

“This rule reaches a shameful new low,” said Archi Pyati, Chief of Policy at the Tahirih Justice Center. “Children fleeing life-threatening circumstances, women fleeing rape and severe domestic violence, families trying to avoid persecution – none will be allowed to seek asylum. This blanket rejection of asylum claims simply because someone approaches the southern border is inhuman and unfair. It also flies in the face of our obligations under international law to uphold the Refugee Convention. Every individual deserves a chance to demonstrate her eligibility for asylum and her need for protection.”

Exceptions will be made only for those who can prove that they applied for asylum and were rejected in a country they passed through, if they can prove they are victims of a severe form of trafficking, or if they did not pass through a country that is a party to the Refugee Convention.

There is a short window to issue public comments, and the Tahirih Justice Center along with supporters will issue comments in strong opposition.

*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.*