

CONTACT: Rachel Pak
rachelp@tahirih.org, 571-550-9162

STATEMENT ON EXPANSION OF EXPEDITED REMOVAL IN THE UNITED STATES

Today, the [administration announced](#) that it will begin quickly deporting immigrants all over the U.S. before they have had a chance to see a judge. The new rule expands a practice called “expedited removal” to apply to anyone arrested by ICE, anywhere in the United States. Exceptions will be made for immigrants who are able to prove that they have lived in the U.S. continuously for more than two years.

“Today’s announcement radically expands the power of immigration officers to deport individuals without any opportunity to appear before an immigration judge,” said Kursten Phelps, Director of Legal & Social Services at the Tahirih Justice Center. “It is yet another assault on due process and protections that will harm immigrant survivors. Immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of severe abuse and violence, who may be eligible to seek status under U.S. law, could be deported without ever seeing a judge. This puts victims and their children in harm’s way. We know that in the current climate, increasing numbers of immigrant survivors are afraid to report their perpetrators or pursue cases in the civil and criminal justice systems out of fear of deportation. As the administration gives more power to bypass the immigration courts and swiftly deport people, we know survivors who are being victimized will be more afraid than ever to seek help.”

Exceptions will be made only if someone expresses fear of removal to their home country. They must then be referred to an asylum officer for a credible fear interview. The expansion of expedited removal also includes an exception for unaccompanied alien children (UACs).

Kursten Phelps is available for comment on this topic. Please contact rachelp@tahirih.org 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 for more information.