

# **EXHIBIT A**



Protecting Immigrant  
Women and Girls  
Fleeing Violence

July 5, 2019

Jill Eggleston, FOIA Officer  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office  
P.O. Box 648010  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010  
*VIA Electronic Mail*

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Ms. Eggleston:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I am writing to request a copy of any documents dated after January 1, 2017, that relate to USCIS's decision to give priority to the most recently filed affirmative asylum applications when scheduling asylum interviews and the consequences of that decision.<sup>1</sup>

Documents relevant to this request may include information regarding (i) the reasons for the scheduling priorities that took effect on January 29, 2018; (ii) the reasons for departing from the prior set of scheduling priorities; (iii) any concerns, practical, legal, or otherwise, with the new scheduling priorities that took effect on January 29, 2018; (iv) the purpose of the revised scheduling priorities; (v) the extent of any backlog of petitions filed before the revised scheduling priorities took effect; (vi) any efforts by USCIS to eliminate that backlog and adjudicate all pending affirmative asylum applications; (vii) the time it will take to adjudicate any or all pending affirmative asylum applications; and (viii) the date of the earliest-filed affirmative asylum applications that remained pending at any time.

Documents responsive to this request may have originated with the Asylum Division, the Office of Policy and Strategy, the Director's Office, the Deputy Director's Office, or other USCIS components. As FOIA requires, please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

I am the Litigation Counsel at the Tahirih Justice Center, a national 501(c) charitable organization. As such, I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest, as it will

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<sup>1</sup> The term "documents" in this request includes, but is not limited to, communications, correspondence, directives, documents, data, videotapes, audiotapes, e-mails, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, standards, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, manuals, technical specifications, training materials, and studies, including records kept in written form or in electronic form on computers or other electronic storage devices.

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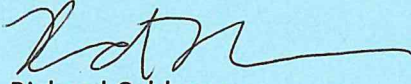
www.tahirih.org



contribute significantly to public understanding of USCIS policies and procedures relating to affirmative asylum applications. This information is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please send the requested documents to me in electronic form at [richardc@tahirih.org](mailto:richardc@tahirih.org). I can be contacted at that address or at (571) 249-2131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Caldarone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Caldarone