



December 21, 2018

NIWAP Newsletter: December 2018

Happy Holidays from the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project!

As we wrap up 2018 NIWAP would like to thank everyone for all the work you have done for immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and trafficking. We would also like to thank you for participating in NIWAP's technical assistance and training programs, and we look forward to continue working with you to improve access to justice and help for immigrant survivors in 2019. Please help us spread the word about NIWAP's web library, public benefits map, directory of services, and training opportunities that NIWAP makes available to support the work you do and consider making a donation to NIWAP this year, [donate to NIWAP](#). In today's newsletter we want to highlight an important call for action, leadership development opportunities, and job openings with organizations in our network. Be on the look out for our January 2019 newsletter which will contain a save the date for NIWAP's OVW funded conference to be held in August 2019 in New Orleans.

The Tahirih Justice Center Request for Help

The Tahirih Justice Center is requesting assistance in seeking the release of their client, Vilma, from ICE detention. Vilma is a survivor of severe domestic violence who fled Guatemala to find safety in the U.S. She arrived in May and was prosecuted under "zero tolerance". She was separated from her daughter then, and because her daughter is a U.S. citizen, was not reunited like other parents with children. She may lose parental rights to her daughter because of ICE, and cannot help her daughter heal from the trauma they've survived when she's so far away from her.

Having exhausted legal and administrative advocacy, and having gotten some media attention, we still can't get Vilma out. Actor Penn Badgley heard about this case and dropped everything on set in LA to fly on one day's notice to Atlanta to visit Vilma. His hope is that he can draw more attention to Vilma's situation and help her get released.

Please help Tahirih by pushing out some messages on social media. You can check out and retweet @PennBadgley and #ReleaseVilma. You can share their petition, asking ICE to immediately release Vilma (<https://www.change.org/p/sean-gallagher-releasevilma>).

- Send tweets to ICE and DHS Secretary Kirsjen Nielsen.
- Retweet this [tweet](#), which is an article from the NYT, and post a comment along with it:

Vilma Carrillo Carrillo is a survivor of violence & a mother who has been detained & separated from her child. Because she is detained, she may lose her parental rights to her child, who is a US citizen. Join me, @tahirihjustice, & advocates in urging @ICEgov to #ReleaseVilma

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