



Just a few days until the end of the year...

Dear Friends:

Please take a moment to make your [tax-deductible 2008 contribution](#) to the Refuge Media Project. Help us to continue our project to educate and engage healthcare and social service professionals in working with immigrant survivors of torture.

In November, we traveled to Washington, DC, to interview members of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, an organization founded by and for survivors of torture. Survivors from Ethiopia, Cameroon, Guatemala and the Philippines told us moving stories about coming to terms with their traumatic experiences, and regaining enough trust in others — and themselves — to share their stories and ask for help. We were inspired, as well, by the reflections of two young TASSC interns, who had recently met a torture survivor their own age — just 19. One of these young women told us about her reaction:

"While we were celebrating at homecoming games in high school, this girl was being tortured. The only way I ever knew about torture was by reading, but you can't equate what you've read to meeting survivors. The real work is completely different"

The real work...there are more than a half million immigrant survivors of torture in the United States right now. Each has a different story, and being able to hear and attend to those stories is a key to providing them with competent, compassionate care. Our video documentary, [REFUGE: Caring for Survivors of Torture](#), will be a tool for opening up dialogue between survivors and the physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers who care for them. We've come a long way in the past year (see our [Project Updates](#)) but there's more to do, and [we need your help](#).

Sixty years ago the world embraced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, among other things, declared that **no one shall be subjected to torture** or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; **no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile**; and **everyone has the right to seek...asylum from persecution**.

Just *one* year ago, the Refuge Media Project launched its website with a determination to do our small part to make those promises a reality. Please help us by making an [end-of-year contribution](#) to support our work.

By this time *next* year, we hope to be initiating our outreach campaign to get *REFUGE* into the curricula of medical schools, nursing schools, psychology and social work departments, and schools of public health. The national network of survivor treatment programs and many other organizations working with survivors will be using the film to recruit and train staff and volunteers, and to educate their communities about the needs of the survivors living among us. Help us make that happen.

[Donate Now!](#)

Please share this message with friends, family, and professional colleagues by clicking the “Forward to a Friend” link below.

Best wishes for the New Year...

Ben Achtenberg, Producer / Project Director

Roz Dzelzitis, Associate Producer

www.refugemediaproject.org