

THE REFUGE MEDIA PROJECT

We Need Your Help!

"Torture is a much different experience than other types of injuries we experience. It produces lasting damage not only to the body, but also the mind. This is really something that every physician needs to know. Up to one-fourth of refugees who come to this country have gone through some form of torture. So as a physician, you should be able to identify this."

— Brandon Khort, MD/PhD Candidate, Emory University

Dear Friends,

The Refuge Media Project needs your help!

There are an estimated half million survivors of torture living in the United States now, and more arriving every day. American healthcare and social service professionals too often fail to recognize the prevalence of torture in their immigrant clients. As a result, many survivors who have settled in the U.S. suffer long-term physical and psychological damage without receiving appropriate treatment.

Can you donate \$25 or more to help us complete our film about healthcare and social services for torture survivors in the U.S.?

Our film, *Refuge: Caring for Survivors of Torture* is a 30-minute documentary on the healthcare needs of survivors of politically-motivated violence and how such needs are (or in many cases are not) being met. The program will be used as a tool to educate and promote dialogue among healthcare and social service providers, clients, students, community organizers and groups serving immigrant communities.

"Torture survivors are going to show up in pretty much every social service agency. And the biggest problem is ignorance about how to meet their needs."

— Eva Solomonson, Social Worker, Center for Victims of Torture

Despite limited resources, we've accomplished a lot in the past year. But we need your support to continue our work. Please make a donation today. Any amount is significant. Your contribution will go directly towards our film production and education efforts over the next four months:

- **Our presentation at the American Public Health Association's (APHA) National Conference in October.** The APHA Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, attracting more than 13,000 national and international physicians, nurses, administrators, educators, researchers, and related health specialists. At the invitation of panel chair Dabney Evans, Director of Emory University's Institute for Human Rights, the Refuge Media Project will contribute to the session "Beyond Borders: Human Rights Violations among Non-Citizen Populations," presenting clips from the film-in-progress and talking about the need for greater awareness among clinicians working with immigrants who may be torture survivors. We need to raise \$1,000 for our travel to APHA.

- **Completion of filming in Atlanta** later this year, at the Center for Torture and Trauma Survivors. CTTS has a multidisciplinary program that provides health, mental health and other services to refugees and asylum seekers who have experienced politically-motivated torture and violence. Survivors, physicians, nurses, students, and a multi-ethnic staff of case managers will share their stories and provide the perspectives we need to complete our segment on Atlanta-based organizations serving survivors. We have an amazing opportunity to film multiple facets of this unprecedented program, but we cannot do this without additional support! We need to raise \$6,000 for our production trip to Atlanta.
- **Post-production for the Atlanta segments of our film.** Following filming at CTTS, we will have the footage we need for completion of the Atlanta segments of Refuge. Included will be footage from our earlier visits to Emory University's Atlanta Asylum Network, the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network, and Catholic Charities' Immigration Law program. We need \$10,000 to complete post-production of our Atlanta sequences.
- **Post-production for the Minneapolis segment of our film.** During our spring visit we filmed extraordinary interviews and other material with survivors and staff at the Center for Survivors of Torture (the first and largest treatment program in the U.S.), Liberian Women's Initiatives, the Bosnian Women's Network, and a roundtable at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota where staff of immigrant service organizations discussed strategies for talking with their clients about mental health. We need \$10,000 to complete post-production of our Minneapolis sequences.

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We can complete this project with your help! Please make a tax-deductible donation today on our secure site or fill out the form below and mail us a check. Even small donations go a long way and show the broad community support for our work.

We thank you for your support!

Ben Achtenberg, Producer / Project Director
Roz Dzelzitis, Associate Producer

www.refugemediaproject.org

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF SUPPORT

\$25 Donors: All those contributing \$25 or more will be acknowledged as "Supporters" on our website.

\$100 Donors: Those who contribute \$100 or more will also receive a DVD of our film, upon completion.

\$1,000 Donors: Those who contribute \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged under the "Director's Circle" on our website, and in the credits of the film.

\$10,000 Donors: If your business or organization contributes \$10,000 or more, we will gratefully acknowledge your contribution to the Refuge Media Project and link to your organization in a visible location on our homepage for a time period of one year acknowledge your contribution in the credits of the film and send you ten copies of the film upon completion.

Donate in honor of a friend or loved one! Send us the name and address of a friend or loved one you would like to honor with your contribution. We'll send that person a letter acknowledging your donation.

DONATE SECURELY TODAY and help us to promote awareness among health care and social service providers!

"The health care profession has to greatly revamp its education program to deal with the problem of torture. Every major teaching hospital now speaks about 70 languages a day. Torture is present in each of these hospitals, and it's rarely recognized."

— Steven H. Miles, author of *Oath Betrayed*

SUPPORT THE REFUGE MEDIA PROJECT

You can make an online contribution to the Project via our website or, if you prefer, you can fill out the form below to make a donation by mail.

DONATE BY MAIL

\$1,000.00 ___ \$ 500.00 ___ \$ 250.00 ___ \$ 100.00 ___ \$ 50.00 ___ \$ 25.00 ___ OTHER: (\$ _____)

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____ Your E-mail: _____

If you would like to make this donation on behalf of or in memory of someone, please print their name:

Please make checks payable to "Center for Independent Documentary" and include "Refuge Media Project" in the memo line.

Mail to: The Refuge Media Project, 4196 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02131

OUR ADVISORS include:

- Dabney Evans, Executive Director, Emory University Institute of Human Rights, Atlanta
- Sarah Ignatius, Executive Director, PAIR (Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project), Boston
- Douglas A. Johnson, Director, Center for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis
- Kitty Kelley, former Director, Center for Torture and Trauma Survivors, Atlanta
- Richard Mollica & James Lavelle, Co-founders, Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma-Christine Mitchell, Director of Ethics, Children's Hospital, Boston
- Linda Piwowarczyk, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights
- Samantha Morse, former Coordinator, Asylum Network: Physicians for Human Rights, Boston
- Kim Kronenberg, filmmaker, Boston University School of Public Health

OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS include:

- The Center for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis
- Emory University Institute for Human Rights, Atlanta
- The Harvard Program on Refugee Trauma, Cambridge
- Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights, Boston

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