CENTER FOR
Gender & Refugee STUDIES

Protecting Refugees • Advancing Human Rights

Stand with Refugee Women, Resist Attorney General Sessions' Attack on Domestic Violence Survivors!

FIRST, WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Decades of progress in domestic violence protections are at risk. In March of this year, Attorney General Jefferson B. Sessions took advantage of a rarely used power to suddenly and inexplicably intervene in the asylum case of a domestic violence survivor, known as *Matter of A-B-*. The woman at the center of the case, Ms. A.B., had already won asylum (refugee protection) and was ready to begin her new life in the United States – until Sessions stepped in and assigned her case to himself for reconsideration.

The United States has long stood as a beacon of hope for women fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. In recent years, in a giant step forward, our immigration courts explicitly determined that a person fleeing severe domestic violence who can find no protection from her own government may be granted asylum.

Advocates have fought hard to win strong legal precedents that now enable women like Ms. A.B. to find safety here.

But that may be about to change.

The Attorney General is poised to overturn these critical precedents and rescind the promise of protection for women and girls fleeing violence at the hands of abusive partners and family members. At a time when violence against women and girls has reached crisis levels, this would be a grave mistake.

Now, more than ever, we need your help! Stand with us and make it clear that you want our country to continue to offer refuge to survivors of domestic violence when they have nowhere else to turn.

NOW, HOW CAN I TAKE ACTION?

1) Publish an op-ed or press statement

Use this template to publish an op-ed or press statement expressing your support for critical protections for survivors of domestic violence seeking asylum in the United States.

2) Share your support on social media!

Share our **newly published op-ed**, co-authored by CGRS Director Karen Musalo and actor and activist Jane Fonda. Circulate your organization's own op-ed or press statement, too. Use the hashtags #ProtectSurvivors and #ImmigrantWomenToo.

Sample Facebook post

- The Attorney General may be about to roll back hard-won protections for women and girls fleeing violence at the hands of abusive partners and family members. Learn more here and use your voice to stand up for immigrant survivors of domestic violence. #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo **[INSERT LINK TO OP-ED OR PRESS STATEMENT]**

Sample Tweets

- Attorney General Sessions, don't turn back the clock on protections for refugee women fleeing domestic violence. #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo **[INSERT LINK TO OP-ED OR PRESS STATEMENT]**
- The US is a beacon of hope for women fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries; AG Sessions, we urge you to keep it that way and #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo

- We stand in solidarity with immigrant survivors of violence and encourage Attorney General Sessions to keep protections for refugee women in place! #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo **[INSERT LINK TO OP-ED OR PRESS STATEMENT]**
- Will the US offer - or extinguish - hope for women fleeing brutal domestic violence? Must-read op-ed from @Janefonda and @KarenMusalo: **[INSERT LINK TO OP-ED]** #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo
- Join @Janefonda and stand with immigrant survivors of domestic violence. Attorney General Sessions must uphold protections for refugee women! #ProtectSurvivors #ImmigrantWomenToo **[INSERT LINK TO OP-ED]**

Social media posts paired with images generate more engagement. Use one of our graphics, or create your own! (Click here for full size versions)













For more information on how you can support our work on behalf of Ms. A.B. and others fleeing gender-based violence in their homes and communities, contact CGRS Co-Legal Director Blaine Bookey at bookeybl@uchastings.edu.