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ASISTA Statement on USCIS' Implementation of June 2018 Notice to Appear (NTA) Policy for Survivor-Based Protections

ASISTA strongly condemns USCIS' decision to implement the updated Notice To Appear (NTA) policy for survivor-based protections on November 19th. This means that domestic and sexual assault survivors, survivors of human trafficking, children eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and other victims whom Congress intended to help could now face deportation hearings if their cases are denied.

Cecelia Friedman Levin, Senior Policy Counsel states, "This decision will discourage survivors from coming forward to seek safety and justice. It is yet another example of DHS flagrantly disregarding and undermining the bipartisan laws Congress created over the past two decades to protect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other serious crimes. We call on DHS to rescind this policy and call on Congress to hold DHS accountable for these attempts to eviscerate the immigration benefits they created and, instead, ensure survivors continue to access these protections without fear."

Background:

On November 8, 2018, USCIS announced that it will implement its June 2018 policy guidance on Notices to Appear (NTAs - the document that initiates the deportation process) and start issuing NTAs for survivor-based protections that are denied. This will go into effect on November 19, 2018.

- For June 2018 NTA guidance, [click here](#).
- For USCIS Teleconference Notes on NTA Guidance, [click here](#).
- For USCIS November announcement on implementation, [click here](#).