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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS

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ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE,
ASISTA IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE,
ESPERANZA UNITED,
&
TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER
Amici Curiae.

Amicus Invitation No.: 22-16-03

JOINT REQUEST TO APPEAR AS AMICI CURIAE

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, ASISTA Immigration Assistance, Esperanza United, and Tahirih Justice Center, request leave to file this brief to submit the following brief as *amici curiae* in response to the Board's Amicus Invitation No. 22-16-03. *Amici* are nonprofit organizations that serve and advocate on behalf of immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence. *Amici* have extensive knowledge and experience in the complex array of issues and issues facing immigrant crime survivors. *Amici* are acutely aware of the intersections of the barriers facing immigrant crime survivors in both the immigration legal system and the criminal legal system, which abusive partners, perpetrators of sexual assault, traffickers, or other abusers often exploit as a way to inflict further abuse and to keep victims silent.

Amici curiae are the following:

The *Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (formerly,* Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence) is a national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian and Pacific Islander and in immigrant communities. They serve as a national network of advocates and community-based service programs that work with Asian and Pacific Islander and immigrant and refugee survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, and provides analysis and consultation on critical issues facing victims of gender-based violence in the Asian and Pacific Islander and in immigrant and refugee communities, including training and technical assistance on implementation of the Violence Against Women Act and legal protections for immigrant and refugee survivors. They lead by promoting culturally relevant intervention and prevention, expert consultation, technical assistance, and training; conducting and disseminating critical research; and informing public policy.

ASISTA Immigration Assistance is a national organization, dedicated to helping attorneys in immigration matters concerning noncitizen survivors of violence. ASISTA has worked with Congress to create and expand routes to immigration status for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. These efforts culminated in the enactment of the groundbreaking Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA") of 1994 and its progeny. ASISTA trains and provides technical support to local law enforcement officials, civil and criminal court judges, and domestic violence advocates, as well as nonprofit, pro bono, and private attorneys working with noncitizen survivors. ASISTA is a nonprofit organization, having no corporate parents, and is not publicly traded.

Esperanza United (formerly, Casa de Esperanza National Latin@ Network) mobilizes Latinas and Latin@ communities to end gender-based violence (GBV). We are dedicated to advocating for policies that provide access to safety for Latin@ immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. For 40 years, we have served a highly marginalized population in culturally relevant ways that translate to greater safety, community connectedness, and self-sufficiency for Latin@s who experience GBV, including trafficking. We reach approximately 13,000 individuals, families, and organizations across the US and Territories, sovereign lands, and Twin Cities metropolitan area. As a national resource center, Esperanza United advances genderbased violence prevention and intervention efforts with comprehensive strategies, intersectional approaches, and culturally relevant, community-driven leadership and solutions. We are recognized nationally for our public policy, research and evaluation, and training and technical assistance leadership.

The *Tahirih Justice Center* is the largest multi-city direct services and policy advocacy organization specializing in assisting immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. In five cities across the country, Tahirih offers legal and social services to women, girls, and other immigrants fleeing all forms of gender-based violence, including human trafficking, forced labor, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, and female genital cutting/mutilation. Since its beginning in 1997, Tahirih has provided free legal assistance to more than 30,000 individuals, many of whom have experienced the significant psychological and neurobiological effects of that trauma. Through direct legal and social services, policy advocacy, and training and education, Tahirih protects immigrant survivors and promotes a world where they can live in safety and dignity.

Amici believe their input will assist the Board with its resolution of the issues identified in its amicus request, and have responded to the Board's question posed. This brief is timely submitted, in accord with the Board's March 31, 2022 letter to Jenny Kim of the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition granting an extension until April 27, 2022.