



# A Legacy of Healing

Survivors of Torture, International  
2022 Annual Report



**SURVIVORS**  
A Community  
of Healing

# A Letter from the Executive Director

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Dear Friends of SURVIVORS,

I am honored to present to you our Annual Report for 2022. As I look at the many accomplishments of the past year, I am also struck by the lasting legacy of our organization and the impact that SURVIVORS has made on the lives of survivors of torture. Since 1997, SURVIVORS has been a leading voice in the fight against torture and a beacon of hope for survivors around the world. We have provided life-changing services to thousands of survivors and their families, and we have advocated for their rights and dignity on the global stage.

2022 was also a big year of transition for SURVIVORS. Our Founding Executive Director and Board President, Kathi Anderson, handed the reins to me as she retired from over 25 years of service. Kathi built a strong and dedicated team of staff and volunteers, who have continued to carry out our mission with passion and commitment. Her leadership and dedication enabled SURVIVORS to achieve remarkable results and make a lasting impact on the lives of so many.

As I begin my own journey as the new Executive Director, I am committed to strengthening the foundation Kathi has laid and continuing her legacy. SURVIVORS will build on successes and expand our impact in the coming year. We plan to bolster our partnerships with other organizations, launch new programs to meet the changing needs of our clients and their families, and continue to educate and advocate for the rights of survivors of torture and the abolition of torture.

SURVIVORS will continue doing the critical work of providing mental health services to survivors of torture and beyond. In addition to our direct services and advocacy efforts, we focused on building a sustainable future for our organization. The Board set strategic priorities in 2022 that will guide our work in the coming years to ensure that we continue to grow as experts in trauma-informed care and to support our clients and their families in their journeys to healing. We also launched a planned giving program, the "Healing Legacy Circle", which enables supporters to make a bequest as a lasting impact on our organization and our survivors.

Board Chair Jean Greaves, Ph.D., writes, "2022 was a milestone year for SURVIVORS with 25-year celebrations, well-wishing for retiring Executive Director, Kathi Anderson, and a warm welcome for our new Executive Director, Etleva Bejko. Our board set new strategic priorities, which you will read about in this report, and the team served close to 30% more clients over the previous year, all while providing extra care during the Covid-pandemic.

2023 is an exciting year under the leadership of Etleva, who brings her seasoned perspective, vision, and energy to our organization. SURVIVORS will make significant strides in advancing our mission. As we gather momentum, we are committed to increased visibility, capacity, and long-term sustainability. Thank you for following our progress and joining our efforts in the many ways you contribute to rebuilding the lives of our resilient clients and their families."

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to our donors, volunteers, and staff who make our work possible. Your support and dedication to our mission drive us to continue fighting for a world free from torture.

Sincerely,

Etleva Bejko  
Executive Director



Etleva Bejko  
Executive Director



Jean Greaves  
Board Chair



***SURVIVORS' Board of Directors completed a Strategic Planning process which identified the following 5 Strategic Priorities.***

**1**

Expand and increase access to healing services for survivors of torture within the fabric of a welcoming community.

**2**

Invest in skilled professionals and leadership to successfully sustain growth.

**3**

Increase visibility and understanding of SURVIVORS' mission and services through communication strategies.

**4**

Strengthen financial sustainability.

**5**

Elevate SURVIVORS' leadership role and education.

### OUR MISSION

- Facilitate the healing of torture survivors and their families
- Educate professionals and the public about torture and its consequences
- Advocate for torture survivors and the abolition of torture

### OUR VISION

Torture is ended worldwide, and all torture survivors have access to the care they need to heal and thrive.

### OUR VALUES

#### *Celebration of the Human Spirit*

We rejoice in our survivors' triumphs in the face of unimaginable adversity and celebrate their courage, tenacity and resilience.

#### *Respect for the Worth and Dignity of Individuals*

We intentionally create an inclusive culture focused on respect and equity for all.

#### *The Highest Standards of Professionalism*

We commit to honest and ethical practices in all client services and organization operations, including responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

#### *A Culture of Excellence*

We provide specialized care and treatment, going beyond what is expected, by attracting skilled professionals and dedicated community members who facilitate our survivors' healing.





Survivors of Torture, International was founded in 1997 to support the healing needs of individuals who suffered politically-motivated torture in their home countries. Since then, the need for torture treatment services has multiplied, with an estimated 35,000 torture survivors living in San Diego County, and an estimated 1.3 million survivors living in the United States. Since its inception, SURVIVORS has provided healing services to over 3,000 individuals and their families.

Currently, the services that SURVIVORS provides and facilitates include:



PSYCHOTHERAPY



PSYCHIATRY



MEDICAL SERVICES



ASYLUM SUPPORT



CASE MANAGEMENT



HEALING CLUB

## 25 Years of Healing

FY1997-FY2002

- 501c3 established
- Board formed and expanded
- Torture Victims Relief Act passed
- First Clinical Director hired
- Received 5 years of funding from Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Kathi Anderson joined National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs
- Over 400 new clients

FY2003-FY2007

- SURVIVORS surpassed \$1 Million in revenue
- Journey to Healing Tours launched at SURVIVORS' healing center
- Partnerships grew, including relationships with Doctors of the World and Sharp Healthcare System
- Organization joined social media to increase education and outreach
- Over 450 new clients

FY2008-FY2012

- First Helping Survivors Heal fundraising luncheon held
- CA Senate Joint Resolution 6 passed to acknowledge torture survivors living in CA
- SURVIVORS co-created Museum of Us exhibit on "Instruments of Torture" to educate public
- Over 700 new clients

FY2013-FY2017

- Partnered with Cajon Valley School District, UCSD & UCLA
- Selected as American Bar Association Organization of the Year
- Advocated with U.N. Voluntary Fund in Geneva
- Better Business Bureau accredited charity and GuideStar Exchange Platinum Participant
- Over 600 new clients

FY2018- FY2022

- 2018 Commitment to Social Justice Award
- Expanded office space
- Live Well San Diego Public Health Champion Award
- Board expanded to allow 15 members
- Voices for Healing speaker series launched
- Navigated the pandemic: Pivoted to hybrid model to continue meeting the needs of our clients.
- Over 800 new clients

# Healing, Education, & Advocacy



In 2022, we celebrated 25 years of...



## Healing

In honor of our 25th anniversary, 25 donors created new pledges to our organization to support the diverse needs of our clients and their families. In June 2022, SURVIVORS honored two very important days, World Refugee Day and the United Nations' International Day in Support of Torture Victims. In honor of World Refugee Day on June 10th, a SURVIVORS client was awarded the 2022 Refugee Resilience Award by the San Diego Refugee Forum. To commemorate the United Nations' International Day in Support of Torture Victims on June 26th, SURVIVORS organized a day of healing for torture survivors and their families.

In 2022, the organization laid groundwork to launch our new medical clinic under the leadership of Dr. Safi Ahmed. SURVIVORS also forged a new partnership with Feeding San Diego to supply our pantry with food for our clients who face food insecurity.



## Education

Continuing to accommodate the social distancing needs within our community, SURVIVORS revised its virtual tour, holding 12 tours and educating 140 individuals about our organization's mission and services. The organization also participated in over 70 outreach events to collaborate with community partners, raise awareness, and educate others about torture treatment. In 2022, SURVIVORS began leading an effort to develop a community of practice and medical school program throughout California. This would include addressing the assessment and long-term care of torture survivors in medical school curricula and residency training for new physicians. SURVIVORS was also invited to provide education and therapy at the *Onward for Afghan Women's Project* hosted at the University of San Diego. The program offered a two week retreat for women leaders and activists from Afghanistan.



## Advocacy

SURVIVORS was honored to host Lisa Henry, Secretary General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), at our San Diego offices. SURVIVORS hosted a special virtual event highlighting 25 years of advocacy work for torture survivors. During April 2022, SURVIVORS participated in advocacy work for the annual "Immigrant Day of Action." SURVIVORS also participated in the planning and advocacy for the County of San Diego's approval of the Immigrant Rights Legal Defense Program, the first time a border county has provided attorneys for immigrants in detention. SURVIVORS provides forensic evaluations for detained asylum seekers. Leading up to the June 2022 Supreme Court ruling that ended Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), SURVIVORS engaged in letter-writing campaigns to both Congress and President Biden and participated in news conferences as experts and advocates.

# Elham's Story of Healing

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*Please Note: This client's name has been changed to protect her identity.*

*SURVIVORS staff chose the name "Elham" for its meaning of hope.*

Elham is a middle-aged single woman from an Eastern Mediterranean country. When Elham was a young child, her father died in a fire in the family's home. After her father died, her mother did not have the capacity to care for Elham and her siblings, and she placed them in orphanages while she worked. One of her brothers became a religious extremist who terrorized their family by imprisoning another sibling in their basement for several years. He starved and beat this sibling, eventually killing him. Elham left the family home to study abroad for college. After earning her master's degree, she returned home where her brother beat her for her religious beliefs and for refusing to dress with her face and full body covered. He then arranged marriage for her with an older man; Elham fled for her safety and freedom.

Elham was referred to SURVIVORS in 2019 by her immigration attorney for psychological and medical evaluations, as well as for therapy and case management services. Elham experiences symptoms such as low energy, often feeling overwhelmed, difficulty falling asleep, feeling hopeless and scared about her future, excessive worry, and loneliness.

Elham received asylum in 2021. She graciously credits SURVIVORS in her healing journey and stated, "I feel you have been a huge part of my journey, my success at school, and most importantly, my mental and physical health; because of that, I want to let you know, Praise the Lord, yesterday, I have been granted asylum status in the U.S. I really appreciate all the help and support SURVIVORS' staff has given to me."



Complex trauma takes time to open up and heal. It was only after receiving asylum that Elham felt comfortable sharing her story and trauma history in therapy. After years of invitations to various groups and Healing Clubs, Elham has started to attend the Women's Expressive Arts group and is finding a voice and outlet for healing with the various art forms such as soul collage, painting, music, laughter, and mixed media.

Since starting to work with SURVIVORS, Elham furthered her educational goals. With some assistance from SURVIVORS for books and tuition, she was able to attend college. She recently became a licensed healthcare provider, and she became employed with one of the local hospitals.

Elham is an inspiring woman who is overcoming her torture trauma and is realizing some of her goals and dreams.

# Financials & Impact



The following is SURVIVORS' financial statement, audited for the time period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs. The full audit is available at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/33-0743869>.

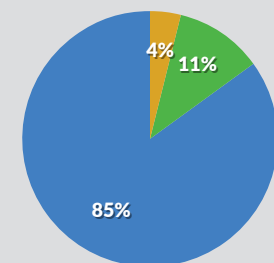
## Support & Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$391,103
Government Grants	\$1,159,207
Donated Goods & Services	\$63,931
Program Service Fees	\$41,400
Special Events	\$222,201
Investment Income	\$1,727
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,879,569</b>

## Expenses

Program Services	\$1,594,394
Management & General	\$214,680
Fundraising	\$74,730
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,883,804</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,879,569</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,883,804</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$4,235)</b>

## Operating Expenses



- Services for Torture Survivors
- Management & General
- Securing Financial Support

## In 2022, through your support of SURVIVORS...



**293** clients served



Speaking **25** different languages



**45** different countries of origin  
*The largest groups having come from Afghanistan, Mexico, Guatemala, Iraq, and Nicaragua.*



**82%** of our clients improved their mental health or stabilized.

80% asylum seekers, 4% lawful permanent residents, 6% asylees, 4% U.S. citizens, 4% other statuses, and <1% refugees.



**3,373** services provided including: forensic evaluations, medical services, social services, and mental health services.

**608** therapy sessions  
**20** medical affidavits  
**109** psychological evaluations



**10** Healing Clubs hosted

**29,699** community members reached through SURVIVORS communications efforts

Medical, legal, and other professionals provided **667** hours of pro bono service.

Strengthened relationships with **30** existing partners and established partnerships with **11** new ones.

Volunteers provided **223** hours of service to facilitate healing and help build a welcoming community.





## Board of Directors

Jean Greaves, Ph.D., Board Chair  
Loren Tarmo, CPA., Financial Officer  
Elizabeth Lopez, SSS, Secretary  
Queta Rodriguez Bauer, MSC., ABC  
Pooja Dadhania, JD, LL.M., Esq.  
Bridget de la Garza, MA  
Paula Herring, Ed.D., MBA  
Marcia H. Yafuso Loeffelholz, Esq.  
Mojgan Khademi, PsyD  
Michael McKay, STD

## Board Emeritus

Kathi Anderson, MA, Co-Founder  
Rev. Bill Radatz, Co-Founder  
Rev. George Falk, Co-Founder (in memoriam)  
Dee Aker, Ph.D.  
Cheri Attix, Esq.  
Jeanette Barrack, RPT  
Mark Berger  
Mel Kieschnick, Ph.D.  
Elizabeth Michel, MD  
Darryl Solberg, Esq.

## Staff

Etleva Bejko, MA, Executive Director  
Maya Aguilar, Accounting Clerk  
Safi Ahmed, MPH, MD, Medical Director  
Mahvash Alami, Ph.D., Program Manager  
Janie Burke, RN, Development-Communications Coordinator  
Clint Carney, JD, Government Affairs Manager  
Katie Case, MA, Grants Manager  
Mary Joy Cunningham, MSW, Community Relations Coordinator  
Cristina De La Torre, Data Quality & Evaluation Manager

Lillian Do, Medical Case Manager  
Dara Esparza, Clinical Case Manager  
Henok Getaneh, Peer Support Specialist  
Nance Lovell, MSW, Senior Mental Health Specialist  
Allison Metcalf, MSW, Senior Mental Health Specialist  
Anny Nguyễn, Office Manager  
Heather Rayback, MNM, Finance Manager  
Lola Sherman, Clinical Case Manager  
Heather Serafin, Mental Health Care Coordinator  
Scott Williford, MBA, Senior Development Manager



## Our Partners



Connect with Us!

P.O. Box 371104  
San Diego, CA 92137  
619-278-2400

[www.notorture.org](http://www.notorture.org)  
[survivors@notorture.org](mailto:survivors@notorture.org)



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