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EBSC Supports Asylum Protection for Survivors of Domestic Violence

EBSC is a member of the Berkeley Sanctuary City Task Force and we support the Resolution affirming Berkeley's commitment to asylum-seeking residents and condemning the federal government's attempts to undermine asylum protections for survivors of domestic violence.

EBSC's mission is to provide legal services, community organizing, and transformative education to support low-income immigrants and people fleeing violence and persecution. We reach over 10,000 people every year with life-saving legal and social services.

Many of our clients are fleeing horrific domestic and sexual violence. Gender-based violence is one of the major reasons that women and girls seek asylum. This may be due to gender-discriminatory laws in their home country or from culturally accepted forms of violence such as domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, or honor killings. Being approved for asylum means a woman can stay in the U.S. without fear of deportation. If women are deported back to their home country, they are at risk of being killed by their abuser.

Northern California has one of the largest populations of refugee-immigrants from Central America, which has among the highest rates of femicide in the world.

EBSC will continue to fight for women's right to live a life free of violence and to achieve legal protection in the United States if her government cannot ensure her safety.

Sessions' decision in *Matter of A-B-* is a malicious attempt by the Trump administration to overrule long-standing precedent regarding how private violence can be part of a viable asylum claim; his decision reflects the significant anti-immigrant and misogynistic attitudes of this administration.

Under U.S. and international law, our country is obligated to provide refuge to people like Ms. A.B. who suffer persecution and are unable to avail themselves of protection in their home countries.

We are here to support this City of Berkeley Resolution condemning former Attorney General Sessions' decision in *Matter of A-B-* and advocating for the U.S. Department of Justice to rescind the *Matter of A-B-* decision and affirm that domestic violence may be a basis for asylum.

Thank you for your support of this resolution.

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