



# Center for Torture and Trauma Survivors

Torture is done in 150 countries.

“Torture means an act committed by a person acting under the color of law specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions) upon another person within his custody or physical control.”

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

Case management, psychoeducation, counseling, medical assessment and care, nutritional assessment and treatment, psychological affidavits for asylum, legal representation for asylum, advocacy, translation, transportation, accompaniment, screening new arrival refugees for torture, and community education. Assistance in documenting the consequences of torture is a core activity to bring attention to the issue and work toward eradication.

## BRIEF HISTORY AND GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

The center opened 2/1/05 after receiving a grant through the Torture Victims’ Relief Act. The center is 100% grant supported and is a community-based program housed in a local public health agency that welcomes 65% of Georgia’s newly arrived refugees annually.

## MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

To be a community-based center of excellence providing service and support to Georgia’s victims of torture as they settle into mainstream community life.

To live in a world free from torture and where those who survived torture live a meaningful, self-reliant life and break the chains of the past.

## GUIDING SERVICE/TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

Client-centered treatment re-connects survivors to self and community by offering a slow, steady, predictable array of relevant therapeutic measures.

## SERVICES

### Medical

- Medical assessment and care
- Medication management
- Health screening
- Immunizations
- HIV testing
- TB testing
- Nutrition therapy

### Psychiatric

- Assessment
- Medication
- Outpatient psychotherapy
- Affidavits for asylum

### Community-based advocacy

- Education
- Fundraising
- Organizing
- Networking
- Consultation
- Capacity building

### Social Services

- Case management
  - Community connections
  - Translation
  - Transportation
  - Accompaniment
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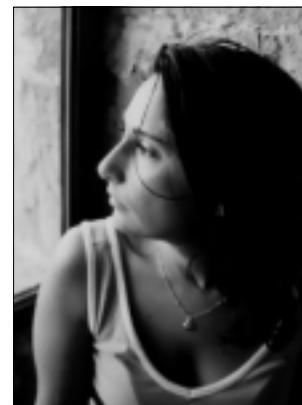
**SERVICES** (continued)

**Referral**

- Domestic violence services
- Substance abuse services
- Legal assistance for asylum
- HIV/AIDS testing and treatment
- TB screening and treatment
- English as a second language
- Citizenship classes
- Ethnic community agencies
- Soccer and outdoor activities
- Emergency food and clothing
- Employment
- Political asylum attorneys
- Social support networks
- Sexual assault services

**Counseling/therapy**

- Group (new client orientation)
- Group (adult)
- Individual (adult)
- Family
- Art therapy (adult/child)
- Psychological affidavits for asylum



(PHOTO BY GIAN PAOLO DESSOLIS)

**CONTACT NAME**

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**STAFF NUMBERS, PROFESSIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Paid staff: PhD anthropologist, registered nurse, 3 case managers, nutritionist and psychologist. Other staff currently include volunteers, providers, and PhD practicum students and interns from Georgia State University's psychology program and a MPH candidate from Emory University—Rollins School of Public Health.

**ETHNIC GROUPS TARGETED**

All for which the center has or can obtain professional translation services.

**POPULATION SERVED**

Georgia residents who satisfy the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) definition of “torture” and were *held in captivity*. CTTS does not accept those who perpetrated torture. Survivors can have any legal status, arrive in the US in any year, and come from any country of origin. Eligibility is determined during the information session (*the survivor’s first point of contact*).

**LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES AND INTERPRETER SERVICES**

On site and interpreter services are available at no cost to clients.

Communication is conducted in the client’s preferred first language whenever possible.

Staff are trained to work with certified interpreters.

Staff have access to certified interpreters.

The center does not use the client’s family members or friends as interpreters as this can be harmful.

**TYPES OF SURVIVORS SERVED**

- Adolescents Yes
- Adults Yes
- Children Yes
- Child soldiers in 2007
- Families Yes
- Seniors Yes
- Domestic violence No
- Friends No
- Other relatives No
- Victims of war trauma No



**REFERRAL PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

Information sessions can be arranged by calling any staff member and are conducted regularly giving program information and explaining services. Referrals are accepted from survivors, families, friends, agencies, attorneys, physicians—anyone, but the client will make his or her own decision to come to the information session. Intake involves a clinical interview with diagnostic instruments and collection of background information. Referrals are then made to a case manager and nurse for medical assessment.

**FEE STRUCTURE**

All services are provided at no cost to survivors and their families.

**AVERAGE ANNUAL CASE LOAD**

Case management/all services (75)

Legal services (20)

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

Data collection for US consortium of torture treatment centers

**ADVOCACY**

The Center for Torture & Trauma Survivors engages in community-based advocacy through education, maintaining partnerships, organizing and networking, providing services, consultation, capacity building and fundraising.