

# Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and Texas Advocacy Project Applaud Supreme Court Ruling in USA vs Rahimi

LOS ANGELES , CA, UNITED STATES, June 21, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, the Supreme Court of the United States delivered a ruling in the case of USA vs Rahimi, upholding the constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8), which prohibits individuals subject to domestic-violence restraining orders from possessing firearms. This case originated in Texas, highlighting the state's pivotal role in shaping national policy on domestic violence.

- Two-thirds of women killed by an intimate partner are killed with a gun
- Access to a gun makes it 5x more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser
- Every month, an average of 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner



We commend the Court for its decision, which prioritizes the safety and protection of domestic violence survivors across the nation. This ruling reaffirms the critical importance of firearm restrictions for individuals who pose a significant threat to their intimate partners. Restraining orders are a vital tool in safeguarding victims of domestic violence, and the prohibition on firearm possession by abusers under these orders is an essential component of these protections.

In 2023, the [Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice](#) joined [Texas Advocacy Project](#) and a coalition\* of dedicated non-profit organizations across the nation in proudly filing an [amicus brief](#) in US v. Rahimi to advocate for the safety and protection of domestic violence survivors through appropriate firearm regulations. The brief, submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, addressed the Fifth Circuit's ruling and emphasized the importance of preventing individuals who have committed or threatened family violence from accessing firearms during the period they are under a protective order.



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*Carmen McDonald, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice*

"Today's Supreme Court decision is a monumental step forward in our ongoing fight to protect survivors of domestic violence," said Carmen McDonald, Executive Director of Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice. "This ruling not only strengthens the legal protections for survivors, but also affirms our collective commitment to safeguarding the lives of those at risk. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for policies that protect the vulnerable and prioritize the safety and dignity of survivors."

"We are immensely grateful for the Supreme Court's recognition of the inherent dangers faced by domestic violence survivors," said Heather Bellino, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Advocacy Project. "In Texas, where the intersection of domestic violence and firearm access is a pressing issue, this decision is crucial. It ensures that those who have been deemed a threat cannot possess firearms, thereby reducing the risk of further harm or fatality."

Bronwyn Blake, Chief Legal Officer of Texas Advocacy Project, added, "This ruling is a monumental step forward in protecting the lives of domestic violence survivors in Texas and beyond. It underscores the necessity of strong legal measures to prevent abusers from accessing firearms, which are too often used to perpetuate violence. Our commitment to providing legal and social services to those in need remains unwavering."

The intersection of domestic violence and firearm access is well-documented, with numerous studies<sup>4</sup> showing a significant increase in the likelihood of homicide when abusers have access to guns. Today's ruling is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to protect survivors and prevent domestic violence-related fatalities.

We urge state and federal lawmakers to build on this victory by strengthening laws and resources aimed at preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors. Together, we can create a safer and more just society for all.

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About Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice: The mission of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and empower them to create their own futures. Since 1971, LACLJ has provided legal services to communities that face multiple barriers to accessing justice. LACLJ provides survivors with an expert attorney and a dedicated advocate in and outside of the courtroom. We not only help to address survivors' legal battles but also connect families to the resources they need to build self-sufficiency and create more hopeful futures. To donate, apply for service or volunteer please visit [www.LACLJ.org](http://www.LACLJ.org).

About Texas Advocacy Project: Since its beginning in 1982 as a legal hotline, Texas Advocacy Project (TAP) has evolved into an expert on legal and social issues affecting survivors of power-based abuse. TAP strives to end dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and human trafficking in Texas. TAP empowers survivors through free legal and social services and access to the justice system, and advances prevention through public outreach and education. Our vision is that all Texans live free from abuse. In 2023, TAP provided legal and social services in 4,989 cases, serving 11,047 Texans. If you or someone you know needs help, call 800-374-HOPE or visit [TexasAdvocacyProject.org](https://TexasAdvocacyProject.org).

\*The Coalition is comprised of the following dedicated nonprofits across the country: Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc., Bay Area Legal Aid, Central California Legal Services, Community Legal Aid SoCal, Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Georgia Legal Services Program, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Indiana Health Advocacy Coalition, Indiana Legal Services, Inc., Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Legal Aid of Arkansas, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Los Angeles Center of Law and Justice, Maryland Legal Aid, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, OneJustice, SAFE Alliance, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corporation, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc., Texas Advocacy Project, Texas Legal Services Center, University of Texas School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic, Virginia Poverty Law Center.

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