



Community Legal Services of Ottawa Services juridiques communautaires d'Ottawa

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August 25, 2023

Dear Dr. Mehlman-Orozco,

I wanted to extend to you my deep gratitude for the excellent detailed expert report that you provided in support of my client's claim for refugee protection in Canada. Your report provided valuable educational information on trafficking for the Member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada responsible for deciding whether my client is a Convention refugee. You also contextualized the experiences of my client, a minor from Azerbaijan who was subjected to human trafficking both in Azerbaijan and Canada. As a result, your opinion on the risks of persecution that my client would face should she be forced to return to Azerbaijan was detailed, thorough and, most importantly, highly persuasive.

I have worked with many experts over the years and can truly say that your expertise, professionalism, commitment and dedication to support survivors of human trafficking is unparalleled. It is exceptional to find an expert who is willing to dedicate so much of her time, and produce such exceptional work on a pro bono basis. Your passion and generosity for victims of human trafficking are remarkable.

It was a pleasure to work with you and I look forward to collaborating with you on future cases. I would also recommend you highly to any lawyer who assists survivors human trafficking.

Sincerely,

Laïla Demirdache (*she/her/elle*)
Lawyer/Avocate

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