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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**STEVEN HELDT, BRIAN BUCHANAN,  
and CHRISTOPHER SLAIGHT,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES, LTD.,**

Defendant.

Case No. 15-cv-1696-YGR

**ORDER ON DEFENDANT’S MOTION TO  
DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND  
MOTION TO STRIKE FIRST AMENDED  
COMPLAINT**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 47, 50

Plaintiffs Steven Heldt, Brian Buchanan, and Christopher Slaight (collectively, “plaintiffs”) bring this putative class action against defendant Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (“defendant” or “TCS”) for discrimination in employment practices. Plaintiffs bring causes of action in the first amended complaint (Dkt. No. 39, “FAC”) for disparate treatment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. section 2000e, et seq., and the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 42 U.S.C. section 1981.

Pending before the Court are defendant’s motion to dismiss the FAC in part pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) and 12(b)(1) (Dkt. No. 50, “MTD”) and defendant’s motion to strike allegations in the FAC pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f) (Dkt. No. 47, “MTS”). Having carefully considered the papers submitted and the pleadings in this action, a hearing on the motions held September 15, 2015, and for the reasons set forth below, the Court hereby **DENIES** defendant’s motions.

Although the Court denies defendant’s motions, for the reasons stated on the record at the September 15, 2015 hearing, the Court has concerns about remaining ambiguities in the FAC.

1 Given plaintiffs’ counsel’s inability to articulate persons included in the proposed class,  
2 compounded with conflicting and ambiguously defined terms in the FAC, the Court **ORDERS**  
3 plaintiffs to file an amended complaint. Plaintiffs shall file an amended complaint, and defendant  
4 shall file a responsive pleading thereto, as described in Section V, *infra*.

5 **I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

6 TCS is a foreign company headquartered in Mumbai, India, with 19 offices and  
7 approximately 14,000 employees in the United States. (FAC ¶ 13.) TCS provides information  
8 technology (“IT”) consulting and outsourcing services to companies worldwide, including in the  
9 United States. (Id. ¶ 20.) Plaintiffs Buchanan, Heldt, and Slight allege that TCS discriminated  
10 against them in their hiring, employment, and/or termination practices based on race and national  
11 origin. (Id. ¶ 1.) Specifically, plaintiffs claim that TCS has a pattern and practice of intentional  
12 discrimination in its United States workforce whereby they treat persons of South Asian descent,  
13 South Asian race, and South Asian national origin,<sup>1</sup> more favorably than those who are not South  
14 Asian, including plaintiffs. (See *id.*) Plaintiffs allege that, as a result of TCS’s discrimination, its  
15 United States workforce consists of approximately 95% persons of South Asian descent, race,  
16 and/or national origin, compared to 1-2% of the United States population. (Id. ¶ 1.)

17 With respect to plaintiff Buchanan, Southern California Edison (“SCE”) employed him as  
18 an IT professional from 1986 until February 2015. SCE informed plaintiff Buchanan in July 2014  
19 that he and approximately 400 coworkers would be terminated and replaced by TCS employees.  
20 (Id. ¶ 35.) Plaintiff Buchanan agreed to remain in his position with SCE until early 2015 to train  
21 the incoming TCS employees. (Id.) Plaintiff Buchanan was discharged in February 2015 when  
22 TCS assumed primary responsibility for SCE’s IT needs, including plaintiff’s former position.  
23 (Id. ¶ 42.) In the interim, plaintiff Buchanan attended a job fair organized by SCE for its  
24 employees awaiting termination, at which he met with a TCS hiring manager to express his  
25 interest in a position with TCS at SCE or otherwise. (Id. ¶ 39.) TCS made no further hiring  
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27 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs define these terms, collectively, as including “individuals of Indian,  
28 Bangladeshi, and Nepali ancestry, ethnicity, and/or birth.” (FAC ¶ 1 at n. 1.)

1 contact with plaintiff Buchanan despite his extensive qualifications and relevant experience. (Id.)  
2 TCS hired only five of the twenty-eight members of plaintiff Buchanan’s team at SCE, three of  
3 whom were South Asian. (Id. ¶ 40.) Plaintiff alleges that TCS replaced him and the remaining  
4 members of his team with South Asian persons who had less experience and were not as qualified  
5 as plaintiff. (Id. ¶ 40-41.)

6 With respect to plaintiff Heldt, TCS hired him in June 2012 to service its client Kaiser  
7 Permanente as IT Project Manager for an IT governance risk and compliance system named  
8 Archer. (Id. ¶ 44, n. 5.) Within one week, TCS removed plaintiff Heldt from this position and  
9 assigned him to the generic position of IT Project Manager with the same client Kaiser  
10 Permanente. (Id. ¶ 45.) Plaintiff alleges that this role involved less important responsibilities than  
11 his original position and was not commensurate with his advanced IT experience and skills. (Id.)  
12 Beginning in October 2012, TCS did not assign plaintiff Heldt any client work, but continued to  
13 employ him. (Id. ¶¶ 46-50.) TCS “benched” plaintiff Heldt in this manner twice more throughout  
14 his employment, and during each period, plaintiff Heldt continued to apply for various positions  
15 within TCS. (Id. ¶¶ 52-60.) Plaintiff Heldt alleges that none of the subsequent positions to which  
16 he was assigned by TCS were commensurate with his advanced skills and experience, and that he  
17 was denied substantive work at several points. (Id.) Ultimately, TCS terminated plaintiff Heldt in  
18 March 2014, citing plaintiff’s time on the “bench,” and his unwillingness to move out of state,  
19 which plaintiff Heldt disputes. (Id. ¶ 60.) Plaintiff Heldt alleges that TCS knowingly and  
20 intentionally favored persons of South Asian race and national origin, and disfavored those who  
21 were not, in its employment decisions with respect to himself throughout his employment, and all  
22 others similarly situated. (Id. ¶¶ 79, 84.)

23 With respect to plaintiff Slaight, TCS hired him as a software engineer in April 2012 for an  
24 assignment at TCS’s client AXA beginning in October 2012. (Id. ¶¶ 62-64.) Plaintiff alleges that  
25 TCS did not provide him any on-site training at AXA and failed to assign him any substantive  
26 work for six months, while his South Asian colleagues regularly received substantive work. (Id. ¶  
27 64.) Similar to plaintiff Heldt, TCS placed plaintiff Slaight on the “bench” beginning in March  
28 2013. (Id. ¶ 65.) Plaintiff Slaight actively pursued new placements with TCS until he was

1 terminated less than a month later, in April 2013. (Id. ¶¶ 65-66.) Plaintiff Slight alleges that  
2 TCS knowingly and intentionally favored persons of South Asian race and national origin, and  
3 disfavored those who were not, in its employment decisions with respect to himself throughout his  
4 employment, and all others similarly situated. (Id. ¶ 84.)

5 Plaintiffs bring two causes of action in the FAC: (1) disparate treatment in violation of  
6 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. section 2000e, et seq., (“Title VII”) as to  
7 plaintiff Heldt and all others similarly situated; and (2) disparate treatment in violation of the Civil  
8 Rights Act of 1866, 42 U.S.C. section 1981 (“Section 1981”) as to plaintiffs Buchanan, Heldt, and  
9 Slight and all others similarly situated. Plaintiffs allege that TCS achieves its discriminatory goal  
10 of maintaining a workforce of primarily persons of South Asian descent, race, and/or national  
11 origin by employing at least three methods of discrimination: (a) using the visa process to sponsor  
12 a high number of South Asian workers with H-1B, L-1, and B-1 visas; (b) hiring a  
13 disproportionate number of South Asian workers who reside in the United States with a  
14 discriminatory preference; and (c) discriminating against its non-South Asian employees in  
15 employment decisions, including in placement, promotion, demotion, and termination decisions.  
16 (Id. ¶¶ 26-30.)

17 TCS now moves to dismiss the FAC under Rule 12(b)(6) on the ground that its use of the  
18 visa programs authorized by the laws of the United States cannot be a basis for relief under Title  
19 VII or Section 1981 because the lawful issuance of visas establishes as a matter of law that TCS  
20 recruits foreign workers in a non-discriminatory manner. Next, TCS asserts that the Court should  
21 dismiss the FAC under Rule 12(b)(1) in part for two reasons. First, TCS contends that the Court  
22 does not have subject matter jurisdiction over plaintiffs’ claims insofar as plaintiffs allege that  
23 TCS misused the visa programs because plaintiffs have not exhausted administrative remedies  
24 with the Departments of Justice and Labor. Second, TCS argues that Count I should be dismissed  
25 to the extent it is based on discrimination in hiring practices for the reason that plaintiff Heldt –  
26 the only plaintiff named in Count I – does not have standing to bring a claim for failure to hire.

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1 Finally, TCS also moves to strike two categories<sup>2</sup> of allegations in the FAC as impertinent  
2 and immaterial: (i) statistical data comparing the demographics of TCS workers to the  
3 demographics of the entire United States; and (ii) the class period for plaintiff Heldt’s Title VII  
4 claim. The Court addresses each motion in turn.

5 **II. MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 12(b)(6)**

6 **A. Legal Standard**

7 A motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6) tests the legal sufficiency of the claims alleged in  
8 the complaint. *Ileto v. Glock, Inc.*, 349 F.3d 1191, 1199-1200 (9th Cir. 2003). “Dismissal can be  
9 based on the lack of a cognizable legal theory or the absence of sufficient facts alleged under a  
10 cognizable legal theory.” *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).  
11 All allegations of material fact are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the  
12 plaintiff. *Johnson v. Lucent Techs., Inc.*, 653 F.3d 1000, 1010 (9th Cir. 2011). To survive a  
13 motion to dismiss, “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a  
14 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting  
15 *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 557 (2007)). For purposes of evaluating a motion to  
16 dismiss, the Court “must presume all factual allegations of the complaint to be true and draw all  
17 reasonable inferences in favor of the nonmoving party.” *Usher v. City of Los Angeles*, 828 F.2d  
18 556, 561 (9th Cir. 1987). Any existing ambiguities must be resolved in favor of the pleadings.  
19 *Walling v. Beverly Enters.*, 476 F.2d 393, 396 (9th Cir. 1973).

20 **B. Analysis**

21 TCS argues that plaintiffs fail to state claims under both Title VII and Section 1981 to the  
22 extent plaintiffs base those claims on TCS’s alleged use of the visa programs to recruit foreign  
23 workers to achieve its goal of discrimination against persons who are not South Asian. TCS  
24 contends that this basis for plaintiffs’ claims is “self-defeating” because TCS’s use of the visa  
25 program establishes that its recruitment is non-discriminatory. (MTD at 6:6-7.) TCS relies on H-

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28 <sup>2</sup> TCS also moves, in the alternative, to strike allegations relevant to the claims it  
separately moves against in its motion to dismiss. (MTS at 1.)

1 1B visa program regulations to conclude that it does not discriminate because for a non-immigrant  
2 worker to obtain a visa, “a showing must be made that the potential visa holder will not displace  
3 an American worker.” (MTD at 5:16-18.) This suggestion is tenuous at best.<sup>3</sup> For purposes of a  
4 motion to dismiss, the complaint cabins the allegations. TCS’s attempt to recast the FAC as a bald  
5 attack on its business model is the result of a skewed reading of the FAC. TCS’s argument that its  
6 use of the visa programs must be non-discriminatory by definition and plaintiffs can never show  
7 that the named plaintiffs (or any class members) were discriminated against as a result of TCS’s  
8 use of the visa programs is also misplaced. See *Koehler, et al. v. Infosys Technologies Ltd., Inc.,*  
9 *et al.*, — F.Supp. 3d — , 2015 WL 2168886, at \*7 (E.D. Wisc. May 8, 2015) (rejecting the  
10 defendants’ argument that plaintiffs cannot invoke Title VII or Section 1981 to challenge their visa  
11 practices). For purposes of the motion, the FAC has sufficient allegations of discriminatory  
12 conduct to put TCS on notice of the basis for the claim.

13 Next, TCS argues that the attestations made for the H-1B visas preclude plaintiffs from  
14 ever making the required showing that the named plaintiffs (or putative class members) are  
15 similarly situated to the visa holders it allegedly favors in hiring and employment practices. See  
16 *Chuang v. University of Cal. Davis Bd. of Trustees*, 225 F.3d 1115, 1123 (9th Cir. 2000) (a prima  
17 facie case of discrimination under *McDonnell Douglas* includes a showing that “similarly situated  
18 individuals outside of [the plaintiff’s] protected class were treated more favorably.”) In other  
19 words, TCS argues that the visa application process prevents visa holders from being similarly  
20 situated to plaintiffs, i.e. comparators, as required to make a prima facie showing of discrimination  
21 under Title VII and Section 1981. See *id.*

22 In opposition, plaintiffs argue that TCS’s argument is inapposite because plaintiffs are not  
23 pursuing its claims under the *McDonnell Douglas* framework under which comparators would be  
24 necessary. See *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792, 802 (1973) (establishing the  
25 framework under which a plaintiff must initially establish a prima facie case of employment

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27 <sup>3</sup> The argument is also premature and not appropriately addressed on a Rule 12 motion.  
28 For the reasons discussed, *infra*, the Court finds the FAC contains sufficient allegations of  
discrimination.

1 discrimination). The Court agrees. Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit precedent indisputably hold  
2 that the McDonnell Douglas framework is not the exclusive avenue to establish a prima facie case  
3 of employment discrimination. Gross statistical disparities<sup>4</sup> or direct evidence of discrimination  
4 can each alone be sufficient to make a prima facie showing. See *Piva v. Xerox Corp.*, 654 F.2d  
5 591, 596 (9th Cir. 1981) (citing *Hazelwood School District v. United States*, 433 U.S. 299, 307-08  
6 (1977)) (“Gross statistical disparities between the composition of an employer’s work force and  
7 the composition of an employer's work force and the composition of the general population in a  
8 proper case may constitute, by themselves, prima facie proof of a pattern or practice of  
9 discrimination.”); *Swierkiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 511 (2002) (“the McDonnell  
10 Douglas framework does not apply where, for example, a plaintiff is able to produce direct  
11 evidence of discrimination”). Therefore, plaintiffs need not allege that comparators exist to state  
12 claims under Title VII or Section 1981.

13 Accordingly, TCS’s motion to dismiss the FAC in part under Rule 12(b)(6) is **DENIED**.

14 **III. MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 12(b)(1)**

15 **A. Legal Standard**

16 A motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b)(1) is a challenge to the court's subject matter  
17 jurisdiction. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). “Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction,” and  
18 it is “presumed that a cause lies outside this limited jurisdiction.” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins.*  
19 *of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994). The party invoking the jurisdiction of the federal court bears  
20 the burden of establishing that the court has the requisite subject matter jurisdiction to grant the  
21 relief requested. *Id.* A challenge pursuant to Rule 12(b)(1) may be facial or factual. See *White v.*  
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23 <sup>4</sup> TCS concedes in reply that gross statistical disparities may be sufficient to make a prima  
24 facie showing of discrimination in certain cases, but argues that this is not the proper case.  
25 Notably, TCS cites only cases decided on summary judgment, not a Rule 12 motion, to support its  
26 argument. (MTD Reply at 7-8.) Indeed, this argument concerns a burden of proof – not a  
27 pleading standard – and is therefore premature. See *Swierkiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506,  
28 511 (2002) (“an employment discrimination plaintiff need not plead a prima facie case of  
discrimination” to survive a Rule 12 motion); *Maduka v. Sunrise Hospital, et al.*, 375 F.3d 909,  
912-13 (2004) (same); see also *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1201, 1213-16 (9th Cir. 2011)  
(*Swierkiewicz* is still good law after the more demanding standards announced in *Twombly* and  
*Iqbal*.)

1 Lee, 227 F.3d 1214, 1242 (9th Cir.2000). In a facial attack, the jurisdictional challenge is  
2 confined to the allegations pled in the complaint. See *Wolfe v. Strankman*, 392 F.3d 358, 362 (9th  
3 Cir. 2004). The challenger asserts that the allegations in the complaint are insufficient “on their  
4 face” to invoke federal jurisdiction. See *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th  
5 Cir.2004). To resolve this challenge, the court assumes that the allegations in the complaint are  
6 true and draws all reasonable inferences in favor of the party opposing dismissal. See *Wolfe*, 392  
7 F.3d at 362.

## 8 **B. Analysis**

9 TCS moves to dismiss in part under Rule 12(b)(1) on two grounds: (i) the Court does not  
10 have subject matter jurisdiction over plaintiffs’ claims related to TCS’s use of the visa programs;  
11 and (ii) the claim under Title VII (Count I) should be dismissed to the extent it is based on  
12 discrimination in hiring practices because plaintiff Heldt does not have standing to bring a claim  
13 for failure to hire. The Court considers TCS’s arguments in turn.

### 14 **1. The Administrative Remedies TCS Cites Are Inapplicable**

15 TCS moves to dismiss plaintiffs’ claims to the extent they allege that TCS has misused the  
16 visa program, arguing that the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to hear these claims.  
17 Specifically, TCS contends that plaintiffs must first exhaust administrative remedies with the  
18 Departments of Justice and Labor in order to have this Court adjudicate claims of misuse of the  
19 visa program. See *Biran v. JP Morgan Chase & Co.*, 2002 WL 31040345 (S.D. N.Y. Sept. 12,  
20 2012) (holding plaintiff required to exhaust administrative remedies before filing suit for  
21 employer’s overuse of visa program). In opposition, plaintiffs argue that TCS misconstrued their  
22 allegations, and that they do not allege that TCS has misused the visa program.<sup>5</sup>

23 In light of plaintiffs’ affirmative denial that TCS misused the visa program, TCS  
24 acknowledges that their argument may be moot, but then summarily states that “jurisdiction over  
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26 <sup>5</sup> While the FAC does not directly allege that TCS misuses the visa process, it does contain  
27 an allegation that TCS is “currently being investigated by the federal government for visa abuse.”  
28 (FAC ¶ 26.) Plaintiffs now disavow any attempt to base their claims on misuse of the visa  
program. To clarify their position, plaintiffs shall make clear in their amended complaint that they  
do not allege any misuse or abuse of the visa program. See Section V, *infra*.



1 the proper use of the visa program would also be lacking.” (Dkt. No. 65, “MTD Reply” at 9, n. 8.)  
2 TCS provides no authority for the proposition that plaintiffs’ allegations regarding TCS’s use of  
3 the visa process to achieve its discriminatory goals effectively deprives this Court of subject  
4 matter jurisdiction over plaintiffs’ Title VII and Section 1981 claims otherwise properly before the  
5 Court. In fact, TCS only cites cases addressing subject matter jurisdiction where plaintiffs’ claims  
6 are based on the misuse of the visa process. See, e.g., *Biran*, 2002 WL 31040345 (finding the  
7 court lacked subject matter jurisdiction where plaintiff alleged violations of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act). Plaintiffs’ motion to dismiss for the visa allegations for lack of subject matter  
9 jurisdiction is **DENIED**.

10 **2. Plaintiff Heldt Has Article III Standing To Bring Title VII Claim**

11 TCS contends that, because TCS hired plaintiff Heldt, he does not have standing to bring a  
12 failure to hire claim. Plaintiff Heldt is the only named plaintiff asserting a claim under Title VII,  
13 and so TCS argues that the Title VII claim must be dismissed to the extent plaintiff Heldt  
14 challenges TCS’s allegedly discriminatory hiring practices. TCS is correct that a named plaintiff’s  
15 individual standing is a threshold issue. See *Lierboe v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 350 F.3d  
16 1018, 1022 (9th Cir. 2003). In that regard, it is undisputed that plaintiff Heldt has standing to  
17 pursue claims under Title VII for adverse employment actions, including his termination. (Dkt.  
18 No. 59, “MTD Oppo.” at 16-17; MTD Reply at 12:4-5.) Plaintiff Heldt alleges injury in fact with  
19 respect to several adverse employment actions and that the injury is causally connected to TCS.  
20 Nothing more is required to maintain his cause of action for discrimination against TCS under  
21 Title VII at this juncture. See *In re VeriSign, Inc.*, 2005 WL 88969, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 13,  
22 2005) (“In the class action context, Article III standing simply requires that the class  
23 representatives satisfy standing individually.); *Waters v. Heublein, Inc.*, 547 F.2d 466, 469-70 (9th  
24 Cir. 1976) (holding that the plaintiff had standing to bring a claim under Title VII to redress racial  
25 and ethnic discrimination, and declining to address whether the plaintiff was an adequate class  
26 representative under Rule 23).

27 TCS’s argument conflates the standing requirements for plaintiff Heldt to bring a claim  
28 under Title VII with his ability to represent a class of persons not hired by TCS. Once standing is

1 established, “[w]hether the class representatives may then represent the claims of the class is a  
2 separate inquiry.” In re Verisign, 2005 WL 88969 at \*5. TCS puts its cart before the horse in an  
3 attempt to have the Court disqualify plaintiff Heldt as a class representative for certain claims at  
4 the pleading stage. The Court declines. Regardless of whether plaintiff Heldt may be a suitable  
5 representative of a class of persons who were not hired by TCS, the parties agree he has standing  
6 to bring a Title VII claim. This alone is dispositive of TCS’s motion under Rule 12(b)(1). TCS’s  
7 motion to dismiss on this ground is **DENIED**.

8 **IV. MOTION TO STRIKE**

9 **A. Legal Standard**

10 Motions to strike are not favored and “should not be granted unless it is clear that the  
11 matter to be stricken could have no possible bearing on the subject matter of the litigation.”  
12 *Colaprico v. Sun Microsystem, Inc.*, 758 F.Supp. 1335, 1339 (N.D.Cal. 1991). When a court  
13 considers a motion to strike, it “must view the pleading in a light most favorable to the pleading  
14 party.” In re 2TheMart.com, Inc. Sec Lit., 114 F Supp.2d 955, 965 (C.D.Cal. 2000). A court may  
15 only strike portions of a complaint in four limited circumstances, namely where it finds the  
16 pleading to contain “redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter.” Fed. R. Civ. P.  
17 12(f). A matter is “immaterial” where it is “has no bearing on the controversy before the Court.”  
18 In re 2TheMart.com, 114 F.Supp.2d at 965. Allegations have been found “impertinent” where  
19 they are “not responsive or irrelevant to the issues that arise in the action and which are  
20 inadmissible as evidence.” *Id.* A court must deny the motion to strike if there is any doubt  
21 whether the allegations in the pleadings might be relevant in the action. *Id.* Where the moving  
22 party cannot demonstrate the material will prejudice a party, “courts frequently deny motions to  
23 strike even though the offending matter literally was within one or more of the categories set forth  
24 in Rule 12(f).” *New York City Employees’ Retirement System v. Barry*, 667 F.Supp.2d 1121, 1128  
25 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (internal quotations omitted).

26 **B. Analysis**

27 TCS requests that the Court strike portions of the FAC related to statistical data comparing  
28 the demographics of TCS workers to the demographics of the entire United States as well as the

1 class period for the Title VII claim.<sup>6</sup> Even a cursory review of TCS’s arguments, however, shows  
2 they are nothing more than substantive attacks on plaintiffs’ allegations not appropriate for  
3 resolution on a motion to strike under Rule 12(f). Indeed, TCS does not assert anywhere in their  
4 papers that the class period allegations are “redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous” as  
5 required by Rule 12(f), and their motion on that ground is therefore **DENIED**.<sup>7</sup>

6 With respect to the statistical data, TCS contends that it is immaterial and impertinent<sup>8</sup>  
7 because it “has no relationship to the claims pled.” (MTS at 3:8-9.) However, it is quite obvious,  
8 as discussed above, that such statistical data may be relevant to describe, at a minimum, the  
9 defendant’s practices. Whether it ultimately may “constitute, by [itself], prima facie proof of a  
10 pattern and practice of discrimination” is not before the Court. See Piva, 654 F.2d at 596. Rule  
11 12(f) is not the proper vehicle to rid a complaint of allegations the defendant admits plaintiffs may  
12 “utilize...at some point in this case.” (MTS Reply at 4:4-5.) TCS’s motion on this ground is  
13 likewise **DENIED**.

14 **V. CONCLUSION**

15 Defendant’s motion to dismiss the FAC in part and defendant’s motion to strike portions of  
16 the FAC are **DENIED**.

17 Plaintiffs are directed to file an amended complaint no later than **September 28, 2015**,  
18 which must clarify the following:

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20 <sup>6</sup> Additionally, TCS moves to strike the allegations relating the claims it separately moved  
21 to dismiss, incorporating by reference its arguments in the motion to dismiss, “to the extent such  
22 arguments are more appropriately viewed under Rule 12(f).” (MTS at 1:15-21.) In reply, TCS  
23 recognizes plaintiffs’ position that the incorporated arguments are inappropriate for resolution on a  
24 motion to strike. (Dkt. No. 67, “MTS Reply” at n. 1.) For the reasons set forth in Sections II and  
25 III, supra, these arguments fail under Rule 12(b). The Court declines to address them under the  
26 more stringent framework of Rule 12(f).

27 <sup>7</sup> The Court acknowledges that TCS places its discussion of the class period allegations  
28 under a heading in its motion to strike, and reply in support, entitled “Plaintiffs’ Irrelevant And/or  
Impertinent Allegations.” (MTS at 3; MTS Reply at 2.) This summary statement, without more,  
is insufficient to carry TCS’s burden under Rule 12(f).

<sup>8</sup> In reply, TCS further contends that these allegations are “irrelevant.” However,  
relevance alone is not the appropriate inquiry. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(f). Relevance is only  
germane to the extent that the material is also inadmissible. See *In re 2TheMart.com*, 114  
F.Supp.2d at 965.

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- The scope of persons to be included in the proposed class and subclasses;
- Whether the causes of action allege discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, or both; and
- Plaintiffs’ disavowal that they allege any misuse or abuse of the visa programs.


Plaintiffs are cautioned not to conflate their definitions with respect to ethnicity, race, and/or national origin.

Defendant shall file a responsive pleading no more than fourteen (14) days after plaintiffs file their amended complaint.

This order terminates Docket Nos. 47, 50.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: September 18, 2015

  
YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE