



**URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER**

**2025  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

There is no New York without immigrants.

# UJC BOARD



Many of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, and we know how fraught immigration law in this country is.

**IT IS AN HONOR TO WORK WITH AN AGENCY LIKE UJC, THAT PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIKE US, AND OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.**

Joe Hamid, *Chairman*  
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# FROM DOUG

Friends,

A story I've often told: I founded the Urban Justice Center as an anti-homelessness organization, because when I first moved back to New York City as a young lawyer, 40+ years ago, the city was in the midst of an extreme homelessness crisis, caused primarily by the callous policies of President Ronald Reagan and Mayor Ed Koch – a Republican and a Democrat. I didn't care about party politics; I cared about the thousands of New Yorkers our city, state, and country seemed to have abandoned.

If I were launching the Urban Justice Center today, I'm certain I'd be focused instead on immigration, one of this moment's hottest political flashpoints and a source of endless, anti-democratic cruelty and demagoguery. Because as it stands, immigration is already a centerpiece of our work, an issue that connects all of the projects at UJC. This always has been and always will be our guiding principle:

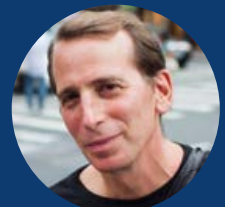
**GO WHERE WE ARE MOST NEEDED; MEET THOSE OUR COUNTRY HAS ABANDONED WHERE THEY ARE; AND EDUCATE, AGITATE, AND LEGISLATE FOR REFORM.**

Although we are not an immigration organization, the nature of our world today means that many of our most imperiled New Yorkers are immigrants: street vendors, survivors of interpersonal violence, refugees, sex workers, and so many more. They have seen their rights curtailed, their families torn apart, and their hopes for the future turned into constant worries about detainment, deportation, and ultimately, death in a thousand forms.

This issue of our Annual Report shines a spotlight on the issue of immigration, and how it affects the work that we do. From successfully resettled survivors of human trafficking, to litigation to keep our courts safe from invasion by ICE, you'll get a glimpse of the incredible work our staff and member-advocates have been doing this year, and for many years in the past.



- Doug Lasdon, *UJC Founder & Executive Director*



# DEFENDING INDIVIDUALS

URBAN  
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Domestic  
Violence  
Project

URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER

Free to  
Be Youth  
Project

URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER

Sex  
Workers  
Project

Earlier this year, the leaderships of our Domestic Violence Project, Free to Be Youth Project, and Sex Workers Project came together to write an editorial demanding the City protect these most vulnerable people from attacks by the federal government. As they wrote:

“

Our clients are some of those most vulnerable and affected, including unaccompanied minors, unhoused youth, domestic violence survivors, HIV-positive adults, victims of trafficking, and those involved in criminalized street economies. Let us be clear, however, that Trump and his executive orders do not act alone. City and state compliance has allowed these orders to be carried out, despite their cruel and often unlawful nature.

**NEW YORK CITY, A HAVEN FOR MANY, HAS  
INSTEAD BECOME A BATTLEGROUND—  
WITH OUR MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS  
STRUGGLING TO FIGHT BACK AMIDST THE  
SLEW OF HOSTILITY AND VIOLENCE  
DIRECTED TOWARD THEM.**

# INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS



## FRANK

a young gay man from Haiti, fled to the U.S., was granted Temporary Protected Status, and obtained permission to work lawfully in the country. He got a job, applied for asylum, and was well on his way to finding stability in his life, in part thanks to the work of our Free to Be Youth Project. That was until the Trump administration revoked the temporary protected status awarded to Haitians, terminating Frank's work authorization. He, like so many others, now sits in limbo, waiting to see if his claim for asylum will be heard or if he will be pushed into deportation without due process.

## LARRY

an HIV-positive client of DVP, has struggled to ensure his own safety as his former abuser continues to exert power over him, and were it not for DVP's efforts, he might have become yet another crime statistic. Exacerbating his legal troubles are the harms that arise when he misses an appointment for critical medical care or fails to attend a mandated court hearing out of fear that any step from his home risks apprehension and deportation.



## LARA & ESTHER

SWP fought tirelessly in 2025 for survivors of violence and human trafficking. We won asylum for 'Lara', a Salvadorean transgender woman who suffered brutal violence because of her gender identity. SWP also advocated with immigration and consular authorities to help our trafficking survivor client Esther obtain immigration status and travel abroad to reunite and lawfully bring her young child to the U.S., where they are finally safe together after years of pain and separation.

SWP fought  
tirelessly in 2025  
for survivors of

# BUILDING INCLUS

As ICE has ramped up their raids and violent enforcement over the last year, both our Street Vendor Project and our Freedom Agenda project have worked tirelessly to organize and protect their communities.

URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER

Freedom  
Agenda

In April of 2025, when the Adams administration issued an executive order allowing ICE to establish an office on Rikers Island, Freedom Agenda immediately spoke out.

“

Shamelessly, Mayor Eric Adams made a deal with the Trump administration to reactivate IEC on Rikers months ago. Now immigrants and asylum seekers in our city are even more of a target for deportations without due process and the presumption of innocence. The fact that Rikers could provide a venue, hidden far from public view, for ICE and DOC to jointly terrorize New Yorkers is yet another reason to shut it down.

- Darren Mack, Co-Director, Freedom Agenda

Thanks in part to their  
relentless organizing,

**THE ICE OFFICE ON  
RIKERS WAS HALTED  
BEFORE IT EVER  
OPENED – A TRUE  
COMMUNITY WIN.**



# SIVE COMMUNITY

URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER

Street  
Vendor  
Project

Many members of our Street Vendor Project were recently arrested in an overwhelming day time sweep on Canal Street. In response, SVP issued the following statement:

“

We have been sounding the alarm for a year about the threats New York City street vendors face under this current administration...Every time a vendor goes out to work without the protections a business license affords them, they are viewed as criminals with a target on their back. We can confirm at least 5 of the 9 individuals who were detained by ICE are street vendors, several of whom have worked in NYC for 20+ years, have built their lives and families here...Seeing street vendors targeted and kidnapped by ICE agents was nothing short of terrifying.

**BUT SEEING NEW YORKERS RISE UP AND  
TAKE BACK THE STREETS MADE  
VENDORS FEEL SAFE, THAT NEW YORK  
HAS THEIR BACK**

- Mohammad Attia, Project Director, Street Vendor Project



**URBAN JUSTICE CENTER**

The majority of the clients that work with our Mental Health Project depend on some form of assistance from the Social Security Administration. When the Department of Government Efficiency tried to raid the SSA for essential and private data (including the immigration status of recipients), MHP pushed back.

- Ann Biddle, Litigation Supervisor, Mental Health Project

Despite their work, however, a whistleblower report in August of 2025 indicated that untold amounts of data had been pilfered from the SSA. MHP and our projects remain vigilant to protect our clients from untoward uses of this information.



# CLIMATE CHANGE

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JUSTICE  
CENTER

Safety  
Net  
Project

Part of the reason New York is the diverse and thriving city we know it as is our essential right to shelter, which has recently been attacked by a city government that is hostile to the communities of unhoused and migrant people who need our shelter systems. As our Safety Net Project wrote in a joint statement demanding the Mayor leave the Right to Shelter untouched:



The Right to Shelter is a basic human right for all people in our City and efforts to curtail that right will disproportionately affect Black and brown New Yorkers, who are far more likely to experience eviction, homelessness, and housing insecurity...This is not because of recent arrivals to New York;

**OUR CITY HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN A CITY OF  
IMMIGRANTS.**

It is because of a lack of progress on issues critical to all New Yorkers – homelessness, housing affordability, and housing preservation. Framing this as a “migrant problem” invites racism and xenophobia against immigrants, many of whom are fleeing state violence, repression, heterosexism, war, and economic and ecological catastrophes and have risked their lives to come seek refuge, safety and a better future.

Thanks in large part to work by our Safety Net Project, New York City’s Right to Shelter remains enshrined in New York City law.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Social  
Justice  
Accelerator

Every two years, we select an incredible class of up-and-coming social justice leaders, mentoring them to transform their early-stage nonprofits into powerhouses for change. Thanks to their work, New York City is a better, safer, and more just place. This year, we are celebrating the graduation of our 3rd cohort, featured here.



This year, Cambio Labs served over 300 youth and adult learners and earned major recognition — including a New York State Senate Proclamation and the Dorothy Epstein Community Service Award. We also launched a new sustainability model by shifting to platform-based revenue, helping schools and nonprofits license our Journey platform while maintaining affordability and impact.

**- SEBASTIÁN MARTÍN, CAMBIO LABS**

Scrutinize's judge-level data shaped the bench this year — thousands of New Yorkers, including judicial delegates, used our profiles monthly to make informed choices. Two advocacy campaigns relied on our data to block judicial reappointments, including Judge Boller in Erie County. With UJC's support, we also expanded our staff and scaled our data systems to sustain a faster pace of work.

**- ODED OREN, SCRUTINIZE**



Over the past 40 years,

**WE HAVE HELPED LAUNCH MORE THAN  
20 JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS,**

both in New York and around the world.  
Scan the QR code to learn more!



# ACCELERATOR



With UJC's support, BMHM relaunched our 2025 initiatives and developed a comprehensive programming plan, including Alaap sessions, our first networking event for Bengali mental health professionals, and a community fundraiser. This partnership solidified BMHM's presence in New York City's social justice landscape and laid the foundation for our long-term sustainability.

**- TAZIN BANU, BENGALI MENTAL HEALTH MOVEMENT**

Being part of UJC's Social Justice Accelerator was transformative — we grew from two full-time staff to six and gained access to comprehensive health insurance that our small organization couldn't yet provide. That support made a real difference for our team and our families.

**- VICKY GARALINA, INSPIRING FUTURES**



Being part of SJA allowed All Kings to reach new heights — we were featured in The New York Times and brought our work into powerful spaces like Rikers Prison, high schools, and with reentry partners. We also nearly tripled our staff and support, growing from 1 full-time and 2 part-time employees to a team of 4 full-time, 4 part-time, and 3 contractors.

**- RAUL ESPINOZA, ALL KINGS**



# UJC COMMUNITY

## \$200.1k+

City Of New York  
Freedom Together  
Foundation  
HPR Partners, LLC, d/b/a  
HUNTER  
Mother Cabrini Health  
Foundation  
New York Community  
Trust  
NYC DOHMH  
NYC DOVE  
NYC DYCD  
NYC HRA  
NYC SBS  
NYS IOLA  
NYS OCA  
NYS OCFS  
NYS OTDA  
NYS OVS  
Oak Foundation  
Our American Future  
Action  
Robin Hood Foundation  
Tow Foundation

## \$200k-\$50.1k

Brooklyn Org  
Clif Family Foundation  
CT Charitable Foundation  
Deutsche Bank AG  
FastForward  
Ford Foundation  
Fox Foundation  
Gerstner Philanthropies  
Harvard University  
Jessie Smith Noyes  
Foundation  
Navigation Fund

New York Foundation  
New York Health  
Foundaiton  
NYS DOH  
NYS OPDV  
Scherman Foundation  
Shippy Foundation  
United States Treasury  
Vital Projects Funds

## \$50k-\$25.1k

Brothers Brook  
Foundation  
Columbia University  
Cryptomeria Grove  
Diageo Americas  
Empire Justice Center  
Focus for Health  
Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
Joel Frank  
Justice Catalyst  
Kenyatta Cheese  
Levitt Foundation  
Lucius N. Littauer  
Foundation  
Mertz Gilmore Foundation  
Nan Aron  
National Philanthropic  
Trust  
New York Women's  
Foundation  
Skadden Fellowship  
Foundation  
Valerie Block  
Yeshiva University

## \$25.1k-\$10.1k

American Eagle Outfitters  
Foundation

Audra J Soloway Y  
Christopher & Leah  
Tahbaz  
Cookfire Charities  
Darrell Silver  
Day One NY  
DJ McManus Foundation  
Edward Turan  
Emily Miraldi  
Food Chain Workers  
Alliance  
Fordham University  
FurtherJustice Foundation  
Greenberg Traurig  
Justin Pollack  
Jyotin & Kendall Hamid  
Keith Haring Foundation  
Marc Falcone  
Marissa & Ryan Hersh  
Max J & Winnie S  
Rosenshein Foundation  
MetroPlusHealth  
New York University  
NYS DCJS  
Queens Economic  
Development Corps  
Research Foundation of  
The City University of NY  
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP  
Shared Ascend Fund  
Solon E. Summerfield  
Foundation  
Stonewall Community  
Foundation  
Tides Foundation  
UC Berkely  
Vidhu Aggarwal & Rohit  
Kumar

## \$10k-\$5.1k

Amalgamated Charitable  
Foundation  
Andrew Kaufman  
Barasch & McGarry  
Brian & Erin Pastuszenski  
Caitlin Halpern  
Charlene Jones  
Commerce Media Holdings  
Consortium for Worker  
Education  
Daniel H. Gallancy  
Debevoise & Plimpton  
Frank Marquet  
Greater Kansas City  
Community Foundation  
Hidden Figures Leadership  
Fund  
Jaimie Nawaday  
James Klein  
Janel Anderberg Callon  
Joshua Thompson  
Kolibri Foundation  
Mark Hatch-Miller  
M K Reichert Sternlicht  
Foundation  
M&T Charitable  
Foundation  
Mitchell & Ann  
Lowenthal  
Nancy Chemtob  
New York Hall of Science  
North Star Fund  
NYC MOCJ  
Raymond James Charitable  
Robert & Maurine  
Rothschild Fund  
Sam Givertz



# TY, THANK YOU

Van Alen Institute

**\$5k-\$2.1k**

67th Precinct Clergy  
Council

A Foundation of  
Philanthropic Funds  
Alliance Bernstein

Andia Paz

Andrew Litvin

Arnie & Sandy Peinado

Bhurin Sead

Bombas

Bonnie Eletz

Broadway Cares/Equity  
Fights AIDS

Bronx Defenders

Brooklyn Legal Services

Caitlin Parker

CAMBA Legal Services

Christopher & Stella  
Meade

Christopher J. Berman

Community Foundation of  
New Jersey

Daniel M. Bergey

Diane Solomon

Donovan Richards

Emery Celli Brinckerhoff  
Abady Ward & Maazel

Elisabeth Stanley

Foundation for City  
College New York

FWD.US

Gabriel Severin

Greater Washington

Community Foundation

Ida E Greenland

Jason & Lourdes Rahn

Jennifer Kim

Jodie Stanley

Joellen Valentine

Jonathan Caen

Joseph & Margot Calabrese  
Charitable Gift Fund

JP Morgan Chase  
Foundation

Kamile Vilimaite

Kiran Krishnamurthi

Korein Foundation

Linda Glaser

Maia Watanabe

Make The Road New York

Megha Chopra

Mintz

Mobilization for Justice

Morrison & Foerster  
Foundation

Nancy Taylor

New York Law School

Nithya Ramesh

Nicholas Palazzi

Northern Manhattan  
Improvement Corp.

Olivia Ellen De Rocco

Oregon Community  
Foundation

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,  
Wharton & Garrison

Pokémon Foundation

Potente Huddleston  
Family Fund

PwC

Rebecka Fenley

Richard Zhao

Robert M. Schiffman  
Foundation

Robin Skye

Ruby Janae Garrett

Stephanie Caen

Tate Gillie

Tess Adams

Times Square Alliance

TK Digital Corporation

Tom Haracz

Towanda Dailey

Turnstile Tours

Vanguard Charitable

Wachtel Missry

Wilmington Trust

Winky Foundation

**\$2k-\$1k**

Alexander Simon-Fox

Allison Mandeville

Apicha Community Health  
Center

Bank Of America

Charitable Foundation

Ben Galynker

Birrialandia

BNY Mellon Corporation's  
Community Partnership

Bonn Dash Fund

Bressler, Amery & Ross

Caitlin Parker

Catholic Migration  
Services

Center For Urban

Community Services

Charles Rudoy

Commonpoint Queens

David Bresnahan

David Haracz

Elaine Mandelbaum

Equal Justice America

Ethan Frisch

Housing Conservation

Coordinators

Imagine Awards

James Haddon

Jane Direnzo Pigott Trust

Jeannie Mcguire

Joan Abelardo

Johnson Family

Foundation

Jones Walker

Julian Temple

Julie Suh

Julie Torres Moskowitz

Kevin O'Brien

Mattie & Courtney

Byrneheim

Michael Coyne

Michael Hillerson

Michael Nierenberg

Neal Manne

Neighborhood Defenders  
Service

New York Lawyers For The  
Public Interest

Ponce Bank

Robert Lavalva

Rosalie Geneviro

Roy Family Charitable  
Fund

Samantha Goodwin

Samuel Field YM

Stephanie Gusching

SVCF

The Door

Tradeweb Markets

VML Foundation Fund

William A. Plapinger &

Kathleen J. Murray

Yoojin Lee



*Donors from 7/1/24 - 6/30/25*

# GET INVOLVED

## RUN WITH #TEAMUJC?

Each spring we look for runners who care about social justice to join us in the TCS NYC Marathon! Sign up for our newsletter to be in the know as we recruit our team:  
[urbanjustice.org/newsletter](http://urbanjustice.org/newsletter)

## JOIN OUR YPB



Our Young Professional Board is made up of passionate, dedicated individuals, who are committed to advocating for social justice, improving our city, and growing connections and community while they do it. Joining the board means becoming part of a vibrant network of advocates who are eager to learn, to lead, and to build a more just city—together. If you're ready to deepen your impact, expand your network, and fuel social change, we'd love to meet you. Meet our members and apply to join at [urbanjustice.org/get-involved/ypb/](http://urbanjustice.org/get-involved/ypb/)



# D & SUPPORT

## DO YOU GOLF?

A new tradition is about to tee off!

On May 4th, 2026, we'll debut our first-ever UJC Golf Outing at the beautiful Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.

We promise to host a lively day of connection, competition, and community spirit—all in support of our mission. Save the date and visit [urbanjustice.org/golf](https://urbanjustice.org/golf) to learn more.



## SIGN ON & SUPPORT



The leadership of the Urban Justice Center is excited to partner with Mayor-Elect Mamdani in his coming term. We plan to present this petition to the mayor highlighting our priorities in the new year! Read the whole petition [here](#).

If you would like to learn more and support our requests, please visit [urbanjustice.org/mayor](https://urbanjustice.org/mayor) to sign on!



*In the last year...*

**1,320+ CALLS**

*taken.*

**4,275 CASES**

*closed.*

**9,260 INDIVIDUALS**

*impacted by our direct services.*

**\$1,666,142 RECOVERED**

*in public benefits for clients in desperate need.*

## **UJC ANCHOR PROJECTS**

Domestic  
Violence  
Project

Experience  
Justice

Freedom  
Agenda

Free to Be  
Youth  
Project

Mental  
Health  
Project

Safety  
Net  
Project

Sex  
Workers  
Project

Social  
Justice  
Accelerator

Street  
Vendor  
Project

United for  
Freedom