



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair

THE RADICAL BELIEF IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE

Dear Friends,

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations set out a vision and common standard of achievements shared across countries and cultures: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The principle at the heart of the Declaration was, and continues to be, radical – that all human beings inherently have the same human rights, and we must protect these rights at all times, no matter the circumstances.

In 2023 those ideals were challenged deeply as we navigated the consequences of structural racism, economic inequality, oppression and violence. What we witnessed in the U.S. and across the globe constituted an existential threat to the very idea of human rights enforcement. More than ever before, we saw countries engage in diplomacy with agendas that were short-term, self-serving, and devoid of any value-based principles. The enacting of this double standard broadcast a clear and disastrous message to the world: *you can disregard human rights when they don't serve your interests.*

And yet, throughout 2023, we also saw millions rise up in direct opposition to this hypocrisy. A plurality of voices joined together in support of the human rights that bring us together as human beings. Those voices denounced the selective outrage and privilege that enables human rights abuses and emboldens their perpetrators.

We saw communities across the U.S. welcome asylum seekers and fight for the resources to help them begin again, and we watched voters turn out in droves to protect the right to abortion access. We saw how Amnesty's research on the use of U.S. arms to decimate Gaza galvanized policymakers and activists to push for the protection of civilians caught in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. And in every month of 2023, thanks to our supporters, Amnesty saw governments acknowledge or take action on behalf of persecuted people – human rights defenders, people of color, Indigenous people, and refugees, among others.

So, while the threat posed by constant disruption is real and urgent, there is tangible hope as we consider how the U.S. respects, protects and fulfills human rights, both domestically and across the globe. Your collective action, guided by the radical principle that all people inherently have human rights at all times, supports AIUSA's enduring belief that course correction is not just necessary, but entirely possible. All that follows in this report is evidence of this fact, and we are deeply grateful for your courage and your support.

In Solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul O'Brien".

Paul O'Brien
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexandra Durbak".

Alexandra Durbak
Board Chair



A Letter from the Chief Development Officer

THE RADICAL ACT OF GIVING TO UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Friends,

To call 2023 a year of disruption would be a dramatic understatement. Not only were a staggering number of individuals and communities around the world subjugated, silenced, displaced, and gravely harmed, the institutions we count on to champion and uphold human rights all too often favored systems of oppression, discrimination and inequality instead. Compounding matters was the rapid proliferation of misinformation at nearly every level of society, resulting in a rampant spread of hate and vilification. It was not an easy year to find the light.

Incidentally, 2023 also marked the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. In reflecting on this framework and vision, we must admit it is imperfect. And yet, I maintain the belief that it continues to be the very best tool we have for fighting the ills of this age.

When I am discouraged, I hold close to a core tenet of the Declaration – one that has guided Amnesty International for more than six decades – the actions of individuals make a difference in protecting the rights of “all members of the human family.” These are more than words of inspiration or reassurance. This is fact, evidenced by the work of our supporters in the U.S. and around the globe.

More than 10 million individuals stepped forward in 2023 to defend human rights. I suspect many of you have seen your lives disrupted in the past year. But you shared your time and your resources, anyway – many of you month after month, year after year. Please know that each donation is a profound act to defend human rights. In truth, it is one of the most impactful forms of activism you can take on behalf of those experiencing suffering human rights abuses. Because AIUSA accepts no government funding for our research and campaigns, we are able, with your generous support, to hold perpetrators of abuses accountable.

What's more, each donation is a demonstration of your belief that the vision set forth in the Declaration of Human Rights can be more than an aspiration. The community of donors you are a part of ensures unflagging momentum in the fight for human rights, even when uncertainty and chaos dominate.

You are our enduring strength in this time of disruption, and we thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,



Marcy Bourne
Chief Development Officer



Members of the AIUSA Executive team gathered for a rally ahead of AIUSA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the U.S.-Mexico border Friends of Friendship Park in San Diego, California in March of 2023.

From the left to right; Nadia Daar, Chief Strategy and Impact Officer, Julie Hong, Chief IDEA, Culture and People Officer, Marcy Bourne, Chief Development Officer, and Bethany Criss, Chief Movement Building and Member Engagement Officer.

HOW WE WORK TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A WORLD DISRUPTED

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that works to demand human rights for all – no matter who or where they are. As the world's largest grassroots human rights organization with over 10 million members, supporters, and activists, we work in over 70 countries to protect people when justice, freedom, truth, or dignity are denied. Amnesty International protects human rights using an effective three-pronged strategy:

We conduct research to investigate human rights abuses and expose patterns where violations are taking place.

We use this research to raise public awareness and mobilize activists to demand change.

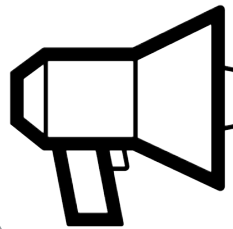
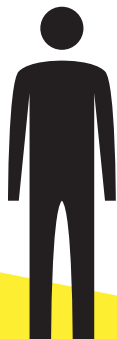
We develop campaigns to advocate for the social, political, and legal changes necessary to protect human rights.

Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) is the largest country section of the global Amnesty movement. Our organization comprises hundreds of thousands of members, advocates, and activists, including numerous member groups in local communities, high schools, and colleges nationwide. Across the country, we raise awareness, rally supporters, and equip activists of all ages to fight for human rights in the U.S. and around the globe. We believe the power to make change begins with each of us, and that together, we can inspire and make a positive difference in the world.

Research
identifies the
root causes.



**It starts with
the individual.**



Information
is used to **mobilize
and empower
activists.**

**Advocacy reaches
key decision makers**
enabling us to
win policies and
individual cases.



MEASURES OF IMPACT TOWARD RESPECT FOR EVERYONE'S HUMAN RIGHTS

470,000



Venezuelans protected under Temporary Protective Status.

21,000

Cameroonians protected under Temporary Protective Status.



400,000

actions taken by human rights activists across the country.

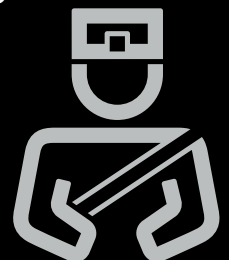
15 reports, briefs and analyses



used to bring attention to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Three research missions

to the U.S.-Mexico border to document the impacts of the new asylum ban.



Three states

enacting laws that strengthen gun safety.





RIGHT TO ABORTION ACCESS

As of 2023, the state of abortion rights in the United States is remarkably grim. One year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, women, girls, and people who can become pregnant face a patchwork of devastating laws across the nation. One in three women, girls, and people who can become pregnant of reproductive age now live in states without access to abortion. There are massive healthcare deserts, compelling individuals to travel thousands of miles to obtain abortion care, if they can afford to. The intersection of this reality with structural racism and other forms of oppression means already marginalized populations are disproportionately affected.

Furthermore, the states with the most stringent abortion laws and bans have the direst outcomes: these states have higher maternal death rates, weaker maternal support, and elevated child poverty rates. Despite the fact that there remains resounding public support for safe and legal abortion access across the United States, attacks on bodily autonomy continue at a cruel and shocking rate. Anti-rights groups and politicians are working at the state and national level to restrict information on abortion and birth control, criminalize abortion and those who help people access abortion, and ultimately end the ability to control one's body.

Abortion rights activists nationwide – many of them holding marginalized identities that put them at increased risk – are working even harder to win back these rights and ensure that everyone can decide for themselves whether to carry a pregnancy to term. Community to community, people are fighting back, and Amnesty has been fighting alongside them.

Since the fall of *Roe*, work at the state level has become more important than ever, as individual states

are now left to enact abortion laws without federal protections in place. In 2023, Amnesty focused on equipping our grassroots activists across the country to join the fight for abortion rights in their local communities. This included the launch of a nationwide campaign to shift the narrative on abortion away from an anti-rights framework and toward a narrative that recognizes abortion as essential healthcare and a human right. It also included working on the ground

alongside local advocates in key states like North Carolina, Arizona, Virginia – and in Ohio, where Amnesty student activists helped pass abortion protections into the state constitution.

Amnesty International also has been leading the fight to ensure people have access to information about abortion online, where most people, particularly young people, access information about abortion. Reproductive health and rights organizations in the U.S. have reported an increase in abortion content being removed online by social media companies since the fall of *Roe*. We have led research on the suppression of abortion information on Facebook,

Instagram, and TikTok. Amnesty also founded and co-leads the *Repro Uncensored* coalition, which works to combat content suppression and ensure people can find the information they need about abortion.

Additionally, Amnesty International conducted extensive research to document the human rights impact of abortion bans and restrictions on women, girls, and people who can get pregnant; on doctors and caregivers; and on communities across the country. Every person has the human right to decide for themselves whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term. No matter where you live, no matter how hard anti-rights actors are fighting – Amnesty International will continue to fight for those rights.

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THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN CONFLICT

The protection of civilians living or trapped in conflict zones stands as a cornerstone of humanitarian principles, yet it's all too often violated either deliberately or amid the chaos of war. Amnesty International has been at the forefront of advocating for the protection of civilians, tirelessly documenting atrocities, mobilizing global support, and pressuring governments and armed groups to uphold their obligations under international law.

In the wake of the devastating conflicts impacting countries including Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria, Amnesty International's efforts have yielded tangible victories, albeit amid ongoing challenges. The organization's comprehensive research and advocacy have shed light on the plight of civilians and contributed to significant developments on the ground.

Amnesty International's advocacy in Ukraine has been instrumental in documenting violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and exposing perpetrators of war crimes and human rights abuses. Through interviews with civilians and reports submitted to international investigative bodies, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, Amnesty provided crucial evidence that can be used to hold perpetrators accountable. Additionally, Amnesty's active participation in the Cluster Munition Coalition amplified opposition to the transfer of cluster munitions to Ukraine, emphasizing their

indiscriminate and deadly nature. Through advocacy efforts, including meetings with government officials and bipartisan support for legislation, Amnesty successfully campaigned to halt further transfers of cluster munitions. Overall, Amnesty's unwavering commitment to human rights continues to make a significant impact in promoting justice and accountability in conflict-affected regions like Ukraine.

After deadly conflict erupted in Sudan in April 2023, Amnesty International researchers conducted thorough investigations, documenting widespread human rights violations and war crimes, including ethnically motivated attacks, civilian casualties, and sexual violence. By compiling compelling evidence of war crimes and civilian harm, Amnesty International brought international attention to the conflict, shining a light on a lesser-covered crisis.

Similarly, in Afghanistan, where the Taliban's oppressive rule threatens the safety and rights of women and girls, Amnesty International played a vital role in exposing ongoing abuses and mobilizing support for populations at risk of human rights violations. Through meticulous research and targeted advocacy, the



organization highlighted the Taliban's systematic violations of women's rights, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and gender-based violence. By amplifying the voices of Afghan women and girls and leveraging global solidarity, Amnesty International is keeping the spotlight on the need for the international community to pressure the Taliban to respect human rights, especially as the situation continues to worsen.

Moreover, Amnesty's involvement in Syria has been instrumental in documenting the impact of the conflict on civilians and advocating for their protection. The organization's research teams meticulously gathered evidence of indiscriminate attacks, civilian casualties, and the use of chemical weapons, revealing the harrowing realities faced by Syrians caught in the crossfire. Through strategic engagement with international bodies and diplomatic channels, Amnesty International has pressed for accountability for war crimes and pushed for measures to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians.

Beyond documenting violations, Amnesty International has also played a crucial role in demanding that governments facilitate the provision of providing humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations. By working closely with local partners and humanitarian organizations, Amnesty has supported initiatives to ensure access to essential aid, including food, shelter, and medical care, for those in need. These efforts have saved lives and alleviated suffering in some of the world's most volatile regions.

However, challenges persist in safeguarding the rights and safety of civilians caught in conflict.



Armed groups continue to disregard international law, perpetrating atrocities with impunity, while political interests often overshadow humanitarian imperatives. In the face of these challenges, Amnesty International remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for the rights of civilians and holding perpetrators accountable.

Amnesty International's commitment to the protection of civilians extends to conflict zones like Gaza, where civilians face ongoing attacks and humanitarian catastrophe. In Gaza, more than two million civilians struggle to survive amidst escalating conflict, with serious violations of international law and war crimes occurring regularly. Amnesty's Global Evidence Lab has pinpointed specific areas where indiscriminate and other unlawful attacks have caused mass civilian casualties, highlighting the urgent need for the international community to demand the protection of civilians. Through its advocacy efforts, Amnesty International has urged the international community to address the crisis in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire, expanded humanitarian aid access, and measures to prevent further harm to civilians. By leveraging evidence-based research and engaging with key stakeholders, including the Biden Administration, UN bodies and other human rights organizations, Amnesty International continues to push for accountability and protection for civilians caught in the conflict in Gaza.

The protection of civilians caught in conflict is a fundamental principle that must be upheld by all parties involved in armed conflict. Amnesty International's tireless advocacy, research, and mobilization efforts have contributed to significant victories in protecting vulnerable populations living or trapped in conflict zones. By amplifying the voices of those affected and mobilizing global solidarity, Amnesty continues to be a beacon of hope for civilians in the grimmest of times.





RIGHT TO SEEK SAFETY

The right to seek safety is a human right that ensures individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, and violence have access to protection and sanctuary, and Amnesty International USA continues to be at the forefront of advocating for refugee and migrant rights.

In 2023, we played a pivotal role in extending and redesignating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for approximately 21,000 Cameroonians in the United States. These individuals who fled conflict, political upheaval, and a humanitarian crisis in their home country, found a lifeline in the form of TPS, which granted them work permits and protection from detention and deportation. This extension marked a crucial victory in providing stability and security to populations fleeing dire circumstances.

Beyond the borders of the United States, Amnesty International continued to advocate for the rights of refugees and migrants globally. In particular, the organization focused its efforts on documenting and exposing violations of the right to seek asylum along the U.S.-Mexico border. Through field investigations and advocacy campaigns, Amnesty International shed light on the perilous conditions faced by individuals seeking refuge. In May of 2023, after years of pressure from Amnesty International USA, the Biden Administration finally ended the deadly imposition of Title 42 policy that resulted in the expulsion of over 2 million people seeking safety at the U.S.-Mexico Border. Unfortunately, Title 42 was replaced with a new asylum ban; Amnesty was at the border the day

the new ban was enacted to document and draw attention to the human rights violations faced by people seeking safety. Amnesty continued the research mission at the border, which included the monitoring of human rights conditions and the changing policies around the then-new use of a mobile phone application called CBP One. This application was implemented in 2023 by the U.S.

Government to meter the number of people who could seek asylum on a given day, forcing people seeking safety to wait in danger in Mexico.

Amnesty International also took our work local, as we supported communities in Eagle Pass, Texas who saw Texas Governor Abbott's Operation Lone Star take over a public park at the U.S.-Mexico border in order to prevent people from exercising their human right to seek safety there. After launching a petition, the Eagle Pass City Council successfully voted to return the park to the public by taking it out of the hands of the unlawful Operation Lone Star.

Amnesty International's steadfast commitment to the right to seek safety has yielded tangible results in the form of extended protections, closure of abusive detention centers, and increased awareness of refugee and migrant rights violations. However, challenges persist, and the organization remains dedicated to advocating for the rights and dignity of all those seeking refuge around the world.

Through field investigations and advocacy campaigns, **Amnesty International shed light on the perilous conditions faced by individuals seeking refuge.**



RIGHT TO PROTEST

In Sri Lanka, the government's intensified crackdown on protesters following severe hardships inflicted by food, fuel, and medicine shortages drew Amnesty's attention. The deployment of the army and the use of unlawful force against peaceful demonstrators prompted urgent action from Amnesty activists globally. Through petitions, letters, and protests, Amnesty raised awareness of these human rights violations and called on the Sri Lankan government to respect the right to protest.

One notable accomplishment in the fight for the right to protest in Sri Lanka was the release of student leader Wasantha Mudalige. Wasantha Mudalige, a prominent

leader during 2022 protests, was detained without charge under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act for over five months. Amnesty International campaigned tirelessly for his release, highlighting his

case as emblematic of the government's crackdown on dissent. In February 2023, Wasantha Mudalige was finally released on bail, marking a significant victory for the right to protest and freedom of expression in Sri Lanka.

Through our Urgent Action Network and targeted campaigning, Amnesty mobilized thousands of activists to demand the release of detained protesters, the

investigation of human rights violations, and the repeal of repressive laws restricting the right to protest. Amnesty International's unwavering commitment to defending the right to protest will continue to protect individuals worldwide fighting for justice, accountability, and freedom.

The deployment of the army and the use of unlawful force against peaceful demonstrators prompted **urgent action from Amnesty activists globally.**



PEOPLE POWER TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS



Ceasefire in Gaza Protest(s)



Guantanamo Bay Days of Actions



Leonard Peltier Protest



Write a Letter Change a Life

THE POWER OF GIVING TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS

Rose Styron is a poet, journalist, steadfast advocate for human rights and author of a recent memoir in which she tells of her decades long work with Amnesty International and others on behalf of imprisoned leaders from Mandela to Navalny.

From her beginnings with our first local group in New York to her pivotal role on the Board of Directors, Rose's commitment to ending torture; abolishing the death penalty; and defending persecuted artists, writers, and imprisoned activists across the globe has helped to shape Amnesty International USA's trajectory. Her infectious optimism and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on our cause.

From her beginnings with our first local group in New York to her pivotal role on the Board of Directors, **Rose's commitment to ending torture; abolishing the death penalty; and defending persecuted artists, writers, and imprisoned activists across the globe** has helped to shape Amnesty International USA's trajectory.



She was introduced to Amnesty through a friend and soon thereafter joined the NYC local group. In 1973, she attended the first World Conference for the Abolition of Torture in Paris, as part of a four person U.S. delegation with Joan Baez, Ramsey Clark, and Andrew Blane.

Rose's dedication to our organization is truly remarkable, and we are deeply grateful for her ongoing support. Her decision to leave a personal legacy gift is a profound expression of her belief in our mission and the power of collective action.



In honor of Rose, we are proud to introduce The Rose Styron Fund for Individuals at Risk. This enduring fund will sustain Amnesty's signature work to release unlawfully imprisoned activists and thereby guarantee Rose's legacy for generations to come.

Please consider joining us and former AIUSA Executive Directors, Paul O'Brien (present), Margaret Huang (2015-2020), Larry Cox (2006-2011), Bill Schulz (1994 – 2006), Jack Healey (1982-1994), and David Hawk (1974-1978) in continuing Rose's legacy by making a tax-deductible donation that will ensure her spirit of activism lives on. Visit the link below to contribute or scan the QR code. [Amnestyusa.org/rocestyron](https://amnestyusa.org/rocestyron)

INVEST AND ENGAGE

F R E E W I L L 

GIFT TO PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

We all want a safe, secure, and bright future for our loved ones. One of the best ways to ensure that is by creating your estate plan. Everyone needs an estate plan – it is an essential legal document that allows you to make a plan, make sure your wishes are clearly known and followed, and protect the people and causes that you care about. This task has traditionally been complicated, expensive, and inaccessible, so Amnesty International is excited to share a free, easy-to-use resource that allows you to write a legally valid will or trust in under 20 minutes, at no personal cost.

It is a simple way to get peace of mind and check off an important life task. Just as you will be investing in your own future, you will have the option to invest in the future of human rights defenders by creating an optional legacy gift.

Write your will today and get started on protecting the things you care about at FreeWill.com/Amnesty.

Questions? Please reach out to Olivia Coady at ocoady@aiusa.org or by calling 872-299-5659.



FINANCIALS-2023

Thanks to the generous contributions from our donors, 2023 marked another successful year for Amnesty International USA (AIUSA). Our revenue increased 3.5% compared to 2022, enabling us to enhance our efforts in addressing human rights crises.

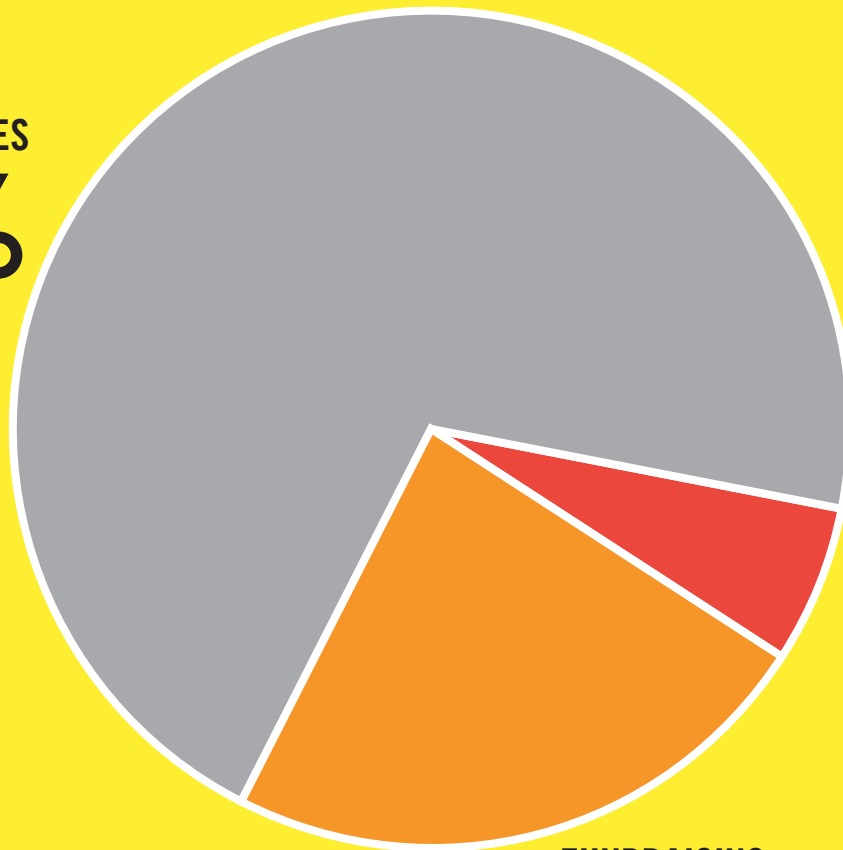
More than 70.7% of AIUSA's expenditures directly support our programmatic objectives, including the liberation of prisoners of conscience, combatting discrimination, aiding refugees and migrants, reducing gun violence, and advocating for global human rights policies. The substantial growth in donor backing over recent years has facilitated the expansion of both our programmatic initiatives and fundraising endeavors.

Our financial standing remains robust, particularly in December when traditional year-end giving bolsters our cash reserves. AIUSA continues to serve as a primary funding section within the global movement. In 2023, we contributed approximately \$11.4 million to the International Secretariat to advance our international efforts.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our donors, whose steadfast support and commitment to human rights enable our work.

2023 EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES
70.7%



**MANAGEMENT
AND GENERAL**
5.9%

FUNDRAISING
23.4%

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND BOARD

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Paul O'Brien
Executive Director

Bethany Criss
Chief Movement Building and
Member
Engagement Officer

Ira Lefton
Chief Legal and Policy Officer

Jean-Claude Toussaint
Chief Finance and Administration
Officer

Julie Hong
Chief IDEA, People, and Culture
Officer

Marcy Bourne
Chief Development Officer

Nadia Daar
Chief Strategy and Impact Officer

Vivek Ramkumar
Chief of Staff

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Board Chair

Penelope Halkiadakis
Board Vice Chair

Matt Kennis
Board Treasurer

Phyl Pautrat
Board Secretary

Christopher T. Foley
Deputy Secretary

Rosa del Angel
Deputy Treasurer

David Yu
Member at Large

Rasel Ahmed
Board Member

Rasha Abdel Latif
Board Member

Marcel Kitissou
Board Member

Robyn Linde
Board Member

İlgü Özler,
Board Member

Deirdre Stieglitz
Board Member

Vibha Venkatesha
Board Member

Sunita Viswanath,
Board Member




JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

Fight injustice and help create a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

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USA