We need you to join the Civil Liberties Majority!

There are many ways to take part in the Trump Resistance Movement:
• Become a member at nyclu.org/join.
• Donate to us by following the "Donate" link at nyclu.org.
• Become an online activist at nyclu.org/act.
• Learn more about volunteering at nyclu.org/volunteer.
• Follow us on Twitter/Instagram: @nyclu.
• Become a member of nyclu.org/nyclu.org.

NYCLU NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM NYCLU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DONNA LIEBERMAN:

There is Strength in Numbers

When I reflect on all that has happened in the past few months, I take inspiration from the thousands of New Yorkers across the state who every day raise their voices against hate. I am humbled by the hundreds of thousands of people who have joined our civil liberties majority since Donald Trump took the White House, an unprecedented growth for our organization. Your passion is unparalleled, and we will need it in the fights to come.

To all of our new members, volunteers, online activists, followers and donors, welcome! You join not just the ACLU and the NYCLU, but also our core of longstanding supporters who share your commitment to dignity, equality and freedom. Together, we are a powerful, unified movement that will stand strong to protect the rights that are at the core of our democracy and stand for the dignity of all New Yorkers against the regime of injustice, hatred, bigotry and discrimination.

We are proud to stand with each and every one of you. From the courthouse to the streets, your commitment, your passion and your energy gives me cause for optimism that we can hold the line for liberty.

Our movement is already a powerful force. On March 13, nearly 1,500 New Yorkers rallied with us in Albany for our Emergency Day of Action. We demanded that lawmakers defend reproductive health care, protect transgender students, provide effective legal representation for all, preserve digital privacy, and require police transparency.

Legislators heard us: The Justice Equality Act passed, making clear that everyone in New York is entitled to proper legal representation in criminal cases even if they cannot afford an attorney. This is critical progress, serving as a reminder that New Yorkers will stand against discrimination and that justice does not compromise.

Of course, this is not just a day-long fight. The state still fails to plug the gap in the Human Rights Law to defend public school students against discrimination. And though lawmakers raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18-years-old and introduced a program to provide free tuition for state four-year colleges, many New Yorkers still fall through the cracks in the policies and funding. Keep reading to see just a few ways that we are hard at work: championing racial and economic justice, standing for immigrants and refugees, and making this state a safe haven and a model for the rest of the nation.

Thank you for standing with us.

Milestone Win Against Juvenile Solitary Confinement

We won a landmark ruling in late February, when a U.S. District Court Judge ordered the Onondaga County Justice Center jail in Syracuse to immediately stop putting children in isolation for 23 hours a day. This is one of a handful of cases where a federal court found that the use of solitary confinement for children flies in the face of the Eighth Amendment’s protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

Judge David Hurd granted a preliminary injunction in our lawsuit, filed with Legal Services of Central New York, to stop the Onondaga County Justice Center from subjecting 16- and 17-year-olds, many who are mentally ill, to solitary confinement. He also ordered that any new form of punishment must include meaningful social interaction and cannot harm the psychological health of children.

Children at the Justice Center were held in solitary confinement for months at a time, sexually harassed by adults, housed in disgusting conditions, denied education and, in some cases, pushed to contemplate suicide. Often the “offenses” that landed them in solitary were speaking loudly or wearing the wrong shoes.

Between October 2015 and 2016, 131 juveniles were admitted. Of those held at least six days, 60 percent spent time in solitary. Ninety-six percent of the juveniles who spent more than two months in the jail were punished with solitary confinement. The average stay was 26 days, but one teenager was sentenced to 400 consecutive days—more than 13 months—in extreme isolation.

This ruling helps make Syracuse a safer haven and can serve as a model for advocates and courts across the state and country.
Upholding the Promise of America for Immigrants

In the aftermath of President Trump’s disastrous first executive order to ban Muslims and refugees from entering the country, the NYCLU, the ACLU, other legal groups and volunteer lawyers scrambled to halt the order and fight for individuals being denied entry into the U.S. But the damage was already done: the government forcibly removed many people who had made it to JFK airport and other points of entry, cancelling their travel documents in the process.

Saba, a graduate student at SUNY Stony Brook, and Amir, a PhD candidate collaborating with scholars at Cornell University, were among those forcibly sent back—Saba to Geneva and Amir to Stockholm. Both had made it to JFK with valid travel documents, only to be detained and forced back before federal U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly issued a stay that allowed them to return to the country.

Amir was handcuffed and detained overnight by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents. He was then told he could either withdraw his application for admission to the U.S. or he would be forcibly removed and barred from entering the U.S. for at least five years. Saba was subjected to an invasive full-body search, told to sign a document without being able to review it, and then put on a plane back to Geneva. Neither were offered access to legal counsel.

“When I was banned from living the life I have always been dreaming of, it felt awful,” said Saba. “This was never something I thought would happen to me here, that I would be told I was dangerous and that I couldn’t come in.”

After the orders to stop the bans were issued, the NYCLU worked tirelessly with CBP agents to ensure Saba and Amir were allowed to enter the country. When Saba and Amir arrived back at JFK on February 5, CBP officials met them at their planes, escorted them to expedited processing, and delivered them to NYCLU attorneys.

“We will defend the rights and values that are the cornerstone of our democracy, and that have built a free, fair and strong New York,” said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. “We are delighted that the two students are now able to return to their studies.”

Trump issued a revised ban that suspends the refugee resettlement program and bans entry to the United States for nationals of six Muslim-majority countries—Iran, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya—with a few exceptions, such as for current visa holders. Two federal courts already blocked the new order nationwide.

Of course, banning Muslims and refugees from entering the country is not the only attack strategy against immigrants in Donald Trump’s arsenal. In addition to trying to bully local police departments into becoming part of his deportation force, Trump signed an executive order saying he would halt federal funding to sanctuary cities that did not cooperate with federal immigration officials.

The NYCLU will continue to fight for the rights of all foreign-born New Yorkers, from families swept up in deportation raids and held in unjust detention to students trying to pass through customs with legal travel documents. We refuse to let the government slam the door on immigrants and our most fundamental values.

Because of Trump’s first immigration ban, 27-year-old Saba (pictured above) was denied reentry to the U.S. after visiting family in Tehran over her winter break. She worried about not being able to continue school and about her home in New York. “I thought America was a dream country where you’re allowed to pursue your goals,” she said. “But the ban showed it’s not like that.” (Photo: David Moriya)
**Why the NYCLU:**

**Q&A with Alex Lloyd**

Alex Lloyd is a Principal Engineer at Google, where he builds cloud storage infrastructure. Alex has lived and worked in lower Manhattan since 2003 and has been a supporter of the ACLU for almost as long.

NYCLU: Which one of our issue areas drove you to donate to us?

ALEX LLOYD: The country’s intense focus on individual freedom is mostly a good thing, but we’re not free to trample other people’s rights. The ACLU has a nuanced understanding of how this should work: the alt-right should be allowed to print crazy rants but cops should not be allowed to act on them.

NYCLU: Is there overlap between the tech industry and civil liberties advocacy? What’s your vision for getting tech employees more involved in our work?

AL: Tech people I’ve worked with often have politics that overlap with the ACLU’s. When the ACLU works to engineer social change, it uses strategies that seem smart to engineer-minded people as well. I’d like to spread more awareness of that. At NYCLU’s annual Supreme Court debrief event, I saw Steven Shapiro talk about Supreme Court strategy before he retired as the ACLU’s legal director. He was explaining how a case about militiamen-themed license plates in Texas would set up useful precedents in a line of other cases. I don’t remember whether we were for or against the license plates—but it struck me how the case was part of a big puzzle the ACLU was working to piece together.

NYCLU: We understand that you’ve been rallying some Google employees to get more involved with the ACLU and NYCLU. How has that been going?

AL: It’s turning out that a surprising number of people are really involved already. Some industry people really responded to my matching gift offer, which is exciting.

NYCLU: Not all of our donors host fundraisers on our behalf. What inspired you to take the extra step and host a house party for us?

AL: I got invited to a cozy NYCLU house party where staff and long-time supporters talked shop and tactics. I learned a lot, especially about how active you are in local issues that get less press. I liked the idea of setting up a discussion with my own network in that kind of intimate setting.

NYCLU: Any advice for people who are also interested in hosting fundraising house parties?

AL: People like meaty discussions about interesting things. Try to set up an environment where people are relaxed and organic conversation can unfold. (And if you’re new to this kind of thing, as I was, it’s no problem; the NYCLU staff really know how to pull an event off!)

NYCLU: What is your philosophy on philanthropy? Why do you do it?

AL: I’m in a place where I can help. I look for organizations that efficiently shape the world around a set of values I care about. I’m trying to do that and make other people in my position aware that they’re able to do the same.

NYCLU: What is something that you’d like to see more of from NYCLU and ACLU?

AL: Getting credit! It’s getting better, especially since the election. But how many people know that the ACLU represented Snowden or Obergefell? How much of New York knew about the unconstitutional state abortion law you were fighting?

*We are grateful for the opportunity to highlight Alex Lloyd and supporters like him. We could not do this work without our strong base behind us. We are proud to have each and every one of you in our corner.*

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**A Growing Resistance Statewide** *(As of March 31)*

- **108,000+** new members *(roughly 170,000 total)*
- **7,000** new volunteers
- **132,024** new online activists *(223,302 total)*
- **37,960** new followers on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms *(135,199 total)*
- **112,000+** new donors, totaling $12M

**NYCLU Associates Council Launches**

The NYCLU just launched its first Associates Council. The council of 30 people, in their late 20s to early 40s, will work closely with NYCLU’s Development staff to raise awareness and funding for our work, and connect the NYCLU to the next generation of socially conscious New Yorker supporters.

The Council is co-chaired by Daryl Drabinsky and Dominic Spence. Merinda Davis, Kristin James and Tori Noxon serve as the Membership, Fundraising and Events Chair, respectively.

Email the council at associatecouncil@nyclu.org.
Election 2017: Biographies of Candidates
NYCLU Board of Directors

WHO MAY VOTE
To be a member, you must have made a non-tax-deductible contribution to the NYCLU or ACLU—withstanding any tax-deductible donations to the NYCLU Foundation or to the ACLU Foundation—since February 1, 2016 and no later than June 15, 2017, or you must be a lifetime member. If you have any questions about your membership status, please call the NYCLU at 212.607.3364 or email kkole@nyclu.org. There is still time to become a member and vote: Go to nyclu.org/join.

CANDIDATES
Each year, the NYCLU Board of Directors elects a Nominating Committee, including current and non-board members from across the state, to assemble a slate that will strengthen the Board of Directors by increasing diversity and representation of the state’s residents and assuring that the Board has the full range of skills and experience necessary to fulfill our responsibilities. Candidates recommended by this year’s Committee were interviewed and carefully considered under a number of key criteria, including but not limited to, the need for regional balance, leadership, representation of diverse constituencies and communities, professional backgrounds and expertise, understanding of the NYCLU’s mission and personal initiative on NYCLU priority issues. This year, the Committee interviewed 19 candidates and 10 incumbents. The Committee believes that our recommended slate represents a wide range of perspectives and has the ability to provide deep expertise on a number of civil liberties issues to the Board.

The annual meeting of the members of the NYCLU will be held on June 22nd, 2017 at the NYCLU offices at 125 Broad Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY, for the purposes of electing directors and receiving the annual report. There are 15 candidates and 15 vacancies. Of the 15 seats on the board that will be filled in the election, the 13 people who get the highest number of votes will be elected to full three-year terms and the two who get the next highest number of votes will serve one-year terms, completing the terms of members who left the board in mid-term. In accordance with the NYCLU bylaws, the NYCLU Nominating Committee nominated 15 people (as indicated in their biographical statements), the exact number of people to be elected.

The candidate biographies are set forth below in alphabetical order. To view lengthier candidate statements, to obtain contact information for individual candidates or to print out a proxy ballot (one CANNOT vote electronically), please visit www.nyclu.org/boardelections.

**Eva-Maria Anthony**

Last year, I was fortunate to be elected to the Board to fill a vacancy. At that time, I could not have imagined the situation we now face with the new administration.

Our core principles as individuals and as a nation are under attack. The rights and liberties that the NYCLU has fought vigilantly to protect are the cornerstone of our freedom. Our attention must not waver in the face of this administration’s unending assaults on those freedoms. During my time on the Board I have been privileged to serve on the Audit/Oversight Committee and the Second Amendment Rights Committee. While making sure that our financial books are in order is certainly not glamorous, we must take extra care knowing that the level to which this administration may go to silence institutions that challenge their power. I look forward, with hope, to continuing to serve this organization in the coming years.

**Tahanie A. Aboushi**

For the last seven years, I have litigated civil rights cases, provided pro-bono legal services through social services organizations, given countless workshops and presentations on immigration issues, and have worked with city officials to combat surveillance of the Muslim community.

In the immediate aftermath of the Executive Order better known as the “Muslim Ban,” I joined the No Ban JFK campaign, filed habeas corpus petitions on behalf of detainees and conducted town hall meetings with Congresswoman Yvette Clark. My efforts were recognized by Senator Jesse Hamilton and I was honored to receive the Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award. NYCLU is intersectional in its defense of civil liberties. Its willingness to collaborate with grassroots organizations makes it among the guardians of our civil rights. I look forward to joining those ranks as we must constantly endeavor for a fair and just society.

**Rebekah Cook-Mack**

I ask for your vote as I seek the opportunity to serve for a fourth term on the NYCLU board. I have served on the Executive Committee and currently Chair the Audit Committee. While the work of the NYCLU has seemed critical in the past, the challenges of the next four years are stark. If reelected I will redouble my efforts to support the work of the organization.

I will work to make sure the NYCLU is positioned not just to defend our civil rights over the next four years but over the next decade. As the mother of two small children—one of whom proudly attends NYC Public School—I feel that the work of the NYCLU to create a compassionate world that respects the civil rights of all New Yorkers has never had a deeper meaning. I would be honored to be reelected and given the opportunity to continue my service.

**Brooke Ellison**

I am an Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University, specializing in the intersection of science, medicine, and society, particularly medical and science ethics and policy. My interest in these fields grows out of an accident that left me paralyzed from my neck down and dependent on a ventilator. Since receiving my undergraduate and Masters degrees at Harvard University, I have worked in the legislative, nonprofit, and academic sectors, focusing on science ethics, and how scientific advances can be pursued comprehensively and justly. As a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, I have also worked on the protection of human and civil rights for people with disabilities, through the pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. If elected to the NYCLU Board, I plan to work on these fronts: protecting the advancement of science, ensuring that medicine is practiced justly, and fighting for the rights of people with disabilities.

**Michael Gallagher**

It is an honor to be re-nominated for a second term and to be a part of the NYCLU—an awe-inspiring organization, especially in a time of democratic uncertainty. The staff and clients’ commitment to stand against injustice is remarkable. During my initial term on the NYCLU, I worked with talented individuals, fundraised, served on the Investment Committee and helped develop a years-in-the-making investment policy. My goal is to enable the work of the organization, to volunteer, raise funds, advise when asked, and assist the organization in its lobbying, policy, and legal work. I ask for your vote so I may share my passion and continue to serve the organization I so deeply believe in. Please see my online statement for my work with the NYCLU, my professional background (plaintiff’s antitrust lawyer) and my email, for questions. Thank you for being a member. Your support makes a difference.
Michael J. Hall

I am honored to have served on the NYCLU Board for the last nine years and am equally honored to have been re-nominated by the Nominating Committee. I currently serve as the NYCLU Equity Officer and am a member of the Executive Committee. Having been involved with my state ACLU affiliate for four years, I have a deep appreciation for the work we do and for the difference we can make. Although we are in challenging times, I find myself consistently proud of the work done by the NYCLU to protect and preserve the civil liberties of not only our fellow New Yorkers but by extension Americans across the country. From our involvement in the Windsor decision to our more recent work related to the “travel ban” executive orders, we remain vigilant and tenacious in our mission. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for the NYCLU Board.

Tracy Givens Hunter

Tracy Givens Hunter is the Principal Navigator & Program Director for Public Policy and Education Fund of New York, a statewide grassroots organization fighting for social and economic justice for all New York residents. Tracy is a Board Member of the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the NYCLU, member of Hudson Valley End the New Jim Crow Action Network, and Undoing Racism Organizer. Tracy was previously Citizen Action Hudson Valley Lead Community Organizer for Raise the Wage and organizer for Alliance for Quality Education and Health Care for All NY. She was also previously Southern Dutchess NAACP VP President, Chair of Criminal Justice Committee and Chair of Health Committee. Tracy was the Team leader for ATT’s White Plains United Way and Junior Achievements from 2005 to 2012. Tracy has a B.A. in Information Systems and A.S in Business Management.

Amin Kassam

Senior Counsel at Bloomberg L.P.

It has been an honor serving as a member of the Board of Directors for NYCLU. At a time of great uncertainty, I feel privileged to be a part of an organization that is striving to protect the civil rights of all New Yorkers. In my first term, I actively served on the Nominating Committee, the Privacy Committee, and the Audit Committee. In addition, I advised the NYCLU on matters involving data security, privacy, and intellectual property. I have strived to serve as an ambassador of the organization and to connect it to communities that may not be as well represented within its membership.

Most recently, I organized a panel discussion with the NYCLU, Muslim Bar and Metropolitan Black Bar Associations entitled “Why Black Lives Matter to Muslims.” If elected, I hope to continue to focus on these efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion within the organization.

Jonathan Manes

I am an ACLU-trained civil liberties lawyer with broad experience defending constitutional rights in court and supporting movements for law reform. I am also a member of the faculty at the University at Buffalo School of Law, where I direct the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic. My expertise centers on issues involving national security, surveillance, free speech, and privacy. I have a special commitment to government transparency work—something that has been central to so many of the NYCLU’s successes. I would bring to the Board the perspective of a lawyer and educator active in the legal community in Buffalo and Western New York. I have a deep commitment to the NYCLU: My first job as a lawyer was at the ACLU and I have worked alongside the organization ever since. I am ready to work hard to further strengthen the NYCLU and its indispensable role throughout the state.

Arjun Patel

Partner – PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Management Consulting practice

It is my privilege to seek re-election to the NYCLU Board. As the son of immigrants who moved to this country because of the availability of public services for my disabled brother, I am deeply committed to the rights of immigrants and the disabled. Serving on the NYCLU board has redoubled my passion for immigrants’ rights, prison reform, women’s autonomy, and many other issues facing vulnerable populations in these challenging times. I serve on the Development Committee, working to increase membership and awareness among those unfamiliar with the NYCLU (e.g., Technology, Finance). I am also working with my firm to sponsor pro-bono work for the NYCLU. As a management consultant, I have deep experience working with clients to transform businesses and adapt to rapid change—much like what the NYCLU faces. I hope to continue to bring my business strategy skills and private sector connections to benefit the NYCLU.

Insha Rahman

I have long been an admirer of the incredible work that the NYCLU does in New York City and across New York state to secure justice and civil rights for all New Yorkers. Now, in this time of great threat to our rights, NYCLU’s work is more critical than ever. I am a lawyer by training and I work at the Vera Institute, where I lead projects on bail and pretrial justice. Prior to Vera, I was a public defender in the Bronx. If elected to the NYCLU Board, I will harness my expertise in criminal justice reform to serve the organization through capacity building and fundraising. By serving on the Board I hope to support the growth of NYCLU’s work, especially in the area of criminal justice reform, where the organization already has deep roots. I would be honored to serve and I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Daniel Stewart

It is self-evident that the role of the NYCLU is as important today as ever before. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board for two years and support this work in all ways possible. I bring an international perspective in life experience—born and raised in the UK, having lived all over Africa, Asia and Australasia—and work as a human rights lawyer for the United Nations. These experiences have enriched and directed my understanding of how the NYCLU/ACLU is both inspiration to and student of the fight for civil liberties and rights across the globe. The urgency to fight for these rights has been grounded by my work on many NYCLU Board committees—Development, Investment, Privacy, co-chair of Economic Justice. Plainly put, I remain committed to our work and determined to continue to bring a different voice to the Board.

Jordan Thomas

Even as “Stop and Frisk,” the policy which initially compelled me to apply for board membership, has been officially ended in New York City, I believe in this political climate we must find ways to remain ever vigilant. Furthermore, the exposure I have received to other civil liberties issues during my board tenure encourages me to seek another term. My greatest opportunity thus far to immerse myself in the work of the board and familiarize myself with its practices, customs, and procedures was serving on the Nominating Committee last year. Through our recruitment and deliberations, I learned what the Board values in its members—an individual voice and steadfast commitment to civil liberties. Going forward, I look forward to my work on the Education and Statewide Presence Committees, as my background in education and political organizing are conducive to that work. Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Washington

I am honored to be nominated to the NYCLU Board of Directors. I have worked for FDNY for the past 28 years, serving as a Captain in a Crown Heights, Brooklyn firehouse for the past 11 years. I served as President of the Vulcan Society, an organization of NYC’s Black Firefighters, from 1999 thru 2007. During that time, I led the organization in bringing media, political and legal pressure against the city to change its discriminatory actions that were keeping Blacks out of FDNY. These actions culminated in, among other things, a landmark lawsuit that has resulted in many hundreds of Black New Yorkers becoming NYC firefighters who otherwise wouldn’t have. I feel my background as a long time civil servant will bring a slightly different perspective to a great board. I look forward to helping the NYCLU achieve its great mission.

Ellen Yaroshesfsky

I am delighted to be a candidate to continue my service to the NYCLU Board. In past years, I have participated in the development of the Economic Justice Policy as well as consulted regularly with staff about legal ethics and criminal justice issues and sanctuary cities. I am a longtime supporter of the amazing and varied work of the organization. I have been involved, directly and indirectly with NYCLU staff on civil rights litigation and on youth justice issues including school suspension, solitary confinement and stop and frisk. Most recently in my new position at the Friedman Institute at Hofstra Law School, I have begun to work with the NYCLU Nassau County Chapter on jail conditions. I hope to continue to work on a range of policies, programs and issues to address the profound challenges raised by the Trump administration.