

A photograph of a crowded city street, likely in New York City, with tall buildings on either side. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered, many holding signs and cameras. A sign in the crowd reads "WE REJECT THE PRESIDENT ELECT". Another sign says "OWN GREED OPPRESSION PERSECUTION". A sign on a truck in the background says "WE REJECT THE PRESIDENT ELECT". The sky is clear and blue. The text "WE WERE MADE FOR THIS" is overlaid in large white letters in the upper right corner.

WE WERE MADE FOR THIS

**NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016 was quite the year. The peaks have been high, marked by progress we are proud of and wins from which we can build. And the lows have been stunning, riddled with setbacks that we face with clear eyes.

Donald Trump's rise to the highest office in our nation poses the most serious threat to our democracy we've ever seen. Our most fundamental values and freedoms are at stake like never before.

But we are resolved to prevent greed and hate from overshadowing hope.

2016 also marked the New York Civil Liberties Union's 65th anniversary. I take great pride in looking at how far we have come as an organization and as a state since our founding. I revel in our strides and successes of the past year: the lawsuit for farmworkers who demand humane working and living conditions, a legal ruling that solitary confinement of children is unconstitutional and historic state legislation that provides paid family leave for New York workers.

These gains may seem to pale in comparison to the exceptionally divisive national election, to the shocking transfer of power to the Trump regime. On the contrary, it is our sustained progress that gives us strength.

In the face of Trump's hateful rhetoric and policies, I know we can make New York a civil liberties model for the nation. A win in New York can push back against the onslaught of reactionary policies. And the NYCLU has brought home those wins for the past 65 years.

Since the election, the NYCLU has grown in record numbers: our membership has more than tripled, demonstrating clearly that people value us as a nonpartisan, stalwart champion of freedom. Together, we will break down the silos that have weakened our movements in the past.

Our members are mobilized. Fired up. Impassioned.

They are part of the active, engaged citizenry at the heart of the resistance movement. They are a loud reminder that in America, the people hold the power. We are proud to stand with them.

Together, we will launch an unrelenting defense of the promise of this nation.

In the following pages, you will see how the NYCLU is learning from our past to shape our future. We are pivoting our core work to confront this historic crisis by pursuing three ambitious initiatives: Protecting Democracy, Defending Justice and Fighting the Hate. This work will be undertaken alongside a coordinated network of grassroots organizations and passionate activists across New York and the country.

Taken in total, this is our Trump Resistance Movement.

The NYCLU has never run from a fight. For the past 65 years, we have worked tirelessly to advance an inclusive, comprehensive civil liberties agenda in New York. We have fought for the freedom of speech and the First Amendment. For abortion rights and marriage equality. For sweeping police reform and equal education opportunities. And we've become battle-hardened ensuring immigrant rights and religious tolerance in the state.

Today, as we come up against an unprecedented crisis for our democracy, we are not intimidated by the challenge. We are marching straight into it.

When I think about this organization's history, the current political landscape and our nation's future, I am buoyed by one certainty:

We were made for this.

Sincerely,

Donna Lieberman

NEW YORK AND THE NATION A TRADITION OF NATIONAL IMPACT

For the past 65 years, the New York Civil Liberties Union has been dedicated to defending civil liberties and civil rights. Founded in 1951 as the New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), we are a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization with nine offices and nearly 200,000 supporters across the state. Our mission is to defend and promote the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution and the New York Constitution.

As part of the ACLU's nationwide network, the NYCLU's successes resonate on a national stage. A leader in the movement for civil liberties, the NYCLU's gains mean we hold the line for freedom not just in the Empire State, but also around the nation.

Here's a look at how our statewide strategies have helped influence the nationwide conversation throughout our history.

#TAKECTRL

Digital Privacy

Technology advances at a remarkable speed, and our privacy laws have been left in the dust. The NYCLU is working to protect all New Yorkers' digital privacy rights. In January, we celebrated the introduction of the New York State Electronic Communication Privacy Act, a bill that will require police to get a warrant before seizing or accessing sensitive information from people's phones, emails and text messages. Ours was one of 17 simultaneous campaign launches across the nation in a coordinated, bipartisan effort led by the ACLU to demand protections of student privacy, location tracking and personal data.



CAMPAIGN FOR SMART JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Reform

Whether through stop-and-frisk practices that harass hundreds of thousands of law abiding New York City residents or draconian Rockefeller Drug Law sentencing, the excesses of the criminal justice system impact us all, especially low-income communities and communities of color. The NYCLU has had incredible success in bringing accountability and transparency to the system, winning cases that blocked police surveillance of political activities (1985), dismantled the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices (2013) and overhauled the public defense system (2014 and 2017). Our strategies fit into the ACLU's ongoing nationwide efforts to reform the criminal justice system to ensure fair treatment for all.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Abortion and Contraceptive Access

The NYCLU is committed to expanding the reproductive rights of all New Yorkers, but especially the most vulnerable: low-income women, women of color and adolescents. We lifted a ban on discussing family planning or dispensing contraceptives at city hospitals (1958). We challenged a state law that limited women's right to an abortion (1967) and helped push the state legislature to decriminalize abortion (1970) three years before *Roe v. Wade*. We also won access to abortion for women with low incomes (1991). Keeping New York a safe haven for abortion access is pivotal; our track record of progress has shaped a national conversation, and we continue to push for legislation that will bring our state abortion law in line with the protections of *Roe v. Wade*.

OUT FOR FREEDOM

Marriage Equality

The NYCLU is a leader in protecting and fighting for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We were influential in bringing the freedom to marry to every state in the nation—first through aggressive advocacy campaigns that enshrined the right here in New York (2011), and then through our landmark case on behalf of Edie Windsor. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in *United States v. Windsor* (2013) ignited the national movement's momentum in taking down all remaining discriminatory laws and constitutional amendments in the states.

WE WERE MADE FOR THIS PROTECTING DEMOCRACY



Freedom of speech, the press, association, assembly and petition: these guarantees of the First Amendment form the bedrock of our democracy. Without them, all of our fundamental rights erode. Since our founding, the First Amendment has been the heart of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Beyond written or spoken words, the right to dissent is the right of citizens to organize, to rally, to make themselves heard in order to achieve political and social change. We have the right to do this without fear of impediment or reprisal.

But with Donald Trump in the White House—his attacks on critics, his threats against journalists, his embrace of extremist right-wing causes—we are already seeing the warning signs of the unprecedented assault on the First Amendment to come.

The NYCLU will not run from this fight. We were made for it.

When the NYCLU was founded, the McCarthy-era witch hunts were in full force. New Yorkers from all walks of life were targeted—teachers, artists, janitors. The NYCLU fought back, challenging demands for loyalty oaths and defending New Yorkers’ right to think unpopular thoughts, to associate as they pleased and to speak their minds free from government recrimination. We successfully defended playwright Arthur Miller, under investigation for alleged left-wing affiliations, and *The New York Times*’ copywriter Robert Shelton, charged with contempt of Congress for refusing to answer the infamous question, “Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?”

Since then, we have fought against countless methods used to suppress speech and expression: challenging school boards’ carte blanche book bans, demanding access to crucial data from government agencies, and defending protestors and media representatives at demonstrations as well as people filming police encounters.

Protecting the First Amendment means protecting the right to protest. Protecting the will of dissenting people made public. Given that the Trump administration is facing ferocious public criticism and resistance in New York, we can expect attacks that will try to “make an example” of dissenters here.



(Left): Protestors rally in the streets in New York City to show resistance against Donald Trump’s federal policies. (Above): An anti-war rally brought hundreds of thousands of protestors to the streets of New York City in 2003, resulting in several clashes between the NYPD and demonstrators. The NYCLU trains legal observers to keep a watchful eye on interactions between law enforcement and protestors to help ensure First Amendment rights are respected during public rallies.

We defended demonstrators who were unlawfully arrested at anti-war rallies during the Vietnam War era and again in the wake of the Iraq War, when we also exposed and challenged the NYPD’s pervasive interference with the public’s right to protest. We pioneered the concept of “symbolic speech,” whether the symbol is a peace sign on the American flag or a draft card set ablaze. We protected and extended photography rights on mass public transportation, outside federal buildings and in New York City streets.

Organizing “know your rights” trainings for protestors, providing teams of legal observers at demonstrations and advocating for policies that respect the right to protest are central to the NYCLU’s First Amendment strategies. In 2016, as always, we helped dozens of groups secure permits and understand their rights to protest—regardless of their point of view.

This work has readied us to build the Trump Resistance Movement, a statewide civil liberties majority that unites around a shared commitment to dignity, justice and equity. Our focus is on individuals—giving people the tools they need to be engaged citizens, to hold their representatives accountable for protecting civil rights and liberties—and on organizations by working with partners new and old to coordinate our efforts and maximize impact.

The movement is already hard at work. In March 2017, we brought together more than 1,000 supporters—the largest statewide gathering in our history—in Albany for an Emergency Day of Action rally. Under the banner “Justice Does Not Compromise,” we demanded state legislative action to safeguard vital civil liberties that are under threat from the Trump administration.

Fundamental to our democracy is not just free speech, but our access to the ballot box. From New York’s suburbs to the United States Supreme Court, the NYCLU has protected the voting rights of all New Yorkers—preserving and advancing access to the political process that shapes our state, our country and our future. We guaranteed the promise of “one person, one vote” in New York City and Yonkers, restored the voting rights of people with paroled felony convictions and established the rights of students to vote where they attend school.

Our concern is not who you vote for—it is making sure that if you’re eligible to cast your vote, you can.

Leading up to the 2016 election, we made sure New Yorkers knew their rights and what to do if they encountered problems when they tried to cast their ballots. We ran a hotline in highly contested counties in Western New York so voters could report intimidation or other problems at the polls. In other counties around the state, we advanced on-the-ground election protection work, including assisting voters with finding polling places, helping voters whose names did not show up on registries get affidavit ballots and serving as a buffer against voter intimidation.

This is just the beginning. We will continue to empower New Yorkers of all backgrounds, and from all corners of the state, to exercise and defend their rights. We will continue to protect these most fundamental pillars of our democracy.



PARTNER PROFILE

Gwen Carr, Activist for Police Transparency and Accountability

One of the featured speakers at our Emergency Day of Action rally in March was Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, a black 43-year-old father of six and grandfather of two, who died on July 17, 2015, after NYPD officers held him in an illegal chokehold while he pleaded, “I can’t breathe!”

Garner’s violent death at the hands of police launched nationwide protests over police brutality, and Carr has since been an outspoken advocate for police transparency and accountability. She has stood at the forefront of many demonstrations, demanding justice for her son and others who died in encounters with the police.

After a grand jury declined to indict the officer most directly involved in Garner’s death, Carr is determined to keep pressure on policymakers. Together, we are demanding a policing model that would require law enforcement to report encounters that lead to an arrest, summons, ticket or prosecution. It would also make information on deaths that occur while in police custody accessible to the public.

“We must demand that our elected officials make police departments collect the data and report the data on these police killings,” Carr said during her remarks. “Our New York state leaders have to remember that we have a vote. And if they want our vote, they have to come and get it. They have to bring something to the table, or they will be on the menu.”

PUBLIC EDUCATION: PROTECTING THE FOUNDATION OF AN ENGAGED CITIZENRY

The landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* was filed in 1951, the same year the NYCLU was founded. And what was true those 65 years ago is still true today: separate is not equal. It is impossible to climb the societal ladder when it loops in a vicious cycle of segregation and inequality.

Because of our successful advocacy, New York City has the most comprehensive school discipline data reporting in the country, requiring data by both the NYPD and the Department of Education on the use of metal detectors, handcuffs and restraints in city schools as well as instances of arrests and summonses, and the demographics of the affected students. This is an incredible tool in our efforts to improve school climate and restorative justice at every level of the NYC education system and will be invaluable in our efforts to replicate success statewide.

School discipline, however, is just the tip of the iceberg.

New York schools are the most segregated in the country, particularly in NYC. There are a number of reasons for this: housing segregation, household income levels and rapid gentrification. But the city's schools are even more economically and racially segregated than its neighborhoods—and for low-income, minority students, that usually translates to inferior education.

The problem is statewide. Refugee and immigrant students often face barriers to enrollment, such as being funneled into inadequate alternative programs that deny them the opportunity to get degrees, take basic classes or socialize and integrate with other students.

Nearly one in six Utica residents is a refugee; the city is a safe haven for those fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. Yet in 2007, the Utica City School District began excluding refugees older than 16 with limited English proficiency from the city's high school and diverting them to segregated and inferior alternative programs.

We sued, and in 2016 we won a settlement that guarantees these students their educational rights.

Equally alarming is the appointment of Betsy DeVos for Education Secretary, forecasting efforts to undermine the funding of public schools and to spread school choice and voucher programs for charter schools, which will only reinforce segregation and oppression of our most vulnerable students.

Economic and racial integration is the best way to close the achievement gap among our youth. The NYCLU is developing a strategic campaign designed to tackle school segregation statewide. We will challenge all voucher legislation in New York. We will focus on building partnerships with organizations that represent vulnerable student populations and launch a public education campaign that highlights the problems around school choice and other inequitable alternatives to public education.

We have always held protecting every New York student's right to an equal education opportunity among our highest organizational priorities. As the attempts to undermine this right build, we will increase our strategic effort to protect this fundamental underpinning of democracy.



(Above): The school decentralization movement had its start at I.S. 201 in the 1950s. The NYCLU's 65-year fight for equal educational opportunity has never wavered. In addition to our efforts to integrate schools in New York City and statewide, we are working with trusted and new allies, educators and parents to realize fully our vision for school climate and restorative justice at every level of the public education system.

WE WERE MADE
FOR THIS
DEFENDING
JUSTICE



Our criminal justice system is an integral part of our democratic society, vital to our security and freedom. Essential to this vision is that the system would treat people equally and serve justice fairly. Unfortunately, this ideal is not the reality.

Since our founding, the NYCLU has fought to make New York’s criminal justice system live up to the ideal, one that serves and protects people while respecting their rights. We joined the fight to end capital punishment in New York in 1965, realizing our victory nearly 40 years later. In 1976, after a decade of lobbying efforts, we won reforms that protect innocent people charged with crimes by clearing their records when charges are dropped. In 1980, NYCLU litigation led a federal court to rule that warrantless searches of parolees’ homes are unconstitutional. As the ink dried on the draconian Rockefeller drug laws, the NYCLU began a 30-year reform campaign. In 2009, we finally succeeded in ending the regime of mandatory jail terms that trapped tens of thousands of New Yorkers, mostly men of color convicted of non-violent drug offenses.

Today, as one video after another records police officers assaulting and even killing unarmed civilians—typically black men and boys—we are in the midst of a national debate about proposals to curb police misconduct, ranging from body cameras to grand jury reform.

Our ten years of work to end the abusive practices of New York City’s stop-and-frisk program proved that the system violated the constitutional rights of millions of people and corroded the ability of communities of color to trust the police. It brought about needed reforms and monitoring structures.

But there is much work to be done to make our communities feel safer and respected. Some issues—and elected officials—demand greater vigilance.

The election of Donald Trump poses new threats. His “law and order” regime prizes police aggression. It views black people as criminals, Mexicans as rapists and Muslims as terrorists. It could erase important criminal justice reforms in New York and across the country.

A key advisor to Trump’s campaign was former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, against whose administration we filed over 30 lawsuits and amicus briefs, winning more than 90 percent of them. Throughout the Giuliani administration, the NYCLU kept close watch on the NYPD and its oversight body, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, publishing seven separate reports that criticized the agency for failing to do its job. The NYCLU’s 1998 report, “Deflecting Blame,” critiqued Giuliani administration failures to

(Left): Louis, a participant in our Citizen Quota Project, told us about constant harassment from police openly trying to fill illegal arrest and summons quotas. “They tell you that you can’t hang out in your own hallways,” he said. “How is it loitering if I pay rent?” (Right): The NYCLU commissioned this artwork for the Citizen Quota Project to help participants identify police surveillance tools they regularly encounter in their neighborhoods.





PARTNER PROFILE

Edwin Raymond, NYPD Officer and Activist for Dismantling Quota Requirements

Edwin Raymond has lived his whole life in East Flatbush, a West Indian neighborhood in Brooklyn. When he joined the NYPD, he had ideas about how the NYPD could keep the peace without punishing thousands of people for trivial offenses.

When Edwin spoke out about an illegal department quota system that required officers to produce a certain number of arrests and summonses a month, he was the one punished—assigned to punitive posts, denied overtime and given negative performance evaluations. He was even denied a promotion despite placing eighth on a test given to about 6,000 aspiring sergeants.

Edwin has seen firsthand the damage the system wreaks on the communities he's sworn to protect and serve.

"It's unbelievable how they lie to the public," Edwin says. "Even officers that don't support me, they know there's a quota. Everyone knows there's a damn quota."

Edwin is fighting back. He secretly recorded several of his supervisors talking about his lack of "activity," and using other euphemisms for quotas. In August 2015, he joined the NYPD 12, a group of officers of color who claim officers are illegally required to meet quotas for arrests and summonses. In tandem with our Citizen Quota Project, the NYCLU is working with the NYPD 12 to help raise the voices of other officers concerned about quota pressures and racism.

reform police practices after several notorious cases of police brutality. We refuse to let these harmful practices come roaring back to our state.

Bringing about meaningful reform means listening to those most impacted by bad policy. With the Citizen Quota Campaign, the NYCLU surveyed more than 1,000 New Yorkers that live in three of NYC's most heavily policed neighborhoods: Brownsville, East Harlem, and Morrisania. We asked for thoughts about the NYPD and about how to change policing throughout the city. Despite a 2010 ban on law enforcement quota systems and the NYPD's repeated denial of their continued use, many survey participants said they feel that their neighborhoods are targeted to fill arrest and ticket quotas.

"The officers around here are very free with us. When they feel pressure from headquarters, you see them on the streets, in the buildings," said Louis, a Citizen Quota participant. "The harassment is constant. It needs to change."

Once swept into the criminal justice system, one is subjected to its continuous failings, especially the poorest

among us. The NYCLU is committed to the pursuit of effective counsel for low-income people accused of crimes.

In 1963 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state must provide a competent lawyer to people facing criminal charges who are too poor to hire one. New York state passed this responsibility to the counties, creating a patchwork of underfunded, overburdened public defense programs. And now, poor New Yorkers, every day, are denied their constitutional right to counsel.

When the state failed to reform the system, the NYCLU brought our landmark class action lawsuit *Hurrell-Harring et al v. New York State*, which overhauled indigent defense in five counties. In 2016, lawmakers passed historic bipartisan legislation to fundamentally reform the public defense system statewide, but Governor Cuomo vetoed the bill on New Year's Eve. Despite the setback we didn't give up, and in April 2017 lawmakers passed similar legislation: the Justice Equality Act. As a result, proper guidelines and training for public defense will be in place, and the state will reimburse counties and cities for the expenses they incur when providing attorneys for criminal defendants who cannot afford a private one.

BRINGING AN END TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Overcrowding, violence, sexual abuse, filth, inadequate medical care, discriminatory treatment—prison conditions throughout our nation pose grave risks to prisoner health and safety. In New York’s prison system, one of the largest in the country, the NYCLU has a long history of fighting one of the most dangerous and inhumane prison practices: solitary confinement.

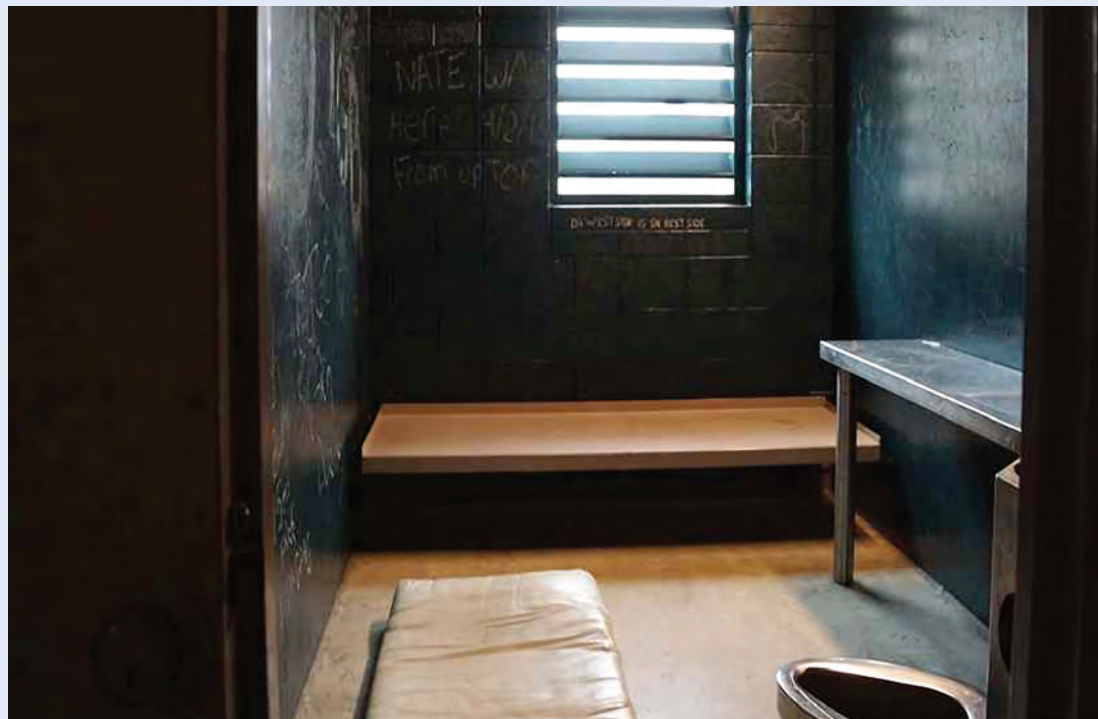
In March 2016, federal Judge Shira A. Scheindlin approved a settlement agreement between the NYCLU and New York state that will comprehensively overhaul solitary confinement. The agreement ended the solitary confinement of more than 1,100 people—one-quarter of the current solitary population. It also eliminates solitary confinement as punishment for minor violations, limits the duration of most solitary sentences and abolishes several of solitary’s most dehumanizing features.

No prison system of this size has ever taken on such sweeping and comprehensive reforms to solitary confinement at one time. New York state became a vital partner in developing the agreement, a seismic shift that will make way for further change and sets up New York as a model for the nation.

“This is the end of an era where people are just thrown into the box on the whim of a corrections officer,” said Taylor Pendergrass, lead counsel and NYCLU Senior Staff Attorney. “This is not the end for solitary confinement reform, but we really think it’s a watershed moment.”

While the new policies and monitoring structures are put into place, the NYCLU remains vigilant. Together with Legal Services of Central New York, we filed a federal lawsuit in September challenging the practice of putting children into solitary confinement at the Justice Center jail in Syracuse. The jail routinely holds 16- and 17-year-olds, many of whom have mental illnesses, in near-complete isolation for weeks and months. They are sexually harassed, held in disgusting conditions, denied education and even pushed to contemplating suicide. Children are routinely sent to solitary for “offenses” such as speaking loudly or wearing the wrong shoes. In February 2017, a U.S. District Court Judge ordered the Justice Center to immediately stop putting children in isolation.

Solitary confinement is torture and causes life-long damage. The NYCLU will continue the fight to end this cruel practice throughout the state.



(Right): A solitary confinement cell at the Onondaga County Justice Center in Syracuse. 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.

WE WERE MADE
FOR THIS
FIGHTING
THE HATE

EQUALITY
FOR ALL



Donald Trump called for a return to greatness. But his hateful rhetoric demonizes millions of people: Muslims, people of color, women, people with disabilities, immigrants and the LGBTQ community. Now millions are being marginalized and attacked in his America. Almost everyone is at risk, and not just from the government, but from emboldened people asserting hatred and bigotry in daily life.

The NYCLU stands ready to protect against these threats. Together with trusted partners and new allies, we will mobilize broadly to expand and enforce prohibitions against discrimination in the streets, workplace, schools and elsewhere.

In the aftermath of Trump's first executive order banning Muslims and refugees from entering the country, the NYCLU, the ACLU, other legal groups and volunteer lawyers halted the order and fought for individuals being denied entry into the U.S. But the damage was already done: the government forcibly removed many people who made it to JFK airport and other points of entry. The NYCLU refuses to let the government slam the door on immigrants. We helped two students who were detained and forced out of the U.S. return and continue their studies.

This administration is following through on its threats. But the NYCLU stands for all New Yorkers, and we have a long history of standing up for immigrants' rights.

In 1982, we sued on behalf of immigrant detainees at the Brooklyn Detention Center. Nearly 20 years later, we fought against a "special" immigrant registration program that exploited racial, ethnic and religious profiling. In 2010, we made strides for workers' rights, including a huge victory when the New York State Legislature passed a law establishing basic human rights and labor protections for domestic workers, most



(Left): Demonstrators gathered throughout New York City during the Women's March. (Above): Rosa is a proud daughter of farmworkers. "The biggest issue is that farmworkers are afraid of speaking up," she says. "They're afraid that an employer will get angry and call immigration—and that includes when they get injured. I try to tell people not to be scared. They have rights."

of whom are immigrant women of color. And in 2011, we were instrumental in suspending a federal deportation program that tears families apart and encourages racial profiling.

Currently, we're fighting a lawsuit on behalf of farmworkers seeking the right to organize and collectively bargain for humane working and living conditions on farms across the state. New York's 60,000 farmworkers tend to make wages well below the poverty level and often live in squalid, isolated labor camps rife with pest infestations and without regular access to transportation. Because of a racist law left over from the Jim Crow era, farmworkers are unconstitutionally excluded from the workplace protections afforded to nearly all other workers in New York state, including a day of rest, overtime pay, disability insurance and the right to organize without retaliation. As many as 75 percent are undocumented, a fact supervisors use to intimidate them into silence.

But even if we win for farmworkers, we must continue to protect other vulnerable communities.

We've seen what the NYPD is capable of when it comes to surveillance. As documented extensively in their own records, the NYPD's Intelligence Division built a program dedicated to suspicionless surveillance of Muslims in the

greater New York City area, despite the fact that their activities did not result in a single terrorism investigation.

This January, we established groundbreaking protections for American Muslims by reaching final agreements in *Raza v. City of New York*, a three-year legal battle with the NYPD over this discriminatory surveillance of the Muslim community, and *Handschu v. Special Services Division*, our three-decade old settlement that protects against political surveillance. With both settlements, new safeguards will be put into place, resulting in a safer city and a more effective NYPD.

In the face of today's anti-Muslim rhetoric, this agreement sends an important message to the rest of the nation: we can prioritize public safety without trampling on constitutional rights.

Trump's brazen bragging about sexual assault and the threats to women's reproductive freedom coming from his administration and Congress are equally frightening. The NYCLU remains a champion of women's rights and will continue to fight for policies that empower women and guarantee their bodily autonomy.

This year, we helped pass historic state legislation that made New York the fourth state in the nation to provide paid family leave for workers who need time off to care for a newborn or a sick relative. It will extend to almost all workers, including the 6.4 million who do not currently have any type of paid family leave. It will have the greatest impact on low-income, hourly workers, who are disproportionately people of color and overwhelmingly women.

Of course, there is still work to be done.

Trump may not come after paid family leave, but he has repeatedly threatened the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision establishing a woman's constitutional right to abortion. New York's own abortion law—drafted three years earlier and left unchanged—criminalizes abortion after 24 weeks unless the woman is dying, which is out of step with *Roe v. Wade*. We are pressing to strengthen New York's abortion law, all the more critical given the threats at the federal level.

These threats to our state and our country are real. The NYCLU is under no delusions about what is at stake. And we are prepared to defend our diversity and fight for our hard won freedoms at every level.



STAFF MEMBER PROFILE

Yusuf Abdul-Qadir, Director, Central New York Chapter on School Integration and Education Access

For much of our shared history, opportunities to achieve the American Dream excluded a great number of people. Equal education is essential to a functional democracy, and dismantling segregation in schools is ever pertinent today. The NYCLU is focused on identifying how a racial caste system expresses itself in our nation's most divided school systems: in New York City, on Long Island, and in Onondaga, Rockland and Westchester Counties.

For me, this issue is personal. Originally from the Bronx, after elementary school I moved 30 miles to live with my eldest brother in Spring Valley, a working class NYC suburb. There I was afforded an education not available in the Bronx. I then attended Syracuse University, managed international development projects worldwide, worked at the United Nations and had dinner in the White House. Now, I am the Director of the Central New York Chapter in Syracuse. I am grateful for these opportunities, but should I have needed to live away from my mother in order to have a chance at success?

Desegregation will take major, systemic change, and each community will require a different approach to make it happen. For some, litigation in support of equity in funding may be the only solution. In others, advocacy for fair housing is crucial. Together with trusted community partners, the NYCLU will vigilantly defend this pillar of democracy.

PROTECTING ALL YOUTH IN SCHOOLS

The Obama Administration put in place groundbreaking guidelines to protect transgender children in schools—kids who face extreme levels of harassment and heartbreakingly high suicide rates. The Trump administration’s withdrawal of these guidelines in February 2017 sends a devastating message to trans youth: they cannot depend on the president to protect them. And with the rise of hate crimes following the national election, that protection is desperately needed.

New York must step up to the plate for transgender students.

The NYCLU released a report in 2015 revealing the serious and pervasive discrimination and harassment faced by transgender and gender nonconforming youth in New York public schools across the state. Despite the myriad protections we have won for LGBTQ New Yorkers, the state is failing to protect the right to an education for one of its most vulnerable student populations.

New York’s Human Rights Law currently does not apply to public school students—a loophole that complicates anti-discrimination actions and must be fixed. We are loudly advocating to expand this law to protect access to education for all students in all schools. And we must pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, which will explicitly prohibit anti-trans discrimination under New York law once and for all.

These are important actions toward making New York a safe haven that respects the dignity of all people. New Yorkers cannot tolerate any delay in filling the gaps in our laws—the stakes are higher than ever.



(Above): Protestors take to the streets outside New York City’s Stonewall Inn to rally for transgender student rights in the wake of Trump striking down federal protections.

OUR LEADING SUPPORTERS

The NYCLU is deeply grateful to our generous donors whose support enables the ACLU and NYCLU to protect and advance civil liberties. With the partnership of these individuals, corporations and foundations, we are fulfilling the promise of justice, liberty and equality for all New Yorkers. This listing reflects gifts received between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

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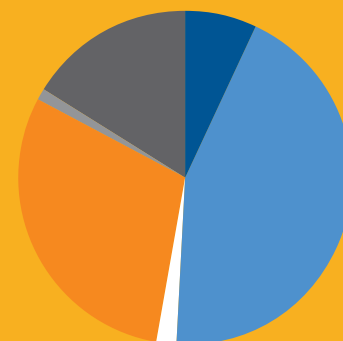
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NYCLU Revenue and Expense 04/01/15-03/31/16

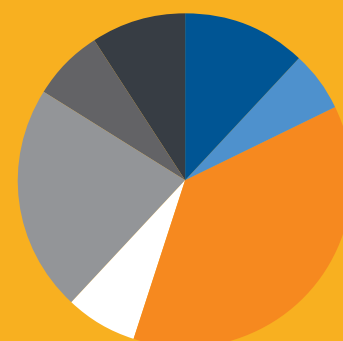
REVENUE	UNION	FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Membership	\$782,749	--	\$782,749
Contributions	107,553	1,702,546	1,810,099
Direct Mail	--	459,141	459,141
Special Event	--	345,222	345,222
ACLU Revenue Sharing	212,664	2,052,981	2,265,645
<i>Contributions, Total</i>	<i>320,217</i>	<i>4,559,890</i>	<i>4,880,107</i>
Foundation Grants	--	193,554	193,554
Legal Fees	--	3,369,667	3,369,667
Investment	(787)	(109,204)	(109,991)
Publications	24	1,859	1,883
Misc	--	260,247	260,247
<i>All Other Income</i>	<i>(763)</i>	<i>152,902</i>	<i>152,139</i>
Transfer (to)from from reserves	(7,929)	(1,829,712)	(1,837,641)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,094,274	\$6,446,301	\$7,540,575



REVENUE

- Membership
- Contributions, Total
- Foundation Grants
- Legal Fees
- All Other Income
- Transfer to (from) Reserves

EXPENSES	UNION	FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Administration	\$164,279	\$735,894	\$900,173
Development	28,214	392,695	420,909
Legal	43,589	2,773,395	2,816,984
Legislative	538,888	--	538,888
Advocacy	245,244	1,438,788	1,684,012
Reproductive Rights Project	21,327	509,043	530,370
Communications	52,753	596,486	649,239
Total Programs	901,781	5,317,712	6,219,493
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,094,274	6,446,301	7,540,575



EXPENSES

- Administration
- Development
- Legal
- Legislative
- Advocacy
- Reproductive Rights Project
- Communications

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