



# U.S. FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

## WHO WE ARE

Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) works to realize human rights and end poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Working with American Jews and clergy in the United States, the Advocacy and Jewish Engagement Team mobilizes American Jewish leadership in solidarity with our grassroots partners across the Global South. In Washington, D.C., we elevate the voices of our partners by advocating for policies that strengthen their efforts as they fight for human rights and combat injustice in their communities.

## WHAT WE DO

Since its founding in 1985, AJWS has granted \$475 million to thousands of activists and social change organizations that have taken on some of the greatest social justice challenges of our time. In 2022, AJWS invested \$37.5 million to promote human rights, supporting 541 groups across 17 countries. In their countries, social change organizations supported by AJWS work tirelessly to fight the rise of authoritarianism around the globe, support communities struck by the devastating effects of climate change and advance LGBTQI+ rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people. And since COVID-19 emerged, AJWS has supported our grantees to aid communities with essential needs, stop the spread of infection and defend human rights under fire.



AJWS's Haitian partners testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, pictured here with House Haiti Caucus Co-Founder and former Co-Chair and Representative Andy Levin (D-MI).

*Photo by Ryan Mace*



AJWS staff members attend a rally on abortion rights in Washington D.C. *Photo by Rori Kramer*

In Washington, D.C., we advocate for a U.S. foreign policy that promotes human rights and strives to combat oppression, injustice and poverty worldwide. AJWS seeks to ensure that the U.S. government puts vulnerable populations at the center of U.S. foreign policy by bringing their voices into all decisions that affect their communities and their rights.

## OUR PRIORITIES

**Strengthen U.S. foreign policy that centers human rights by:**

- Bolstering the resources available to U.S. government departments and agencies working to support human rights defenders and civil society globally to ensure that human rights principles and democratic norms are integrated fully across all U.S. foreign policy decision-making, including in the 2023 Summit for Democracy.
- Supporting universal human rights instruments and international justice and accountability mechanisms, including through the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice.
- Denouncing the use of narrow definitions of religious freedom that harm the rights of marginalized people while instead supporting inclusive language and policies that seek to protect those most at risk of human rights violations.
- Supporting robust funding for and bold leadership in multilateral organizations and agreements, in particular the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

## WHERE WE WORK

**AFRICA** Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal, Uganda

**ASIA** Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN** Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua

*\*One country omitted from map to protect our staff and grantees working in a high-risk environment.*

### Promote comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people worldwide by:

- Advocating for comprehensive appropriations requests for international family planning, reproductive health and global LGBTQI+ rights programs.
- Reauthorizing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which is set to expire on September 30, 2023.
- Working toward full legislative repeal of the global gag rule by reintroducing and passing the Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (Global HER) Act.
- Reintroducing and passing the Abortion Is Health Care Everywhere Act to repeal the harmful Helms Amendment, which limits the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance by blocking access to abortion services.
- Standing up against persecution and abuse of LGBTQI+ people abroad by reintroducing and passing the Global Respect Act, which denies visas to those who commit human rights abuses against LGBTQI+ people.
- Defending and supporting the rights of LGBTQI+ people globally by reintroducing and passing the Greater Leadership Overseas for the Benefit of Equality (GLOBE) Act.

### Promote justice and accountability around the world by:

- Supporting the civil and political rights of all people globally to protest and speak out against abusive governments, participate fully in the political process and access information from their governments without fear of reprisal or criminalization.
- Using all U.S. diplomatic and economic levers to uphold the rights of persecuted minorities, journalists, human rights defenders and other grassroots movements globally, especially those that prioritize movements led by young people, women and Indigenous people.
- Continuing and increasing the use of sanctions as authorized under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (P.L. 114-328 )—and subsequent reauthorization in the 117th Congress (P.L. 117-103)—against those who commit corruption and human rights abuses.
- Supporting credible domestic and international justice and accountability efforts for victims of human rights abuses in the wake of conflict or mass atrocities, particularly in Sri Lanka and Nicaragua.
- Increasing support and funding within the international affairs budget for atrocity prevention, humanitarian response and human rights-related accounts, particularly those that serve the most marginalized.

## CONTACT US

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