

AJWS at 40: Grassrooted activism. Global progress.



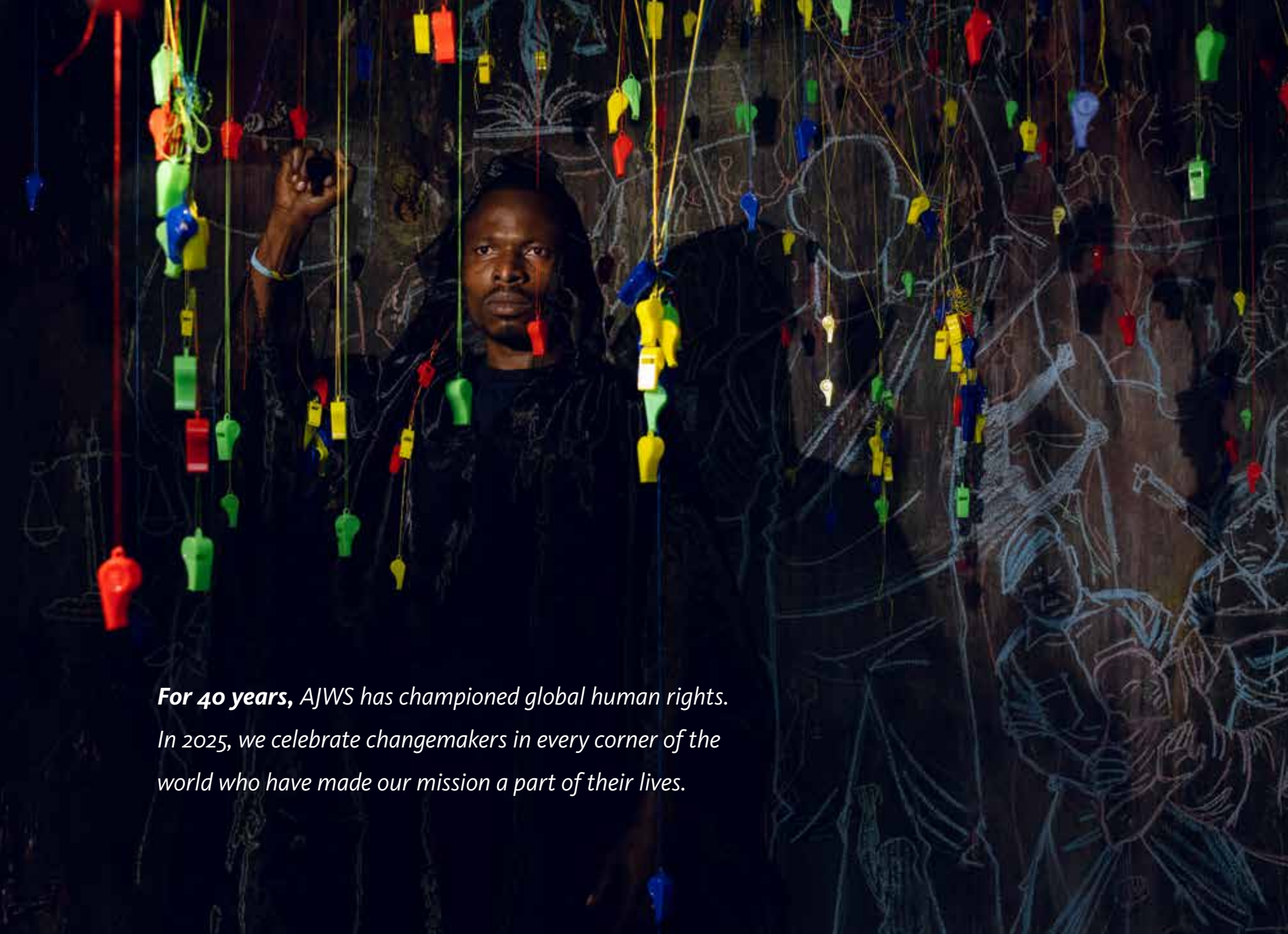
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



*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.*

Cover: On the shores of Koh Lanta, Thailand, nine women stand in defiance of the development of a coal-fired power plant. Educated and organized by AJWS grantee Save Andaman Network in collaboration with Ecological Awareness Building, these courageous women stopped at nothing to protect their island and their livelihoods—ultimately pressuring the Thai government to scuttle its plans (photo by Luke Duggleby).

Opposite: Photographer Arlette Bashizi captures activist Benjamin in silhouette, surrounded by whistles, symbolizing the struggles of members of FILIMBI (“whistle” in Swahili) who risk arrest to denounce oppression in Congolese society. Benjamin dreams of a Democratic Republic of the Congo where justice is fair, honest living is possible and human rights matter to all.



***For 40 years,** AJWS has championed global human rights. In 2025, we celebrate changemakers in every corner of the world who have made our mission a part of their lives.*

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In the brokenness of our time,
a new hope is being born.

It is rooted in the clear,
unabashed insistence that

a better future
is possible.”

— RABBI SHARON BROUS

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DEAR FRIENDS,

We are proud to share AJWS's 40th anniversary annual report, which highlights our enduring commitment to **grassrooted activism and global progress**, the themes of this milestone year. In these difficult times, we invite you to look back on four decades of human rights progress and celebrate the life-affirming victories of AJWS's grantee-partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today, the global movement for justice is under extraordinary attack. Authoritarianism is surging, human rights defenders operate under escalating threats, and the U.S.—along with other global leaders—have gutted foreign aid, creating an unprecedented funding crisis for hundreds of millions of marginalized people across the Global South.

Fortunately, AJWS was made for this moment. Twelve years ago, we chose to limit our reliance on U.S. federal funding—a decision which has proved prescient. Despite the devastating impact of foreign aid cuts on our grantee-partners, your generous and sustained philanthropic partnership has enabled AJWS to weather the storm and increase our support for pioneering changemakers during this grave time of need.

In these pages, you will read about the extraordinary accomplishments of our partners, who are always ready to act—even in the face of overwhelming odds.

With your support:

- Indigenous communities in Thailand won historic legal protections—after years of campaigning—for their land, natural resources and traditions.
- Youth and LGBTQI+ people across India are breaking free from harmful gender norms and building movements rooted in mindfulness, nonviolence and empathy.
- Girls and young women in Kenya are battling drought and famine by leading climate actions, planting trees and purchasing tanks to store communal water.

These successes are born through a constellation of partners—from activists to philanthropists—working in unison, each motivated by the need to build a better world. Guided by our Jewish values and Rabbi Brous's words, we will continue to insist that an equitable future is possible. Powered by your partnership and trust, AJWS enters into our next 40 years with steadfast commitment and limitless ambition to create a world where everyone is free from poverty, persecution and prejudice.

With our deepest gratitude,



Robert Bank

Robert Bank
President and CEO



Jill Minneman

Jill Minneman
Chair, Board of Trustees



Top: Activists from ethnic minorities across Thailand call on the Thai government to guarantee rights and protections for their communities (photo by Indigenous Media Network—Thailand). Bottom: Ritu from HUMSAFAR, which unites tens of thousands of youth and LGBTQI+ people in Lucknow, India, to resist gender- and sexuality-based violence (photo by Ranita Roy).



FORTY YEARS OF COURAGE

For four decades, our partners have shown extraordinary perseverance—even in the face of equally extraordinary adversity. We are proud to stand with these visionaries as they work to create free and dignified lives for themselves and their communities.

Left to right: An Indigenous leader with AIDESEP organizing movements for Indigenous rights in Peru (photo by Evan Abramson); activist and co-founder of SOFEPADI Julienne Lusenge fighting for safety from harm in Democratic Republic of the Congo; a participant in the Hunger Project training for future women leaders in India (photos by Jonathan Torgovnik).





Clockwise from top left: Berta Cáceres of COPINH opposing plans for one of Central America's biggest hydropower projects in Honduras (courtesy of Goldman Environmental Prize); Usha Choudhary, co-founder of Vikalp, empowering girls and young women to take control of their lives in India (photo by Jonathan Torgovnik); Sylvia K. and Akinyi O. of Minority Women in Action advocating for the rights of LGBTQI+ people in Kenya (photo by Evan Abramson); radio host Max-Imbert Marcelin of Radyo VKM broadcasting crucial information to communities in need in Haiti (photo by Jonathan Torgovnik).

FOUR DECADES of AJWS

DURING OUR FIRST FOUR DECADES, AJWS—working alongside our donors, grantee-partners and advocates—has guided profound progress on four continents. Decisive victories in the courts, at the ballot box and in the ways marginalized communities are seen and valued, have improved life for millions of people. As the landscape has shifted, AJWS has evolved with it, responding to emerging human rights crises with a consistent focus on human dignity and systemic change. This is our proud legacy—and our template for the next 40 years of pursuing justice.

1985: AJWS is founded in Boston by philanthropist Larry Phillips and foreign aid worker Larry Simon. Larry Simon becomes AJWS's first CEO, laying the groundwork for what would become the only Jewish organization dedicated to advancing human rights and ending poverty worldwide.

1987: Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel joins AJWS's Board, heeding the call for Jewish Americans to support those who are most resource-poor and oppressed.

1999: AJWS grantee TOSTAN's campaign to ban female genital cutting expands significantly in Senegal. As a result of TOSTAN's work, the National Assembly bans the practice, a major win for the health and rights of women and girls.



AJWS co-founders Larry Phillips (center) and Larry Simon (right) with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, a founding board member (photo courtesy of Larry Simon).



Members of TOSTAN in Senegal (photo courtesy of Corrie Comisso).



Doctors from AJWS grantee MOSCTHA providing for earthquake survivors in Haiti (photo by Evan Abramson).

2006: In partnership with the AJWS-founded Save Darfur Coalition, AJWS helps organize a national anti-genocide rally in Washington, D.C.—and a series of other rallies throughout the country—mobilizing thousands to demand an end to violence.

2009: AJWS launches Global Circle, a network of young professionals and emerging leaders committed to repairing the world and building a new generation of Jewish human rights activists.

2010: AJWS responds to the earthquake in Haiti, raising \$6.5 million to support women, LGBTQI+ communities and the rural poor in the hardest-hit areas.

2010: AJWS advocacy leads to the passage of a gender parity law in Senegal, requiring political parties to ensure that at least half of their candidates are women and guaranteeing them equal access to decision-making bodies.

2011: Liberian activist Leymah Roberta Gbowee, director of AJWS grantee Women Peace and Security Network-Africa wins the Nobel Peace Prize. AJWS was her organization's first funder.

2013: AJWS launches the Global Justice Fellowship, a six-month program to inspire, educate and train American clergy of all denominations to support global justice in their congregations and in public discourse.

2014: With support from AJWS, a coalition in Uganda successfully challenges the constitutionality of the country's Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which was then invalidated, a major victory for the safety of LGBTQI+ people.

2015: AJWS and a coalition of advocacy and human rights organizations successfully lobby President Barack Obama to appoint the first Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons within the U.S. Department of State.

2017: Backed by AJWS, Kenya's Indigenous Ogiek community wins a landmark case ruling that the Kenyan government violated their rights by forcibly evicting them from their ancestral land.



Liberian activists protesting civil war (photo by Pewee Flomoku).



Former AJWS CEO and AJWS Global Ambassador Ruth Messinger and Liberian activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee (photo by Christine Han).



An early Global Justice Fellowship cohort—an AJWS program to inspire and train American clergy, travels to India (photo by Jonathan Torgovnik).



AJWS CEO Robert Bank with Adrian Ijuuko, Executive Director of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Uganda (photo by Christine Han).

2017: In El Salvador, grassroots groups supported by AJWS win a hard-fought victory to ban metal mining. El Salvador becomes the first nation to pass such a law, giving momentum to environmental justice movements.

2018: AJWS grantees secure two historic victories in India: The country's Supreme Court strikes down "Triple Talaq", a law that allowed Muslim men to divorce their wives by saying "divorce" three times—and then overturns Section 377, a law criminalizing homosexuality.

2019: In Kenya, AJWS grantees litigate against plans to build a coal plant in Lamu that would have caused grave environmental damage affecting over 100,000 people. The same grantees also build a massive public movement to stop the plant—and their efforts work. Kenyan courts soon rule to freeze the coal plant project.

2020: AJWS responds to COVID-19, increasing funding by \$3 million for humanitarian aid, prevention education and advocacy for human rights during an international public health crisis.

2021: AJWS-funded activists wage a hard-fought campaign that pushes the Dominican government to offer life-saving COVID-19 vaccinations to not only documented Dominicans but also to hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent and Haitian migrants.

2021: The RENACER Act, U.S. legislation aimed at helping bring democracy back to Nicaragua, is signed into law following AJWS advocacy.

2022: After 16 years of struggle, and with funding from AJWS, Indigenous people in Oaxaca's Central Valley in Mexico secure official State recognition of the rights of 16 Zapotec communities to manage their own water systems.



Celebrating the anniversary of the overturning of Section 377 in India (photo by Puja Bhattacharjee/ Pacific Press/Sipa USA).



Members of deCOALonize, a coalition of AJWS grantees, rallying against the expansion of coal mining and coal-powered energy in Kenya (photo courtesy of deCOALonize).



During the COVID-19 pandemic, AJWS grantees Reconoci.do and OBMICA fight for vaccine equity in the Dominican Republic (photo courtesy of OBMICA).

2022: With dedicated advocacy campaigns from the AJWS-coordinated Jewish Rohingya Justice Network, the United States officially designates the Burmese military junta's atrocities against the Rohingya people a genocide, and the BURMA Act is passed, paving the way for increased sanctions and humanitarian aid.

2023: Due in part to relentless pressure from AJWS, Nicaraguan pro-democracy political prisoners, including 18 current and former AJWS grantee-partners, are freed after nearly two years of isolation and torture under President Daniel Ortega's authoritarian regime.

2024: AJWS marks a 10-year, \$50 million project to work with adolescent girls and young women in India, Kenya and the Dominican Republic, a comprehensive approach to ending child and forced marriage by addressing the root causes of gender inequality.

2024: Thailand becomes the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex marriage, following more than a decade of campaigning from Thai AJWS grantee-partners.

2025: Years of campaigning from AJWS grantees bring about the passage of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups, guaranteeing Thailand's ethnic minorities the right to their own land, natural resources and legal protection against displacement.

2026 ...

Jewish wisdom reminds us that we are not obligated to complete the work—but neither are we free to abandon it. As we look into the future, one thing is certain: With your help, AJWS will never abandon its partners and its quest to build a better, more just tomorrow.



Grantee Flor y Canto developed a reservoir to provide farmers with water in the dry season and a series of water catchment systems in 15 additional communities in Mexico (photo by Evan Abramson).



Grantee MBBCDS was part of a \$50 million initiative to end child marriage in India (photo by Jonathan Torgovnik).



Celebrating the legalization of same-sex marriage in Thailand (photo by Chayanit Itthipongmaetee).

AJWS IN 2025

BY THE NUMBERS

FORTY YEARS AFTER OUR FOUNDING IN 1985, AJWS has invested **more than half a billion dollars** to advance human rights around the world.

This year, AJWS supported **498 local, national and global social justice organizations** throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Thanks to your generosity and passion to create a more just and equitable world, **AJWS invested \$33.4 million** to further the fight for human rights among the most vulnerable.

WHERE WE WORK

Mexico

Guatemala

El Salvador

Nicaragua

Haiti

Dominican Republic

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: 157 grantees

Above: A lawyer from grantee Bufete para Pueblos Indígenas, a legal aid organization, advocating for Indigenous women victims of violence in Guatemala (photo by James Rodriguez).

OUR ISSUE AREAS

CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS

- Building peace
- Safeguarding democracy
- Challenging authoritarian regimes
- Defending religious and ethnic minorities
- Investing in female leaders

160 GRANTEES

LAND, WATER & CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Protecting Indigenous and rural lands
- Mitigating impacts of the climate crisis
- Stopping harmful development projects
- Reducing hunger and promoting food security

164 GRANTEES

SEXUAL HEALTH & RIGHTS

- Advancing gender equality
- Ending gender-based violence
- Stopping child and early marriage
- Championing abortion rights
- Defending LGBTQI+ rights
- Ensuring the safety and health of sex workers

153 GRANTEES



AFRICA: 104 grantees

CROSS-REGIONAL: 37 grantees



ASIA: 200 grantees



Note: Two countries have been omitted to protect our staff and grantee-partners working in regions of intense political upheaval.

DISASTER & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- Providing both immediate and long-term recovery after disasters
- Aiding refugees and displaced people
- Building resilience and preparedness for future crises

21 GRANTEES

In 2025, in addition to our major issue areas, AJWS made **emergency grant support available to grantee-partners affected by the sudden shutdown of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the elimination of billions of dollars in international assistance.

Left: In Kenya, grantee Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) advocates for the lands and lives of the Indigenous Ogiek people (photo courtesy of OPDP). Right: Grantee Isaan Gender Diversity Network volunteers in Thailand train young people to break stigma and build visibility for the LGBTQI+ movement (photo by Luke Duggleby).



FORTY YEARS IN THE STREETS

All around the world, AJWS grantees refuse to be silent. They raise their voices, challenge injustice and spark protests that resist oppression and build futures of infinite possibility.

Clockwise from top left: Grantees Treatment Action Campaign and Positive Women's Network working to support and destigmatize those living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa (photo courtesy of TAC); Colectivo Oaxaqueño defending their land and water rights against mining companies in Mexico (photo by Evan Abramson); SANGRAM advocating to end violence against women in India (photo courtesy of SANGRAM); NAPE resisting companies polluting and endangering their communities in Uganda (photo by Evan Abramson).





Clockwise from top left: BAWODA responding to the Ebola epidemic in Liberia; Aawaaz el-Niswan helping Muslim women and girls stay in school and pursue careers in India; a march against gender-based violence mobilized and led by grantees in Nicaragua (photos by Jonathan Torgovnik); Pride march supported by grantees in Chang Mai, Thailand (photo by Allison Joyce).





INGREDIENTS FOR A BETTER WORLD

FOR 40 YEARS, AJWS has fueled courageous activists and leaders who refuse to accept a world defined by oppression, violence or silence. From the fight for civil and political rights to the struggle for sexual health and freedom from discrimination, from advocating for land, water and climate justice to rushing aid when crisis strikes, we have learned a fundamental truth: Justice comes only when communities themselves hold the power to shape their futures. Together, these four issues form the foundation of a just world—one that AJWS and our brave grantee-partners are determined to build.

Members of grantee Nuevo Horizonte, a women-led organization advancing the political participation of Indigenous Guatemalan women to create a better future for themselves, their children and society (photo by James Rodriguez).

THE AJWS GRANTMAKING MODEL

Supporters of AJWS know that we have a unique approach to advancing democracy, gender and LGBTQI+ equality and climate justice. Our approach to making change is organized into three interwoven threads that we call **our grants-multiplier model**.

Here's how it works:

- FUND.** AJWS funds hundreds of human rights organizations around the world. We believe that local communities are best positioned to solve their own problems.
We fund at the grassroots, national and global levels to ensure maximum impact and provide flexible, long-term support that enables our grantee-partners to invest in their communities, collaborate, strategize and respond to ever-shifting challenges.
- ADVOCATE.** AJWS mobilizes thousands of Americans annually to advocate for U.S. foreign policies favorable to human rights. And we equip Jewish clergy with the skills and knowledge they need to lobby in Washington, D.C., on behalf of our grantee-partners, bringing their issues to the halls of power.
- ACCOMPANY.** AJWS's expert In-Country Colleagues (ICCs) walk side by side with our grantee-partners to scale their impact and deepen their community influence. Our staff liaises among grantees to build movements that create lasting change.

Nearly 10% of the organizations we support are in their first five years—the most crucial time to ensure long-term organizational health and impact. AJWS invests in our partners, standing with them every step of the way.

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT:

AJWS Responds to Foreign Aid Freeze

The Trump administration's executive orders undid years of U.S. leadership in international human rights, affecting the majority of our grantee-partners and jeopardizing their missions and communities. To address this, AJWS gathered data to craft an effective response, allocating bridge grants, emergency funds, and convening support—while also strengthening our advocacy—to meet a sharp increase in demand. Our Advocacy and Jewish Engagement team increased its coalition work to keep pressure on the U.S. government, and in January we launched the **AJWS Action Network**, a digital platform that mobilizes our more than 90,000 email subscribers to contact their elected officials whenever new U.S. policies create adversity for the communities we support. This collective advocacy, with our grantee-partners and our cohort of American clergy, allows AJWS to make positive change wherever we can.

ACTION NETWORK IN 2025*

26,200 messages to members of Congress including:

20,200 messages in support of foreign assistance

1,900 messages urging action for democracy in Haiti

1,800 messages in support of global human rights

1,200 messages in support of global LGBTQI+ rights

1,100 messages urging action for the Rohingya people

**From January to October 10, 2025*

RAISING OUR VOICES

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY

Around the world, AJWS has witnessed that without civil and political rights, no lasting progress is possible. When people cannot speak freely, choose their leaders or live openly as themselves, every other aspect of modern life becomes fragile. Today, as authoritarianism spreads and democracy decays

in countries across the globe, including our own, our partners continue to show that the defense of these rights is inseparable from the broader pursuit of justice. AJWS remains steadfast in supporting grassroots activist leaders and organizations, centering the most marginalized and fostering democratic movements wherever they are needed. For many Americans, 2025 was a reckoning and a painful reminder of what our partners have always known: We must remain focused on the power of grassroots organizing to steer political change.



Patcha “Phar” Chaimongkolsub, lead designer for the Internet Law Reform Dialogue (iLaw), shows her sticker creations (photo by Luke Duggleby).

FREEING OUR BODIES

ADVANCING JUSTICE FOR WOMEN, GIRLS & LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

What is lost to society when people cannot be themselves? Over the past year, AJWS's sexual health and rights partners have faced profound challenges, including the reintroduction of the Global Gag Rule, a U.S. policy that withdraws U.S. funding from any organization that provides abortion services. Yet despite these assaults on basic rights, women, girls and LGBTQI+ people continue to press forward, achieving historic breakthroughs such as Thailand's landmark legalization of same-sex marriage. Though it may be true that we are still a long way from global legalized same-sex relations (which is criminalized in more than 60 jurisdictions worldwide), freedom from homophobia and transphobia, legalized sex work and the universal right to express one's gender identity—it is also true that AJWS will fight, each and every year, until all of those liberties are realized.

Right: Members of Talash, an AJWS grantee based in Kolkata, India, that mobilizes young people to fight gender-based violence and early marriage (photo by Ranita Roy).

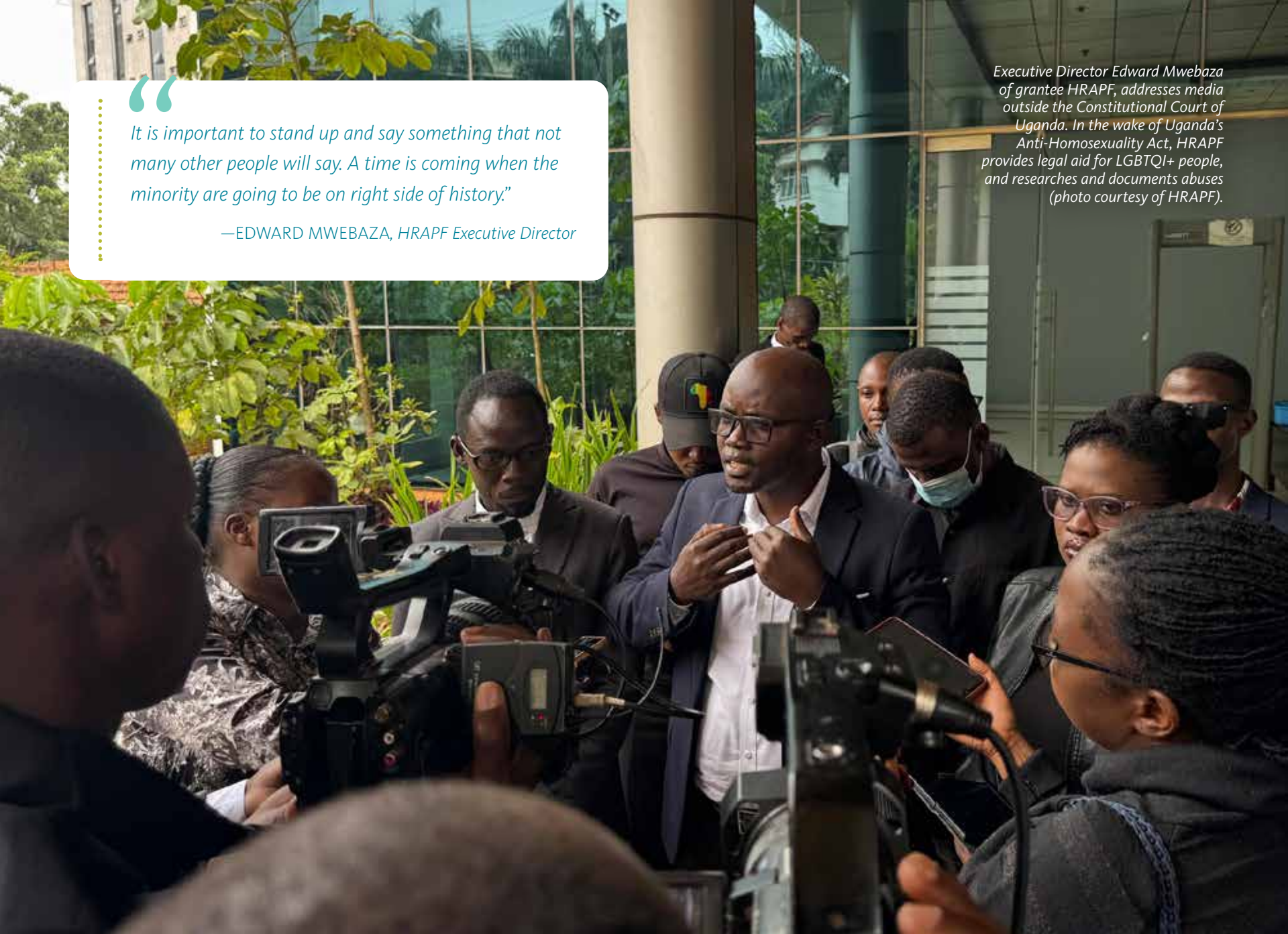


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It is important to stand up and say something that not many other people will say. A time is coming when the minority are going to be on right side of history.”

—EDWARD MWEBAZA, HRAPF Executive Director

Executive Director Edward Mwebaza of grantee HRAPF, addresses media outside the Constitutional Court of Uganda. In the wake of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act, HRAPF provides legal aid for LGBTQI+ people, and researches and documents abuses (photo courtesy of HRAPF).



REPAIRING OUR PLANET

CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Last year, Earth's average surface temperature was the hottest in recorded history, breaking the record set just a year earlier. Life has become more precarious than ever for the world's most marginalized, with summers growing perilously hot and winters fatally cold, rains eroding soil and diminishing crop yields, storms becoming deadlier, droughts lasting longer and wildfires becoming more frequent. These dangers are compounded by the

rollback of critical climate protections under President Trump, destroying many of the climate agreements scientists view as critical for preserving the health of our planet and leaving those least responsible for the crisis to suffer its gravest consequences. This is why AJWS's land, water and climate justice grantee-partners are so essential as they fight to: reclaim stolen lands, resist exploitative policies and corporate greed, build sustainable systems for food and energy production, and counteract the devastating effects of climate change wherever possible.



AJWS grantee ILRN helps thousands of small-scale farmers, forced off their ancestral land by the Thai government—like Am, pictured here—defend their lands and livelihoods (photo by Luke Duggleby).



SHOWING UP FOR OUR VULNERABLE

DISASTER AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Each new year brings with it celebrations of change, progress and growth. But it also brings a panoply of climate and humanitarian disasters—many of which have become despairingly predictable. These are crises spurred by climate change, by civil and political violence and corruption, and by the alarming rise of both domestic and foreign authoritarianism. AJWS responds to crises in our priority countries—a capacity enabled by many years spent building trust with our partners. From the moment of impact, AJWS is ready to help in the precise ways that they need, whether immediate aid or long-term funding for rehabilitating their communities.

Since 1985, AJWS has provided **over \$42 million in emergency grants and support** for communities to rebuild and recover following humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

In the aftermath of the second deadliest earthquake in Burmese history, AJWS launched an emergency appeal, raising funds for affected communities (AP photo).

A photograph showing three people from behind, standing on a hillside and looking out over a vast, lush green valley. A river winds through the valley floor. The person on the left is a man with a beard and sunglasses on his head, wearing a blue t-shirt and a brown backpack. The person in the middle is a woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a dark t-shirt and patterned overalls. The person on the right is a man wearing an orange t-shirt and a dark blue backpack. The background features rolling green hills and a river that curves through the landscape. A large tree trunk is visible on the left side of the frame.

Our AJWS Community

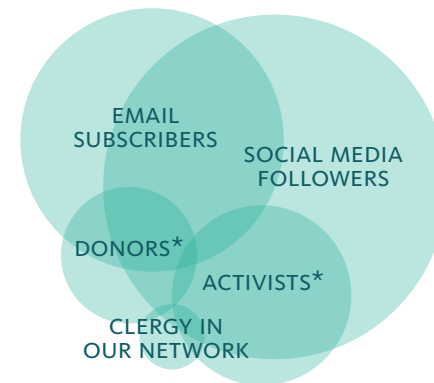
At the convergence of the Chixoy and Copón Rivers in Guatemala, AJWS staff and ACODET members discuss the proposed Xalalá hydroelectric dam and its widespread implications (photo by James Rodriguez).



None of this would be possible without you—our donors and supporters. We are so grateful for your philanthropic partnership that enables us to keep investing in visionary leaders, communities and movements. As the landscape for global human rights funding changed dramatically in 2025, you answered the call time and time again. This year, the first-ever AJWS Giving Day further affirmed that. Together, we are poised for our next 40 years.

206,830 SUPPORTERS

- 126,300 Social Media Followers
- 83,300 Email Subscribers
- 48,800 Activists*
- 35,900 Donors*
- 4,500 Clergy in Our Network



**Made a donation or took action between 2022-2024.*

“ Rabbi Heschel talked about his participation in the civil rights movement as ‘praying with my feet.’ AJWS embodies that sensibility for me. It is an organization that brings out the best of what the Jewish people can offer the world—engaging us all to pray with our feet.”

—SIR TREVOR PEARS
AJWS Supporter



A Tribute to Robert Bank

For 16 years—including nine as President and CEO—Robert Bank has been a visionary leader of AJWS, guiding our organization through profound global challenges while growing its impact and expanding its reach. We honor Robert’s unwavering commitment to human rights, tikkun olam and the pursuit of a more just world.

“

When historically marginalized groups face oppression, when reproductive health is controlled, when democratic institutions are threatened, we need to believe that each one of us can make a difference, and then set out to do something. Our Jewish tradition and our history of being ostracized, judged, and denied are a clarion call for us to get involved in improving the lives of others. Rabbi Hillel’s exquisitely prescient and ethical triptych asks us to both look after ourselves but not only ourselves. And to act urgently. I see this as a three-part package, and we can’t choose only one.”

— ROBERT BANK
AJWS President and CEO



Top: Robert Bank with MEMPROW in Uganda, which trains youth to advocate for themselves. Bottom: Speaking about the plight of the Rohingya at an event organized by AJWS at the UN—at left, Tun Khin, founder of grantee BROUK, and Professor Yanghee Lee, and at far right, Myo Win, Director of former grantee SEDF (photos by Christine Han).



Clockwise from top left: Robert Bank with Seynabou Cissé Malle, an advocate for peace in Senegal's Casamance region (photo by Christine Han); with Essy Adhiambo who leads INEND, which fights for LGBTQI+ rights in Kenya; learning from CCDA, which helps Guatemalan farmers improve yields and protect their land (photos courtesy of Robert Bank).

“

I've had the good fortune to travel with Robert to meet our grantee-partners and witnessed time and again how he has devoted himself to creating possibilities for American Jewish and other philanthropists to link arms with remarkable leaders, activists and movements fighting for human rights in some of the world's most difficult places and contexts.”

— JILL MINNEMAN
Chair, AJWS Board of Trustees

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Responsible funders get to know their grantees. Robert goes beyond, investing time and energy into learning what inspires us, what frightens us, and what motivates our actions. As a member of the AJWS global community for many years, I could never describe what I've gained from Robert's uniquely human approach to understanding our distinctive journeys on the long walk toward justice. To be honest, I've looked at him more as friend than funder, someone I see whenever I'm in New York, someone with whom I can always be honest. Our friendship will continue long after he leaves AJWS.”

— ESSY ADHIAMBO
Executive Director, INEND

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

American Jewish World Service, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, 2025

(with summarized comparative financial information as of April 30, 2024)

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	\$15,530,471	\$22,059,551
Contributions receivable, net	12,194,693	7,704,457
Investments	42,216,221	39,102,380
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,157,141	826,753
Right of use assets for operating leases	7,225,992	8,132,244
Property and equipment, net	528,217	646,608
Total assets	\$78,852,735	\$78,471,993
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$964,315	\$1,900,155
Grants payable	3,537,267	4,305,631
Lease liability for operating leases	8,294,397	9,227,718
Unearned revenue	250	37,322
Charitable gift annuity obligation	313,591	354,634
Total liabilities	13,109,820	15,825,460
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	15,482,779	16,830,891
Designated for donor-advised fund	619,727	1,844,428
Board-designated for reserve fund	25,562,887	23,656,092
Board-designated for working capital fund	4,903,953	4,599,979
Total without donor restrictions	46,569,346	46,931,390
With donor restrictions	19,173,569	15,715,143
Total net assets	65,742,915	62,646,533
Total liabilities and net assets	\$78,852,735	\$78,471,993

AJWS's total assets vary year to year due to the timing of the receipt and usage of commitments and payments for multi-year grants.

Statement of Activities for the year ended April 30, 2025*(with summarized comparative information for the year ended April 30, 2024)*

	2025		2024	
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL
REVENUES AND SUPPORT				
Contributions:				
Individuals	\$15,370,080	\$9,529,641	\$24,899,721	\$18,319,327
Donor-advised fund	102,061	-	102,061	2,715,000
Bequests	1,173,027	100,000	1,273,027	494,686
Foundations and corporations	364,712	13,635,131	13,999,843	17,157,476
Donated services and goods	380,163	-	380,163	630,943
Government agencies	1,564,091	-	1,564,091	2,027,917
Investment return	2,976,008	37,833	3,013,841	2,743,028
Miscellaneous revenue	775,320	7,689	783,009	751,205
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	15,100,293	(15,100,293)	-	-
Satisfaction of time restrictions	4,751,575	(4,751,575)	-	-
Total revenues and support	42,557,330	3,458,426	46,015,756	44,839,582
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Programs	29,412,904	-	29,412,904	32,035,486
Communications	3,159,157	-	3,159,157	4,039,539
Strategic learning, research and evaluation	814,634	-	814,634	1,270,719
Total program services expenses	33,386,695	-	33,386,695	37,345,744
Supporting services:				
Management and general	2,599,080	-	2,599,080	2,840,133
Fundraising	6,933,599	-	6,933,599	6,626,421
Total supporting services expenses	9,532,679	-	9,532,679	9,466,554
Total expenses	42,919,374	-	42,919,374	46,812,298
Change in net assets	(362,044)	3,458,426	3,096,382	(1,972,716)
Beginning net assets	46,931,390	15,715,143	62,646,533	64,619,249
Ending net assets	\$46,569,346	\$19,173,569	\$65,742,915	\$62,646,533

AJWS's revenue and expenses fluctuate year to year based on variations in multi-year gifts and the donor-advised fund (DAF).

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR PEOPLE AND OUR VALUES

For 40 years, our staff, Board and grantee-partners have been driving AJWS forward with their rigor, empathy and commitment to advancing human rights through our core values: dignity, humility, inclusivity, accountability and courage. This year, we are celebrating four decades of people deeply devoted to global justice, and who continue to work for change every day.

AJWS is an organization anchored in the belief that every human being is equal in dignity and deserving of all human rights. We are committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and racial justice (DEIRJ) by building a community that is affirmatively rooted in Jewish values, anti-racist and multicultural.

We have learned so much from the thousands of activists and communities we have supported about the imperative to dismantle systemic inequity around the world. We work daily to incorporate that knowledge and to improve as an organization to better suit the needs of our community and our global partners.

This year, we engaged in a robust curriculum of learning opportunities led by diverse experts, scholars and colleagues from around the globe, striving to make AJWS a place where each member of our team is embraced and respected in their full humanity.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Contact us at 212.792.2813 for information about planned giving, to ensure that your gift will affect the lives of future generations.

DONATE

www.ajws.org

800.889.7146

TAKE ACTION

www.ajws.org/takeaction

A young boy flies a kite made from a discarded plastic bag in the Tapi Rouge camp, high above Port au Prince. After an earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, AJWS responded by raising \$6.5 million to support women, LGBTQI+ communities and the impoverished in the hardest-hit areas (photo by Evan Abramson).





Community members gather at HUMSAFAR's annual Gender and Sexuality Fair in Lucknow, India. HUMSAFAR mobilizes tens of thousands of youth and LGBTQI+ people to resist gender- and sexuality-based violence (photo by Ranita Roy).



45 West 36th Street
New York, NY 10018
212.792.2900
ajws@ajws.org
ajws.org

 /americanjewishworldservice
 /ajws-humanrights.bsky.social
 /americanjewishworldservice
 /American Jewish World Service
 /americanjewishworldservice

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