

# Strategy Advances in 2020

In the following sections, we examine how grantees have advanced the objectives of the Social Justice strategy in the focal regions, countries, and U.S. states not included in the above in-depth analyses. As part of our overall theory of change, the Social Justice Program funds ecosystems of grantees working in countries and U.S. states and collaborating with grantees focused nationally and regionally. A regional map of each ecosystem is shown at the outset of the following sections.

## East and Southern Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Malawi, South Africa

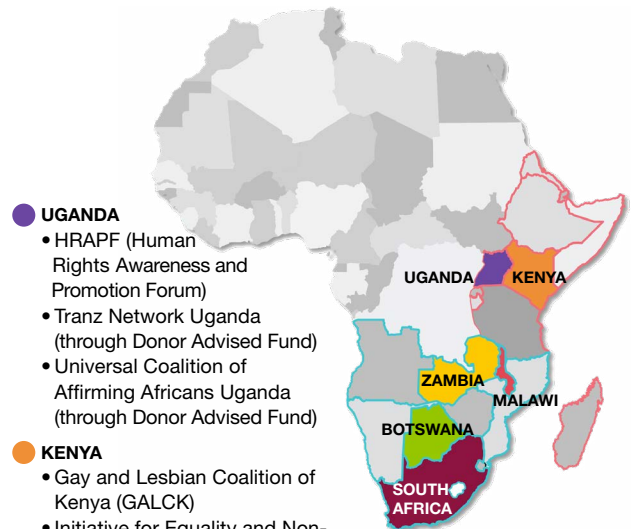
### GOAL 1 Increased Safety

■ **Documenting and addressing violence and discrimination.** In Kenya, Transgender Education and Advocacy completed research on public and institutional acceptance of trans people in the country, finding that 83% of those surveyed had transphobic opinions. This data was shared with the media in an effort to publicize the need for protections for transgender Kenyans. In Uganda, the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) documented 253 incidences of anti-LGBTQ human rights violations, with 46 accepted for follow-up investigations by local council authorities and the police.

Iranti developed a mobile app for use by LGBTQ people in East and southern Africa that will enable the group to document incidents of violence and discrimination on its own, instead of relying on law enforcement to gather documentation.

■ **Protecting, empowering, and advocating for those most vulnerable.** UHAI, the East Africa intermediary, regranted Arcus funds to organizations that assisted more than 400 refugees fleeing violence and living in refugee camps. Assistance provided included short-term housing, food, counseling, HIV medication, and advocacy to address other needs. The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya established a formal partnership with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to provide security trainings to LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya.

### 2020 Social Justice Grantee Partners: East and Southern Africa



- **UGANDA**
  - HRAPF (Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum)
  - Tranz Network Uganda (through Donor Advised Fund)
  - Universal Coalition of Affirming Africans Uganda (through Donor Advised Fund)
- **KENYA**
  - Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK)
  - Initiative for Equality and Non-Discrimination (INEND)
  - Jinsiangu
  - National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC)
  - PEMA Kenya (Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved in Kenya)
  - Transgender Education and Advocacy (TEA)
- **MALAWI**
  - Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS (MANERELA+)
- **BOTSWANA**
  - LEGABIBO (Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana)
- **ZAMBIA**
  - ZANERELA+ (Zambia Network of Religious Leaders Living With or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS)
- **SOUTH AFRICA**
  - Just Detention International South Africa
  - Triangle Project
  - Western Cape Provincial Council of Churches
- **EAST AFRICA – REGIONAL**
  - Yvette A. Flunder Foundation for The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM)
  - UHAI EASHRI (grantmaking)
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA – REGIONAL**
  - Gender Dynamix
  - Inclusive & Affirming Ministries
  - Iranti
  - The Other Foundation (grantmaking)
  - Southern African Christian Initiative
- AFRICA (MULTIPLE COUNTRIES)**
  - CWS (Church World Service)
  - Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa
  - Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)
  - Pan Africa ILGA
  - Investigative Reporters and Editors for Taboom Media

HRAPF secured the release of 20 LGBTQ people arrested and detained under the cover of pandemic restrictions. The High Court of Uganda awarded damages to these individuals, who were mistreated during their long detention.

In Malawi, MANERELA+'s advocacy with local health ministries enabled LGBTQ communities to more easily access public health facilities.

- **Community-defined safety initiatives.** The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya implemented an emergency security response mechanism for its member organizations.

## GOAL 2 Increased Protections

- **Base building for power and influence.** Over the past two years, the membership of Pan Africa ILGA increased by 85%, from 138 member organizations to 256. This expansion includes growth in southern Africa from 38 to 64 members and in East Africa from 44 to 72 members.
- **Policy advocacy.** In both Kenya and Botswana, grantees are working with, advising, and advocating with government agencies on a range of issues. Grantees of Astraea's Intersex Fund are advising the Kenyan Bureau of Statistics on both the inclusion of a third gender in the national census and the addition of "intersex" as an option on birth certificates, as well as on funding gender-affirming surgeries and ending surgeries on intersex children. In Botswana, LEGABIBO submitted guidelines to the government on creating inclusive policies that protect trans and gender-diverse communities and on changing gender markers on identification documents.
- **Strategic litigation.** After the Kenyan High Court upheld the constitutionality of the country's laws criminalizing same-sex activity in 2019, two Arcus grantees—the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK), and the National Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC)—partnered with Nyanza, Rift Valley, and Western Kenya Network (NYARWEK) to file an appeal with the Court of Appeals. A further appeal to the country's Supreme Court may be filed and could delay a final decision at least 3 years and as long as 10.

A positive ruling on decriminalization in Botswana was appealed by the government. In 2021, the country's highest court sustained the lower court's ruling, effectively decriminalizing same-sex relations in Botswana. Arcus grantee LEGABIBO, the country's national LGBTQ organization, engaged in public messaging and advocacy in connection with the case. In Malawi, after a case was brought by the

grantee the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa in connection with acts of anti-trans violence committed by Army personnel, the Army dismissed the soldiers involved before the case was decided.

## GOAL 3 Increased Acceptance and Inclusion

- **Identifying influential faith leaders.** After a pro-LGBTQ faith minister associated with and trained by the Church World Service, an Arcus grantee, advocated over the airwaves for an end to anti-LGBTQ violence, incidents of such violence in his region of Kenya decreased. The grantee conducted faith community sensitization workshops with 223 Muslim and Christian faith leaders and sponsored a three-day virtual dialogue with 27 women theologians.

Similarly, in Malawi, faith leaders trained by grantee MANERELA+ issued statements over the radio and in the pulpit condemning violence, resulting in decreased violence in one Malawian district. A sheikh, previously at the forefront of preaching against LGBTQ persons, is now a change agent among "religious champions" working with MANERELA+. The sheikh reached out to 130 other sheikhs and local leaders.

A documentary produced by grantee East Africa Visual Artists, focusing on interviews with religious leaders and LGBTQ people in Uganda, was completed and screened in an effort to promote inclusion by faith leaders and the public.

# Central America and the Caribbean: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago

## GOAL 1 Increased Safety

■ **Documenting and addressing violence and discrimination.** During the period covered by this report, many Arcus grantees released reports that included data on hate violence and discrimination, as well as wider examinations of the contexts in which these acts occurred. Some of these reports are listed below.

Trans and Gender-Diverse Persons and Their Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights/OAS
"Every Day I Live in Fear": Violence and Discrimination Against LGBT People in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and Obstacles to Asylum in the United States (documenting violence by gangs, law enforcement, and family members)	Human Rights Watch
Regional report on hate crimes in countries that include Mexico and Guatemala	ILGA Latin America & the Caribbean
Trans Women in Detention in Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala (submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for a consultative opinion of the Court)	COMCAVIS TRANS
Report documenting the murder of Camila Diaz in El Salvador	Association ASPIDH Rainbow Trans, funded by Arcus grantee Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
Documentation of 20 deaths by hate violence and 54 reports of the situation in Honduras	Cattrachas

The above documentation by Association ASPIDH Rainbow Trans garnered international attention, leading to the sentencing of the perpetrator of Camila Diaz's murder.

## 2020 Social Justice Grantee Partners: Central America and the Caribbean



### MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, CARIBBEAN (MULTIPLE COUNTRIES)

- Colombia Diversa for Red de Litigantes LGBT de las Américas
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- ILGALAC (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Parliamentarians for Global Action
- Synergía – Initiatives for Human Rights

### GUATEMALA

- Colectivo Amigos Contra El Sida (CAS)

### HONDURAS

- CDM (Centro de Derechos de Mujeres) for Cattrachas
- CDM (Centro de Derechos de Mujeres) for Movimiento Diversidad en Resistencia (MDR)
- SOMOS CDC – Centro para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación LGBTI

### EL SALVADOR

- COMCAVIS TRANS (Comunicando y Capacitando a Mujeres Trans)
- Entre Amigos Asociación Salvadoreña de Derechos Humanos

### CARIBBEAN – REGIONAL

- Astraea Foundation (grantmaking)
- Intimate Conviction faith conference (through Donor Advised Fund)
- Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE)
- OutRight Action International for UC Trans

### CENTRAL AMERICA (REGIONAL)

- FCAM (Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres) (grantmaking)
- Hivos (grantmaking)
- Human Rights Watch
- Red Centroamericana del Caribe de Hombres Trans+ (through Donor Advised Fund)

In Honduras, given the wide discrepancy between the government's data on hate violence deaths and data collected by community groups, Cattrachas is advocating for a more reliable and accurate system to record hate crimes against LGBT people.

## GOAL 2 Increased Protections

- **Policy advocacy.** In Honduras, the Human Rights Secretariat ruled that prohibiting blood donations by LGBT people was discriminatory and recommended that the Department of Health repeal related legal provisions. Cattrachas coordinated a related communications campaign, including via radio and social media.

Arcus grantee Synergía successfully advocated to allow trans individuals in Honduras to have their ID photos correspond to their gender identity and expression in the civil registry process.

A collaborative of organizations, including Guyana Trans United, funded by our grantee Astraera, formed a working group that will advocate for expanded gender-identity recognition. In Trinidad & Tobago, Astraera's subgrantee CAISO developed the LGBTQ Policy Agenda 2.0 to focus on national policy and human rights, with a focus on reaching media and public officials.

- **Strategic litigation.** The Organization of American States has emerged as a forum for accountability and justice for LGBTQ people in the region. Its executive human rights arm, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, ruled that Jamaica's law criminalizing same-sex relations violates the American Convention on Human Rights. A case against the government of Honduras in connection with the murder of Vicky Hernandez in 2009 was heard by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights during the period covered by this report. In June 2021, the ruling in the case, which was finally decided with a finding against the government, included in its remedies a list of corrective actions to be taken to protect trans people in Honduras. Cattrachas provided legal support to the family of the victim and conducted media advocacy. Grantees Synergía and Parliamentarians for Global Action submitted amicus briefs. The same court ruled favorably against the government in another case of a trans woman who suffered torture and arbitrary detention, contributing to a growing body of jurisprudence protecting trans people in the region. Arcus grantee Promsex was involved in this litigation.

## GOAL 3 Increased Acceptance and Inclusion

- **Identifying influential faith leaders.** Arcus grantee Entre Amigos in El Salvador conducted a mapping of faith organizations and leaders in the country, identifying eight that are inclusive of LGBTQ people.

A similar mapping was commissioned by Arcus to assess the situation among pro-LGBTQ faith leaders in the Caribbean. The information provides a basis for future funding.

- **Fair and accurate media coverage.** Grantees throughout the region reported that their activities and messaging were being reported accurately and fairly by the media. They included COMCAVIS TRANS (El Salvador), Cattrachas (Honduras), Mexfam and Letra S (Mexico), Human Rights Watch, and Colombia Diversa Litigation Network (both regional).

Arcus conducts detailed media scans every three years to monitor coverage of LGBTQ issues and communities.

## U.S. Southern Tier

Grantees advanced safety for LGBTQ communities through decriminalization campaigns and support for LGBTQ immigrants and asylum seekers; protections for LGBTQ communities through voter engagement and advocacy efforts; and growing and activating a base of LGBTQ people through grassroots, multiracial, and cross-sector organizing.

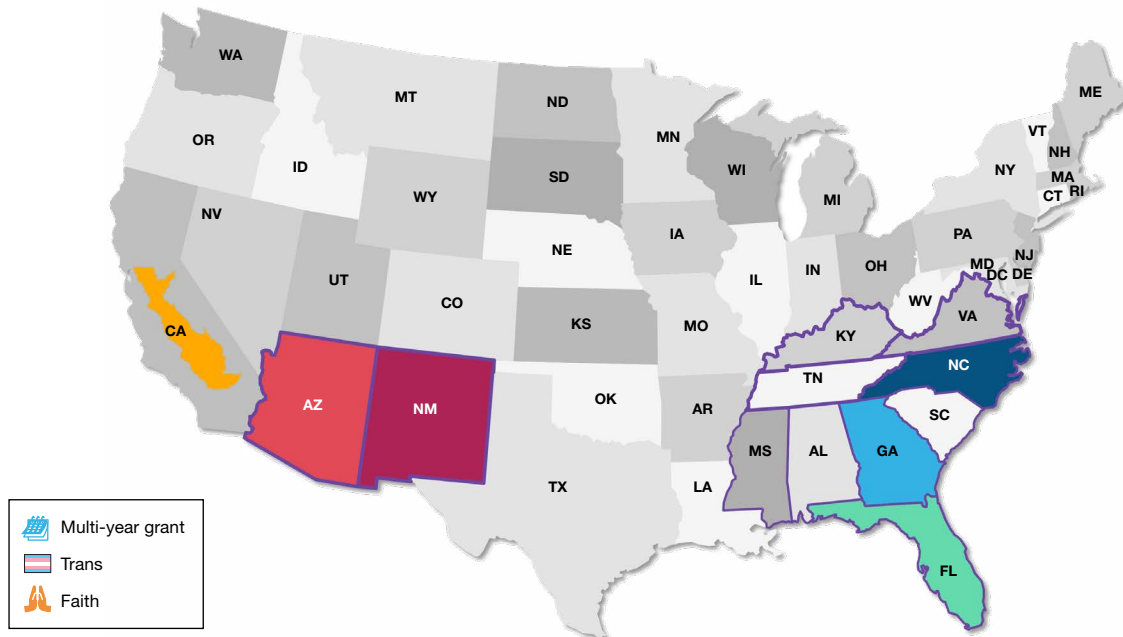
## GOAL 1 Increased Safety

- **Protecting, empowering, and advocating for those most vulnerable.** Black Youth Project 100 and Southerners on New Ground led community-based safety initiatives in Durham, North Carolina, leading to the city's first Community Safety and Wellness Task Force.






The Transgender Law Center represented clients in three immigration cases in the southern tier. One client was Chin, a trans immigrant who had been trafficked and then held in solitary confinement. Chin was released from detention and able to return to his family in March 2020. TLC also helped incubate and grow the Black LGBTQ Migrant Project, which freed 10 Black migrants from detention.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) provided support and assistance to more than 250 LGBTQ immigrants and asylum seekers. Notably, NCLR directly represented more than 35 asylum seekers with a 100% success rate.




## 2020 U.S. Social Justice Grants



### CENTRAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

- California Rural Legal Assistance  
- Power California for 99Rootz program  
- The Source LGBT+ Center 


### ARIZONA

- Equality Arizona Foundation 
- Trans Queer Pueblo  










### NEW MEXICO

- Santa Fe Dreamers Project 

### SOUTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST U.S. (REGIONAL)

- Faith in Public Life   
- NEO Philanthropy for Four Freedoms Fund's Border Butterfly Project 
- Proteus Fund for Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative 
- Third Wave Fund 





### NORTH CAROLINA

- Campaign for Southern Equality  
- Equality North Carolina Foundation  
- The Freedom Center for Social Justice  
- Southern Vision Alliance   

### GEORGIA

- Equality Foundation of Georgia  
- SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW  

### FLORIDA

- Equality Florida  
- JASMYN (Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network)  

### NATIONAL

- Groundswell Fund for Black Trans Fund 
- Borealis Philanthropy for Fund for Trans Generations 
- GSA Network  
- Justice Work for LGBTQ+ Women's Research and Organizing Initiative 
- National Center for Lesbian Rights  
- New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project  
- National LGBTQ Task Force  
- Point Source Youth 
- Public Religion Research Institute 
- Astraea Foundation for Racial Justice Fund 
- Borealis Philanthropy for Transforming Movements Fund  
- TLDEF (Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund)  
- Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights 

**GOAL 2** Increased Protections

- **Base building for power and influence.** In 2020, 99Rootz, a grantee in the Central Valley of California, ran its first virtual summer academy with 26 youth organizers, training these emerging leaders on organizing, online outreach, and campaign strategy development. Overall, 99Rootz engaged over 1,300 youth in leadership-development programs—a record number even amid challenging times and the difficulties of organizing in rural conservative communities. It reached 5,049 young voters during the 2020 primary in the Central Valley.

Equality Florida added 17,000 grassroots supporters and recruited, trained, and mobilized 415 volunteers to execute its most expansive voter mobilization effort to date. The group also identified 40 leaders comprising the emerging Black LGBTQ Leaders Network that the organization will help support.

Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement launched an LGBTQ Latinx digital voter-engagement campaign to digitally engage LGBTQ Latinx voters in Arizona, North Carolina, and Florida, reaching almost one million impressions across all platforms and leading to historic Latinx voter turnout.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs added three grassroots organizations into the coalition.

United We Dream expanded its membership (field and online) to 800,000 and trained over 200 members in outreach and digital organizing strategy. Arcus support contributed to this expansion through a final grant to the organization.

- **Policy advocacy.** In Florida, Faith in Public Life successfully advocated for conversion therapy bans in Tallahassee and Jacksonville. The organization also successfully partnered with Florida-based organizations to prevent eight proposed anti-LGBTQ bills from passing in the Florida state legislature.

The Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico worked directly with New Mexico’s motor vehicle division to streamline and improve the process for changing gender markers on drivers’ licenses, leading to new user-friendly forms and efficient processes to correct gender markers.

After over a year of interACT’s advocacy efforts and collaboration with medical students and LGBTQ allies, the Massachusetts Medical Society passed a resolution at its December 2019 meeting in support of safeguarding intersex children’s bodily autonomy by delaying medical interventions. This sets a precedent for other institutions to follow suit across other states, including Arcus’ priority regions.

[Return to the 2020 Arcus Social Justice Program Strategy Evaluation Report](#)