

## 2023 RESULTS

Through our unique Portable Justice model, Justice in Motion impacted over 2,200 migrants in the past year by building systems that protect migrant rights and ensuring access to justice across borders. We are proud to share the following highlights.

### DEFENDER NETWORK

For 15 years, Justice in Motion has trained and coordinated a network of local human rights Defenders across key areas of Northern Central America and Mexico so that they can serve as a resource for migrants in their communities.

“ I feel privileged and proud to belong to the Network - knowing that with the work carried out, we are able to return stolen rights back to migrants, and that through the support and solidarity provided by each member of the Network, human rights are restored to a lot of families. ”



Alex Maldonado, Honduras

“ Belonging to the Defender Network has been very enriching, along with the lessons learned and especially the achievements obtained for migrants in other countries. With this, I have been able to know that I can contribute to the situation of a compatriot outside the borders of their country. ”



Miriam Ramirez, Guatemala

“ For me, being part of the Defender Network means: One, that Justice is attainable. Second, I have the opportunity to help those who need it. And finally, I get to hear stories and meet people that inspire us to be better every day. ”

Eder Evelio Quintanilla García, El Salvador

“ It is important to be a member of this Network because it allows us to provide support to migrants, it also helps us build professional relationships, exchange information and ideas - and at the same time, share good practices among members. ”



Nicas Migrante, Nicaragua

“ We need to share knowledge and good practices from various territories to accompany us in the defense of people's human rights and the realization that a just world is possible. ”

Liliana Lomeli, Mexico

### DEFENDER NETWORK



#### EL SALVADOR (5):

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (UGB Usulután) - Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas (Santa María);

Oficina Jurídica y Asociados: Yudith Patricia Euceda de Díaz (San Miguel);

Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador (GMIES) (San Salvador);

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (UGB San Miguel) - Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas (San Miguel);

Organización De Mujeres Salvadoreñas por La Paz (ORMUSA) (San Salvador)

#### HONDURAS (7):

Oficina Jurídica Melara Gómez (San Pedro Sula);

Firma Legal Ocampo García (Tegucigalpa);

Pastoral de Movilidad Humana - Conferencia Episcopal de Honduras (Comayagua);

Lic. Claudia Pinto (San Pedro Sula);

Bufete Ruth Yamileth Espinoza Rodríguez (Choluteca);

Despacho Jurídico Abogado Leonardo Rojas (Tegucigalpa);

Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH) (Tegucigalpa)

# LEGAL ACTION

We connect and advise legal advocates across North and Central America to ensure that migrant rights do not stop at the border.

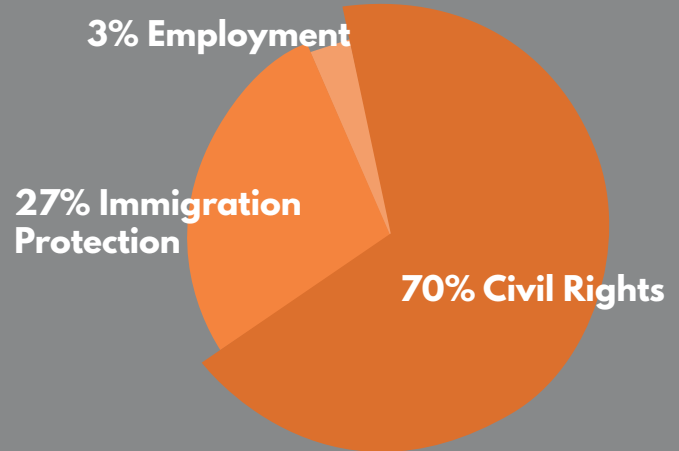


## Case Collaborations

Our Legal Action program matches US lawyers with Defenders who provide legal support in their migrant clients' countries of origin. We supported over 1,000 cases in the past year, including:

- **311 immigration protection cases** to help individuals find safety in the US through asylum or other humanitarian means
- **33 employment cases** to help migrant workers defend their legal rights against human trafficking, wage theft, workplace injury and other labor abuses
- **772 civil rights cases** to ensure access to justice for deported migrants whose civil rights were violated during arrest, detention, or removal, including parents who were separated from their children and deported without them.

## US LEGAL ACTION 2023:



## Recovering from the trauma of family separation



In partnership with Defenders, we created a project to aid families who remain in their origin country by investing in their healing process. In total, twelve families were supported by six Defenders. Families requested that we help with:

- Modifying existing homes to be safer and more comfortably accommodate the families.
- Establishing small stores or warehouses to promote financial independence for the families.
- Procuring materials to support the families' agricultural work and sustain their participation in cooperative endeavors.
- Offering scholarships and school supplies for the children.

Additionally, each of the six Defenders received a stipend for their dedicated accompaniment of the families throughout the project.

## Adapting to risky political climates

This year, political instability across Central America has made human rights defenders' work more challenging and dangerous. For example, in El Salvador, the government's crackdown on gangs resulted in restrictions on civil liberties for many individuals. This impacts Defenders who seek information about migrants and their families.

Given the severity of the situation, we assessed the risk and have compiled information to share with US lawyers. This helps explain why obtaining certain evidence is impossible. Our plan is to expand these reports to the rest of our service area.

## DEFENDER NETWORK



### NICARAGUA (2):

Federación de Trabajadores/as del departamento de Chinandega (FETDECH-CST) (Chinandega);

NicasMigrante (Bolonía/Managua)

### GUATEMALA (13):

Lic. Marco Vinicio López Maldonado (San Marcos);

Bufete Jurídico R&L (Quetzaltenango); Lic. Hector Waldemar Barrera Palma (Zacapa);

Oficinas Chay Medrano (Santa Cruz del Quiché); Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG) (Guatemala);

Oficina Jurídica Lic. Aroldo Palacios (Huehuetenango); Lic. Miriam Ramirez (Guatemala City);

G & C Consultores (Ciudad de Guatemala); Pastoral Social de la Diócesis de San Marcos (San Marcos);

Oficina Jurídica de Rebeca Sanchez y Kenny Gonzalez (Guatemala); Oficina Jurídica Notarial Licdo. Het Waldemar Barrera Trinidad (Puerto Barrios);

Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala (AANMG) (Guatemala City);

Centro de Estudios y Apoyo al Desarrollo Local (CEADEL) (Chimaltenango)



## POLICY ADVOCACY

Our team builds the political will to drive policy change at national levels to maximize the impact of our mission. We collaborate with human rights allies across North and Central America to solve the systemic problems that threaten migrants' rights.

### Proactively protecting worker rights

Our Policy team has trained and provided technical advice to Northern Central American governments interested in safeguarding their nationals who travel to the United States to work temporarily in agriculture and other labor sectors.

The training discusses the foundations of the temporary work visa programs (e.g., H-2A and H-2B), workers' rights, red flags for governments to watch out for, and information that officials should share with workers. So far, JiM has conducted six training sessions for the Guatemalan Department of Labor, four for the Honduran Departments of Labor & Interior Affairs, and one for

### Ensuring access to asylum

With the support of numerous advocate groups, Justice in Motion has actively engaged Congress to vote against harmful legislation that would restrict asylum protections. Additionally, Justice in Motion submitted comments opposing a new rule issued by the Biden Administration, which posed a threat to the fair application process for asylum seekers at the US Southern border. To date, this advocacy work has been successful in minimizing the passage of harmful policies.

the Foreign Affairs Department of El Salvador.

To complement this work in Central America, the Policy team also offered technical advice and insights to United States government agencies, including USAID, DOL, DOS, and the White House. The team provided technical assistance to USDA on the development of a pilot program that launched in September 2024.

The Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Grant Program, aims to increase access to H-2A visas in Northern Central America by incentivizing U.S. employers to hire seasonal workers from the region. JiM has advised the USDA on the support we're providing to Central American governments and key ways to protect workers.

## DEFENDER NETWORK



### MEXICO (16):

Scalabrínianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados - SMR/ Padre José Marchetti A.C. (Ciudad de México);

Asociación de Auxiliares Voluntarios para Servicios Sociales, AC (Zacapu);

Comunitaria por los Derechos Humanos "Tzobibaltik" A.C. (San Cristóbal de Las Casas);

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) (Santiago Juxtahuaca);

Pastoral de Migrantes - Chinameca, Veracruz (Chinameca);

Pastoral de Migrantes – Hidalgo (Actopan); Respuesta Alternativa A.C. (San Luis Potosí);

Servicios Educativos del Bajío A.C. (León); Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración,

AC (IMUMI) (Ciudad de México);

Red de Mujeres y Hombres por una Opinión Pública con Perspectiva de Género en Campeche, A.C. (REDMYH A.C.) (Campeche);

Comisión de Derechos Humanos y Laborales del Valle de Tehuacán A.C. (CDHLVT A.C.) (Tehuacán);

Laboratorio de Innovación para la Paz (Coyoacán); Arredondo & Amaro Abogados (León);

Centro de Acompañamiento a Migrantes A.C. (CAMINOS) (San Antonio de la Cal);

Pastoral de Movilidad Humana - Diócesis de Zamora (Zamora);

Red de Mujeres del Bajío A.C. (Celaya); Despacho Jurídico Arias Tique (Comalcalco)

# OUR TEAM AND PARTNERS

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National Dignity for Families Fund

New York Community Trust

Oak Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

This is About Humanity

Tides Foundation

The MCJ Amelior Foundation

Together Rising

WE Trust

Zegar Family Foundation

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