

20 Years of Innovating to Meet the Emerging Needs of Migrants Seeking Justice Across Borders



2005

Justice in Motion – then called Global Workers Justice Alliance – was founded to combat the crisis of abused migrant workers being shut out of the U.S. justice system when they returned to their home countries.

In a statement to the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers, Justice in Motion coined the term *portable justice*—the right and ability for migrants to access justice across borders.

2008

Locally-led human rights organizations and lawyers from Southern Mexico and Guatemala gathered at our first convening in Chiapas, Mexico to explore how to ensure portable justice for migrants from their region. From that first convening, the Defender Network was born.

2013

We expanded the Defender Network to reach migrants in Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

2014
-2016

Overwhelmed by the crisis of unaccompanied children crossing the U.S. southern border, U.S. immigration lawyers asked if the Defender Network could help. *Recognizing that we could achieve an impact far beyond justice for workers, we expanded our mission and rebranded as Justice in Motion.*

2018

When the U.S. government forcibly separated close to 5,000 children from their parents at the U.S. border without a plan or intent to reunite them, we mounted an on-the-ground response to find and support the over 1,000 parents who were deported without their children.

2020

We launched the Child Detention Crisis Initiative so advocates in the U.S. could engage Defenders to collect the information needed to quickly free children from immigration detention.

2024

This year, Justice in Motion delivered portable justice for over 3,300 migrants, trained governments to protect their citizens from labor abuse, advocated for migrant rights with federal agencies and in the halls of Congress, and strengthened a network of locally-led human rights organizations and independent lawyers across Mexico and Northern Central America. Turn the page to learn more.



POLICY ADVOCACY

Justice in Motion’s Policy Program conducts policy analysis and engages governments to share best practices for protecting migrant rights. We leverage the knowledge of our Defender Network and Legal Action team to bridge the divide between labor and immigration policy and bring new perspectives and unique expertise into policy spaces. In 2024, we:

- ▶ Provided vote recommendations to Congress to fight against an escalating number of bills that would harm migrants seeking humanitarian protection.
- ▶ Recommended sub-regulatory changes to the White House Interagency H-2B Task Force that were featured in their report: **Strengthening Protections for H-2B Temporary Workers.**
- ▶ Submitted comments to proposed rules issued by the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen protections for labor migrants and migrants seeking asylum.
- ▶ Facilitated the placement of Defender Network member IMUMI as a featured speaker at the inaugural event of the Congressional Caucus on Global Migration.
- ▶ Provided training and technical assistance to Guatemalan and Honduran Ministry of Labor staff and Salvadoran Foreign Affairs staff to protect worker’s rights and prevent abuse and human trafficking on H-2 temporary labor visas*.

* Training in Guatemala was made possible with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the generous support from the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In 2024, we reached a milestone of over 1,000 families supported through the on-the-ground work of the Justice in Motion Defender Network.

- ▶ Defenders continued to find families who no one else can reach, including those recently identified as potentially eligible for redress under the December 2023 settlement to the ACLU’s class action lawsuit *Ms. L v ICE.*
- ▶ About a quarter of the families still in their home countries have needed local legal services from Defenders to overcome complex barriers to reunification and prepare to return to the U.S.
- ▶ We launched a new partnership with immigration legal service providers to help reunified families fight for asylum and remain together in safety in the U.S.

LEGAL ACTION

Our one-of-a-kind Legal Action Program matches U.S. lawyers with Defenders across North and Central America to ensure that migrant rights do not stop at the border.



Labor rights cases defending migrant workers against human trafficking, wage theft, and other abuse



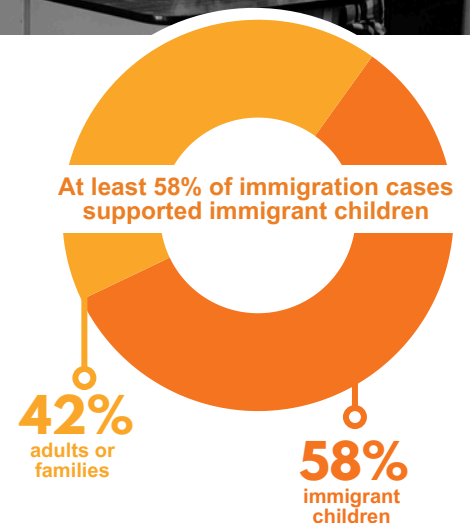
Immigration protection cases to help children and adults find safety in the U.S. through asylum or other means

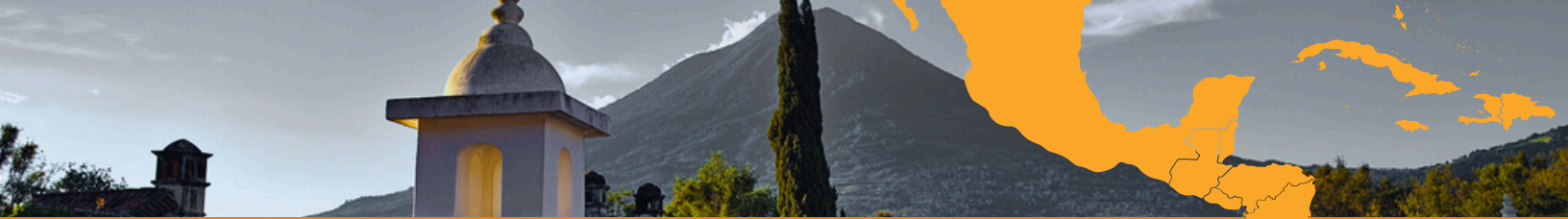


Civil rights cases to ensure access to justice for deported migrants whose civil rights were violated during arrest, detention, or removal



Cases to help **detained immigrant children**





EXPANDING THE DEFENDER NETWORK



In 2024, we worked with Defenders and allies across the region to identify over 25 new Mexican, Honduran, and Guatemalan organizations for membership in the Defender Network.

Once those organizations are onboarded in 2025, the Defender Network will have the capacity to take on more cross-border support for immigration, civil rights, and labor rights cases and launch new projects to promote migrant rights through education and policy advocacy. A strong, supported Defender Network will be ready to respond to whatever new challenges may come.

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The MCJ Amelior Foundation



ADVANCING JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN CHICAGO

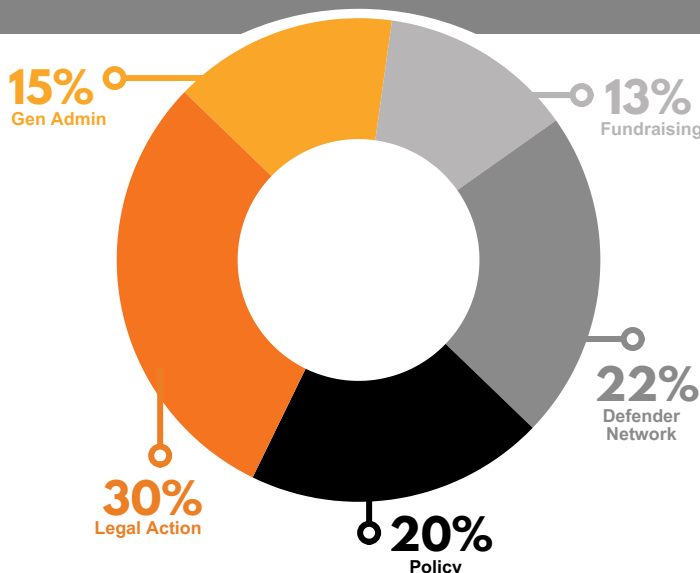


In 2024, we brought Justice in Motion's pioneering model of international collaboration to Chicago.

With support from the Walder Foundation, partnering immigration legal service providers can now call on Defenders to collect evidence and provide other cross-border support to critical cases. This will help children and adults who fled their home countries make their strongest possible case for asylum and other vital forms of humanitarian immigration. Defenders will also share their expertise in a series of virtual workshops open to immigration advocates and scholars throughout the city.



WHERE YOUR DONATION GOES





DEFENDER NETWORK



MEXICO

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Arredondo & Amaro Abogados

Centro de Acompañamiento a Migrantes A.C.

Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova A.C.

Comisión de Derechos Humanos y Laborales del Valle de Tehuacán A.C.

Comunitaria por los Derechos Humanos "Tzobibaltik" A.C.

Despacho Jurídico Arias Tique

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales

Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, A.C.

Pastoral de Migrantes – Hidalgo

Pastoral de Migrantes – Chinameca, Veracruz

Pastoral de Movilidad Humana – Diócesis de Zamora

Red de Mujeres del Bajío, A.C.

Red de Mujeres y Hombres por una Opinión Pública con Perspectiva de Género en Campeche

Respuesta Alternativa A.C.

Scalabrinianas: Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados (SMR)

Servicios Educativos del Bajío A. C.

GUATEMALA

Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala

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Oficina Jurídica Notarial Licdo. Het Waldemar Barrera Trinidad

Oficina Jurídica Rebeca Sanchez Ralda y Kenny González

Oficinas Chay Medrano

Pastoral de la Tierra, Diócesis de San Marcos

NICARAGUA

Federación de Trabajadores/as del departamento de Chinandega (FETDECH)

NicasMigrante

HONDURAS

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Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

Despacho Jurídico Abogado Leonardo Rojas

Firma Legal Ocampo & García

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Oficina Jurídica Gómez Melara

Pastoral de Movilidad Humana - Conferencia Episcopal de Honduras

EL SALVADOR

Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador

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Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (San Miguel)

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (Usulután)

Universidad Salvadoreña Alberto Masferrer

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