

## NASW-NYC ACTIONS IN THE CURRENT SOCIAL/POLITICAL CLIMATE

Immediately following the November 8, 2016 election, NASW-NYC went into high gear, starting with the publication of our “NASW-NYC Statement on the Outcome of the Presidential Election 2016.” Since that time, we have been responding to new and ongoing challenges, and welcome your participation in our current strategies.

- **Legislative Work:** NASW-NYC continues to be actively engaged in the legislative process. We maintain a lobbyist in Albany who works on many of the action areas described below, and a Political Action for Candidate Election Committee (PACE) which inspires advocacy in electoral politics and community organized action. As we move forward in this political climate, local elections will be even more important.

Since the election, we have consistently urged our membership through eblasts and social media to reach out to legislators on all levels on specific calls to action. NASW-NYC has partnered with and signed on to various [campaigns](#) to “enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people” with emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed communities.

- **#CLOSErikers:** NASW-NYC, as a community partner on the #CLOSErikers Campaign with JustLeadershipUSA, has participated in direct actions over the past year. In honor of Father’s Day, the chapter was present at the #FreeTheDads rally in Foley Square to “fight for fathers separated from their children by detention and incarceration”. JustLeadershipUSA [released a statement](#) on 6/22/17 providing a critique of Mayor de Blasio’s “[Roadmap to Closing Rikers Island](#)” 10 year plan. [Click here for photos of #FreeTheDads rally](#)
- **#RaiseTheAge Campaign:** We participated in the March 7<sup>th</sup> #RaiseTheAge Lobby Day in Albany, along with NASW-NYS. On Monday, 4/10/17, Governor Cuomo signed into law legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility in the state of New York. On 4/28/17, we attended a press conference on Raise the Age, thanking Assembly Speaker Heastie for his leadership on this issue. [Click here to view press conference on Raise the Age](#)
- **Other Criminal Justice Issues:**  
Reduction of Visiting Days at State Maximum Security Prisons:  
NASW-NYC signed on to a letter to the Governor along with many other concerned organizations to tell him not to reduce the number of visiting days in maximum security prisons from 7-3.

NASW-NYC signed on to campaigns for [speedy trial](#) (Kalief’s Law)

NASW-NYC joined with other organizations around the state to support the broad criminal justice platform of [#ChallengingIncarcerationNY](#). The campaign seeks to address the following criminal injustices: end mass incarceration, establish community empowerment, reconstruction, and control,

end state violence and torture, shift away from punishment paradigm and end structural racism, ensure a focus on women and LGBTI people, protect the human rights of all

NASW-NYC became [CPR Partner](#) of Communities United for Police Reform, endorsing the [Right to Know Act](#), “legislation awaiting a vote in the New York City Council that would help prevent abuses and bring accountability to New Yorkers' most common encounters with the NYPD.”

- **Conversion Therapy: The Impact of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts Across Race, Diversity, and Intersectionality:** NASW NYC and NYS held a very successful Press Conference and Lobby Day on 4/25/17. [Click here to view the press release](#). NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito & Councilman Daniel Dromm have introduced a bill to ban conversion therapy in NYC altogether during the 2017 NYC Legislation Hearings on 6/19/17. [Click here for a summary and the full text of the committee report](#).
- **Healthcare:** We shared a [statement](#) on our opposition to the repeal of the *Affordable Care Act*, opposing the loss of health care and establishing its dire consequences, highlighting the impact on New York State, and we continue to supply our members with information about the direct and collateral consequences to all of us, but particularly to communities who will suffer the most from the loss of coverage. Several “Calls to Action” have been sent on this issue, in regard to the proposed [BCRA](#), most recently on 6/20/17- when the Senate released their draft of the amended *ACHA*.

On Wednesday, May 27, the New York State Assembly passed the “*New York Health Act*” universal health care bill by a vote of 92 to 52. New York Health would provide universal, comprehensive health care to all New Yorkers without premiums, co-pays, deductibles, or limited provider networks. [Click here to view the full press release](#). NASW-NYC has endorsed this bill.

- **Public Demonstrations:** NASW-NYC chartered two buses to go to DC for the Women’s March (1/21/17) there and organized a contingent to the march in NYC. NASW members attended rallies throughout the City in support of LGBTQ rights (1/25/17), I am A Muslim Too (2/19/17), an Indivisible Meeting (2/22/17) at the Ethical Culture School in Manhattan. We co-sponsored the Unity Rally in Queens on 2/26/17, and the NYU Silver School of Social Work event on March 2 on “Mass Incarceration, Immigration, and the Trauma of the Oppressed: A Call to Action!” In addition, we participated in a #RaiseTheAge Rally at City Hall Park on March 25, along with many other groups.
- **Sanctuary Cities, Immigration Policies and Child Welfare:** The NYC chapter collaborated with 7 other state chapters and NASW National Committee to produce a Social Justice Brief: “Intersection of Sanctuary Cities, National Immigration Policies, and Child Welfare Policies and Practice in the Trump Era”. The brief addresses the Trump Administration’s mass deportation efforts.

On 5/23/17 NASW-NYC participated in a conference on immigration titled: *Protecting Children New York: Threats to Principles of Child Protection in the Current Immigration Policy Environment*. The conference held at Fordham Law School, brought together experts in child welfare and immigration field to provide an overview of children in the immigration system and some of the threats they face including procedural due process, safety and permanency and family unity. The conference ended with a call to action for stakeholders to collaborate and work together to address this issue.

- **Film Screenings:**  
March 30, 2017- *13<sup>th</sup>*, May 8, 2017- *Moonlight*, June, 22, 2017- *Time: The Kalief Browder Story*