

Social Justice Organizations

The Oseh Shalom Social Justice team has identified a number of organizations, collaboratives and networks that have experience and expertise in the areas of interest expressed by our working groups. Meaningful engagement with these organizations acts as a force multiplier for our congregants and allow the team to capitalize on their lessons learned, training/educational materials they have prepared, and relationships they have cultivated.

[Bend the Arc](#) is a national organization for progressive American Jews and their allies to join together to fight for justice and equality for all. The organization focuses on training local leaders to act in their communities, to advocate for enduring social change through legislation, and to build solidarity with all who are impacted by antisemitism and white nationalism to expand civil rights, defend democracy, and protect each other. Ioana Stoica and Emily Blank are leaders of the Prince George's Moral Minyan.

[Jews United for Justice](#) focuses its advocacy in DC, Montgomery County, Baltimore, and statewide through the General Assembly in Annapolis. Founded as a grassroots community that seeks to repair the world by concentrating on issues of local concern, JUFJ campaigns have been instrumental in driving changes in many issues including police accountability and racial equity, renters' rights, minimum wage increases, and paid family leave. Heidi Rhodes is a volunteer leader with JUFJ and is very involved in the organization.

[Maryland Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) is the state level organizing body of a national effort to revive and expand on the work of the late Rev Martin Luther King, Jr. The PPC seeks to address a broad range of issues by harnessing moral outrage against systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy and the false narrative of religious nationalism into a powerful moral fusion movement.

[Courageous Conversations](#) is a national organization designed to train local leaders on how to address systemic anti-Black racism through a common language and framework that was developed after decades of consultation and coaching with educators. The organization offers an on-line academy of courses that users can choose based on where they are in their formation and self-awareness.

[Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#) is a national network of multi-racial, cross-class activists who focus on undermining White support for the divisive narrative of White supremacy. SURJ has developed a thoughtful framework for change that local chapters and affiliates can use to tackle these issues in their own communities.

[Interfaith Power & Light](#) is a national interfaith coalition of communities that seek to combat climate change through education on energy conservation and adoption of green practices, as well as through advocacy. The local Interfaith Power & Light is a project of the InterFaith Council of Metropolitan Washington. IP&L offers training, inter-congregational connection, and consultation and facilitates the Jewish Climate Action Network.

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[Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) works with congregations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and DC to raise awareness of and take action toward protecting the vast Chesapeake Bay watershed. IPC offers hands-on assistance helping congregations plan, pay for, and install healing projects for their communities such as rain gardens, tree plantings, native plantings, and more. Its programs include the One Water Partnership (local project-based collaboratives), Faithful Green Leaders training, Learning Labs (deep dives into specific topics), and local advocacy campaigns.

[Chesapeake Climate Action Network \(CCAN\)](#) is the oldest of the grassroots organizations in Maryland to recognize and address the effects of climate change in Maryland. Working with allies across the region, CCAN has fought for and won big battles on reducing reliance on fossil fuels, making access to green energy solutions equitable in poor communities and communities of color, and bringing diversity to climate change discussions writ large.

[HIAS](#) is one of the pre-eminent organizations helping refugees escape persecution and resettle in safety; reuniting families who have been separated; and helping them build new lives in safety and freedom. HIAS continues to resettle the most vulnerable refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from all over the world. The HIAS Welcome Campaign is a national effort to engage congregations and raise awareness, advocate for and assist refugees in local communities. The annual Refugee Shabbat experience also encourages congregations to mindfully focus on refugees and asylum seekers.

[Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area](#) sponsors a comprehensive refugee and immigrant resettlement programs, including workforce development, foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors, and health and social supports.

[Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International \(TASSC\)](#) uses a holistic and integrated model to help torture survivors address all aspects of their wellbeing and support them as they move toward recovery. TASSC provides legal, social, and health services while offering a safe environment for survivors. TASSC also provides training on trauma-informed care to community organizations.

[The Industrial Areas Foundation \(IAF\)](#) partners with dues-paying religious congregations and civic organizations at the local level to build broad-based organizing projects, which create new capacity in a community for leadership development, citizen-led action and relationships across the lines that often divide our communities. Nationally, IAF invests heavily in the identification, training and connecting of leaders whose capacities and skills may be further developed with careful mentoring and challenge. Locally, there are IAF affiliates in Baltimore, Columbia, Silver Spring and Edgewater; a new affiliate in Prince George's County (PLAN) is just getting off the ground.