

GIVING INSIGHTS

Racial Justice



The interests of our funding community inform the choice of issues we cover in each Giving Insights publication.

Overview

Many donors in our community are encountering the current events in the United States of exposed racism and police brutality with deep emotions of sadness, fear, and anger, and wanting to know what we can do to help. This document offers some ideas on how you can support racial justice through a donor-advised fund.

Our historic communal experiences with forms of systemic oppression, leveled against us as antisemitism, encourage us to stand up against racism and bigotry in all its forms. Many in our community benefit from white privilege and feel that it is important to contribute to making change. The Jewish journey towards inclusion should also acknowledge and lift up the voices of Jews of Color, many of whom have been marginalized both within the Jewish community and by broader society. Our Jewish values such as loving kindness (*chesed*), justice (*tzedek*), and repairing the world (*tikkun olam*) serve as a guide to take action.

The organizations below address racial injustice in a variety of ways with some combining strategies. Many conduct research and use data as well as legal arguments to advocate for change in local, state and national laws and policies. Some organize people of color and their allies to raise their voices more effectively, make change in their communities, and vote. Still others focus on reforming incarceration, including changing the bail system, addressing the school-to-prison pipeline, and creating opportunities for education and early release or probation.

Using your Donor-Advised Fund

Giving to a systemic issue like this can seem overwhelming; there are many choices to navigate. We hope this guide is helpful in identifying some different approaches to this deep and complex social problem. We have compiled and vetted this list of organizations as a resource and starting point for conversation and action.

Our donors are giving to many of the Jewish and secular organizations listed below. You may want to consider these when implementing your giving strategy.



Advocacy



Incarceration reform



Organizing



Jewish



Local



State



National

<p>Advancement Project California</p>	<p>Works alongside community partners to develop policies and practices that prioritize the needs of residents of color. Strategizes with community partners to identify funding, services, and opportunities in our public systems that can be redistributed for more just outcomes for all. Advancement Project's goal is to promote racial equity and build a foundation so that every Californian may thrive.</p>	 <small>Advocacy</small>  <small>State</small>
<p>The Bail Project</p>	<p>Provides free bail assistance and pretrial support to thousands of low-income people every year. The Bail Project combats mass incarceration at the front end of the system by paying bail for people in need, reuniting families, and restoring the presumption of innocence. Because bail is returned at the end of a case, donations can be recycled and reused to pay bail two to three times per year.</p>	 <small>Advocacy</small>  <small>Incarceration reform</small>  <small>National</small>

<p><u>Be'chol Lashon</u></p>	<p>Be'chol Lashon (Hebrew for "in every language") strengthens Jewish identity by raising awareness about the ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity of Jewish identity and experience. Brings the historic Jewish commitment to civil rights and racial justice forward into the 21st century. Programs include diversity training, educational resources, research, camps, and travel opportunities.</p>	
<p><u>The Black Futures Lab</u></p>	<p>Transforms Black communities into constituencies that change the way power operates—locally, statewide, and nationally. This project engages Black voters year-round; commits to use political strength to stop corporate influences from creeping into progressive policies; and combines technology and traditional organizing methods to reach Black people across the country.</p>	
<p><u>Color of Change</u></p>	<p>The nation's largest online racial justice organization with 1.7 million members. Nationally, moves decision-makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America by leading campaigns that build real power for Black communities. Challenges injustice, holds corporate and political leaders accountable, commissions game-changing research on systems of inequality, and advances solutions for racial justice.</p>	
<p><u>Ella Baker Center for Human Rights</u></p>	<p>Works locally, statewide, and nationally to shift resources away from prisons and punishment and towards opportunities that make communities safe, healthy, and strong. Builds power and prosperity through policy work that reduces sentences, removes barriers, and restores opportunities. Changes the conversation about public safety to be less focused on fear and punishment, and more focused on having a living wage job, healthy food, and affordable childcare, healthcare, and housing.</p>	
<p><u>Equal Justice Initiative</u></p>	<p>Human rights organization that challenges convictions, advocates for criminal-justice reform and racial justice, and created the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. Committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the U.S., challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.</p>	
<p><u>Equal Justice Society</u></p>	<p>Transforming the nation's consciousness on race through law, social science, and the arts. The EJS legal strategy aims to broaden conceptions of present-day discrimination to include unconscious and structural bias by using social science, structural analysis, and real-life experience. Targets its advocacy efforts on school discipline, special education, the school-to-prison pipeline, race-conscious remedies, and inequities in the criminal justice system.</p>	
<p><u>Glide Center for Social Justice</u></p>	<p>Influences public policy and changes public perception around poverty, discrimination, and civil and human rights. Focuses on thought leadership, policy development, grassroots organizing, education, and legal action. Convenes policymakers and peers to amplify the voices of the community, while mobilizing congregants, clients, volunteers, donors, and neighbors to become agents of social change. Volunteer opportunities include community meetings, phone banks, voter turnout efforts, and emergency actions.</p>	

<p><u>Jewish Community Action</u></p>	<p>Brings together Jewish people from diverse traditions and perspectives to promote understanding and take action on racial and economic justice issues in Minnesota. Works in partnership with local coalitions, interfaith initiatives, neighborhood groups, and minority and immigrant groups working for racial and economic justice. Trains volunteer leaders, who take this work inward to their congregations as well as outward into the broader community to make real social change.</p>	
<p><u>Jews of Color Field Building Initiative COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for Individuals</u></p>	<p>The Jews of Color Initiative COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund provides financial support for People of Color in the Jewish community who are impacted by COVID-19. This fund serves the demographic population that has the highest COVID-19 mortality rate, economic disenfranchisement, and poor health outcomes in the current crisis.</p>	
<p><u>NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund</u></p>	<p>America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans. LDF also defends the gains and protections won over the past 75 years of civil rights struggle and works to improve the quality and diversity of judicial and executive appointments.</p>	
<p><u>Project Rebound</u></p>	<p>A special admissions program assisting formerly incarcerated individuals wanting to enter San Francisco State University. Founded in 1967, the program provides a way to matriculate people into SFSU directly from the criminal justice system. Since the program's inception, there have been hundreds of formerly incarcerated individuals who have obtained four-year degrees and beyond. The program is an alternative to the revolving door policy of the criminal justice system.</p>	

Have Questions or Suggestions?

If you have additional suggestions or questions on this topic, or would like information on other causes and ways to give, contact your philanthropy advisor or email us at philanthropy@sfjcf.org.

Federation Philanthropy Partners connects impact and meaning by helping others view the world through the lens of Jewish values. Our 100 year history at the center of Bay Area generosity—supporting both those who give and those who benefit—grants us a unique ability to amplify results and create moments of transformation in the world, our community, and ourselves.