

NYSUT members interested in having their local union become involved in social justice issues can visit the resources section of the social justice page at www.nysut.org/socialjustice. To submit ideas to the committee, contact Paul Webster, NYSUT director of community outreach, at pwebster@nysutmail.org or 518-213-6000, ext. 6616.

NYSUT'S SOCIAL JUSTICE AGENDA:

Our agenda promotes equal access to society's opportunities, thereby empowering people to have choices and control over their own destiny. This agenda stems from the belief that injustice and oppression in other communities and nations directly impacts members of the labor movement. The premise behind this agenda is that a socially just world affords individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of society's benefits.

This agenda holds that a fundamental responsibility of labor leaders is to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and fight to ensure that every individual enjoys basic human rights. A social justice agenda is more than token charity; instead it is a strategy that transforms individuals and communities.



This pamphlet is produced by the
2017–20 NYSUT Committee
on Civil and Human Rights.

J. Philippe Abraham, NYSUT First Vice President
518-213-6000, ext. 6664
pabraham@nysutmail.org



Andrew Pallotta, *President*
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WWW.NYSUT.ORG

800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110-2455
518-213-6000 • 800-342-9810
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NYSUT and Civil & Human Rights



*"As we seek to build a greater
labor movement, one of the
cornerstones of our commitment
to social justice is to ensure that
all workers and communities are
treated fairly, with dignity and
respect, irrespective of race,
ethnicity, sexual orientation,
gender and gender identity
or expression, religion
or place of birth."*

— J. Philippe Abraham,
NYSUT First Vice President



The charge of the NYSUT Standing Committee on Civil and Human Rights is to advance the union's efforts to promote equity and social justice.

The committee addresses civil and human rights initiatives and social justice issues facing members and their communities. Its recommendations are forwarded to NYSUT's Officers and Board. The committee coordinates efforts with civil and human rights committees of the AFT and NEA, as well as the AFL-CIO and other organizations.



The committee's advocacy has led NYSUT to take action on key social and human rights issues. Over the decades, our collective involvement has resulted in positive outcomes for many initiatives such as:

- Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)
- Repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)
- Disaster Relief for hurricane, flood and earthquake victims
- Border Witness Delegation Trips
- Tipped Wage Increase in NY
- Recognition of Civil and Human Rights Heroes
- Anti-Bullying Legislation and Training
- LGBTQ Rights
- U.N. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Anti-Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking Laws

The committee supports NYSUT's actions on:

- Women's Rights
- Wage Equity
- Domestic Abuse
- Hunger and Poverty
- Justice for Farmworkers
- Immigration Issues
- DACA
- DREAM Act
- Environmental Justice
- Fairness and Equity in Educational Opportunities
- Fair Trade
- Child Labor
- Retirement Security and Protection of All Safety Nets
- Human Rights and Social Justice Education
- Global Rights to Free Public Education
- Socio-Economic Equality
- Public School Services for Students with Physical Disabilities
- Racial Inequality
- More Access to Affordable Public Higher Education
- Health Care Access
- Rights of the Innocent

The committee aims to address these issues in the future:

- School to Prison Pipeline, Juvenile Justice, Criminal Justice Reform
- Eliminate the Stigma of Mental Health and Promote Resources/Access to Benefits
- Real Life Skills for Students with Physical and Emotional Disabilities
- Raising Awareness and Fighting Against Voter Suppression
- Holocaust Remembrance and Genocide Prevention
- Religious Freedom; Ability to Worship Freely
- Common Sense Economics
- Next Generation Title IX
- Human Rights Conference
- Prosecutorial Misconduct



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* NYSUT Board of Directors member