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# The Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award

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We honor Ken Kurzweil by naming this award after him for his unparalleled experience, passion and years of service in supporting NYSUT's social justice agenda throughout his distinguished career and into his retirement. As an educator, he impacted the lives of students, fellow educators and other community members. He demonstrated the ability to inspire, lead, organize and engage other educators, parents and the community to advocate on social justice issues. He has been an ambassador and advocate for social justice issues and a tireless champion of civil and human rights issues.

Please print

Local/Chapter/Retiree Council \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Check any topics that the Local/Chapter/Retiree Council or any of your members have addressed in the last year. You must check off or list at least FIVE topics to qualify.**

*Please note: Very large locals like UFT or UUP must apply for recognition for INDIVIDUAL chapters.*

**Email completed forms to J. Philippe Abraham: [socialjustice@nysut.org](mailto:socialjustice@nysut.org)**

**Mail to Secretary-Treasurer at NYSUT, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110**

## Topics:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Labor                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Racial Justice                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conscious Purchasing and Fair Trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Support for Human Rights           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Abuse                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wage Equity                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Justice                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Issues, History and Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunger and Poverty                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Reform                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Education                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Solidarity            | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Workers                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Solidarity                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQIA Solidarity                  |   |



# Check or list at least five issues that your Local/Chapter/Retiree Council worked on this year

## CHILD LABOR

- Taught lessons or shown films about child labor beyond required curriculum
  - Included information about child labor in union or school publications, websites or other means of communications
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## CONSCIOUS PURCHASING AND FAIR TRADE

- Served Fair Trade products at union events or in union offices
  - Used Fair Trade lessons or curriculum in classes or with union members
  - Attended or hosted a Fair Trade training or workshop
  - Included a link to the Fair Trade Project or Fair Trade Facebook on the Local/Chapter website
  - Included information about Fair Trade in Local/Chapter publications
  - Gave Fair Trade products as gifts for special occasions (i.e., SRP Recognition Day)
  - Became a Fair Trade school
  - Promoted slave-free products
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Volunteered at a local women's shelter
  - Collected diapers, baby food, toiletries, hygiene products or clothes for a women's shelter
  - Held workshops for members experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence
  - Hosted teen domestic violence education forum
  - Promoted Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE

- Hosted a forum
- Lobbied for full funding
- Promoted equitable resources
- Attended and/or organized a rally



- Participated in a Day of Action or Walk-Ins for Public Education or Colleges
  - Hosted Student Debt Forum
  - Supported diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
  - Promoted restorative justice programs within the local's school district
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### **HUNGER AND POVERTY**

- Hosted a local food drive
  - Recruited volunteers for a local food bank/pantry
  - Organized support for a homeless shelter
  - Volunteered at a soup kitchen
  - Held an informational session at building-level meetings about hunger and poverty
  - Participated in the Poor People's Campaign
  - Supported Poor People's Campaign informational meeting; Labor-Religion Coalition events, including local, state and national meetings
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

- Supported legislation — Dream Act and/or Immigration Reform
  - Lobbied your legislator(s) (emails, letters, calls, fax)
  - Attended a rally
  - Educated members and public
  - Held informational forum about the rights of undocumented children to public education
  - Developed a workshop to assist immigrants
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### **INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

- Supported the struggle of the people of Yemen, Syria and other areas
  - Celebrated May 1 as International Workers Day
  - Educated students and members about genocide, both historic and contemporary
  - Joined Amnesty International
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
-

## LABOR SOLIDARITY

- Supported striking workers
  - Supported National School-Related Professionals Day
  - Supported Farmworker Fair Labor Practice Act
  - Did a labor education program in your community, or Local/Chapter/Retiree Council
  - Participated in solidarity action for workers in another state or country
  - Participated in a Labor Day Parade
  - Celebrated Workers' Memorial Day on or around April 28
  - Supported striking workers/solidarity actions
  - Supported farmworkers
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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## LGBTQIA SOLIDARITY

- Implemented anti-bullying actions, education or programs
  - Encouraged members of your local to take the NYSUT LGBTQIA Educator Task Force Survey
  - Adopted a non-discrimination clause for your local union and district to consider
  - Reached out to the NYSUT LGBTQIA Task Force and invited them to create an LGBTQIA Education and Awareness Campaign for your local or chapter
  - Celebrated an LGBTQIA-related day of action or remembrance such as: International Day for Tolerance (November), Transgender Day of Remembrance (November), World AIDS Day (December), Human Rights Day (December), GLSEN Day of Silence (April), etc.
  - Joined or sponsored Gender and Sexualities Alliance(GAS)/Gay Lesbian Student Education Network (GLSEN)
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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## RACIAL JUSTICE

- Held a voter registration drive
- Supported diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Conducted more than one ethnic history month celebration
- Used social media to promote racial justice issues
- Involved in, participation and awareness campaigns in a racial justice movement such as: #BlackLivesMatter, Immigration, etc.
- Engaged the community in a collaborative racial justice movement



- Organized book clubs
  - Held social justice film showing
  - Conducted community/classroom conversation
  - Advocated for political/democratic rights
  - Supported legislation to make voting easier
  - Hosted an Implicit Bias workshop
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Implemented lessons from Speak Truth to Power Human Rights curriculum
  - Educated members and students about the rights of elders
  - Advocated against elder abuse
  - Encouraged students and members to become human rights defenders through education about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - Observed Dec. 10 as International Human Rights Day
  - Encouraged school participation in Speak Truth to Power program and/or video contest
  - Used social media to inform and educate others about social justice issues
  - Educated and supported campaigns opposing human, sex and labor trafficking
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### WAGE EQUITY

- Contacted legislators to support equal rights
  - Promoted Equal Pay for Equal Work
  - Attended pickets or rally
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### WOMEN'S ISSUES, HISTORY AND RIGHTS

- Educated members and students about women's rights
- Sought out and/or supported a female candidate running for a political office
- Sought out and supported (monetary, physical items, etc.) a Women's Support Group or Program to Stop Domestic Violence
- Participated in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and/or took the Pledge to Eliminate Violence Against Women

- Hosted a financial assistance information night for single parents (cost of living, college assistance, etc.)
  - Supported closing the wage gap for women especially women of color
  - Hosted a movie night featuring a women's issue/women's history film and held a panel discussion
  - Developed a workshop that teaches young women how to be successful: interview skills, dressing for a job interview, how to be successful on the job, etc.
  - Developed a workshop to address sexual harassment at school, in the workplace and/or in the community
  - Created an internship program to develop leadership skills for young women
  - Created a link with a girls' organization, such as Girl Scouts, to assist with the development of leadership skills
  - Supported Planned Parenthood by creating a letter-writing campaign to legislators addressing the need to continue fully funding the program
  - Established a Women's Committee
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### HEALTH CARE

- Promoted health care/Medicare advocacy
  - Hosted a health care forum
  - Provided information on health care/Medicare for members and community
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### SUCCESS STORIES/VICTORIES

- Celebrated local victories of note
  - Other (add activity) \_\_\_\_\_
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### OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT

(Please be as specific as possible.)

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