How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

2019 Annual Report
How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

ERASE Racism first posed this question in late 2018 at five high-profile public forums across Long Island. More than 700 attended, and we had to close registration in order not to exceed capacity of the venues. Widespread media coverage meant the substance of the forums reached millions across the region.

In 2019 we continued to ask this question and vigilantly push for solutions. And we got results.

In April, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed a significant amendment to New York State’s Human Rights Law. The amendment makes it illegal for landlords and their representatives to discriminate if a tenant or prospective tenant receives lawful, non-wage sources of income (SOI). The measure protects over 576,000 New York residents who receive disability, alimony and/or child support, veterans’ benefits, Section 8 housing support, and the like.

ERASE Racism had pushed for – and gotten – SOI protections from Nassau and Suffolk County governments. However, we realized that SOI discrimination was an issue throughout New York State, and that all Long Islanders, along with all New York State residents, deserved the strong protections along with the enforcement means that state action would bring.

That’s why in 2016 we started a coalition to realize a statewide ban on SOI discrimination. The coalition spawned the #BanIncomeBias campaign co-led by ERASE Racism, Enterprise Community Partners, Fair Housing Justice Center, and New York Housing Conference and joined by 114 organizations. Over the next two years, coalition members met with legislators, rallied constituents, and used multiple media to send the message and tell the stories of those affected.
How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

A just Long Island requires an integrated, inclusive, and equitable public education system.

Throughout 2019 ERASE Racism deepened ties with superintendent, principals, teachers, and parents. We hosted our first superintendents’ dinner. We provided professional development to help educators recognize implicit bias and implement culturally responsive curricula. We retained a Parent Organizer. And our Student Voices Campaign inspired talented, creative, and motivated area high school students to reach new heights.

Members of our growing Student Task Force for Racial and Socioeconomic Justice, which helps to direct the Student Voices Campaign, assumed prominent roles as organizers and spokespeople. On March 16, the Task Force led a daylong Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE) Forum at Molloy College attended by 100 educators, students, and community members. The Forum injected a much-needed student perspective in discussions regarding inclusive and integrative learning environments and education equity. It received prominent coverage in Newsday, Rockville Centre Herald, Fios1 News, and News12.

With her editorial regarding the importance of culturally responsive curricula, Gabriela Daza of Wellington C. Mepham High School in Bellmore became the first high school student to have an op-ed published by the Long Island Herald. The following month recent Elmont Memorial High School graduate Sufyan Hameed became the second with his piece about racism in high school sports.
An integrated, inclusive, and equitable public education system needs more teachers of color. Right now on Long Island, 92% of the overall teaching staff is white – even though the overall non-white student population is about 45%.¹

Along with The Education Trust – New York, National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University, and the New York State Council of School Superintendents, ERASE Racism organized a forum on educator diversity in May, 2019.

Educators of Color Panel Organized by Elaine Gross

The Educator Diversity Forum highlighted the findings of the National Center for Suburban Studies’ extensive report Teacher Diversity in Long Island Schools, experiences of teacher of color, and steps that districts can take to diversify their workforces. More than 200 attended, and the forum and discussion received prominent coverage in Newsday.

In July, for the second year in a row, the generosity of the Rauch Foundation enabled ERASE Racism to organize and accompany a delegation of Long Island educators to the national Reimagining Education Summer Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University.

32 Rauch Fellows from five districts attended this four-day, sold-out institute, which infused them with new ideas about how to incorporate CRSE, restorative justice, equity pedagogy, and

¹ William Mangino and Lawrence Levy (March 2019), Teacher Diversity in Long Island’s Public Schools, National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University
student advocacy into their practice. Members of the Student Task Force also presented their perspective during a panel discussion with hundreds in attendance.

Elaine Gross with Rauch Fellows at 2019 Reimagining Education Summer Institute

How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

Over the past three years the federal government has been rolling back civil rights protections at an alarming rate.

One egregious example occurred when the Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed a change to the Discriminatory Effects Standard enshrined in the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Commonly known as Disparate Impact, the standard prohibits policies and practices that have a disproportionate impact on protected class members. HUD’s proposed change would make challenges to such policies nearly impossible unless discrimination is explicitly stated.

The Disparate Impact standard has been key to successful housing lawsuits joined by ERASE Racism on Long Island.

Along with advocates across the country, ERASE Racism exhorted partners and constituents to oppose the proposed rule during HUD’s mandatory 60-day comment period. In the end, 45,750 comments were lodged.
Keeping the spotlight on the federal government’s attack on civil rights, and the impact on our region, is vital if we are to effectively resist and adapt our work in building a just Long Island. That’s why, with our partner Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, we released the comprehensive report Civil Rights Rollback: U.S. Government Actions to Reduce Civil Rights in Housing and Public Education in October. The report provides an analysis of the federal government’s actions and calls for monitoring, vigilance, and activism on the part of all Americans who care about civil rights, and includes civil rights trackers to help citizens do this. These trackers can also be seen on our website www.eraseracismny.org.

How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

In November 2019, Newsday published its blockbuster series “Long Island Divided,” a 36-page expose of real estate steering by agents across the region. The series resulted from a three-year investigation that involved 25 paired testers who visited real estate offices and recorded their interactions. Newsday has credited ERASE Racism as a key impetus behind the investigation.

Results of “Long Island Divided” were not surprising to those familiar with Long Island’s history and development. The series documented that black testers experienced disparate treatment 49% of the time, Latino testers 39% of the time, and Asian testers 19% of the time. Video and audio recordings of how agents treated white testers and testers of color making the same requests were stark and revealing.

ERASE Racism leveraged the series to push for resources to monitor and investigate housing discrimination, stronger protections for homebuyers, and stiff penalties for agents caught doing it. The Nassau and Suffolk county executives announced broad plans...
to combat the practices documented in “Long Island Divided.” The New York State Attorney General directed her office’s Civil Rights Bureau to investigate reports of housing discrimination.

**ERASE Racism** president **Elaine Gross** and **Fair Housing Justice Center** executive director **Fred Freiberg** were the star witnesses of a joint New York State Senate hearing convened in the wake of the “Long Island Divided.”

In addition to sharing solutions – which include a five-point plan for government and the real estate industry.

Also in December **ERASE Racism, Urban League of Long Island, NAACP**, and **Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk** convened a Town Hall to discuss the findings of “Long Island Divided.” The Town Hall took place in Melville and featured a discussion with **Olivia Winslow** and **Keith Herbert**, the reporters who led the investigation.
ERASE Racism and Fair Housing Justice Center issued a five-point plan to address the real estate steering documented by “Long Island Divided.”

- Fully utilize the licensing power of the State to better regulate real estate licensees;
- Create a well-resourced, proactive, and better coordinated fair housing enforcement strategy;
- The real estate industry should take affirmative steps to ensure compliance with fair housing laws;
- Affirmatively further fair housing in all housing and community development activities;
- New York State should implement fair housing legislative initiatives, policy changes, and support for programs that expand access to housing opportunities in all neighborhoods.

Enterprise Community Partners Awards
Two-Year Fellowship to ERASE Racism

In September, Enterprise Community Partners selected ERASE Racism as one of three organizations throughout New York State for its two-year Community Organizer Fellowship.

Over the next two years, we will educate and mobilize residents and other organizations to support projects, proposals, and policies that increase affordable housing on Long Island, especially housing that challenges racial segregation and discrimination.
How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

ERASE Racism has pioneered Long Island’s Leaders of Tomorrow – full-day conferences that convene diverse high and middle-school students from school districts across Long Island.

Because school district lines mirror the region’s segregated towns and neighborhood, many students do not receive an opportunity to interact with peers of different racial and ethnic backgrounds – even when these peers live one town or district away.

Long Island’s Leaders of Tomorrow breaks down these barriers by bringing these students together, fostering meaningful dialogue, and helping them to understand the history behind our region’s segregation and inequity and promote inclusion and equity in their and stand up to expressions of bigotry in their schools and communities.

On November 8 and 15, 2019, ERASE Racism held our third annual Long Island’s Leaders of Tomorrow. Over 200 students from 27 districts participated.
How Do We Build A Just Long Island?

By keeping our issues front and center in local, regional, print, broadcast, digital, and social media. Here is a summary of our coverage in 2019:

- **WSHU** – December 5, 2019 – “After 40 Years Of Opposition, Affordable Housing Project To Break Ground In Huntington” – Elaine Gross interviewed
- **Riverhead Local** – December 5, 2019 – “Riverhead man elected president of NAACP Eastern Long Island Branch” – ERASE Racism cited
- **Newsday** – December 4, 2019 – “East Northport affordable housing project could break ground next year” – Elaine Gross quoted
- **WUSB** – December 3, 2019 – “Progressive Solutions” – Interview with Elaine Gross on housing discrimination and event with New York State Attorney General Letitia James
- **Newsday** – December 3, 2019 – “AG James urges people who faced housing bias to report it” – Elaine Gross quoted
- **Long Island News Radio** – December 3, 2019 – Interview with Elaine Gross on housing discrimination and event with New York State Attorney General Letitia James
- **WSHU** – November 27, 2019 – “More Affordable Housing Coming To Huntington” – Interview with Elaine Gross on Suffolk County Legislature and proposed affordable housing in Huntington
- **The Island Now** – November 22 – “High school students attend Leaders of Tomorrow Conference”
- **WSHU** – November 21, 2019 – “New York Senate, AG to Probe Alleged Housing Discrimination on Long Island” – Interview with Elaine Gross
- **Long Island Herald** – November 21, 2019 – “Rockville Centre resident honored by Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center” -- ERASE Racism is cited
- **Newsday** – November 20, 2019 – Podcast: “Newsday and Levittown” -- Elaine Gross is quoted twice in the third part of a three-part Newsday podcast on Levittown (once at the 4:12-minute mark and once at the 20:20-minute mark.
- **Newsday** – November 19, 2019 – “Steve Bellone announces plan to attack housing discrimination” – Article quoting Elaine Gross
- **Newsday** – November 19, 2019 – Video of press conference by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone accompanied by Elaine Gross – at which ERASE Racism was also cited for its investigations of housing discrimination on Long Island
- **Black Star News** – November 19, 2019 – “ERASE Racism Organization Calls on Political Leaders to Address Housing Discrimination on Long Island”
- **Newsday** – November 19, 2019 – “Founder and president of ERASE Racism reacts to ‘Long Island Divided’” – video interview with Elaine Gross
- **Newsday** – November 19, 2019 – “National Urban League seeks probe of Long Island real estate agents” – quote from Elaine Gross
- **Long Island News Radio** – November 19, 2019 – 30-minute interview with Elaine Gross about Newsday’s report “Long Island Divided”
- **Newsday** – November 17, 2019 – ERASE Racism is cited in “Why Agents Steer,” an article in Newsday’s landmark report “Long Island Divided” on its three-year investigation of housing discrimination on Long Island
- **Newsday** – November 17, 2019 – “ERASE Racism is cited in “Stability on a Changing Long Island,” an article in Newsday’s landmark report “Long Island Divided” on its three-year investigation of housing discrimination on Long Island
- **Newsday** – November 17, 2019 – “ERASE Racism is cited in “Dividing Lines, Visible and Invisible,” an article in Newsday’s landmark report “Long Island Divided” on its three-year investigation of housing discrimination on Long Island
• WUSB – October 29, 2019 – “Progressive Solutions” – 30-minute interview with Elaine Gross to discuss the ERASE Racism report “Civil Rights Rollback”
• Long Island Herald – October 17, 2019 – “Reshaping classroom discussion on race and culture”
• Long Island Herald – October 10, 2019 – “Study: 92% of L.I. teachers are white” quotes Elaine Gross and cites ERASE Racism
• Long Island Herald – October 3, 2019 – “A question of race and ‘birth justice’” cites ERASE Racism
• WLIW – September 30, 2019 – MetroFocus: “Segregation & Long Island” – eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
• Thirteen – September 30, 2019 – MetroFocus: “Segregation & Long Island” – eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
• NJTV – September 30, 2019 – MetroFocus: “Segregation & Long Island” – eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
• Long Island News Radio – “Morning Show with Jay Oliver” – September 23, 2019 – Interview with Elaine Gross on proposed HUD rule
• WUSB – “Progressive Solutions” – September 17, 2019 – 45-minute interview with Elaine Gross
• New York Nonprofit Media – September 12, 2019 – “Buzz” column recommends and includes Elaine Gross’s interview on “The Brian Lehrer Show”
• Newsday – September 9, 2019 – “Slamming the courthouse door on equal access to housing” – op-ed by Elaine Gross
• East End Beacon – August 31, 2019 – “Editorial: From the Deep North” – cites ERASE Racism
• Long Island Business News – August 16, 2019 – “10 nonprofits promoting social change share $218K”
• Long Island News Radio – July 29, 2019 – “The Women’s Roundtable LIVE on LI in the AM with Jay Oliver” – a one-hour discussion with Elaine Gross as a member of the Roundtable
• Newsday – June 27, 2019 – “‘When I first met her, I was so impressed’: Civil rights group honors local educator”
• InnovateLI – June 26, 2019 – “Social Justice Shines in Annual ERASE Racism Awards”
• Fordham News – June 25, 2019 – “Two Alumni Honored by ERASE Racism”
• Newsday – June 1, 2019 – “Diversity forum: Minority educators tell it like it is”
• Newsday – May 31, 2019 – “Need for teacher diversity is focus of Hofstra forum”
• WSHU (Public Radio) – May 28, 2019 – Interview with Elaine Gross on the new State ban on income bias
• City & State New York – May 27, 2019 – “The 2019 Long Island Power 100”
• City & State New York – May 27, 2019 – Commemorative magazine edition on the 2019 Long Island Power 100
• Long Island News Radio – May 23, 2019 – Live interview with Elaine Gross on the New York State ban on income bias
• Long Island Business News – May 17, 2019 – Op-ed by Elaine Gross titled “The next step toward fair housing is awareness and enforcement”

• Long Island Herald – May 16, 2019 – A lengthy letter to the editor by Elaine Gross on the need for culturally responsive-sustaining education – published in seven editions of the Herald Community Newspapers

• Long Island Report – May 16, 2019 – “New study shows Long Island teachers are less diverse than the national average”

• Long Island Herald – May 16, 2019 – “Democratic clubs in Lakeview, Rockville Centre open up the dialogue on racism”

• Press Release issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo – April 26, 2019 – Elaine Gross quoted in press release titled “Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders Announce FY 2020 Enacted Budget Includes Measure Prohibiting Discrimination Against Tenants Based on Source of Income”

• The Stony Brook Press – April 25, 2019 – “Center for the Study of Inequalities shutting down”

• WUSB-FM – April 9, 2019 – “Progressive Solutions” – 30-minute interview with Elaine Gross on culturally responsive-sustaining education

• WSHU Public Radio – April 1, 2019 – “Prevailing Wage, Congress to Campus, ERASE Racism” – 18-minute interview with Elaine Gross, beginning at the 30:40-minute mark

• The NYU Furman Center – March 6, 2019 – published online commentary by Elaine Gross titled “Housing Discrimination and Local Control” as part of broader discussion of “Local Control, Affordable Housing, and Segregation”

• Long Island Herald – February 14, 2019 – “Talking About Race on Long Island” – op-ed by ERASE Racism student volunteer Gabriela Daza was published in all 18 print editions of the weekly Herald Community Newspapers; it was the first op-ed by a high school student ever published by the Herald newspapers

• Innovate LI – February 1, 2019 – “Clean Slate” (Update on “How Do We Build a Just Long Island?”)

• WUSB FM (Stony Brook) – February 1, 2019 – Interview with Elaine Gross

• Long Island Herald – January 31, 2019 – Editorial: “Black History is a Story of Migration”

• NextLI published a Special Report on January 24, 2019 titled “How Do We Build a Just Long Island?”

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**DECEMBER 31,** 2019  

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<td>6,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$289,914</strong></td>
<td><strong>$284,472</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $55,501 | $38,996 |
| Deferred revenue | 500 | 500 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | **56,001** | **39,496** |

Net Assets:
| | | |
| Without donor restrictions | 37,638 | 68,388 |
| With donor restrictions | 196,275 | 176,588 |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | **233,913** | **244,976** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$289,914</strong></td>
<td><strong>$284,472</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$252,448</td>
<td>$186,988</td>
<td>$439,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>12,350</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting fees</td>
<td>30,350</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>2,770</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>167,301</td>
<td>(167,301)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross proceeds from special events</td>
<td>273,203</td>
<td></td>
<td>273,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: direct benefits to donors</td>
<td>(66,039)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(66,039)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net proceeds from special events</td>
<td>207,164</td>
<td></td>
<td>207,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>672,383</td>
<td>19,687</td>
<td>692,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                      |                           |                         |          |
| **EXPENSES:**        |                           |                         |          |
| Program services:    |                           |                         |          |
| Housing              | 80,977                    | -                       | 80,977   |
| Education            | 212,138                   | -                       | 212,138  |
| Public education/seminars | 40,875                 | -                       | 40,875   |
| Partner              | 206,512                   | -                       | 206,512  |
| Racism research      | 54,247                    | -                       | 54,247   |
| Youth                | 23,556                    | -                       | 23,556   |
| **Total Program Services** | 618,305                   | -                       | 618,305  |

| Supporting services: |                           |                         |          |
| Management and general | 28,315                    | -                       | 28,315   |
| Development           | 56,513                    | -                       | 56,513   |
| **Total Supporting Services** | 84,828                    | -                       | 84,828   |
| **Total Expenses**    | 703,133                   | -                       | 703,133  |

| Change in net assets | (30,750)                  | 19,687                  | (11,063) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 68,388                   | 176,588                 | 244,976  |
| **Net assets, end of year** | $37,638                   | $192,275                | $233,913 |