

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.



Ban Income Bias Lobby Day in Albany April 24, 2018.

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*.



Members of ERASE Racism's Student Task Force for Racial and Socioeconomic Justice at the CRSE forum. The event was sponsored by ERASE Racism, The Long Island (NY) Chapter The Links, Inc., and the Molloy College Doctoral Program in Education.

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 oped 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.

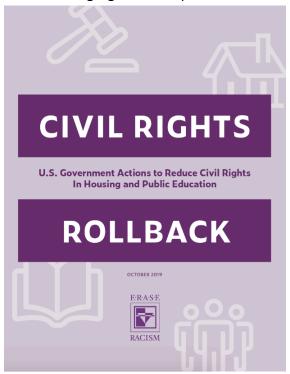


Elaine Gross with Rauch Fellows at 2019 Reimagining Education Summer Institute

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.





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.



Elaine Gross and Fred Freiberg testify before joint New York State Senate Committee in Mineola on December 12, 2019

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.



Elaine Gross addresses Town Hall to discuss "Long Island Divided"

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 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
- Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch November 25, 2019 "Letter to the Editor, Nov. 25, 2019: Equal opportunities improve student outcome" cites ERASE Racism documentary "A Tale of Two Schools: Race and Education on Long Island"
- 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
- Long Island Herald September 20, 2019 "Fostering a dialogue about race"
- 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"
- WNYC "The Brian Lehrer Show" September 10, 2019 "A New HUD Rule Could Dismantle the Fair Housing Act" 25-minute
 interview with Elaine Gross
- 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
- National Public Radio "Morning Edition" July 25, 2019 "This Supreme Court Case Made School District Lines a Tool for Segregation" – Featuring Elaine Gross
- National Public Radio July 25, 2019 "PHOTOS: Where The Kids Across Town Grow Up With Very Different Schools" Quoting Elaine Gross
- InnovateLI June 28, 2019 "No. 418: ICYMI new champions at ERASE Racism"
- Long Island Herald 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"
- InnovateLI June 26, 2019 "No. 417: Riding The Cyclone, Battling Preterm Births, ERASE-Ing Racism And The Truth About Abner Doubleday"
- 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"
- Long Island Business News April 16, 2019 "Building a more inclusive Long Island"
- 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
- Long Island Herald March 28, 2019 "Central High School recognized by New York State Education Department"
- WLIW March 27, 2019 "Long Island Segregation" eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
- THIRTEEN March 27, 2019 "Long Island Segregation" eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
- NJTV March 27, 2019 "Long Island Segregation" eight-minute interview with Elaine Gross
- Rockville Centre Herald March 21, 2019 "ERASE Racism forum at Molloy College discusses diversifying education"
- Newsday March 16, 2019 "Forum tackles diversity, race issues within Long Island schools' curriculum"
- Fios1 March 16, 2019 "ERASE Racism student task force aims to incorporate culture, diversity into the classroom"
- News 12 Long Island March 16, 2019 reported on the ERASE Racism forum
- Long Island Herald March 14, 2019 "Structural racism on display in L.I. schools' sports fields" op-ed by ERASE Racism student volunteer Sufyan Hameed was published in all 18 print editions of the Herald Community Newspapers
- 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 8, 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?"
- News 12 Long Island January 2019 "Diverse Long Island" six-minute interview with Elaine Gross

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- Ronald & Cindy Dragoon
- Brigitte H. Ermansons
- Nancy Fackner
- George Palmer Frooks
- Catherine Galanek
- Nickolas Gavin
- Bridget Geraghty
- Paul Glatzer
- Leola Gonzalez
- Marcelino Gonzalez
- Diana Graham
- Ronald Gross
- Mohammed Hall
- Tova Harris

Individuals (con't) \$10—\$99 (cont.)

- Dr. Veronica Henry
- Joann Ildefonso
- Elizabeth Ingoglia
- Thomas Isles
- · Jennifer B. Jackson, LCSW-R
- Bhavani Jaroff
- Anita Johnson
- David Knishkowy
- Virginia Kowalski
- Susan Kravitz
- Michael LaMalfa
- Robert Lepley
- Susan Levine
- · Mellow Dawn Lund
- Gordon & Carolyn MacDonald
- Hedda C. Marcus
- · Meredith Martino
- Elizabeth McDonough
- Suzanne Michael, Ph.D.
- Benjetta Miller
- Rebecca S. Natow
- James & Carol Neitz
- Joanne M. O'Brien
- Linda Olson
- · Marilyn Oser
- Jona Olsson
- Karen Phillips
- Maggie Potapchuck
- Guy & Debra Rainey
- Benjamin G. Rifkin
- Garry Rivers
- Stephen Ryerson
- Wendy Turkington
- Herbert Waldren
- Eugenia Woods
- Rabbi Lina Nancy Zerbarni

ERASE RACISM, INC.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
DECEMBER 31,	2019	2018	
ASSETS			
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 29,406	\$ 52,762	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	63,081	176,588	
Current portion of contributions and grants receivable Prepaid expenses and other current assets		29,800	
		12,128	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	222,025	271,278	
Contributions and grants receivable, net of current portion	57,093	_	
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	3,827	6,225	
Security deposit	6,969	6,969	
y k			
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 289,914	\$ 284,472	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 55,501	\$ 38,996	
Deferred revenue		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	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 289,914	\$ 284,472	

ERASE RACISM, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:			
Contributions and grants	\$ 252,448	\$ 186,988	\$ 439,436
Registration fees	12,350	-	12,350
Consulting fees	30,350	-	30,350
Other income	2,770	-	2,770
Net assets released from restrictions	167,301	(167,301)	-
Gross proceeds from special events	273,203	-	273,203
Less: direct benefits to donors	(66,039)		(66,039)
Net proceeds from special events	207,164		207,164
Total Support and Revenue	672,383	19,687	692,070
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	\$ 196,275	\$ 233,913