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2016 IMPACT REPORT

KEY ACLU 2016 VICTORIES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM •

For decades, defendants in Alabama who couldn't afford bail or an attorney spent months – or even years – in jail before trial. But, since June, thanks to you and the ACLU, defendants without the means to hire an attorney now receive a bail hearing and legal representation within 24-72 hours of their arrest. The ACLU is also pursuing similar cases in states across the country.

VOTING RIGHTS • We are protecting access to the ballot box across the country and successfully fought discriminatory voter suppression at the polls in Wisconsin, Kansas, Washington, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL SECURITY • Through the launch of our #FreeSlahi campaign, we helped petition

support for Mohamedou Ould Slahi, who has finally been cleared for release from indefinite detention at Guantánamo Bay, where he had been unlawfully detained for 14 years by the U.S. government without ever being charged or tried for a crime.

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS • We successfully fought initiatives to derail refugee resettlement programs in Indiana and Texas.

CONFRONTING RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING • We secured a landmark settlement in our lawsuit against the New York City Police Department, winning reforms designed to protect Muslims and others from discriminatory and unjustified surveillance.



LGBT RIGHTS • We won a precedent-setting decision on behalf of Gavin Grimm (pictured above), a Virginia high school student. For the first time, a federal district court ruled that barring transgender people, like Grimm, from using bathrooms and other facilities that correspond with their gender-identity is discriminatory.

2016 IMPACT REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What an honor it has been to work together with you and other ACLU leaders over the past year to fight for liberty and justice in America.

I won't pretend that it hasn't been a challenging time. Many of the ugly, painful divisions that exist in our country are being played out on our streets, in our courtrooms, in our legislatures and in our hard-fought election campaign. At times like these, people across the nation look to us – you and the ACLU – to mount a vigorous defense of freedom.

In this *2016 Impact Report*, we highlight some of the important advances that we have made over the past 12 months. I hope you'll take a few minutes to read through it and to remember the role you play in confronting injustice, demanding equality and fighting against attempts to turn back the clock on our rights.

When I look back, I'm reminded that even in difficult times, we move freedom forward. We stand strong, we don't back down and we keep working – day in and day out – to ensure that the promises of the Constitution are enjoyed by every person in this country.

Together, we give a voice to those who have been denied theirs.

Thank you for standing with us and for all that you do to advance civil liberties.

Anthony D. Romero

Exposing the Truth in Flint

Everyone knows the story today: A reckless cost-cutting measure instituted by emergency managers led to the contamination of Flint, Michigan's water.

What many don't realize is that the story was first exposed by the ACLU.

The ACLU of Michigan hired an investigative reporter, Curt Guyette, to examine the proliferation of emergency managers – unelected appointees who

have vast, unchecked power to make decisions for municipalities. As part of this work, Guyette spent time in Flint, which was under emergency manager control. He developed relationships with local residents and subsequently learned of a leaked memo from the EPA warning of a potential public health crisis in the city.

By forming a unique coalition of citizen activists, scientists and journalists, the ACLU pushed to expose the truth – Flint's water contained lead far above federal limits, and tests run by the state had been skewed to make it appear safe.



The ACLU of Michigan played a key role in bringing the Flint water crisis to light.

Today, Flint's water has been switched back to its original source, but the ACLU and our partners, thanks to your support, are still fighting — demanding relief for Flint residents and challenging emergency manager laws.



Defending the Right to Vote

This year marks the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. People are counting on you and the ACLU as we fight in courtrooms across the country to ensure that all Americans have access to the polls.

IN THE COURTS TODAY

- We are continuing with our lawsuit in **Ohio** after a massive, illegal voter purge eliminated nearly **40,000** voters from just one county.
- We are challenging laws, like one in **Iowa**, that disenfranchise people for life based on a single felony conviction.
- We are in court in **New York** challenging online voter registration that is **inaccessible to people with disabilities**.

VOTER SUPPRESSION AT A GLANCE

15 states – many of them swing states – will have new voting restrictions in effect for the 2016 presidential election.

Out of **1** billion votes cast, there were only 31 “credible allegations” of voter fraud in a ten year period.

Nearly **6** million people have been stripped of their right to vote because of a prior conviction.

WHERE YOU & THE ACLU WON



NORTH CAROLINA where we struck down a harsh voter ID law “passed with discriminatory intent” that, among other things, threatened early voting days used by 900,000 voters in the 2012 presidential election



KANSAS where 18,000 people can register to vote in federal and local elections after discriminatory voter ID laws were struck down



WASHINGTON where districting practices that would have diluted the impact of communities of color were exposed



OHIO where early voting days and evening voting hours were restored



PENNSYLVANIA where we blocked the state’s controversial voter ID law threatening hundreds of thousands of voters



WISCONSIN where up to 300,000 voters who do not possess an ID to vote can opt to receive a ballot by signing an affidavit

What’s Next

Critical Issues on the Horizon

“As long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we’ll be called a democracy.” This quote, by ACLU founder Roger Baldwin, is one of the guiding principles of our work. Together with supporters like you, the ACLU will continue to demand freedom, justice and equality in this country. Here is just some of the critical work that lies ahead:

DEFENDING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

This summer we saw a huge victory for reproductive rights when the Supreme Court struck down two “TRAP” (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) provisions of a Texas law. Days after issuing the decision, the Court let stand ACLU victories in suits in other states that challenged similar laws.



While this was a great step forward, we expect our opponents to double down on their attacks in the months ahead, and we will need to meet them at every turn.

REFORMING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

One of the biggest challenges we face right now is ensuring that all people receive fair and equal treatment under the law. The impact of our broken criminal justice system is profound, especially on communities of color.

We have already helped achieve major reforms in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis and New York City, and we continue to work in places like Florida, Kansas and California. The ACLU will continue our efforts to bring progressives and conservatives together to create lasting change.

STOPPING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The ACLU has been relentlessly fighting the national backlash against LGBT rights in the wake of our victory for the freedom to marry at the Supreme Court last year.

Our advocacy, litigation and public education campaigns have helped us gain traction on this issue – most recently winning a federal appeals court decision that protects the rights of students to use facilities consistent with their gender identity and helps undermine North Carolina’s notorious HB 2 law.

However, our work is far from done. We will continue to guide the national conversation in support of transgender people as well as challenge discriminatory laws in court.



Please consider a special tax-deductible contribution to sustain the ACLU’s never-give-up spirit and achieve even more victories in 2016, and beyond.

- ☐ \$1,000
- ☐ \$2,500
- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ Other \$_____

____ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to the **ACLU Foundation**.

____ Please charge my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ to:
☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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Signature _____

Email Address _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the **ACLU Foundation** and return it with this form to Anthony D. Romero, ACLU Foundation, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004-2400. To make your contribution online, please visit www.aclu.org/2016impact. Thank You!