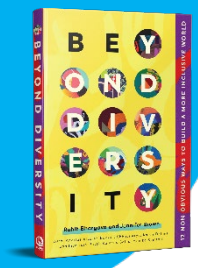


ONLINE RESOURCES | LIST OF GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY GROUPS

RESOURCES FROM CHAPTER 11: BEYOND DIVERSITY IN GOVERNMENT

Below, the authors have curated a list of national and community-based advocacy organizations that share a deep commitment to social justice and equality. The list is organized by overarching national organizations, followed by organizations focused on advocacy for specific communities: Women, Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American, LGBTQ+, People with Disabilities, Veterans, Immigrants, the Elderly, and Incarcerated people.

Many of the organizations listed below can provide important insights, tools, and strategies for understanding issues and getting involved in grassroots activism. The authors make no warranties, express or implied, regarding the organizations that have been included. The list is just a starting place for identifying organizations that are doing important work to advance equity and inclusion in society.

Social justice and racial equity initiatives require sustained and committed long term thinking, policy shifts, continuous funding, and deliberate programming. Learn more about the work of these organizations and how you can support the work they are doing within your own community. Remember, Google is your friend: there are numerous organizations not on the list and new ones being formed every day that are doing important work to protect the rights of individuals from all backgrounds and identities.

OVERARCHING ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

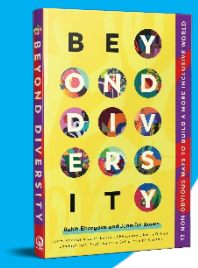
A large nonprofit organization that works in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

ADL is a Jewish-led anti-hate organization and a global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education and fighting hate online. ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination or hate.

Amnesty International (USA)

Amnesty International is a global movement of millions of people demanding human rights for all people—no matter who they are or where they are. They are the world's largest grassroots human rights organization. See its Protest Resources & Toolkits and Deadly Force & Police Accountability pages.



Brennan Center for Justice

The Brennan Center uses scholarship, public education, and legal action to find innovative and practical solutions to intractable problems in the areas of democracy (voting), poverty, and criminal justice.

Civil Liberties Defense Center

Supports movements that seek to dismantle the political and economic structures at the root of social inequality and environmental destruction. The Civil Liberties Defense Center defends front line activists, pursues civil rights litigation, and educates people about their rights and how to use them in order to expose and confront the persistent erosion of civil liberties and the Bill of Rights.

National Urban League

The National Urban League is a historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization with 90 affiliates serving 300 communities, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than two million people nationwide.

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

The SPLC is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

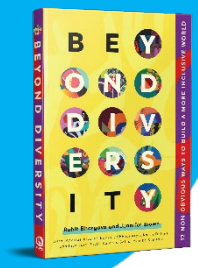
Urban Institute

The Urban Institute offers a generous selection of Policy Briefs and insightful Reports for downloading in topic areas such as income security, health, child well-being, and social services.

Women

Center for Reproductive Rights

Based in the US, the Center for Reproductive Rights is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and defending women's reproductive rights worldwide.



Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)

A scientific research organization working to rectify the limited availability of policy relevant research on women's lives and to inform and simulate debate on issues of critical importance for women.

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

Fights for gender justice, taking on issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. The organization drives change in the courts, in public policy, and in society, especially for women of color, LGBT people, and low-income women and families.

National Partnership for Women and Families

Promotes fairness in the workplace, quality health care, and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. Formerly, the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

Time's Up

The programs of the organization address the systemic inequality and injustice in the workplace that keep women from reaching their full potential.

UN Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is the UN agency dedicated to gender equality.

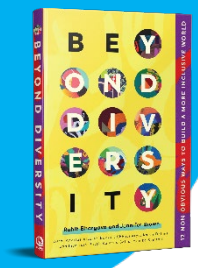
African American/Black

Black Lives Matter

The Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.

Black Male Voter Project

The goal of the Black Male Voter Project is building a movement that encourages black men to



regularly and actively engage in the voting and electoral process.

Color of Change

The nation's largest online racial justice organization. With 1.7 million members, they help people respond effectively to injustice. They work with decision-makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

A large civil rights organization that seeks "to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons."

National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC)

The National Black Chamber of Commerce represents 95,000 African American–owned businesses and provides advocacy that reaches one million African American-owned businesses.

Race Forward

Race Forward catalyzes movement building for racial justice. In partnership with communities, organizations, and sectors, we build strategies to advance racial justice in our policies, institutions, and culture. Race Forward imagines a just, multiracial, democratic society, free from oppression and exploitation, in which people of color thrive with power and purpose.

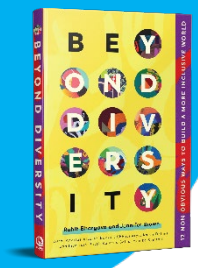
100 Black Men of America

The mission of 100 Black Men of America is to improve the quality of life and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans.

Hispanic

Chicanos Por La Causa

Chicanos Por La Causa is an advocate for underserved individuals and communities.



Hispanic Federation

The Hispanic Federation works locally and nationally to empower millions of Latino children, youth, and families through three essential service pillars: increasing the capacity of Hispanic grassroots organizations, advocating for social justice, and providing direct programs that transform communities.

Hispanic Heritage Foundation

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation identifies, inspires, prepares, and connects Latino Leaders in the community, classroom, and workforce.

Hispanic Institute

The Hispanic Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides an effective education forum for an informed and empowered Hispanic America. The Hispanic Institute manages several ongoing projects, including the study of Hispanic economic contributions, media monitoring, consumer fraud protection, citizenship education, and technology and telecommunication research.

Latino Victory

The Latino Victory Fund is a progressive political action committee working to grow Latino political power by increasing Latino representation at every level of government.

Mi Familia Vota

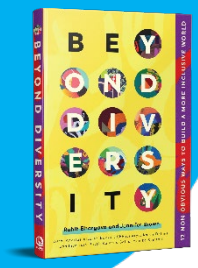
Mi Familia Vota was established in 2000 and is a national civic engagement organization that unites Latino, immigrant, and allied communities to promote social and economic justice through citizenship workshops, voter registration, and voter participation. Mi Familia Vota has operations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, and Texas.

Unidos

Works for civil rights and economic opportunities for Hispanic Americans and as a national umbrella organization for more than 300 formal affiliates in 41 states. Formerly the National Council of La Raza (NCLR).

United We Dream

Empowers people to develop their leadership, their organizing skills, and to develop their own campaigns to fight for justice and dignity for immigrants and all people.



Asian American Pacific Islander

Asian American Justice Center

AAJC is a nonprofit organization that works to advance the rights of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians and to help build a "fair and equitable society for all". It does so through public education, public policy advocacy, community organizing and litigation.

Hate Is A Virus

A movement started in 2020, Hate Is A Virus continues to amplify, educate and activate Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to stand for justice and equality in solidarity with other communities. The organization mobilizes the community to participate in local and national campaigns, creates safe spaces for dialogue and education, and provides actionable steps and funding in partnership with trusted community leaders and organizations.

Indian American Impact Fund

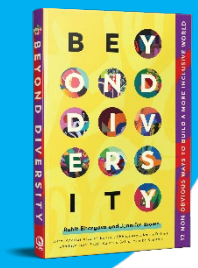
The Indian American Impact Fund (IMPACT) is a Political Action Committee that supports candidates who advocate for Indian American communities. To do so, IMPACT has created a national network of Indian American leaders who will ally with other communities of color, recruit and train Indian American candidates, and leverage political donations by Indian Americans to causes that reflect IMPACT's values.

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

The Japanese American Citizens League was founded to address issues of discrimination against people of Japanese ancestry residing in the United States. It is the largest and one of the oldest Asian American organizations in the United States

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Offers extensive coverage of issues relating to Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raids and the militarization of the border. Download the past five issues of the INS Raids Bulletin, NNIRR's bi-monthly newsletter covering INS actions throughout the nation. Also available in Spanish.



Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

The Southeast Asian Resource Action Center is a nonprofit organization working to empower Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese Americans in order to create a more equitable and just society. SEARAC seeks to increase Southeast Asian American self-determination by supporting community leaders and advocates, community engagement and community mobilization on advocacy.

Indigenous & Native American

Indian Law Resource Center

The Indian Law Resource Center is a nonprofit law and advocacy organization that advocates for the protection of indigenous peoples' human rights, cultures, and traditional lands. The site contains descriptions of casework, newsletter archives, and links to research resources and organizations instrumental to winning recognition of indigenous rights.

Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

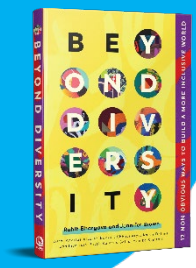
Since 1970, the Native American Rights Fund has provided legal assistance to Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals nationwide who might otherwise have gone without adequate representation. NARF has asserted and defended the most important rights of Indians and tribes in hundreds of major cases, and has achieved significant results in such critical areas as tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, natural resource protection, and Indian education.

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

Works to secure the rights and benefits of Indians under treaties with the United States, to give the public a better understanding of the Indian people, and to promote the common welfare of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Native American Rights Fund

The mission of the Native American Rights Fund is to preserve tribal existence, protect tribal natural resources and promote Native American human rights.



LGBTQ+

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

The largest national lesbian and gay political organization working to ensure the basic equal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

The Fund works to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

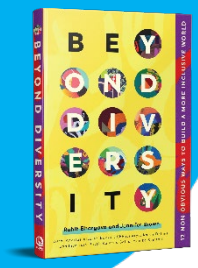
The National Center for Lesbian Rights works to advance the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education.

National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition advocates for and with young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) in an effort to end discrimination against these youth and to ensure their physical and emotional wellbeing.

National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC)

The National Black Justice Coalition is dedicated to the empowerment of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and same-gender loving (LGBTQ/SGL) people, including people



living with HIV/AIDS.

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates champions safe and equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The organization advocates building and strengthening successful companies that value all employees, customers, and communities.

OutRight Action International

OutRight works to secure the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people and communities around the world subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation or expression, gender identity or expression, and/or HIV status through advocacy, documentation, coalition building, public education, and technical assistance.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families, and friends through support to cope with an adverse society, education to enlighten an ill-informed public, and advocacy to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Formerly, the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The Trevor Project

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ young people.

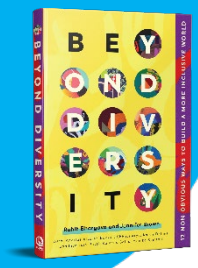
The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy

Advances sexual orientation law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates it to judges, legislators, policy makers, media, and the public.

Disability Rights Groups

American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

A cross-disability member organization dedicated to ensuring economic self-sufficiency and political empowerment for the more than 56 million Americans with disabilities.



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RESOURCES FROM CHAPTER 11: BEYOND DIVERSITY IN GOVERNMENT

MORE AT WWW.NONOBVIOUSDIVERSITY.COM/RESOURCES

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

The American Council of the Blind strives to improve the well-being of all blind and visually impaired people by elevating the social, economic, and cultural levels of blind people, improving educational and rehabilitation facilities and opportunities, and promoting greater understanding of blindness and the capabilities of blind people.

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

The mission of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is to protect and advance the civil rights of adults and children with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA)

The Disability Rights Advocates are a nonprofit law firm dedicated to securing the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund works to advance the civil and human rights of people with disabilities through legal advocacy, training, education, and public policy and legislative development.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

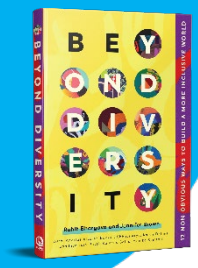
The National Alliance on Mental Illness provides critical mental health resources and support to millions of people across the country.

National Association of the Deaf

The National Association of the Deaf is the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States.

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

The National Disability Rights Network works to create a society in which people with disabilities are afforded equality of opportunity and can fully participate by exercising choice and self-determination.



National Organization on Disability (NOD)

The National Organization on Disability focuses on increasing employment opportunities for the 80-percent of working-age Americans with disabilities who are not employed. NOD works with leading employers and partners with educational and philanthropic institutions to pilot innovative approaches to disability inclusion, then scales these up into initiatives with even broader impact.

TASH

TASH advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with significant disabilities and support needs. They work to advance inclusive communities through advocacy, research, professional development, policy, and information and resources for parents, families and self-advocates.

The Arc

The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Veterans

American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER)

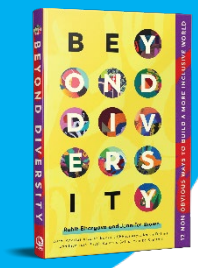
American Veterans for Equal Rights is a non-profit, non-partisan, chapter-based Veterans Service Organization of active, reserve, and veteran service members dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the US Armed Forces, especially LGBTQ current and prior military personnel.

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is the resource and technical assistance center for a national network of community-based service providers and agencies that provide emergency and supportive housing, food, health services, job training and placement assistance, legal aid and case management support for hundreds of thousands of homeless veterans each year.

Veterans Legal Institute (VLI)

Veterans Legal Institute provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at risk, disabled, and low income current and former service members. VLI also advocates on behalf of its clients by providing



community education and policy advocacy to increase awareness, resources, and overall protections to current and former members of the US military.

Wounded Warrior Project

The Wounded Warrior Project is an organization focused on helping veterans, specifically those with serious injuries, to successfully heal by providing various kinds of resources such as physical and mental health therapy, combat stress recovery programs, and peer support.

Immigrants

American Civil Liberties Union, Immigrants' Rights Project

The Immigrants' Rights Project provides access to ACLU materials relating to immigration, including "Briefing Papers" and position statements. Link to an archive of materials presented to Congress via correspondence or in-person testimony.

Immigration Advocates Network

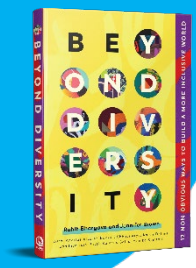
The Immigration Advocates Network is a free national online network that supports legal advocates working on behalf of immigrants' rights. Resources available: Library, Podcasts, Calendar, Agency Watch, Listservs, Videos, Alerts, Webinars, News, Member Search.

Immigration Law Help

Immigration Law Help was designed to address the lack of reliable information available to low-income immigrants by providing an easy-to-use online directory of legal services providers. In addition to the ability to search for nonprofit legal services by state, county, and detention facility, the website allows users to find organizations by languages spoken, types of legal and other services provided, and specific areas of legal assistance. It is available in English and Spanish.

Immigration Policy Center (IPC)

The Immigration Policy Center is the research arm of the American Immigration Law Foundation. The IPC was established in 2003 with the mission to provide policymakers, academics, the media, and the general public with access to accurate information about the effects of immigration on the US economy and society.



United We Dream

United We Dream works to eradicate discrimination of undocumented immigrants living in the US They empower immigrant youth to develop their leadership, their organizing skills, and to develop their own campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels to fight for justice and dignity for immigrants and all people.

Criminal Justice

Grassroots Leadership

Grassroots Leadership seeks to put an end to abuses of justice, and the public trust by working to abolish for-profit private prisons.

Innocence Project

The Innocence Project works to achieve the exoneration and release of factually innocent inmates through post-conviction DNA testing and works to create a network of schools, organizations, and citizens that can effectively challenge wrongful convictions.

Justice Policy Institute

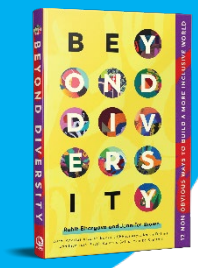
The Justice Policy Institute works to enhance the public dialog on incarceration through accessible research, public education, and communications advocacy with the goal of ending society's reliance on incarceration.

Prison Policy Initiative

The Prison Policy Initiative documents the impact of mass incarceration on individuals, communities, and the national welfare, and produces accessible and innovative research to empower the public to participate in creating better criminal justice policy.

Justice Strategies

Justice Strategies promotes humane, effective approaches to criminal justice and immigration reform through rigorous analysis, high-quality research, and practical policy solutions.



What's Next Washington

What's Next Washington is an organization of formerly incarcerated individuals and allies working to improve the ability of people with conviction histories to reintegrate into society and achieve long term economic stability.

Elder Advocacy Groups

AARP Public Policy Institute

The AARP Public Policy Institute researches and advocates on a wide variety of issues related to aging especially health and long-term care, economic security, independent living, and consumer issues.

Alliance for Retired Americans

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a nationwide organization allied with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and other partners working to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens, particularly focusing on retiree legislative and political issues.

National Academy on an Aging Society

The National Academy on an Aging Society is a policy institute that fosters critical thinking about the implications of an aging society.

National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)

The National Senior Citizens Law Center is a place to download selected articles and other materials addressing substantive areas on which NSCLC works, including Social Security/SSI, Medicaid, Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and others.