

# MEETING *the* MOMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CENTER *for*  
REPRODUCTIVE  
RIGHTS



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## Our Mission

The Center for Reproductive Rights uses the power of law to advance reproductive rights as fundamental human rights around the world.

## Our Vision

We envision a world where every person participates with dignity as an equal member of society, regardless of gender.

Where every woman is free to decide whether or when to have children and whether to get married; where access to quality reproductive health care is guaranteed; and where every woman can make these decisions free from coercion or discrimination.

## From the President and CEO and the Board Chair

This year, reproductive rights have been at the top of the political agenda worldwide, and we have seized every opportunity to advance our mission. We are grateful to our dedicated partners and supporters who have fought alongside us at every turn.

From Kenya to India, North Dakota to the United Nations, we used the power of law to strengthen rights and safeguard access to care for millions of people around the world. Our movement and its allies came together in new ways, across all regions and at all levels, to advance our shared goals and to build our collective power—and not a moment too soon.

In the days ahead, we will take on new and urgent challenges that threaten to undermine gender equality and embolden anti-rights extremists worldwide. There is much work to do, but together, we are up to the task.

The Center is ready for this moment, and our passionate and growing community will continue to build momentum and fuel our fight ahead.

We are in this for the long haul, and it is the steadfast commitment of our generous partners and donors that makes this possible. Together, we will meet this moment and make our shared vision a reality.

**Nancy Northup**  
President & CEO

**Michele Coleman Mayes**  
Board Chair



Michele Coleman Mayes and Nancy Northup © Roy Rochlin/Getty Images for Center for Reproductive Rights; Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

# Our Global Strategy

## Shaping Laws, Changing Lives

We are laser-focused on law and policy reform to ensure that people worldwide can:

- Make decisions about their reproductive health and lives, and
- Access the full range of reproductive health services and information

*We are building on this momentum for the fight ahead.*

## Meeting the Moment

Since the launch of our five-year Strategic Plan (2022-2026), as a result of our work with our partners:

➤ **2.7 billion people**  
across **43 countries**  
and **5 continents**

are living under stronger legal protections for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Stronger legal protections for:

2 Billion people	Abortion
1.4 Billion people	Assisted Reproduction
524 Million people	Maternal Health
233 Million people	Adolescent SRHR



# OUR IMPACT IN THE *United States*

Two years after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, we are **leading the fight to preserve and advance abortion access in the U.S.** for as many people in as many places as possible. Every day, we are in courtrooms, statehouses, and the halls of Congress challenging abortion bans and restrictions and advocating for protective laws and policies—and we are making tangible progress.

We secured impactful state court wins to recognize state constitutional protections for abortion in half a dozen states. Further, we supported state partners to secure proactive policies in Maine, Michigan, Rhode Island, and elsewhere, and to advance progressive state constitutional amendments. We helped secure a federal

rule protecting personal health information, and through our Reproductive Rights Clearinghouse, we coordinated with partners to provide urgent legal support to abortion seekers, supporters, and providers.

We have filed lawsuits on behalf of more than 30 women across the country who were denied abortion care despite dangerous pregnancy complications, and we supported our clients to bravely share their stories in court, at congressional hearings and meetings, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, at the State of the Union address, and in high-profile press coverage. Their determined fight has helped to shift the national conversation on abortion rights.



Center staff outside the U.S. Supreme Court. © Center for Reproductive Rights

## OTHER IMPACT

- > In our case defending reproductive autonomy, we **secured a court ruling to allow Native Hawaiian midwives to resume pregnancy and birth care** in their communities. The ruling temporarily blocks part of the state's midwifery restriction law.
- > We supported state partners to pass new laws to **legalize and regulate surrogacy in Massachusetts and Michigan** and to protect the rights of all parties, including the reproductive autonomy of people acting as surrogates.

“ We have to keep telling our stories without fear because the public needs to know what’s going on... These [abortion] restrictions, they don’t work. ”

– Dr. Austin Dennard, OB-GYN and plaintiff in our case, *Zurawski v. Texas*





Center client Fausia at UN Headquarters in Geneva in April 2024. © Center for Reproductive Rights

## OTHER IMPACT

- > We worked to **ensure implementation of favorable court rulings on abortion rights in Colombia and Mexico.**
- > As part of the Causa Justa movement, we successfully countered attempts to reverse our 2022 victory from Colombia's Constitutional Court to decriminalize abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. With partners, we ensured the ruling translates to real change—including securing a Constitutional Court ruling affirming the decision, administrative acts to implement the ruling, and a directive from the National Superintendence of Health ordering all health care providers to comply.
- > In Mexico, we are working with our partner Information Group on Reproductive Choice (GIRE) to implement the 2023 ruling from Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice to decriminalize abortion on the federal level and to advance abortion rights and access across the states.

“Through litigation, we seek justice for Fausia and to prevent incidents like those she faced from recurring. States must ensure reproductive autonomy of all.”

— Carmen Cecilia Martínez, the Center's Associate Director of Legal Strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean

## OUR IMPACT IN

# Latin America AND THE Caribbean

We **challenged Honduras's total abortion ban before the United Nations Human Rights Committee** on behalf of Fausia, an indigenous Honduran woman and human rights defender who survived sexual violence and was forced to give birth against her will. The case, presented with our local partner Centro de Derechos de Mujeres (CDM), demands justice for Fausia. It also pushes for Honduras to end its total abortion ban and amend its legal framework to recognize abortion as health care.

To build support for the case and its objectives, we accompanied Fausia in a series of meetings at the UN before the case was filed. We also launched a successful international press campaign to announce the case, securing widespread and prominent media attention on the impact of criminalizing abortion in Honduras.

# OUR IMPACT IN *Europe*

We helped advance a **wave of progress on abortion rights across Europe**. Just one month after **France** became the first country to explicitly protect abortion in its constitution, in **Germany**, a government-appointed commission recommended that the country decriminalize abortion. The German commission's report cited the expert testimony and written submissions that we provided, which outlined international human rights standards, European norms, and the World Health Organization guidelines on abortion care. We worked with local partners in Germany to call for abortion law reform, in line with these recommendations.

In **Poland**, following a three-year investigation into the country's restrictive abortion law, a groundbreaking United Nations report called for sweeping legal reform to legalize and fully decriminalize abortion. The investigation, conducted by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), was initiated pursuant to submissions from the Center and our partners and it revealed the devastating consequences of Poland's restrictive law—concluding that the law violates human rights. We are leveraging the findings and recommendations of this inquiry to assist the ongoing law-reform process in Poland.



The Center's Katrine Thomasen and Kamila Ferenc, Vice-President and Lawyer at the Foundation for Women and Family Planning (FEDERA), during our press conference on the UN report on Poland's abortion law. © Julia Karwan-Jastrzębska

“The Committee’s findings are clear: legalizing abortion care is the only way in which the Polish state can safeguard women’s health and protect their personal integrity.”

– Katrine Thomasen, the Center’s Associate Director for Europe

### OTHER IMPACT

- > We helped secure the inclusion of legal guarantees for access to sexual and reproductive health care in the **European Union Directive on Violence against Women**. This historic new legislation creates binding and enforceable legal obligations for at least 25 countries in the European Union, impacting over 440 million people.





Esther Nzuki, the Center's Executive Assistant for Programs, during the Nairobi Standard Chartered Marathon, October 2024. © DN Productions (Dennis Wangai)

“Women and girls must be able to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights—not only because it is their human right to do so, but also because it is a public health imperative.”

– Martin Onyango, the Center's Associate Director for Africa Legal Strategies

#### OTHER IMPACT

- > In a major **win for adolescents' rights in Malawi**, following our successful litigation and advocacy, the country's penal code was amended to decriminalize non-exploitative, consensual sexual relationships between young people. As a result, all ongoing prosecutions were halted, and the government will develop national guidelines to protect adolescents from unjust legal action.
- > In a significant victory, the Court of Appeal of Kenya **affirmed the right to respectful maternal health care in Kenya** in our case on behalf of Josephine Majani—who was physically and verbally abused by hospital staff and left to give birth on the floor. The decision upheld a landmark 2018 judgment recognizing that Josephine's rights had been violated and underscored that health care systems are obligated to ensure dignified, respectful care for all pregnant people.

## OUR IMPACT IN *Africa*

Over the last 30 years, 24 African countries have liberalized their abortion laws—more than in any other region—but despite this progress, access to care remains scarce in many places. Building on our successful law reform efforts in the region, we recently **filed new litigation to advance abortion access across Africa** and to sustain this positive momentum. With partners, we filed the first abortion case in **Tanzania**, challenging criminal laws that restrict abortion access, arguing that the restrictions in cases of sexual assault, rape, and incest violate the Tanzanian Constitution.

In **Nigeria**, with the Reproductive Justice Initiatives Foundation (RJIF), we challenged the blanket criminalization of abortion, including for survivors of sexual violence.

Together with Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) we filed our first abortion case in **Zambia** to seek an acquittal for a woman who was sentenced to prison for ending her pregnancy—a first step towards reforming the legal framework on abortion access in the country.



# OUR IMPACT IN *Asia*

We helped secure powerful United Nations recommendations on reproductive rights in Asia.

As a result of our advocacy, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) recommended **Turkmenistan** to liberalize its abortion laws and policies to ensure access to care—a critical outcome. Together with local partners Progres Foundation and Saglyk, we filed a joint submission to the CEDAW Committee and presented at the Committee’s meeting in Geneva to highlight the country’s restrictive abortion laws and barriers to access.

Following its review of **India**, the UN Human Rights Committee recommended that the government address barriers to safe abortion access, eradicate forced sterilization practices, and provide access to reproductive health education and services. We have been a driving force for reproductive rights law and policy reform in India for years, and we will leverage these strong recommendations in our ongoing advocacy.



Center staff, partners, judges, and other legal and human rights experts in New Delhi to launch an advocacy manual on India’s abortion laws. © Center for Reproductive Rights

## OTHER IMPACT

> We catalyzed regional partnerships and created legal advocacy tools to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia. We hosted a “Learning from Neighbors” symposium in Nepal that brought together experts, advocates, and practitioners from across the region to discuss legal and policy frameworks related to reproductive rights. We also developed and disseminated a key advocacy tool on abortion laws and policies in **Sri Lanka**, the first-ever document of its kind in the country, which we are using to push for national abortion law reform.

“The UN Human Rights Committee’s progressive language on sexual and reproductive health and rights in India is a welcome step.”

– Brototi Dutta, the Center’s Senior Advocacy Advisor for Asia





Center staff speaking with Canada's Minister of International Development, Harjit S. Sajjan, in front of our World's Abortion Laws map at the Women Deliver 2023 conference in Kigali, Rwanda. © Christian Manirakiza/BCW Africa for Center for Reproductive Rights

“The contemporary and progressive understanding of human rights is more deeply protected in law and policy than even before, despite how loud the anti-rights voices are becoming, but we might be at a tipping point.”

— Tanya Karanasios, the Center's Associate Director for Global Advocacy

## OUR IMPACT AT THE *Global Level*

As part of our work to **defend and advance reproductive rights at the United Nations** and in other global fora, we participated in the 68th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment. This included organizing critical high-level discussions with UN Member States, UN entities, and civil society organizations on access to abortion and other sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues. We co-hosted an official side event with the permanent missions of Luxembourg, Colombia, and Canada on the impacts of poverty and criminalization on abortion access, and we partnered with the permanent missions of Ireland and Nepal to host a reception featuring a new advocacy manual on legal and policy reforms on SRHR from around the world. Our

engagement in prominent UN policy spaces is key to building political will on abortion rights and to protecting global policy standards on SRHR issues.

### OTHER IMPACT

➤ We **forcefully countered the global anti-rights movement's efforts** to misuse human rights treaties to support a regressive agenda. On the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), we mobilized a global collective statement from SRHR, LGBTQ+ rights, disability rights, racial justice, and indigenous rights groups, among many others, to push back. Our statement received almost 300 organizational endorsements from all regions and was presented during the UN high-level political celebration of the UDHR anniversary in Geneva—one of the only statements featured during the ceremony.



OUR IMPACT THROUGH

# Strategic Partnerships

We have deepened partnerships and launched powerful new alliances with organizations and networks around the world to achieve shared impact.

We are **engaging influential business leaders and corporations to champion reproductive rights** and to build momentum for positive change in the U.S., including by participating in our litigation. Hundreds of companies and executives have joined amicus (“friend-of-the-court”) briefs to share

the impact that abortion restrictions are having on their business, recruitment, retention, and operations. We facilitated a panel event at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference featuring Amanda Zurawski and Samantha Casiano, plaintiffs in our *Zurawski v. Texas* lawsuit; our President & CEO Nancy Northup; and Elizabeth Monteleone, Chief Legal Officer of Bumble Inc. The discussion included actions companies can take to support reproductive health care access.



Panel discussion featuring Center plaintiffs and corporate partners, “Health Care Crisis in Post-Roe America: Finding Your Voice,” at the SXSW Conference in Austin, Texas, March 2024. © Anshumi Jhaveri

## OTHER IMPACT

- We co-founded Catalysts, a new **Africa**-led coalition to expand abortion access in the region, and Abortion Access Now, a new campaign for federal abortion protections in the **United States**.
- In **Europe**, we are supporting the My Voice My Choice coalition to advance reproductive rights in the European Union, and we participated in the Causa Justa and Green Wave movements, which have achieved historic progress on abortion rights in **Latin America**.
- In **Asia**, the regional network of advocates that we built more than a decade ago, the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI), remains an effective vehicle for driving legal change on reproductive rights.

“The impact of reproductive health care restrictions on career and family planning decisions is well-documented and profound.”

– Amicus brief filed in *Zurawski v. Texas* by Bumble, South by Southwest, and other Texas businesses and businesspeople

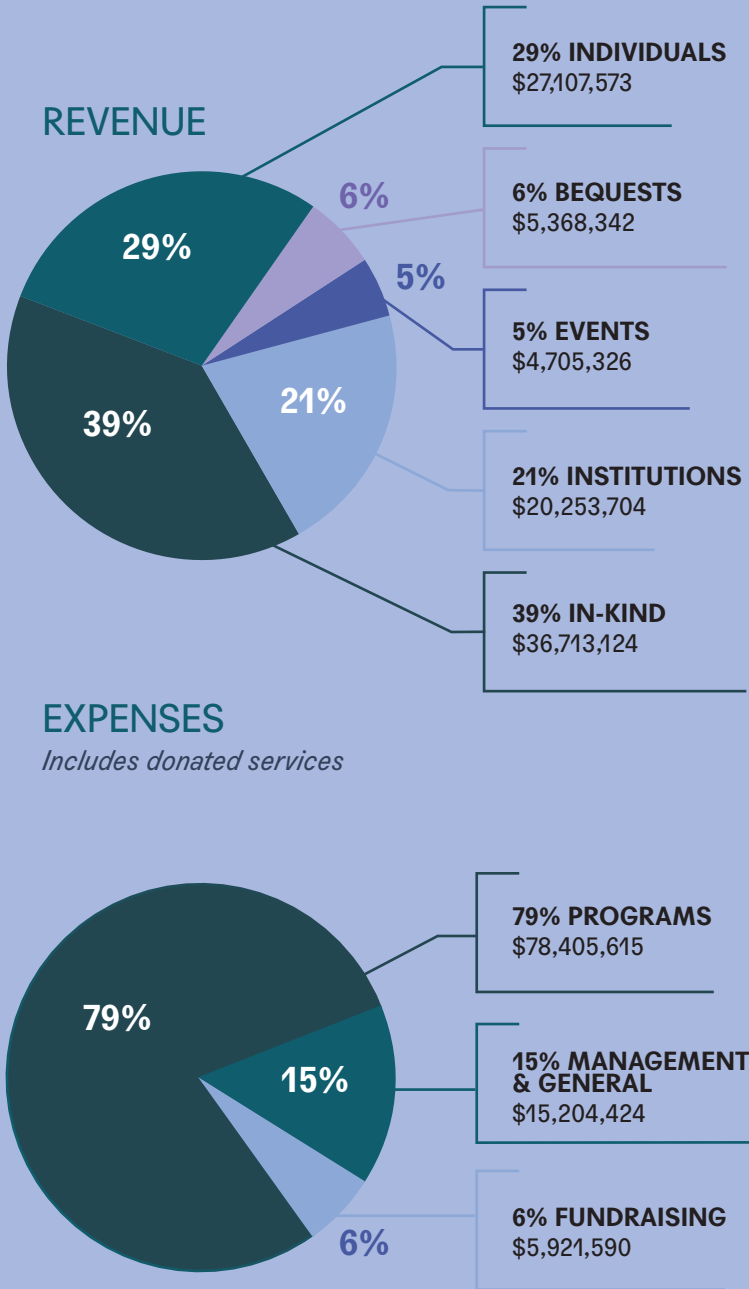


# Financials

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, our financial growth enabled us to expand our reach and amplify our impact around the world.

Total revenue raised was **\$57.4 million**, and we received additional in-kind support valued at a record-breaking **\$36.7 million**, mostly for legal services. **Seventy-nine percent** of our expenses went directly to program.

Based on the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), our audited financial statements for fiscal year 2024 reported total net assets at the close of the fiscal year were \$91.6 million and the total recognized revenue was \$101.2 million inclusive of donated services.



# With Thanks to Our Donors

We deeply appreciate the generous financial support of our donors and partners, who powered our work and impact this year. Your unwavering commitment has helped us to advance reproductive rights as human rights and achieve impact around the world. We are honored to have you with us for the work ahead.

To learn more about ways you can support the Center’s innovative programs and catalyze progress for reproductive rights, please visit our website here: [www.reproductiverights.org/support](http://www.reproductiverights.org/support)

You can also email us at: [contribute@reprorights.org](mailto:contribute@reprorights.org)



Center for Reproductive Rights San Francisco Benefit, May 2024. © Drew Altizer Photography

# Pro Bono Partners

We are deeply grateful to our pro bono partners, who contributed legal services valued at a **record-breaking \$36.7 million this fiscal year**—a 49% increase over the previous year—to amplify our mission around the world. Through our expanded global Pro Bono Program, we worked with **101 law firms from 42 countries**, securing **over 41,000 contributed attorney hours**, increasing our reach and impact.

This growth was made possible by a generous donor, whose transformative investment allowed us to build our staffing capacity to engage more law firms on more pro bono matters than ever before, and to advance region-specific strategies that deepen our law firm relationships and drive global progress.

A&O Shearman	Crowell & Moring
Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Mensing	Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia
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Linklaters	Sher Tremonte
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Manatt	Soko & Co
MAPH Advocates	Stinson
Martínez Quintero Mendoza González Laguado y De La Rosa	Susman Godfrey
Mattos Filho	The Morales Firm
Mayer Brown	Thomas & Michael Advocates
Milbank	Vernon David
Mintz	Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Miranda & Amado	White & Case
MMAKS Advocates	Wilkinson Stekloff
Morrison & Foerster	Willkie
Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello	WilmerHale
Munger, Tolles & Olson	Withersworldwide
Musa Dudhia & Co	
O’Melveny	
Onyango & Co	



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