

## Justice Together Initiative Strategy – 2024 - 2030

### Our vision, mission and values

**Our vision** is for an immigration system in which people can access justice fairly and equally without being harmed.

**Our mission** is to bring together people and organisations to transform the immigration system. Through grant-making and collaboration, we will connect lived experience, front-line immigration advice and influencing strategies to create lasting change.

**All our work is underpinned by our values:**

- Equity and human rights** The overarching value of the initiative is everybody’s right to access justice fairly and equally.
- Collaboration** The essence of the initiative is partnership and collaboration, with lived experience of the immigration system at its heart, bringing people together to build power and transform how we work and what we can achieve.
- Inclusion** We value the agency and skills of people who migrate to the UK, small community led grassroots organisations, larger national organisations, specialist advice providers, and legal firms. We recognise the importance of listening and working together to affect change.
- Racial Justice** We recognise the systemic racism in the immigration system. To tackle and dismantle racism we aim to embed an anti-racist approach throughout our work and support those we work with to do the same. We are committed to staying the course and addressing difficult questions.
- Learning** We value helping people and organisations share learning, being open and transparent, and reflecting on learning internally so that we are responsive and adaptable in our approach.
- Trust** We trust the organisations and people we partner with and commit to valuing their expertise. We want to stand in solidarity with organisations and recognise that change takes time.
- Courage** We will be courageous and ambitious in our approach, committing to tackling the complex and entrenched problems and exploring new ways of approaching them.

## Goal 1: A more sustainable, collaborative and coordinated immigration advice sector

An immigration sector which is better connected and more sustainably funded will mean more people can access justice. It will also be better prepared to weather the perpetual crises that come its way. As Justice Together, we have the power and influence to support the sector to connect and learn, and also support funders to think more strategically about how they fund.

### What we will do

- Fund legal advice training, supervision and wellbeing support for frontline staff.
- Fund legal advice OISC level 1 and above that contributes to building regional advice infrastructure and prioritises partnership working and collaboration towards influencing local and national policy.
- Provide infrastructure support grants to strengthen organisations.
- Coordinate networking, learning and relationship-building activities with grant partners and funders.
- Undertake influencing activities to advocate for increased funding for immigration advice, sustainable regional advice partnerships, and improvements to the way legal services are administered and funded.
- Support a network of people with lived experience of the immigration system working in migrant justice, with tailored wellbeing support, training, coaching and peer support opportunities.
- Support work to scope how the quality of legal advice can be improved and share practices in this area.

### The impact we will have

- People working in the immigration sector are less likely to burn out and feel more supported to do their work and more connected to their peers.
- Increase in access to immigration legal advice, meaning more people can access justice.
- Regional and national collaboration is embedded as a sector practice and regional immigration advice infrastructure is improved. This leads to improved referrals, more joined-up working and improved partnerships between organisations.
- New and additional sources of funding are established for the sector, such as Local Authority funding.
- Organisations make better use of legal aid and are in a better position to take on legal aid contracts.
- Funders are more informed about the need for legal advice and its impact and continue funding this work.
- Funders fund advice and influencing work more strategically, share resources and lighten the burden on organisations.
- More people with lived experience of the immigration system feel supported to work in the migration sector and are part of setting the agenda for the work.

## Goal 2: An immigration sector which is better able to advocate for fairness and justice in the immigration system and where people directly affected set the agenda for change

Given the vastly shifting and ever more hostile government policy, an influencing strategy that simply responds to political conditions is unlikely to be effective. Instead, work to build the collective power of impacted communities, with those delivering legal advice in solidarity, is more likely to achieve the transformative change necessary for a fairer and more just immigration system.

Through building this power, communities will be able to respond more easily when a crisis happens and also strategise for the change they want to see long term. Given the vast amount of evidence and knowledge held within the legal advice sector, it is important that they can work together with communities to connect issues and strengthen the power for change.

### What we will do

- Fund influencing activities which are led by people with lived experience of the immigration system and where they are setting the agenda for change towards a more just and fair immigration system.
- Fund a variety of different influencing approaches to improve access to justice and advocate for a more just and fair immigration system.
- Fund a range of influencing activities that target devolved governments, regional, national and UK-wide government, legal services and the wider public, and which connect local grassroots organisations with national organisations.
- Create opportunities for shared working, connection and learning between organisations providing legal advice and those working on influencing.

### The impact we will have

- The sector is better positioned to advocate for immigration system reform.
- Grassroots and frontline organisations directly influence policy and law.
- Organisations are better able to mobilise and build support around key influencing goals.
- Government immigration policy is more just and fair.

*“Once organising is built, it can rebound and re-energise over time”*

Civic Power Fund and Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on Honest feedback for funders

### Goal 3: Organisations in the immigration sector are actively contributing to racial justice

Migrant Justice is racial justice and vice versa. However, some parts of the migration sector have focussed on migrant justice without acknowledging the immigration system and UK government legislation and policies as racist. For us to achieve our vision of a just and fair immigration system, we must support organisations to identify racism and challenge it both internally in their workplaces and externally.

#### What we will do

- Develop a definition for what we mean by anti-racism.
- Address structural and interpersonal forms of racism in the workplace within Justice Together.
- Be a source of knowledge and connection for grant partners and funder partners to connect the work, learning, and tactics from anti-racist organising into the work of the immigration sector. Amplify and share examples of anti-racist practices, approaches and acts of solidarity within the sector.
- Provide support for organisations to understand how to operate as anti-racist organisations.
- Provide support to organisations to strengthen their understanding of racial justice and how immigration policy and practice interact with racism.
- Fund organisations active in anti-racist movements and led by people of colour, as well as promoting them to other funders.

#### The impact we will have

- Organisations will be strengthened in their ability to understand racial justice and their specific contribution to racial justice within the sector.
- Organisations will be contributing to racial justice.
- People will have a better understanding of racial justice and how it interacts with migrant justice.
- More organisations will have the tools to implement anti-racist practices and this will show up in their work

*“Racism and extremism in migration policy has a huge effect on clients, staff within organisations and people with LEX of the immigration system who work in the sector”*

JTI Grant Partner