

MAINE IMMIGRANT JUSTICE RESOURCE LIST
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN)
www.muusan.org — admin@muusan.org
August 18, 2018

ACLU of Maine

Protects rights of New Mainers, as well as others. (E.g., currently has lawsuits pending against Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security to force release of public records detailing CBP's immigration enforcement operations in Maine, including checkpoints and bus raids and ICE arrests at courthouses.) Also publishes on its website an explanation of rights when stopped or questioned on bus or at roadside checkpoints and lists actions you can take to protect immigrants' rights when traveling by bus. **Website:** www.aclumaine.org; **Phone:** (207) 774-5444; **Email:** info@aclumaine.org; **FB**

Amjambo Africa! (publication of Ladder to the Moon described below)

Free monthly newspaper about New Mainers from Sub-Saharan Africa, with articles printed in English and multiple African languages. Provides information to newcomers to help navigate life in Maine and background about Africa to those from Maine so they can understand why newcomers have arrived here. Readers can also subscribe for \$40/year or paper is downloadable at <http://www.laddertotheoonnetwork.org/newspaper.html>.

Axiom Education & Training Center (Washington County)

Offers adult education programs in which immigrants can participate at multiple locations across Washington County including testing and tutoring, digital literacy and work-ready training. **Website:** www.aetc.us; **Phone:** (207) 255-4917; **Email:** classes@connectwithaxiom.com; **FB**

Bridging the Gap (Augusta)

Community initiative of Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church (formerly known as The Church at 209) serving the local immigrant community as well as others with a community warming center, clothing bank, and everyday essentials pantry (heavily reliant on donations). **Website:** www.btgaugusta.org; **Phone:** Sarah Miller, Proj. Dir. (207) 248-1782; **Email:** bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com; **FB**

Capital Area New Mainers Project (Augusta)

Cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to create a thriving, integrated, multicultural community in central Maine. Thus far, works primarily with new arrivals from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. One project provides mentors to newly arrived immigrant families: each mentor team consists of 4-6 local families, and teams see their families several times a week to provide logistical, social, and educational support. Recently received a grant to support an economic opportunities program to increase immigrant access to employment and support entrepreneurship. **Website:** www.newmainersproject.org; **Phone** Chris Myers Asch, Exec. Dir.: (207) 370-5246; **Email:** newmainersproject@gmail.com; **FB**

Catholic Charities Maine

Maine's only refugee resettlement program. Provides immigrants relocated to the U.S. with refugee status with cultural orientation, referrals to case management and ongoing support. Also provides some case management services to those who have been granted their asylum and can serve them for up to 60 months from their date of granted asylum.

Recently expanded services to asylum-seekers: monthly comprehensive cultural orientation and introduction to Portland services (with the City of Portland and The Root Cellar)(1st Tuesday of the month at Root Cellar from 9-3); on-the-job mentoring; assistance with immigration forms like green card applications and work authorization applications; job skills and employment classes and one-on-one counseling (with Hope House). Offices in Portland, Lewiston and Augusta. **Website:** <https://www.ccmaine.org>; **Phone:** Hannah DeAngelis, Prog. Dir. (Portland): (207) 523-2745; **FB**

Calvary United Methodist Church (Lewiston)

Advocates for equal rights and works to create a healthy, productive and welcoming community for all. Ongoing events include weekly Swahili Church. **Website:** www.calvarylewiston.org; **Phone:** (207) 782-3221; **Email:** calvarylewiston@yahoo.com; **FB**

Color of Community

Group of immigrant students from Southern Maine Community College who visit schools, churches, and other organizations (generally within two hours drive of Portland) to share moving "sacred stories" of their immigrant experience. A wonderful way to get to know some of Maine's young immigrants. Expense stipend generally requested. **Send message through FB page**

Congregation Bet Ha'am—Tikkun Olam Council

Social justice program of Reform Jewish congregation in South Portland that selected immigration as their focus for 2018. (For an interesting example of how one faith-based group has approached this subject, see www.bethaam.org/our-tikkun-olam-focus-issue-is/). **Email:** tikkunolam@bethaam.org

Chispa Centro Hispano (Bangor)

Organization dedicated to building community and providing educational programs that promote the Hispanic Culture for greater Penobscot County. Efforts in working with the Latino population focus on creating and supporting the Latino community, providing educational programs that exposes the importance of Latino culture in Maine, and serving as an advocate to the Latino population. **Phone:** (207) 990-8977 or (207) 735-5480; **Email:** centrohispanochispa@gmail.com; **FB**

Furniture Friends

Provides gently used free furniture to those within 15 miles of the Portland peninsula who cannot afford basic furniture necessities like beds, dressers, tables and chairs. Serves anyone in need, but about half its clients are asylum seekers and other newly arrived immigrants. Relies heavily on volunteer teams to deliver furniture and assist clients at its warehouse. (Clients who can pick up furniture at warehouse are

served fastest). **Website:** www.furniturefriends.org (includes ways to volunteer or help, including donating furniture); **Phone:** (207) 210-3140; **Email:** info@furniturefriends.org; **FB**

General Assistance (by town)

Every town in Maine has a General Assistance program to assist people in emergencies with basic necessities such as affordable housing, utilities, and medications. Heavily relied on by those seeking asylum during period before they are allowed by law to work. Funds are a combination of state and city money, and eligibility rules vary by municipality. For example, Portland will cover immigrants in the gap period between expiration of visitor status (usually 6 months) and filing of their asylum application (deadline one year from arrival date) whereas the state and many other municipalities provide benefits only while a person is “lawfully present” (i.e., has unexpired visa) and after the asylum application is filed. The length of time an asylum seeker can receive GA is limited to 24 months by state law. **Phone:** State of Maine DHHS GA Hotline (800) 442-6003.

Greater Portland Family Promise

GFPF serves up to 4 families (14 individuals maximum) at a time, providing shelter, food, case management, and hospitality as they work to find sustainable housing, employment, childcare, and educational opportunities. Participating host congregations furnish clean, safe, overnight lodging and nutritious meals for one week, typically on a quarterly basis, and are supported by other faith communities who provide additional volunteers (e.g., making healthy breakfast and suppers, playing with children or helping them study and talking with parents after a long day.) In the daytime, guests go to the GFPF day center to shower, do laundry, and store their belongings before going on to school or work, or to search for employment and housing. The Allen Avenue UU Church is one of the 13 congregations participating thus far. **Website:** www.greaterportlandfamilypromise.org; **Phone:** (207) 200-8672; **FB**

Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center

The Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center serves as a hub of collaboration that strengthens the immigrant community through language acquisition, economic integration and civic engagement. **Website:** www.welcomeimmigrant.org; **Phone:** (207) 517-3401; **Email:** info@welcomeimmigrant.org; **FB**

Hispanic Ministry (Portland Diocese)

Supports Maine’s Hispanic community by offering a number of services, including pastoral attention, referrals to services, support for detainees’ families, and crisis intervention. **Website:** www.portlanddiocese.org ; **Phone:** Sister Pat (207) 615-2522 or Rosario Starratt (207) 312-4716

Hope Acts

Provides transitional housing at Hope House in Portland for 13 individual adult asylum-seekers and support services for them including English tutoring and mentoring. Also provides English classes open to other immigrants in the community. Applicants for housing can fill out an application at Hope House, 14 Sherman St. in Portland, Monday through Thursday 9am-noon. **Website:** www.hopeacts.org; **Phone** (Carolyn Graney, Program Coordinator for Immigrant Support for information on volunteering): (207) 274-6005; **Email:** Carolyn@hopeacts.org; **FB**

Hope House Family Support Center (Lewiston)

Offers a number of services, including a family thrift store, farmers market, classes and special events. Hope House also operates a free women's health center in Lewiston. **Website:** www.hopehousemaine.com; **Phone:** (207) 577-1165.

Hopeful Links

Project of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination that matches unaccompanied minors under 18 (in times when student visas are available) with potential guardians and safe housing. Also assists young people 18-21 who need help adapting to life in the U.S. Needs not only financial support, but also families willing to host these young people and make them feel safe while getting plugged in to available services.

Email: Lucky Hollander at luckyhollander@gmail.com

I'm Your Neighbor Welcoming Library

A collection of picture books featuring the experiences of immigrants and refugees that travels to schools, libraries and community centers. **Website:** www.imyourneighborbooks.org; **Email:** info@imyourneighborbooks.org

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Addresses the immigration legal needs of immigrants all over Maine, assisting thousands of clients each year. Main office is in downtown Portland but smaller office now open in Lewiston. ILAP provides pro bono asylum case representation through its volunteer lawyer pro bono panel (always in need of lawyers) and advises and assists immigrant clients with a variety of other legal needs such as applying for legal permanent resident status (green card) and citizenship. **Website:** www.ilapmaine.org; **Phone:** (207) 780-1593; **Email:** info@ilapmaine.org; **FB**

Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (formerly United Somali Women of Maine)(Lewiston)

Lewiston- based but now also providing services in Portland, focuses especially on women and children. Staff serves as a cultural and linguistic bridge between community partners and the immigrant and refugee community, enabling more effective use of programs and services. Also provides direct service and advocacy to New Mainer victims of domestic and sexual violence, including support and interpretation services during law enforcement interviews, medical exams, or court proceedings (like a protection from abuse order), and support in securing basic needs such as safe housing, employment, TANF benefits, child care, healthcare, and driver's licenses. **Website:** www.ircofmaine.org; **Phone:** (207) 753-0061.

In Her Presence

Immigrant-founded and led group reaching out to immigrant women of different cultures and backgrounds. Hosts English language classes and a variety of educational workshops to provide a platform for Maine immigrant women to better integrate and succeed here. Currently serves women from 13 different countries: Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, Syria, Iraq, Angola, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Cameroun, Gabon, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan and the United States. **Website:** www.inherpresence.org; **Phone :**(207) 347-9891; **FB; Email:**contact@inherpresence.org

Ladder to the Moon Network

Immigrant-founded organization committed to raising awareness of conditions in Africa that cause people to migrate, assisting New Mainers during resettlement and educating the public on challenges faced by African immigrants as they relocate. Services include speaking engagements, translation services, computer-skills development programs, and workshops on topics such as reconciliation and conflict resolution, buying cars and renting apartments. See **Amjambo Africa** above. **Website:** www.laddertothemoonnetwork.org; **FB**

Literacy Volunteers (various locations)

Provides classes that may include literacy, language development, writing, math, and computer skills, and English as a second language (ESL). Among LV groups in Maine are: (i) Literacy Volunteers of Franklin & Somerset Counties (serving adult members in Franklin and Somerset Counties, and the towns of Jay, Livermore Falls and Livermore): **Website:** www.westernmaineliteracy.org; **FB**; (ii) Literacy Volunteers of Bangor: **Website:** www.lvbangor.org; **Phone:** 207-947-8451; **Email:** info@lvbangor.org; **FB**; and (iii) Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta: **Website:** www.lva-augusta.org; **Phone:** (207) 626-3440; **FB**

Maine Access Immigrant Network

Helps immigrants, refugees and asylees access health and social services by facilitating communication. Acts as a “cultural broker”, helping people overcome language and cultural barriers when pursuing services. MAIN provides resource and referral information in English, Arabic, Somali, and French to ensure equal access to programs and services for new Mainers from Africa and Middle East. **Website:** www.main1.org; **Email:** info@main1.org; **Phone:** (207) 552-1800; **FB** (under MAIN)

Maine Association For New Americans

Broadcasts networking events, opportunities for advocacy, and career opportunities through its Facebook page in 6 languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Somali, and English) Works to combat anti-immigrant, racist and anti-Muslim sentiment in Maine, working in solidarity with immigrant and Muslim community leaders to increase their inclusion in civic and non-profit pursuits. Also advocates for improved professional integration of immigrants by providing language-specific (French, Spanish and Portuguese) career coaching and case management for recently arrived applicants for asylum and other immigrants, including helping them create impactful LinkedIn profiles, connecting them with social and professional networks and supports, linking them to job opportunities in their area of expertise, and helping them to secure and retain jobs. **Website:** www.mana-maine.org; **Email:** (fill out contact form at website); **FB**

Maine Behavioral Healthcare

Refugee and Immigrant Counseling and Case Management program works with immigrants of all ages who have experienced emotional and behavioral challenges and problems for a variety of reasons that may include difficulty due to transitions, trauma and adjustments to a new culture and life. Services provided in 15 languages. Offers specialized support groups for new Americans as well as traditional counseling and case management. **Website:** www.mainehealth.org (find “Refugee Services” under “Care and Services”); **Phone:** (844) 292-0111.

Maine Community Integration

Helps residents improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods, especially those of challenged populations including non-citizen residents, with respect to particular issues or concerns such as affordable housing, fitness and nutrition, educational attainment, conditions of life in the neighborhoods, and sustainable employment. Has programs that serve Muslim youth in or facing incarceration and also provides cultural competency training to various court and law enforcement staff. **Website:** www.mcilewiston.weebly.com; **Email:** mcilewiston@gmail.com; **Phone:** (207) 777-4765; **FB**

Maine Equal Justice Partners

Low income civil legal aid provider (generally large-impact cases) and advocate for fair policies headquartered in Augusta. Click on “Help for Immigrants” on website under “Priority Issues.” Among the issues on which it offers expertise is immigrant eligibility for Maine’s anti-poverty programs. **Website:** www.mejp.org. ; **Phone:** (207) 626-7058. **FB**

Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services (MIRS)(originally Somali Bantu Association of Maine)

Formed by Somali immigrants to serve immigrants in the Lewiston area, now also serves Portland and immigrants elsewhere in Maine. Behavioral health services include case management services and outpatient counseling. In addition to youth programs, provides services to immigrant adults and families such as basic needs management (food, housing, healthcare); help with naturalization applications; assistance with social and cultural adjustment; literacy and citizenship classes for parents and youth with limited English; financial literacy classes for parents and youth to help them gain financial independence and competency; parenting classes; senior citizen services; interpretation services; and training and supporting immigrant and refugee youth and parents so that they can achieve employment. **Website:** www.meirs.org; **Phone:** (207) 753-2700 ; **Email:** info@meirs.org . **FB**

Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition

Seeks to improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine’s immigrants through advocacy, information sharing and collaboration among its 50-plus member organizations. (Click on a name on the list of its coalition members to get more information on that member). **Website:** www.maineimmigrantrights.org; **Phone:** (207) 517-3404; **Email:** (click contact form on website); **FB**

Maine Multicultural Center (Bangor)

Comprehensive plan to serve all immigrant populations in the Bangor area and their accompanying family members (whether newly arrived or longer term residents) who desire to become more connected in the community. Includes a focus on retaining immigrant residents, whom it recognizes as providing vital services within the community. Objectives include maintaining a comprehensive list of area services to which new immigrants can be connected and supporting creation of employment opportunities for individuals with lower language proficiency. **Website:** www.mainemulticulturalcenter.org; **Phone:** (207) 262-7780; **Email:** (click contact form on website) ; **FB**

Mano en Mano (Milbridge)

Located in Washington County with an office in Portland, serves daily needs of farmworkers and immigrants, provides educational opportunities for migrant children, and hosts workshops and public events to build a more inclusive Downeast Maine. Provides a drop-in resource center where bilingual staff are available to make referrals and its services include home visitation and case management. About half its services are provided to Washington County's seasonal and migrant workers during blueberry harvesting and wreath-making seasons. **Website:** www.manomaine.org; **Phone:** Christina Ocampo, Advocacy & Client Services Director, (207) 745-5539; **Email:** cocampo@manomaine.org; **FB**

Maine Mobile Health Program (HQ in Augusta)

Provides culturally appropriate care and services to improve the health status of Maine's seasonal workers and their families. Hosts resource fairs in areas including Blue Hill and Ellsworth where farmworkers can get medical appointments, free food and clothing, a community meal and access to community resources. **Website:** www.mainemobile.org; **Phone:** (207) 622-9252; **FB**

Midcoast New Mainers Support Group

Coalition of volunteers who have helped relocate and provide ongoing assistance to several New Mainer families from Portland to Bath. Website under development but those interested can **Phone:** Joanne Rosenthal at 207-841-6188 or **Email:** joannesusanrosenthal@gmail.com

New Mainers Resource Center

Portland Adult Ed program helping New Mainers of all professions overcome barriers to entering the workforce. Services include employment services and case management, intensive job-readiness skills workshops, networking opportunities and consultation and assistance with professional licensing and credentialing. Always has great need for volunteers to assist in classrooms and mentor professional PAE students as they attempt to re-enter medical, engineering, educational, legal and other fields. **Website:** www.mnrcmaine.org; **Email:** Sally Sutton, Prog. Coordinator at suttos@portlandschools.org or Tabin Tangila, Prog. Assoc., at mnrcmaine@gmail.com; **Phone:** (207) 874-8155; **FB**

Opportunity Alliance (including Parkside Neighborhood Center)

Offers educational, employment and cultural opportunities that connect diverse neighbors. OA's website and e-newsletter announce frequent events and opportunities. **Website:** www.opportunityalliance.org; **Phone:** Opportunity Alliance (207) 874-1175 and Parkside Neighborhood Center (207) 553-5940; **FB**

Preble Street Resource Center

Collaborative partnership of private and public agencies working together to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the homeless and low-income residents of Greater Portland, consolidating three soup kitchens, a food pantry, the City of Portland Homeless Healthcare Clinic, a day shelter, social services, a housing location program, and a homelessness prevention program. **Website:** www.preblestreet.org; **Phone:** (207) 775-0026; **FB**

ProsperityME (formerly Community Financial Literacy)

Provides classes on basic money management in Portland and Lewiston to introduce new immigrants to the U.S. financial and banking system, provides individual financial counseling and a scholarship program for new immigrants. Has most recently launched a partnership with a local credit union in Portland to make interest-free security deposit loans to enable immigrants to get into their own apartments more quickly. (GA generally provides vouchers for rent but does not cover security deposits). Borrowers in this program, Supporting Immigrant Tenants or SIT, also have a 10-month grace period before payments start so they can obtain work authorization and employment, and are assigned a volunteer housing coach for the term of their loan to help them with issues related to their apartments. (Volunteers greatly needed!) **Website:** www.prosperityme.org; **Phone:** (207) 797-7890; **Email:** ProsperityME at cfl@cflmaine.org (or click on contact link on website) and SIT at sit@prosperityme.com; **FB** (under Community Financial Literacy)

Root Cellar Lewiston

Christian organization providing, among other programs, community meals and food boxes and ESL classes. **Website:** www.therootcellarlew.org; **Phone:** (207) 782-3659; **FB**

Sustainable Livelihood Relief Services (Lewiston)

Lewiston-based immigrant organization intended to help Somali Bantus, many of whom were farmers in their home country and remain unemployed in the U.S. Goals are to gain access to farmland, provide training in modern farming techniques and the basics of agribusiness, and develop farms that can support families and improve the community. **Website:** www.siomaine.org; **Phone:** (207) 330-1352; **Email:** siro.infome@gmail.com

Through These Doors: Immigrant & Refugee Services

Provides services to immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Cumberland County. **Website:** www.throughthesedoors.org; **Phone:** (207) 874-1973 (confidential helpline); **Email:** (click contact box on website); **FB**

Trinity Jubilee Center (Lewiston)

Helps refugees and asylum-seekers from Somalia, Djibouti, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and other countries, most frequently with resume-writing, job searches, and completing applications. Other work includes assistance with housing applications and addressing housing concerns, petitioning for adjustments to immigration status, and completing FAFSA and college applications. Services are available in Somali and French. Operates on a drop-in basis at most times that the Center is open. **Website:** www.trinityjubileecenter.org; **Phone:** (207) 782-5700; **Email:** info@trinityjubileecenter.org; **FB**

University of Maine Law School clinic

The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic is a program of the University of Maine School of Law in which clients are represented by "student attorneys," law students specially licensed by the state and federal courts to provide legal services to low-income clients. Part of its services are provided through its Refugee and

Human Rights Clinic, which assists low-income immigrants in a broad range of cases and projects, including seeking political asylum and similar protections under federal law.

Materials published in multiple languages by the Clinic available at website include [How to Apply for Asylum](#) (also a pro se asylum video series), [A Guide for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence](#), [Resource Guide for Immigrant Youth](#), and [Know Your Legal Rights](#). **Website:** www.mainelaw.maine.edu (click on "Academics" then "Clinics"); **Phone:** 207-228-8709. **Email:** clac.info@maine.edu; **FB** (under Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Maine)

Waterville Area New Mainers Project (see Capitol Area New Mainers Project)

Started in spring 2007 to support a Burundi family relocated to Fairfield by Catholic Charities. For more info, contact Karen Kusiak at (207) 441-2048.

Welcoming Immigrants Network

A networking group of individuals and organizations, primarily in the Greater Portland area, that meets quarterly to share information and brainstorm about issues affecting New Mainers. **FB**

Welcoming the Stranger-Maine

Maintains extensive and excellent resource list (food, clothing, housing, asylum process info., English classes, employment, healthcare etc.) available at www.wts.org. This group matches mentors with newly arrived immigrant families for help and advice with basic needs and assimilation and currently has mentors working with 173 mentees. There is a waiting list of immigrants seeking mentors. **Website:** www.wtsmaine.com; **Phone:** Jill Epstein, Coordinator (207) 232-7805; **Email:** welcomingthestrangerportland@gmail.com or click contact box online.

Women United Around the World

Promotes independence for female immigrants by offering educational and professional opportunities such as industrial sewing classes and leadership development programs.

Website: www.womenunitedaroundtheworld.org; **Email:** info@womenaroundtheworld.org
FB

Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative

Collaboration of 3 congregations in Yarmouth, ME (UU, Episcopal and Latter Day Saints), providing temporary shelter at homes in the Yarmouth area when Portland area shelters are filled to capacity or new immigrant mothers and their babies are released from the hospital and have nowhere suitable to stay. Also host weekly new mom gatherings at the Portland Family Shelter to provide support for pregnant women and new mothers. Current focus is on finding ways for immigrant families to settle in the Yarmouth area. Contact: Carla Hunt musseit@yahoo.com

Ethnic or Country- Specific Associations and Groups

(Most have Facebook pages or groups but no website)

Angolan Community Association (FB)

Burundi Community Association of Maine (FB)

Centro Latino de Maine (FB)

Chinese American Friendship Association of Maine

Website: www.cafamaine.org; **Email:** (click on contact us on website); **FB**

Congolese Community of Maine (FB)

Phone: (207) 807-2256; **Email:** cocomaine2012@gmail.com

Djibouti Community & Voluntary Services (Lewiston) [no information found]

Iraqi Community Association of Maine (FB)

Mahoro Maine Association (Banyamulenge community)

Phone: (207) 252-8180; **Email:** ntimiram@gmail.com

New England Arab American Organization

Serves all immigrants speaking Arabic and currently focus on Westbrook where many have recently settled. Services include community and school outreach, Arabic language school, parenting groups and more. **Website:** www.neaao.org; **Phone:** (207) 347-0249. **Email:** zoe.sahloul@neaao.org

New England Djibouti Community [no information found]

Rwandese Community Association of Maine (FB)

Phone: (207) 699-8870; **Email:** info.rwandansinme@gmail.com

Somali Bantu Community Association of Maine (Lewiston)

Supports Maine's Somali Bantu community, helping community members overcome linguistic and cultural barriers and achieve educational and economic success. **Phone:** (207) 784-5556; **FB**

Somali Community Center of Maine

Seeks to help Somali American residents of Greater Portland to achieve economic opportunity, educational achievement, and social integration.

Website: www.somalicenter.org; **Email:** somalicommunityme@gmail.com; **FB**

South Sudanese Community Association of Maine

Promotes integration of South Sudanese families by building community and promoting opportunities for economic advancement and civic engagement. Runs a summer soccer program to engage youths from many different immigrant communities. **FB**