



# THE WAY TO JUSTICE

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2025!

While we have achieved remarkable progress in 2024, we recognize that much remains to be done. In 2025, we are committed to:

**Expanding Our Reach:**

We will increase the number of community members we serve by 20%, extending our impact into new neighborhoods and regions.

**Enhancing Legal Aid Programs:**

We will grow our pro bono network to provide even more legal representation to those who need it most.

**Launching New Initiatives:**

We are introducing new resources focused on educating youth about their legal rights and expanding support services for underserved populations.

Your continued support is essential to achieving these ambitious goals and advancing our mission to build a more just and equitable society.

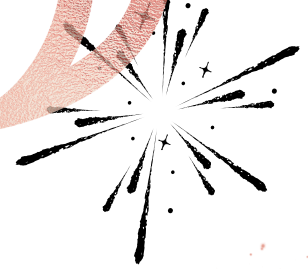
**A Message from Our CEO**

*"As we step into 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community that powers The Way to Justice. Together, we are not only breaking down barriers but also building bridges to a brighter, more equitable future. Let's make this year one of transformative change."*

*Virla Spencer, CEO*



Happy  
New Year!



QR Code to Link Tree:



321 w. Boone ave., Spokane, wa 99201

[www.thewaytojustice.com](http://www.thewaytojustice.com)

Mail/Donations: The Way to Justice

P.O. Box 7503

Spokane, WA 99207

Phone: (509) 822-7514

Tax ID# 84-5129426



## MEET OUR NEW INTERNS!

Abranna Romero-Rocha is from Tacoma, Washington, and is currently a law student at Gonzaga University School of Law. She earned her BA in Spanish and Political Science from Whitworth University, with minors in Law and Justice and Philosophy. Abranna is deeply passionate about the environment; she once questioned the connection between caring for Mother Earth and caring for people. Over time, she realized liberation and community come from understanding how interconnected we are with nature. She is also passionate about service and community. Her upbringing in Tacoma grounds her and connects her to her roots. At the core of her beliefs is love, empathy, compassion, and dignity.

To Abranna, justice means loving one's neighbors as God intended, with words and actions, and resisting categorizing people in dehumanizing ways. Likewise, by cultivating empathy and love, we can bring justice to the world and contribute to the vision of the kingdom in this lifetime. Moreover, Abranna enjoys all art forms, from poetry and music to cinema and literature. She loves creating playlists and is currently re-reading her favorite book, *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell.



**ABRANNA  
ROMERO**

Tasbeeh is originally from Houston, TX, and is currently a law student at Gonzaga School of Law, following the completion of a B.B.A. in Finance from Texas Tech University. She is deeply passionate about advocating for human rights, particularly in the context of how they intersect with the development and use of artificial intelligence.

As a first-generation Bangladeshi law student, Tasbeeh believes that justice is the pursuit of fairness and equality, grounded in integrity and respect. For Tasbeeh, justice means ensuring that every individual, regardless of their background, is treated with dignity and has their rights protected. Outside of academics, she enjoys hiking, reading, solving puzzles, and playing chess.



**TASBEEH  
CHOWDHURY**



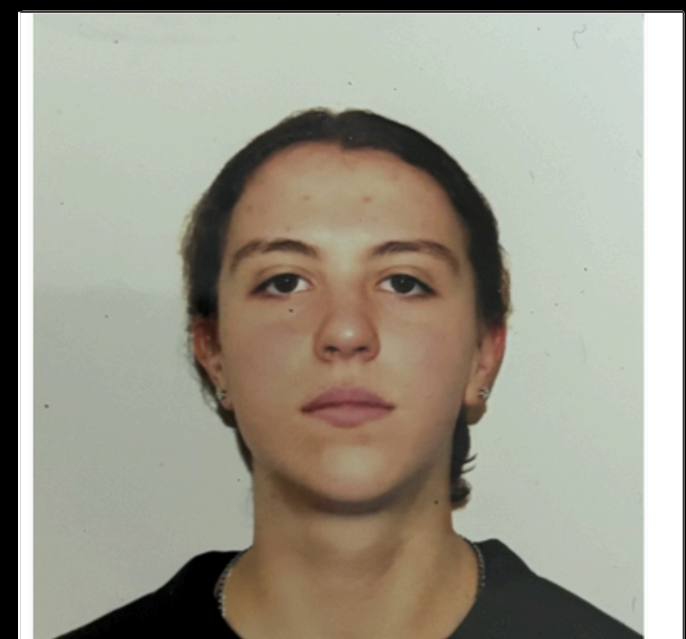
**ADALAYDA  
RIOS**

Adalayda is from Spokane, Washington, and is currently a freshman at Gonzaga University. She is passionate about her culture, staying involved in her community, and pursuing her education. To Adalayda, justice means taking care of one's community and being a voice for those who may not have one. She believes in the power of advocacy and supporting others in need.

In her free time, Adalayda enjoys staying active outdoors, spending time with her friends, and watching football—both kinds—with her dad. Her love for her community and family plays a central role in her life and her vision of justice.

Natalie was born and raised in the Seattle area and attended high school in Bellevue, Washington. In the last two years of high school, they transitioned into Bellevue College's Running Start program. After graduation, Natalie moved to Spokane to attend Gonzaga University, where they are currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Having played sports throughout their life, Natalie is passionate about maintaining an active lifestyle and fostering community and companionship. They also enjoy spending time outdoors, participating in activities like hiking, camping, and swimming. Growing up with incarcerated family members has inspired Natalie to pursue a career where they can make a positive impact on individuals facing potential convictions or working to rebuild their lives and careers. This personal connection is one of the reasons they chose to intern with The Way to Justice, hoping to play a role in creating meaningful change for those in need.



**NATALIE  
HOGARTH**



# **THE GOVERNOR'S CLEMENCY AND PARDON BOARD**

**At The Way to Justice, we understand that the impact and consequences of having a criminal conviction can last a lifetime. Justice-impacted individuals and their families may be denied essential services, resources, and/or opportunities, including: safe housing, gainful employment, and the ability to pursue an education, obtain licensing, or pursue a professional career.**

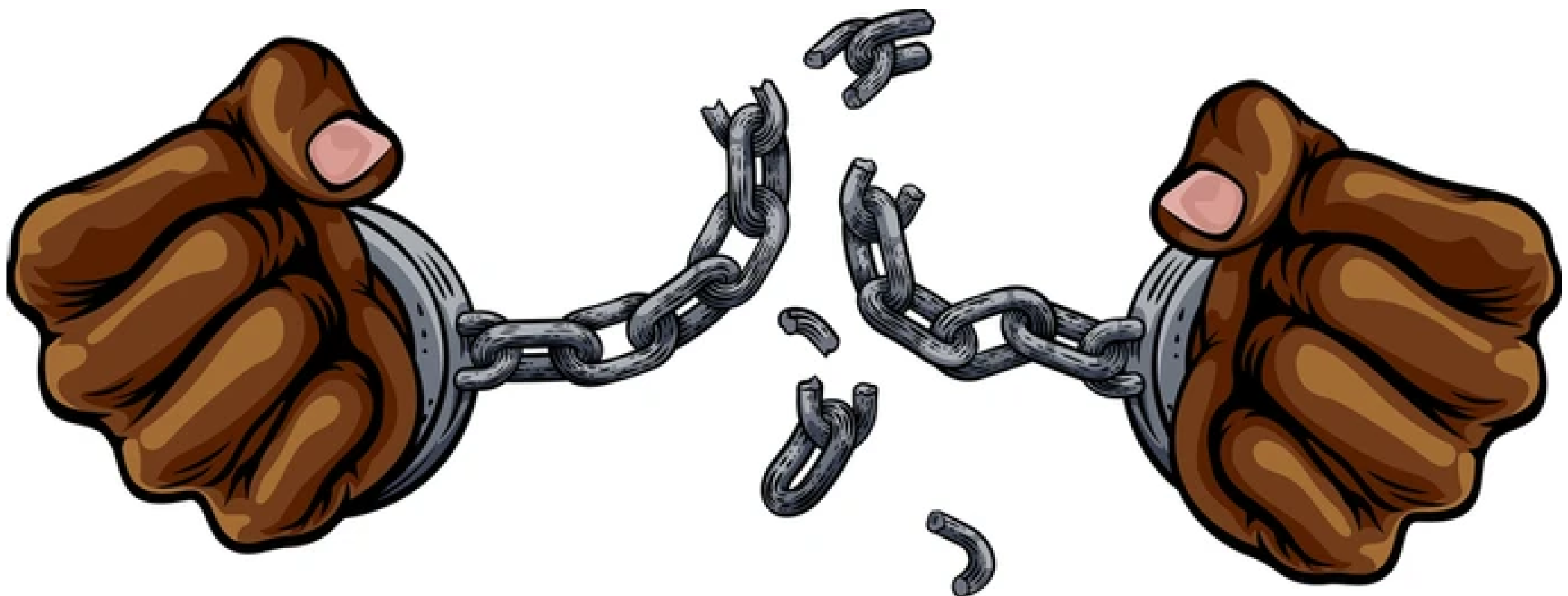
**In Washington State, many individuals, including our clients, are eligible to petition the court for post-conviction relief under statute, thereby vacating and removing the conviction from their record. However, in some rare cases, there is no judicial relief available. In these situations, our attorneys may seek extraordinary relief from the Governor through the Clemency and Pardons Board.**

**The Board reviews individual petitions submitted and decides whether to approve each case for hearing. If a case is granted a hearing, the Board hears testimony from witnesses and considers other evidence to support the relief requested. The Board makes recommendations to the Governor's office, which either grants or denies relief.**

**The process can take years. There is no guarantee that a petition will be granted a hearing. Over the past decade, the Board has approved less than 500 cases for hearing. Of those, less than half were granted Clemency or Pardon relief.**

**Nevertheless, our staff attorneys continue to pursue this extraordinary relief on behalf of our clients. If you or someone you know is interested in seeking a Governor's pardon or clemency, contact The Way to Justice for a case screening.**

**[www.thewaytojustice.com](http://www.thewaytojustice.com)**



# POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK AMERICANS

Deeply rooted in the history of racial oppression, police brutality continues to be a significant concern in modern-day America.

Black Americans have been victims of police violence for centuries – dating back to slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, and continuing through the history of racial discrimination and systemic inequality.

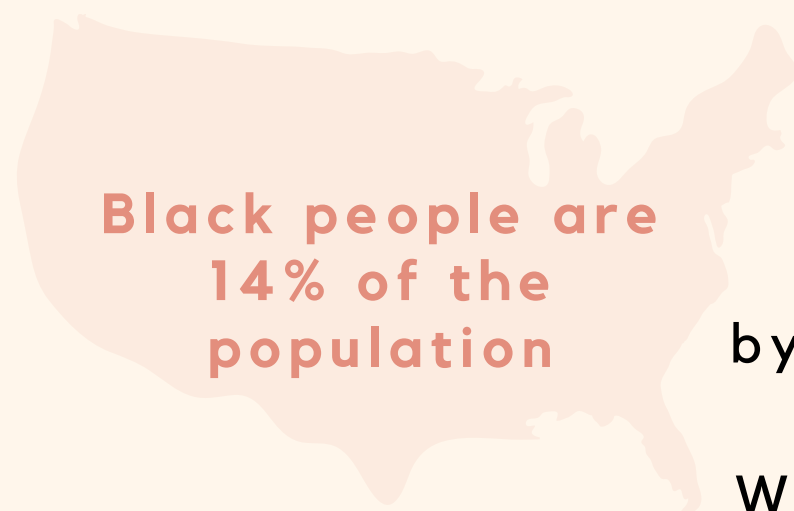
The killings of Rodney King (1991), Trayvon Martin (2012), Michael Brown (2014), George Floyd (2020), and many others, have highlighted the ongoing crisis against Black Americans.

The Way to Justice envisions a system that does not oppress, suffocate, and murder people of color; a system that does not see them as a threat, or view them as expendable.

We believe in reinvesting in community-based resources and paving the way to justice through community empowerment, advocacy, and access.

## THIS IS WHY “WE DO JUSTICE!”

## In the United States ...



yet, they are killed  
by police at more than  
twice the rate of  
White Americans, who  
make up 60%

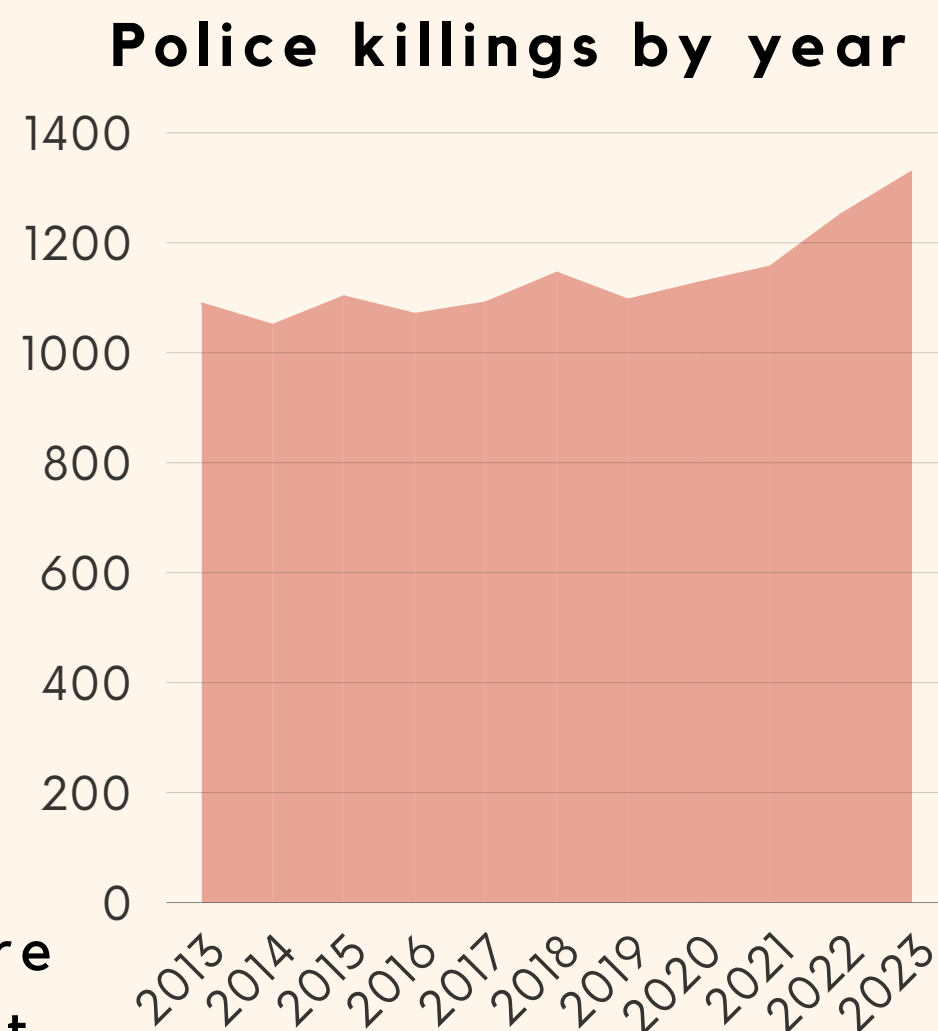


95%  
of U.S. major city police  
departments kill Black people more  
often than white people.

# 1,150

people have been shot and  
killed by police in the **past**  
**12 months**

In 2023, **1,329** people were  
killed by the police, the highest  
since 2013.



There were only **14**  
days with no killings by police  
in the U.S.

**6.6**  
equivalent to a person losing  
their life every  
**hours**

## In Washington State ...

Black people are  
**3.9x**  
more likely to be killed  
by police than white  
people.

In **2021**, there was 62% decrease  
of fatal force deaths with the  
passing of 12+ bills addressing  
police tactics, use of force, and  
de-escalation training etc.

However, there  
has been a  
**34**  
steady increase  
in police  
enforced deaths  
since then. In  
2024, 34 people  
lost their lives.



Sources:  
<https://aclu-wa.org/story/police-killings-are-down-62-2021-and-policing-legislation-key-driver-decline>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>  
<https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>  
<https://blacklivesmatter.com/2023-was-one-of-the-worst-years-for-police-violence/>



# UPCOMING EVENTS



THE CITY OF TACOMA PRESENTS  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CELEBRATION:  
**BUILDING  
BRIDGES**  
JANUARY 20, 2025  
GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION CENTER

January 20th 11am-5pm  
Greater Tacoma Convention Center  
1500 Commerce St. Tacoma, WA 98402

***MLK RALLY & MARCH***  
***JANUARY 20TH, 2025 10AM***  
***SPOKANE CONVENTION  
CENTER***



**SPOKANE  
HOMELESS  
CONNECT**

Eastern WA's largest and  
longest-running homeless  
and at-risk services event

**January 23rd**  
**10am – 3pm**

 SPOKANE  
CONNECT



# BECOME A SPONSOR/DONATE TODAY!

Help us continue to "Do Justice"...

**One Time**

**Justice Champions  
Status**

**Minimum \$20.20- \$100 Max**

**Monthly**

**"We Do Justice"  
Status**

**Up to \$1k**

**Every 3 months**

**Black Status**

**Up to \$2k**

**Annually**

**Rose Gold Status**

**Over \$2k**

The Way to Justice is a community non profit that provides legal services led and created by women of color. Through direct representation, impact litigation, policy reform and advocacy work, we address the barriers facing individuals that our justice system has negatively impacted. Our programs include Driver's Relicensing, Record Vacating, Restoration of Rights, LFO relief, and Youth Empowerment.

Your donation ensures that we bring the experience of Justice to everyone and that our clients and the community receive the aid needed to create a more just world.

To become a sponsor, [sign up here](#) to select which status level you want to commit to. Each status has gifts to show appreciation because we can't "do justice" without you!



Use this QR  
code to make  
a donation via  
Pay Pal



**The Way to Justice is a tax-  
exempt organization.**

**Tax ID #84-5129426**

**Unless otherwise noted, no  
goods or services are provided  
in consideration of your gift.**