

# Amy Fischer

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Amnesty International USA**

Americas Advocacy Director

Director of Refugee and Migrant Rights

**Washington, DC**

July 2021-March 2023

March 2023- Present

- Represents the organization as the lead advocate to the United States Government on human rights issues facing refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.
- Works across Amnesty International sections and civil society partners to influence policies and decision makers through letters, engagement with media, expert testimony, issue briefings, grassroots mobilizations, and direct advocacy to Congress, federal agencies, and multilateral institutions.
- Leads on global human rights advocacy efforts including upholding the right to seek asylum at the southern US border, socio-economic rights for migrants and asylum seekers in the United States, reducing immigration detention, and expanding protections for people seeking safety.

### **U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal**

Legislative Assistant

**Washington, DC**

November 2019- July 2021

- Staffed the Congresswoman in the Judiciary Committee and managed a portfolio of issues including immigration, criminal justice, civil rights and civil liberties, government oversight, elections, disability, gun violence prevention, and surveillance.
- Advised the Congresswoman on issues in portfolio, formulates legislative initiatives including bills, amendments, and letters, and served as a liaison with Judiciary Committee, advocates, and federal, state, and district agencies.
- Drafted both written and spoken materials for the Congresswoman, including legislation, oversight letters, scripts for committee hearings and markups, floor speeches, legislative memos, and supporting materials for legislation.
- Represented the Congresswoman's legislative priorities by meeting with constituents and advocates, facilitating calls with the Congresswoman and advocacy groups, implementing legislative strategy, recruiting co-sponsors on legislation and sign-on letters, and collaborating with the communications team on media strategy.

### **Detention Watch Network**

Defund Hate Fellow

**Washington, DC**

September 2018-October 2019

- Led the Defund Hate campaign for Detention Watch Network by engaging in the Congressional appropriations process to advocate for cuts in funding to ICE and CBP and oversight on ICE's overspending and fiscal irresponsibility.
- Engaged in extensive legislative advocacy by strategizing with Congressional offices, serving as an issue expert, sending weekly updates to Congressional offices tracking ICE detention and abuse, ghostwriting letters for Members of Congress, drafting campaign explainers and fact sheets, and providing rapid analysis on ICE and CBP appropriations legislation.
- Coordinated the coalition of over 30 immigration and multi-issue organizations by drafting internal strategic planning materials, planning convenings, managing working groups, facilitating weekly calls and meetings, and representing the campaign in other coalition spaces.

### **Global Fund for Children**

Program Officer for Movement Building and Advocacy

**Washington, DC**

December 2017-August 2018

- Managed a multi-million dollar grant program by scouting, screening, and administering grants to eleven organizations in Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States to form a transnational protection network for adolescent migrant girls.
- Presented at international migration conferences in Spanish about the state of play of US immigration and asylum policies and supported partner organizations in their advocacy and capacity development for migrant youth.

### **RAICES**

Policy Director

**Washington, DC/Texas**

June 2015-December 2017

- Launched and led the Texas-based organization's DC-based policy arm by engaging in legislative and administrative advocacy at the local, state, and national levels on issues such as family detention, legal access for individuals in detention, unaccompanied children, family separation, local sanctuary policies, and detention licensing.
- Drafted white papers, issue briefs, press releases, and served as the organizational spokesperson in the media, public panels, and conferences. Media experiences included print, radio, and television at the local and national level.
- Managed engagement with allied organizations, represented the organization in various coalitions, and served as the liaison to elected officials.

### **Beyond the Classroom, Living and Learning Program**

Graduate Assistant

**College Park, MD**

September 2014-June 2015

- Developed and taught an undergraduate course entitled "Youth Grassroots Leadership," which consisted of academic readings, lectures, documentary screenings, guest speakers, and use of new media focused on youth engagement in policy, advocacy, and activism around the globe.

# Amy Fischer

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## Maryland Municipal League – Town of Bladensburg

Maryland Municipal League Fellow

Bladensburg, MD

June 2014 – September 2014

- Drafted a food procurement policy to include nutritional guidelines through a consultative process with elected officials, town administrators, and community partners that was voted on and adopted by the town councils of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston, Maryland.

## National Juvenile Justice Network

Legal Extern

Washington, DC

January 2014-June 2014

- Researched legislative, legal, and administrative juvenile justice policy changes nationwide for the 2012-2013 edition of the *Advances in Juvenile Justice Reform* publication and wrote the entries for 25 states and Washington DC.
- Drafted written testimony and letters of support for both federal and state-level legislation on behalf of the organization with extensive research to enhance the policy position.

## Volunteers for Youth

Orange County Teen Court Coordinator

Carrboro, NC

July 2008 – June 2013

- Managed an alternative court program for first-time offenders based on the principles of restorative justice with an annual caseload of approximately 70 youth ages 12-18 from diverse backgrounds.
- Attended juvenile and adult court proceedings, school meetings, and collaborated with juvenile court counselors, school officials, and other professionals to advocate for clients.

## Chapel Hill Arts Council

Grant Recipient

Chapel Hill, NC

December 2012 – July 2013

- Wrote and received a \$10,000 grant in collaboration with a spoken word artist and visual artist to work with Black, Latinx, and multi-ethnic high school students in Chapel Hill.
- Published a graphic novel entitled "ComicSpeak" created by sixteen youth around issues such as racism, immigration status, and the School to Prison Pipeline.

## NC DREAM Team

Core Member, Community Organizer

North Carolina

June 2010 – September 2013

- Campaigned at the state and national level for pro-migrant legislation and individual deportation defense.
- Founded and mentored the Immigrant Youth Forum, a group of undocumented high school students that led a campaign for in-state tuition for undocumented students.

## Raise the Age Campaign

Community Organizer

North Carolina

May 2012 – June 2013

- Lobbied North Carolina Legislators on a Raise the Age bill that would raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18.
- Drafted petitions, action alerts, and digital graphics to mobilize the state around juvenile justice policy issues.

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, College Park, MD

Master of Public Policy, 2015. Specialization: Social Policy

- US Department of Education Capstone: *Process Evaluation of Title I Part D Subpart 1 Formula Grants Administering Juvenile Justice Education Programs in Juvenile Institutions and Adult Correctional Facilities*
- Blair Lee III Fund for Public Sector Financial Management Fellowship – academic award scholarship

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, Waltham, MA

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and International Global Studies, 2008

- Study Abroad, Santiago, Chile
- Dean's List

## LEADERSHIP

**Council on Foreign Relations**, Term Member (2022-Present)

**Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network**, Core Organizer (2022-Present)

**New Synagogue Project**, Board Member and Justice Team Lead (2020-2022)

**University of Maryland Alumni Association Board of Governors**, Board Member (2017-2019)

**Maryland School of Public Policy Alumni Board**, President (2015-2019)

**Maryland Policy Student Government Association**, Co-President (2014-2015)