THE 41ST ANNUAL
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award

JUNE 6, 2024 | WASHINGTON, D.C.
IN CELEBRATION OF THE 2024 ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD LAUREATE

Anti-Detention and LGBTQ+ Youth Advocate

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 | 2:00 P.M.
KENNEDY CAUCUS ROOM
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Kerry Kennedy

KEYNOTE
Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-08)
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS
Kerry Kennedy

LAUREATE REMARKS
Arely Westley

CLOSING REMARKS
Kerry Kennedy
A longtime advocate for immigrant, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities, Arely Westley works with numerous organizations in New Orleans to uplift LGBTQ+ youth, stop abuses in ICE detention facilities, and expand access to immigrant support services. Recognized for her tireless efforts to combat injustice, Westley joins a distinguished group of more than 50 defenders and organizations honored throughout the Award’s history.

Westley, who identifies as a trans-Latinx woman, moved to Louisiana from Honduras at a young age. She currently serves as the Campaign Director at BreakOUT!, an organization that seeks to empower Black and Latinx transgender and gender non-conforming youth through leadership development programs. She is also a vital member of the Southeast Dignity Not Detention Coalition (SDND), a group of nonprofits and grassroots organizations committed to stopping human rights abuses by working to end immigration detention throughout the South.
The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award honors individuals or groups who stand up to oppression at grave personal risk in the nonviolent pursuit of human rights. Since inception, the Human Rights Award has honored activists from 32 countries. We forge strategic partnerships with laureates whose work advances human rights issues around the globe. In combining resources and collaborating on strategy, their transformative work reaches a worldwide audience.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy believed that “those with the courage to enter moral conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the globe.” Our team of lawyers and issue experts join with partners around the world to create lasting change. Through legal advocacy, we have freed political prisoners, defended the rule of law in autocratic regimes and amplified the voices of human rights defenders in the United States and abroad.
Special Thanks

THE U.S. SENATE RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MR. DONATO TRAMUTO
for his support of the Human Rights Defenders Fund
through the TramutoPorter Foundation

THE WILSON FAMILY
for their support to recent graduates who devote their professional
lives to public service through the Donald M. and Susan N. Wilson
Fellowship at Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

THE DALE AND JAMES PINTO FAMILY
and

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
for their support to current students and recent graduates of
Georgetown University Law Center who wish to devote their
professional lives to public service through the
Dale and James J. Pinto Fellowships and
Summer Associate Program

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

—Robert F. Kennedy, University of Cape Town, June 6, 1966