

Dear Friend,

We know these times feel uncertain. Recent executive orders have left too many immigrants and refugees wondering what comes next. But here's what we know: immigrants' skills, resilience, and contributions are essential to this country's future.

This month, at SXSW EDU in Austin, I had the honor of speaking about [immigrants' vital role in the U.S. economy](#). The numbers are clear — immigrants make up 20% of the workforce and contribute \$1.7 trillion to our economy annually. They are entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders, driving our country forward with the adaptability needed in times of change.

But too many still face steep barriers — outdated credentialing systems, cultural gaps, and limited access to professional networks. These challenges don't just affect individuals; they hold us all back. That's why Upwardly Global is here — to ensure this community has the tools, resources, and connections needed to fulfill its potential.

And in moments like these, as policies shift and uncertainty grows, it's more important than ever to stand firm in our commitment to an economy that works for all. After all, when immigrants thrive, we all do.

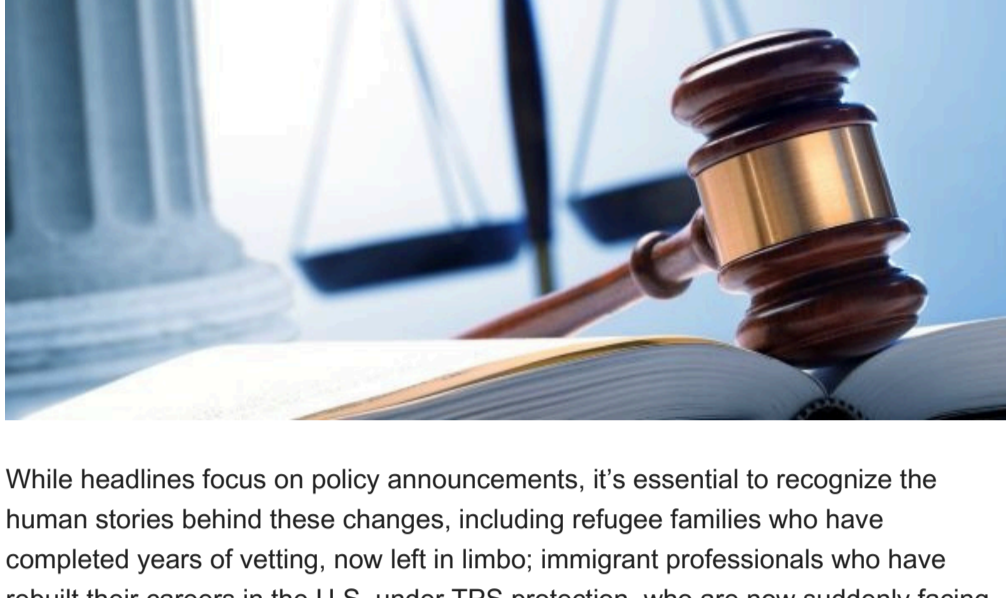
With hope,



*Jina Krause-Vilmar*

Jina Krause-Vilmar  
CEO and President

### The First 30 Days: The Impact of Executive Orders on Immigrant, Refugee, and Asylee Communities



While headlines focus on policy announcements, it's essential to recognize the human stories behind these changes, including refugee families who have completed years of vetting, now left in limbo; immigrant professionals who have rebuilt their careers in the U.S. under TPS protection, who are now suddenly facing deportation; and nonprofit staff serving vulnerable communities who have been furloughed, among many others.

At Upwardly Global, we witness firsthand how these policies affect talented individuals who want nothing more than to seek safety and stability for themselves and their families.

[Read more on our website.](#)

### Making the Economic Case for Workforce Access for Immigrants: Upwardly Global CEO Speaks at SXSW EDU



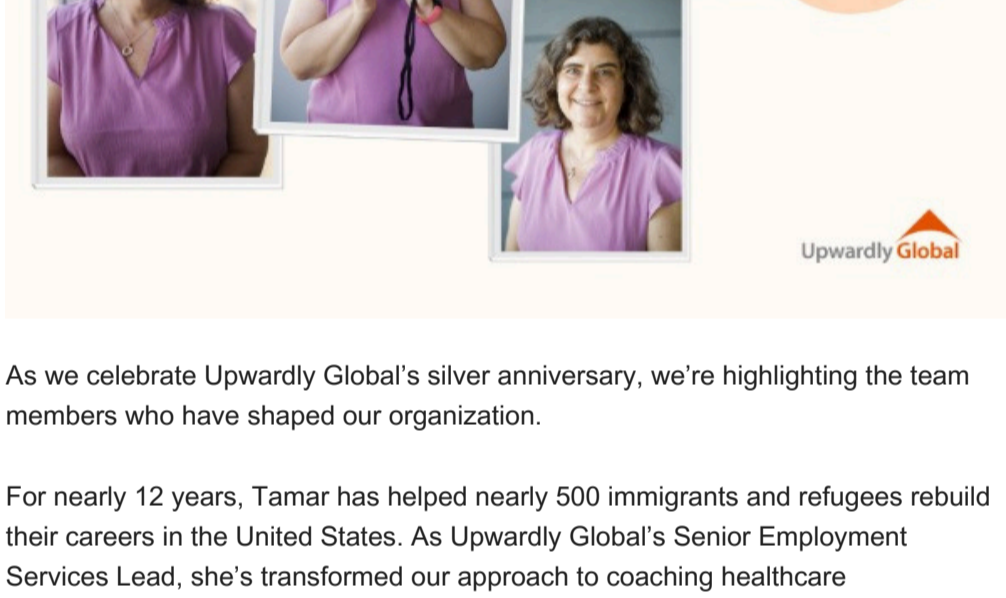
"Now we're looking at how we're cultivating skills around curiosity, creativity, resilience, adaptability. And these are things immigrants and refugees bring in spades."

Upwardly Global President and CEO Jina Krause-Vilmar joined industry leaders at SXSW EDU to discuss the critical economic contributions of immigrants to the U.S. The panel highlighted compelling statistics: immigrants pay over \$579 billion in taxes, and by 2035, will account for 100% of growth in our working-age population.

"Immigrants are fueling our economy and will continue to fuel the economy, and this is not a new story. This is a very old story," said Jina, who also addressed how immigrants bring the necessary skills — curiosity, creativity, resilience, adaptability — that are increasingly valuable in the modern workplace.

[Read the full recap on our website to learn more.](#)

### Celebrating 25 Years of Upwardly Global — Staff Spotlight: Tamar



"I help good people get good jobs."  
— TAMAR, Senior Employment Services Lead

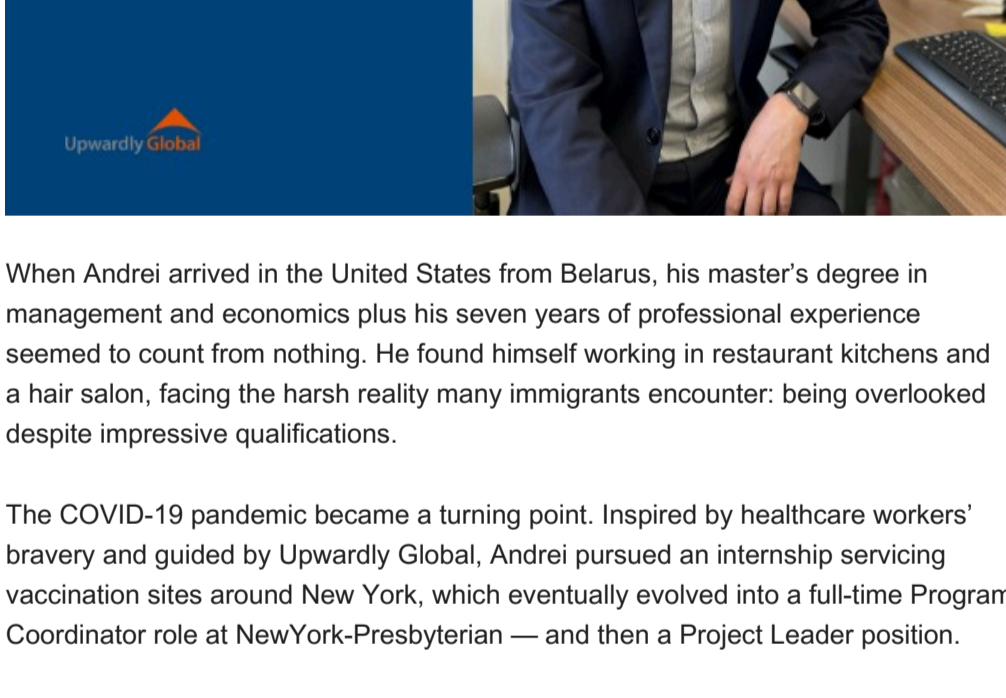
As we celebrate Upwardly Global's silver anniversary, we're highlighting the team members who have shaped our organization.

For nearly 12 years, Tamar has helped nearly 500 immigrants and refugees rebuild their careers in the United States. As Upwardly Global's Senior Employment Services Lead, she's transformed our approach to coaching healthcare professionals, creating pathways where barriers once stood.

"I walked out of [my previous role] thinking, 'I want to find a job where I can help good people get good jobs,'" she remembers of her departure as a career counselor at higher education institutions. And that's what she's done ever since.

[Read Tamar's full story to discover how she's helping shape the future for internationally trained healthcare professionals.](#)

### Job Seeker Spotlight: Andrei from Belarus



If not for Upwardly Global, I wouldn't be where I am now.

ANDREI  
Project Manager from Belarus

When Andrei arrived in the United States from Belarus, his master's degree in management and economics plus his seven years of professional experience seemed to count for nothing. He found himself working in restaurant kitchens and a hair salon, facing the harsh reality many immigrants encounter: being overlooked despite impressive qualifications.

The COVID-19 pandemic became a turning point. Inspired by healthcare workers' bravery and guided by Upwardly Global, Andrei pursued an internship serving vaccination sites around New York, which eventually evolved into a full-time Program Coordinator role at NewYork-Presbyterian — and then a Project Leader position.

Today, Andrei isn't just building his career; he's breaking barriers. Elected to the Emerging Leadership Council, he's a proud champion of workplace inclusion as an immigrant and LGBTQ+ professional.

[Read Andrei's full story of resilience and professional reinvention.](#)

### Make an Impact Today

Help us continue to support individuals like Andrei by [making a gift today](#):

- Equip Newcomers for Success: Provide the tools and training they need to integrate into our workforce and strengthen America's competitive edge.
- Support Thriving Communities: Ensure businesses and local economies benefit from the skills and drive of talented newcomers.
- Build a Stronger Nation Together: Reinforce the values of hard work, opportunity, and success that have always defined America.

When immigrants are enabled to contribute at their highest capacity, businesses grow, communities flourish, and our nation becomes stronger.

[everyone can thrive.](#)

[Join us in building a future where](#)

### Mark Your Calendars: Upwardly Global's Brighter Future's Together Gala

# SAVE *the* DATE

Wednesday | September 24, 2025 | New York, N.Y.  
Tribeca 360° | 6-9 P.M.

[Join Us for Upwardly Global's Annual Gala](#)

We cordially invite you to join Upwardly Global for an extraordinary evening celebrating 25 years of transforming lives through economic opportunity and workforce inclusion. Save the date — we hope to see you there!



Learn more at [upwardlyglobal.org/BrighterFutures](https://upwardlyglobal.org/BrighterFutures)

Join Our Team

Join us and help impact the lives of professional immigrants and their families. Upwardly Global is currently offering the following opportunities:

- Director of Major Gifts

[Donate Today](#)

