

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK

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Front and back cover photo by Andre Chung
Back cover artwork by Angelica Frausto, @nerdybrownkid

Letter from Silky

Dear DWN Community,

As we reflect on 2021, I can't help but feel proud of how far we have come as an organization and as a movement. The demand to end immigration detention is stronger than ever and despite the turbulent post-Trump landscape on immigration, we have scored important victories that are worth celebrating. Thanks to the work of the Detention Watch Network community nationwide the detention system is finally shrinking. While additional threats and challenges loom, it's important to take stock of what we've been able to accomplish this year, 24 years since DWN was founded in 1997, as we renew our commitment to achieving immigrant justice.

Early in the year, DWN launched the First Ten to Communities Not Cages campaign to demand the Biden administration shut down ten detention centers in his first year in office. In May, the Department of Homeland Security, for the first time, publicly announced the end of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention at two facilities, the Bristol County Jail in Massachusetts and the Irwin Detention Center in Georgia, specifically citing the harms taking place inside the jails. In addition to these federal victories, six states have passed anti-detention bills after sustained campaigns by local groups. This groundswell of mobilization and action against detention has changed the national conversation on immigration detention and now, more than ever, the immigrant justice movement and beyond is committed to creating a world without immigration detention.

However, as we made strides on reducing immigration detention, we still faced big challenges. The Biden administration failed to undo many of Trump's attempts at ending asylum as we know it by continuing the racist Title 42 border closure and failing to quickly end the Remain in Mexico program. In addition, the administration expanded punitive alternatives to detention programs, increasing the number of people under surveillance while in immigration proceedings. As the right-wing attacks on our basic rights continue, we must remain nimble and do everything possible to protect immigrants subject to detention and deportation and provide refuge for those seeking safety at our borders.

Much of what we've been able to accomplish is due to our thoughtful and dedicated team. DWN's staff continued to grow in 2021, adding capacity to our advocacy, communications, and organizing teams. After over a year working remotely, we were able to come together in person with the board and staff in the fall. DWN is many things but perhaps its most enduring element is our ability and commitment to bringing people together. The year 2022 marks DWN's 25th anniversary, and I look forward to being able to come together more regularly with the DWN membership again.

It has been many years of fighting, and we have many years to go before we see the end of immigration detention, but I believe we will get there. Despite numerous setbacks, the DWN community continues to make progress and persevere.

In community,
Silky Shah
Executive Director



Communities Not Cages

The Communities Not Cages (CNC) campaign officially re-launched in early 2021 and was rebranded as the “First Ten to Communities Not Cages,” demanding the immediate closure of ten detention facilities. Given the shifts in the federal landscape, DWN and its members demanded the immediate closure of these ten detention facilities in the first year of the Biden Administration. As part of the launch, DWN:

- Coordinated a week of action with more than 100 organizational co-sponsors and four main components: Facebook Live, Twitterstorm, phone zaps, and banner drops at detention centers.
- Published a report highlighting the human rights abuses at these facilities (which are endemic to the entire system).
- Launched a petition delivering more than 10,500 signatures to DHS Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden demanding the closures of ten immigrant detention centers.
- Held a congressional briefing and delivered a letter with over 1,000 organizations, religious leaders, and faith groups to Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden demanding the release of people in detention, ending Title 42 and MPP policies, and the closures of ten immigrant detention centers.
- Worked closely with local organizers around these ten facilities to support local efforts.
- Offered capacity building opportunities for campaign members, including subgrants.
- Coordinated a powerful day of action with more than 20 actions across the country, with participation of more than 115 organizations digitally and in-person. DWN delivered of a second [Free Them All Organizational Sign-On Letter](#) signed by more than 200 organizations to Acting ICE Director Tae D. Johnson at a DC action, made hundreds of calls, and sent 1,300 tweets.
- After the Biden administration announced the end of the ICE contract at the Irwin Detention Center and Bristol County Jail, DWN supported members as they mobilized to demand just closures and releases not transfers by creating resources, bolstering organizing and advocacy efforts, and making connections.



As part of the Communities Not Cages campaign, DWN and members also monitored and organized against child and adult detention expansion proposals. There was organizing against adult detention expansion proposals in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, and Georgia. Around March 2021, as the number of unaccompanied children arriving at the border saw a significant uptick (resulting from policies such as Title 42 and MPP), the Biden administration unveiled a new form of child detention: [emergency intake sites](#) (EIS). In the span of a month, at least 14 emergency intake sites rapidly and haphazardly opened across the country, including at military bases, stadiums, and event centers. DWN gave technical support to members and partners to stop the opening of one emergency intake site, convened a national coalition, created educational resources, and co-led national days of action resulting in the closures of most intake sites.



Major Wins

In May, the administration **ordered ICE to stop using Irwin County Detention Center in GA. The same day, the Department of Justice announced termination of the Bristol County (MA) Detention Center's 287(g) agreement.** Irwin County Detention Center and Bristol County Detention Center were part of at least nine ICE detention contracts that were ended in 2021 through local, state, or national organizing and advocacy including contracts at Wakulla County Jail (FL), Hardin County Jail (IA), Franklin County Jail (MA), Howard County Detention Center (MD), York County Prison (PA), Butler County (OH) and Pulaski County Detention Center (IL). Only three of at least 14 child detention emergency intake sites opened in 2021 remain open. Expansion was stalled in at least 5 states. Detention Watch Network also supported five states (Illinois, Maryland, Washington, New Jersey, and Oregon) passing anti-detention state legislation.

First Ten to Communities not Cages

1. Adelanto Detention Center
2. Berks Family Detention Center
3. Dilley Family Detention Center
4. Etowah Detention Center
5. Farmville Detention Center
6. Hutto Detention Center
7. Irwin Detention Center
8. Karnes Family Detention Center
9. Mesa Verde Detention Center
10. Otero Detention Center





Defund Hate

DWN continued to co-lead the Defund Hate campaign, which has effectively blocked more than \$15 billion in requested funding for ICE and CBP since the campaign launched in 2017. DWN is committed to divestment from agencies that tear apart loved ones and harm communities. Instead, we want to see tax dollars used to strengthen families and communities, including investment in education, housing, green infrastructure, and healthcare programs. Throughout 2021, the Defund Hate coalition engaged in efforts to reduce funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and strengthened the coalition's field and organizing capacity, including the following:

- The creation and release of the transformative budget resource to articulate a vision that breaks down the current abuse-ridden enforcement system to instead invest in services that respond to real community need.
- Hiring a campaign coordinator to increase the coalition's capacity to work towards campaign goals and build movement power around campaign demands.
- Hosting regular trainings to build the advocacy and communications skills of our field.

Major Wins

During Defund Hate's annual National Day of Advocacy, the campaign held nearly 50 in-district meetings across 20 states to urge Congress to cut funding for ICE and CBP in FY22. As budget negotiations extended through multiple continuing resolutions and the Biden administration made requests for increased enforcement spending, Defund Hate led a letter from 150 NGOs and drove close to 400 emails to Congress urging them to hold the line against these requests. Ultimately, there was **no anomaly funding for ICE or CBP added to any short-term spending bill.**

Photo by Andre Chung



Communications

To keep pressure on the Biden administration and Congress, DWN held an artistic protest outside the White House on July 22, displaying portraits by artist Angelica Frausto of migrants whose stories represent the harsh realities of the U.S. immigration detention system. The protest demand was to #FreeThemAll. Teen Vogue ran an [article](#) highlighting the protest's demands and featuring the individuals in the portraits.

DWN believes that artist collaboration is essential to create depth and richness in our storytelling. DWN's Artist in Residency program supports artists who are directly impacted

by immigration detention to amplify and celebrate their work. DWN's 2021-2022 Artist in Residency is Miguel Lopez. Miguel is a talented artist and long-standing community organizer.

Miguel's Artist in Residency Project spotlights ten individuals either currently or formerly detained in immigration detention facilities that represent most of the #FirstTen detention centers as a part of the [Communities Not Cages campaign](#). Each individual portrait of the ten directly impacted individuals celebrates what brings that person joy. After experiencing trauma in

detention, Miguel wanted his work to speak to the wholeness of the person and where they find fulfillment.

In spring 2021, DWN and Comm/Unity developed an interactive "Towards Freedom" messaging workshop and trained over 30 members. DWN also shared the valuable messaging guide resulting from this research project with members, allies, and supporters. DWN brought on additional social media capacity in the fall and is now producing more videos and content for social media. The Network continues to elevate its media profile.



Membership Growth and Retention

Our community power comes from our diverse, resilient, and committed membership. In total, DWN recruited 37 new members-- 14 organizations and 23 individuals. Overall, DWN had 130 organizations and 103 individuals for a total of 233 members in 2021.

Abolition Apostles
 ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
 Adelante Workers' Center
 Advocate Visitors with
 Immigrants in Detention (AVID)
 Advocates for Immigrant Rights
 Alabama Coalition for Immigrant
 Justice
 Alianza Americas
 American Friends Service
 Committee
 American Gateways
 American Immigration Council
 American Immigration Lawyers
 Association
 Americans for Immigrant Justice
 Amnesty International USA
 Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center

Asian Prisoner Support
 Committee
 Asylum Seeker Sponsorship
 Project
 Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
 Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
 California Immigrant Youth
 Justice Alliance
 Center for Constitutional Rights
 Center for Victims of Torture
 Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
 Chicago Religious Leadership
 Network on Latin America
 Civil Rights Education and
 Enforcement Center
 Colorado People's Alliance
 Community Justice Exchange
 (National Bail Fund Network)
 Comunidades Unidas en Una Voz

Cornell Law School, Immigration
 Appellate Law Clinic
 Desis Rising Up and Moving
 (DRUM)
 Detained Migrant Solidarity
 Committee
 Dolores Street Community
 Service
 El Refugio Ministry
 Families Belong Together
 Families for Freedom
 Fang Collective
 First Friends of New Jersey and
 New York
 Florence Immigrant and Refugee
 Rights Project
 Free Migration Project
 Freedom For Immigrants

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Garifuna Community Services

Georgia Detention Watch

Grassroots Leadership

Hartford Deportation Defense

Human Rights First

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Immigrant Defense Advocates

Immigrant Defense Project

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Immigrant Legal Defense

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Immigration Action Alliance

Immigration Services & Legal Advocacy

Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Innovation Law Lab

Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants

Interfaith Immigration Coalition

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates

Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western MA

Juntos

Just Futures Law

La ColectiVA

La Colectiva Legal del Pueblo

La Resistencia

La Unidad 11

Latinx Therapists Action Network

Law Offices of Brelje and Associates, P.C.

Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition

Make the Road Connecticut

Make the Road Nevada

Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New York

Make the Road Pennsylvania

Mano Amiga

Mariposa Legal

Mid-South Immigration Advocates, Inc.

Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration

Mustino Times

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center

New Sanctuary Coalition of NY

No Detention Centers Michigan

No More Deaths

NorCal Resist

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Northwest Indiana Resist

Opportunity Agenda

Organized Communities Against Deportations

Oxfam America

Private Corrections Working Group

Providence Youth Student Movement

Public Counsel

Puente Human Rights Movement

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

Quixote Center

RAICES

Rainbow Beginnings



Membership Growth and Retention (cont'd)

Release MN8	Shut Down Etowah	Tsuru For Solidarity
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights	Siembra NC	UndocuBlack
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Rural Organizing Project	Somos South Georgia	Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)
Sanctuary DMV	South Asian Americans Leading Together	United Stateless
Santa Fe Dreamers Project	Southeast Asia Resource Action Center	University of Miami School of Law Immigration Project
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.	Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)	Voces Unidas
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)	Southern Poverty Law Center	Waco Immigrant Alliance
Sheriffs for Trusting Communities	St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America	Washington Defender Association
Showing Up for Racial Justice Education Fund	Stanford Law, Immigrants' Rights Clinic	Women's Refugee Commission
Shut Down Berks Coalition	Sueños Sin Fronteras de Tejas	#WyoSayNo



Cohort of Formerly Detained Leaders

DWN continued its commitment to developing and uplifting the leadership of the most impacted by detention to be at the core of the fight against immigrant incarceration. The Network's cohort of 20 directly impacted members continued meeting regularly in 2021. DWN offered stipends to each cohort member, funding for select projects, and tailored trainings on topics such as public speaking, fundraising, and trauma-informed healing.



Wow, everything I have learned with this group and what remains to be learned is inexplicable.

Arlender Nunez,
Formerly Detained Leader



Organizing Support Program

DWN is dedicated to capacity building and providing resources to grassroots organizational members to aid their innovative approaches to support people detained, stop expansion, and/or shut down detention centers. For 2021, DWN completed its fifth round of the Organizing Support Program (OSP), granting over \$200,000 to 18 grassroots organizational members. We invite you to learn more from this cohort and plug in to support their local organizing efforts.

[Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention](#) -

Organizing to Shutdown Otero

Detention Center Targeted: Otero County Processing Center

[El Refugio Ministry](#) - **Amplify and Abolish campaign**

Detention Center Targeted: Stewart Detention Center

[The Fang Collective](#) - **Shut Down ICE**

Detention Centers Targeted: Bristol County House of Corrections, Donald Wyatt Detention Facility

[Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice](#) - **Resilient Voices**

Detention Center Targeted: Adelanto GEO

[Immigrant Action Alliance](#) - **Shut Down Glades**

Detention Center Targeted: Glades County Detention Center

[Juntos](#) - **Jaulas de Oro (Golden Cages)**

Detention Centers Targeted: Visionquest and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health

[La ColectiVA](#) - **Migrant and Refugee Rights Initiative**

Detention Centers Targeted: ICA-Farmville, Caroline Detention Center



[La Resistencia](#) – **Families and Formerly Detained Leadership Group**

Detention Center Targeted: Northwest ICE Processing Center

[New Sanctuary Coalition](#) – **Anti-Detention Project**

Detention Centers Targeted: Orange County, Bergen County, Hudson County, Essex County, Elizabeth County Detention Center

[No Detention Centers Michigan](#) – **No Detention Center in Ionia**

Detention Centers Targeted: Ionia, MI proposal, North Lake Correctional CAR Facility

[Organized Communities Against Deportations](#) – **Free Them All IL**

Detention Centers Targeted: McHenry County Correctional, Jerome Combs Detention Center, Pulaski County Jail, Ogle County Jail

[Shut Down Etowah](#) – **#ShutDownEtowah Campaign**

Detention Center Targeted: Etowah County Detention Center

[St Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America](#) – **Ending ISAP**

[Queer Detainee Empowerment Project](#) – **QDEP Organizing Base**

[Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network](#) – **Free Them All**

Detention Centers Targeted: El Valle Detention Center, East Hidalgo Detention Center, Port Isabel Service Processing Center

[Rural Organizing Project](#) – **Rural Organizing to End Oregon's Detention Pipeline**

Detention Centers Targeted: Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility, Northwest ICE Processing Center

[Siembra NC](#) – **Expanding Community Defense Resistance**

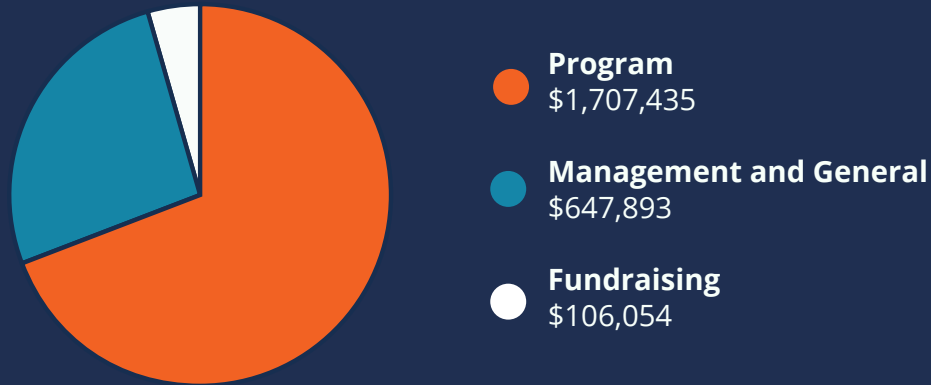
Detention Centers Targeted: Alamance County Jail, Stewart Detention Center

[United Stateless](#) – **Statelessness Coalition**



Finances

2021 Expense by Function



Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$581,492
Foundation Grants	\$4,269,654
Interest Income	\$162
Membership Dues	\$102,973
Program Revenue	\$8,800
TOTAL	\$4,963,081

Expenses

Program Services

Communications	\$343,577
Advocacy	\$574,506
Organizing	\$405,066
Member Capacity Building	\$384,286

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$647,893
Fundraising	\$106,054

TOTAL	\$2,461,382
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Staff



Lissette Castillo
Senior Organizer



Itzel Corona Aguilar
Organizer



Feven Ferai
Finance and
Operations Director



Jenny Garcia
Communications
Associate



Justine Garcia
Digital Manager



Setareh Ghandehari
Advocacy Director



Marcela Hernandez
Organizing Director



Hillary Li
Policy Counsel



Kelvin Lopez
Organizer



Gabriela Marquez-Benitez
Membership Director



Aimee Nichols
Managing Director



Carly Perez Fernandez
Communications
Director



Silky Shah
Executive Director



Jolie Steinert
Administrative
Associate



Luis Suarez
Advocacy Manager



Stacy Suh
Program Director



Gabriela Viera
Advocacy Manager

**staff list as of end of 2021*

Board

Elizabeth Sweet
President

Takoma Park, MD

Danielle Alvarado
Vice President

Fair Work Center
Seattle, WA

Tony Nam
Treasurer

Indivisible Project
Silver Spring, MD

Ana Ortiz Varela
Secretary

Innovation Law Lab
San Antonio, TX

Lauren Dasse

Florence Immigrant and
Refugee Rights Project
Tucson, AZ

Alaide Vilches Ibarra

Interfaith Movement for
Immigrant Justice
Portland, OR

Victoria Lopez

ACLU of Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

Silky Shah

Detention Watch Network
Bellingham, WA

Emily Tucker

Georgetown University Law
Center, Federal Legislation Clinic
Washington, DC

Amilcar Valencia

El Refugio Ministry
Atlanta, GA

**Board list as of end of 2021*





Funders

Anonymous

David Rockefeller Fund

Dr. Bronnens Family Foundation

Ford Foundation

Four Freedoms Fund

Heising-Simons Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Oak Foundation

We Are Home

DWN Members, who contributed
\$102, 973 in dues

Individual Supporters, who contributed
\$43,365 in donations

