DEAR COLLEAGUES,

There’s no denying that 2018 was a challenging year for racial and migrant justice, including attempts to massively expand immigration detention and criminalize people of color. Yet as I reflect on the work of DWN over the past year, I am filled with gratitude and hope. The Network continues to grow stronger and more effective in our mission to dismantle immigration detention. We achieved some major victories throughout the year, which are highlighted in greater detail in the coming pages.

The role of DWN is more critical than ever, and we are investing in our staff, members, and infrastructure. Some examples of this include development of a staff wellness fund, our language justice work, robust digital security policies, and building a cohort of people directly affected by the detention system to guide our strategies and approach.

We are going through a period of significant organizational growth, which is supported in large part by the Ford Foundation’s BUILD program. After a decade of being fiscally sponsored by Tides Center, we decided in late 2018 to become an independent 501c3. In addition to our efforts to strengthen the Network’s infrastructure, DWN is running multi-pronged campaigns and moving the needle on detention at the federal and local level. We closed out the year with great fundraising success, 33 new DWN members, a growing cash reserve, and a new strategic framework.

On a personal note, I began 2018 on sabbatical, traveling to India and Texas, where I was able to relax, reflect, and spend time with my family. I returned in March with a renewed commitment to the fight against immigration detention. As I look ahead to 2019, which marks my ten-year anniversary at DWN, I am honored to be leading a Network that is committed to values of collaboration, accountability, equity, and collective learning.

WITH GRATITUDE,

Silky Shah
Executive Director
Membership

DWN is proud to be a member-led Network, and our strength comes from our membership. In 2018, we brought on 33 new members—15 organizations and 18 individuals—from all over the country.

ORGANIZING SUPPORT PROGRAM
DWN launched the third round of our local capacity building program, called the Organizing Support Program (OSP), in summer 2018. DWN disbursed a total of $54,200 to nine grassroots members who are running innovative campaigns against local detention centers and/or offering support to those affected by the detention system.

“Becoming a DWN member has empowered me in so many ways. The access to resources, trainings, tools to fight back, expert assistance and collaboration with legal advocates have been key as I fight my deportation case.”

– Alejandra Pablos, #KeepAleFree

Photo credit: Steve Pavey
DWN hosted its 12th National Member Conference in Colorado last May, with 200 members and allies in attendance. The conference was one of DWN's largest and most diverse, with 70 participants receiving scholarships to attend. The program included three plenary sessions and 17 workshops, including topics such as local site fights, movement lawyering, challenging the criminalization of migration, message development, grassroots fundraising, medical neglect in detention, and more.

ICE RETALIATION AGAINST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS LEADERS

In late 2017 and early 2018, we saw an alarming rise in retaliation against activists and immigrant rights leaders by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This included taking members

THE 2018-2019 ROSTER OF OSP GRANTEES

AFSC - Iowa Immigrant Rights Program: Iowa’s ICE Detention and Enforcement Resistance Project.
Detention Center(s) Targeted: Five county jails with Intergovernmental Service Agreement contracts with ICE: Polk, Pottawattamie, Hardin, Marshall, and Linn

Faith in Action: DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network Project
Detention Center(s) Targeted: Frederick County Detention Center, Howard County Detention Center, Worcester County Detention Center

Mano Amiga: 90 Mile Corridor of Active Resistance
Detention Center(s) Targeted: South Texas Detention Center (Pearsall), Karnes Family Detention Center, jails in Guadalupe, Comal, Caldwell, and Karnes counties

Proyecto Azteca and Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network: Ritmo Watch
Detention Center Targeted: Willacy Regional Detention Facility

New Sanctuary Coalition: (anti)detention project
Detention Center(s) Targeted: Orange County Jail, Bergen County Jail, Hudson County Jail, Essex County Jail, Elizabeth Detention Center

Northwest Detention Center Resistance: Targeting Tacoma
Detention Center Targeted: Northwest Detention Center

Grassroots Leadership: Shut Down Hutto + Stopping New Detention Capacity in TX
Detention Center Targeted: T. Don Hutto Detention Center

Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice: End Detention IE
Detention Center Targeted: Adelanto Detention Center and Federal Correction Institution, Victorville

Adelante Alabama Worker Center: #ShutDownEtowah campaign
Detention Center Targeted: Etowah County Detention Center

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Alejandra Pablos and Ravi Ragbir into custody, initiating deportation proceedings against Maru Mora Villalpando (Northwest Detention Center Resistance), and deporting Jean Montrevil (New Sanctuary Coalition) to Haiti. In close collaboration with the affected individuals and their families, DWN provided rapid response communications support and hosted a press conference and rally. Throughout 2018, DWN continued monitoring cases of retaliation against activists and offering support whenever possible. At our conference, we hosted a powerful discussion of four women impacted by this retaliation (Alejandra Pablos, Maru Mora Villalpando, Caitlin Deighan with No More Deaths, and Janay Cauthen, co-founder of New Sanctuary Movement and member of Families for Freedom) sharing their testimonies and how to fight back against these retaliatory tactics and ICE at large.

"DWN has given me and my organization the support to lead winning campaigns to achieve justice for detained immigrants.

- Luis Suarez, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice"

"Being a member of DWN has given us access to invaluable expertise, advice, coordination, and a deep connection to the nationwide movement to end immigration detention.

- Kathryn Johnson, American Friends Service Committee"
Defund Hate

The Defund Hate campaign launched in 2017 with two goals:

- Getting a critical mass of Members of Congress (MOCs) on the record demanding cuts in funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Reducing the federal funding that these agencies receive to detain and deport immigrant communities.

Since its inception, the campaign has successfully blocked these agencies from receiving $5 billion in additional funding and has grown into a robust, diverse, and effective coalition.

DWN engaged in two federal funding fights in 2018: Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) for which a spending deal was struck in late March, and Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) which began with a series of Continuing Resolutions. The year ended with Congress still embroiled in FY19 negotiations, which led to an unprecedented 35-day government shutdown.

FY18 BUDGET

In February, following multiple Continuing Resolutions and two short-lived government shutdowns, Congress passed a two-year budget deal through March 23. This bill raised budget caps for domestic discretionary spending and increased the overall DHS funding allocation. The Defund Hate coalition responded with great urgency ahead of the March deadline, including action alerts, media work, sign-on letters, a Twitterstorm, and delivering 130,000 petition signatures to congressional appropriators.

The campaign exceeded its goal of getting a critical mass of MOCs to publicly endorse Defund Hate demands with over 100 MOCs on the record calling for cuts in funding (something that had never happened before). Unfortunately, we were unable to limit the funding that ICE and CBP received for FY18 and both agencies received an increase in funding. However, thanks to the work of Defund Hate, negotiators fought harder on detention and an increase in agents than years prior. As a result, ICE and CBP didn't get nearly as much money as they, and the President, asked for.
FY19 BUDGET
After March, DWN continued to coordinate the Defund Hate coalition and produce campaign resources, and we stepped into campaign overdrive during key moments. For example, in late August we learned that ICE requested $1 billion extra dollars as Congress was considering a Continuing Resolution. Over the next two weeks, coalition partners conducted 46 meetings with Members of Congress, hosted emergency calls, distributed action alerts, and organized a national call-in day and petition deliveries. In addition, DWN helped to break a story about ICE taking $10 million from FEMA for immigration enforcement. As a result of these tireless efforts, the $1 billion detention anomaly was defeated.

When FY19 advocacy began to ramp up, DWN and United We Dream co-hosted a Defund Hate convening, bringing together 60 participants to develop a shared workplan for 2019. This convening focused on the FY19 appropriations process as well as looking ahead to FY20, and concluded with a press conference and lobby day.

Unfortunately, the year ended with the FY19 budget negotiations ongoing. Despite this uncertainty, the impacts of the Defund Hate coalition are undeniable. We ended the year with 104 MOCs on the record calling for cuts in funding to ICE and CBP. Issues of detention, ICE and CBP agents, and border militarization have been far more prevalent than ever before in funding negotiations and the media. The Defund Hate coalition is now more diverse, more aligned, and growing.
In an effort to prevent further detention expansion under the Trump administration, DWN began serving as a resource and coordinator of targeted “site fights” in 2017, working with local groups to halt construction where ICE was planning to open new detention facilities.

Last summer, we were appalled to see the effects of the administration’s manufactured crisis at the border—including family separation, a push for family and indefinite detention, curtailed rights of asylum-seekers, and efforts to metastasize detention operations into other federal agencies. In response to these attempts to massively and rapidly expand immigration detention, we broadened and deepened our site fights work, rebranding it as the Communities not Cages campaign.

Through Communities not Cages, we provide communications support, campaign art, research, technical assistance, and facilitate collective strategizing, in order to:

• Halt detention expansion locally
• Shut down existing facilities
• Prevent the metastasizing of detention into other federal agencies.

The need for Communities not Cages became abundantly clear in 2018 with expansions proposed across the country. Stopping the construction and expansion of new facilities in the short term is critically important as part of our long-term vision of abolishing immigration detention. So far through our efforts, three new ICE detention contracts were prevented: in Elkhart, IN, Pine Island, MN, and Newton County, IN. In addition, three local governments ended contracts with ICE: in Atlanta, GA, Contra Costa County, CA, and Williamson County, TX.

The threat of detention metastasizing into other federal agencies is a particularly insidious approach of this administration. One example we saw in 2018 was the transfer of 1,600 migrants to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities over the summer. In response, DWN hosted a convening in Seattle with five members organizations located in states where immigrants were transferred. At this convening, we developed a strategy to end this arrangement. By October 2018, individuals were released from BOP facilities or sent back to ICE detention centers.
DWN launched our innovative **ICE on Trial** (IOT) campaign in February 2018, seeking to combine the Network’s most effective strategies—grassroots organizing, legal work, and advocacy—in pursuit of our mission to end immigration detention.

Through IOT, DWN members organized 11 people’s tribunals, calling attention to the abusive and harmful behaviors of ICE. These tribunals brought together community members to listen to testimonies from people who are or were previously detained and offer communal judgments against ICE and detention center operators. Across the board, each tribunal concluded with the same verdict: that the facility must be shut down, as well as additional demands specific to each facility.

These tribunals were complemented with legal actions as well as the release of an original report, co-authored with the National Immigrant Justice Center, **ICE Lies: Public Deception, Private Profit**.
PEOPLE’S TRIBUNALS

Tacoma, WA—targeting Northwest Detention Center, organized by Northwest Detention Center Resistance

El Paso, TX—action at the Mexican border, organized by Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee

Kankakee, IL—educational community event targeting Kankakee Detention Center, anchored by several local partners

Washington, DC—hosted at the National Archives, organized by DWN and Freedom for Immigrants

Manhattan, NY—targeting the ICE Field Office, organized by several local partners

Brooklyn, NY—a neighborhood action, organized by Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)

Adelanto, CA—targeting Adelanto Detention Center, organized by Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Gadsden, AL—targeting Etowah Detention Center, organized by Shut Down Etowah

Taylor, TX—targeting Hutto Detention Center, organized by Grassroots Leadership

Richmond, CA—targeting West County Detention Facility, organized by Freedom for Immigrants

Aurora, CO—targeting Aurora Detention Center during DWN’s National Member Conference

Following these tribunals, significant steps were taken to shut down two of the targeted detention centers. Contra Costa County announced that it was severing its contract with the federal government to incarcerate immigrants at the West County Facility in Richmond, CA, and that public pressure had contributed to the Sheriff’s decision. In addition, the Williamson County Commission voted to end the county’s contract with ICE and CoreCivic, which runs the Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, TX.

When the campaign wound down, DWN released a video —The Decision is Clear— underscoring the evidence against ICE and demanding that the agency be abolished and all detention centers shut down.
2018 Finances

- Personnel: $787,897
- Convenings & Travel: $197,490
- Professional Services: $85,640
- Operating Costs: $80,007
- Member Subgrants & Sponsorships: $55,162
- Fiscal Sponsor Fees: $168,770

57% of funds were allocated to Professional Services.
DWN Organizational Members

ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project
ACLU National Prison Project
Adelante Alabama Worker Center/Shut Down Etowah, AL
Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, KS
Alianza Americas
Amend Law LLC, WA
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways, TX
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice, FL
Amnesty International
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore, MD
Catholic Legal Immigration Network
Center for Constitutional Rights
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, IL
Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center, CO
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, WA
Community Development Project, NY
Comunidades Unidas en una Voz, TN
Cornell Law School Asylum Clinic, NY
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), NY
Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee, X
Dolores Street Community Services, CA
Duke University School of Law, NC
El Refugio Ministry, GA
Faith In Action—La Red
Families for Freedom, NY
First Friends of New York and New Jersey, NJ
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, AZ
Florida Immigrant Coalition, FL
Freedom for Immigrants
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees, FL
Georgia Detention Watch, GA
Grassroots Leadership, TX
HIAS
Human Rights First
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, IL
Immigrant Defense Project, NY
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, ME
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigrant Youth Coalition, CA
Immigrants Rights Clinic, Stanford Law School, CA
Immigration Task Force of Mission Presbytery, TX
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, CA
Innovation Law Lab
Interfaith Immigration Coalition
Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates, WA
Juntos, PA
Justice Strategies
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
La Colectiva, VA
Law Offices of Brelje and Associates, AZ
Make the Road, NY, NJ, PA, CT, and NV
Mano Amiga, TX
Maria Baldini-Potermin and Associates, IL
Movement for Justice in El Barrio, NY
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Religious Campaign against Torture
New Sanctuary Coalition of NY
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, NY
No More Deaths, AZ
Northwest Detention Center Resistance, WA
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, WA
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project
Progressive Americans Action League, Oslo
Private Corrections Institute, FL
Proyecto Azteca, TX
Public Counsel, CA
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project, NY
Quixote Center
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, TX
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, CO
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, IL
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network, NC
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Southeast Asian Resource Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America, MO
The Opportunity Agenda
UndocuBlack Network
United Stateless
University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic, FL
Waco Immigrants Alliance, TX
Washington Defender Association, WA
Women’s Refugee Commission
WyoSayNo, WY
**DWN Staff**

- **Feven Ferai**, Finance and Operations Manager, DC
- **Amy Fischer**, Defund Hate Coordinator, DC
- **Gabriela Marquez-Benitez**, Membership Director, IL
- **Aimee Nichols**, Associate Director, DC
- **Carly Perez**, Communications Director, DC
- **Silky Shah**, Executive Director, WA
- **Mary Small**, Policy Director, DC
- **Barbara Suarez Galeano**, National Organizer, IL

**DWN Steering Committee**

- **Eunice Cho**, Individual Member, WA
- **Lauren Dasse**, Executive Director, Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, AZ
- **Quyen Dinh**, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Resource Center (SEARAC), DC
- **Elizabeth Sweet**, Individual Member, DC
- **Romy Lerner**, Associate Director, University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic, FL
- **Victoria Lopez**, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU National Prison Project, DC
- **Jessica Shulruff Schneider**, Supervising Attorney, Americans for Immigrant Justice, FL
- **Amilcar Valencia**, Executive Director, El Refugio, GA
Thank you

TO THE FUNDERS WHO MADE DWN’S WORK POSSIBLE IN 2018

Andrus Family Fund
Anonymous
Borealis Philanthropy
David Rockefeller Fund
CREDO
Ford Foundation: BUILD
Four Freedoms Fund
Fund for Global Human Rights
Heising-Simons Foundation
Indivisible Project
Open Society Foundations
Solidarity Giving
DWN Members, who contributed $66,325 in dues

Photo credit: Brandon Wu
DWN loves feedback! As an organization, we strive to be the most effective we can be, and we are committed to cultivating a culture of honesty, transparency, and trust. If you have any feedback for us (things we did well and/or areas where we can improve), please let us know by contacting a staff member or by emailing feedback@detentionwatchnetwork.org.