

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



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OUR MISSION

Freedom for Immigrants (FFI) is devoted to abolishing immigration detention, while ending the isolation of people currently suffering in this profit-driven system.

FFI monitors human rights abuses inside immigrant detention centers through our National Immigration Detention Hotline and National Visitation Network, connecting people inside detention to a team of trained hotline volunteers and a network of community groups that provide immediate support, record their personal testimonies and build solidarity for abolition by fostering innovative inside-outside advocacy campaigns. We use narrative change and integrated advocacy to elevate the voices of movement leaders from inside detention and push for policies that divest from immigration detention and instead invest in systems of care that strengthen immigrant communities—a cornerstone of our vision for how to build a world without immigration detention.

www.freedomforimmigrants.org



LETTER FROM OUR GOVERNANCE BOARD

Dear Allies, Supporters, and Community,

My name is Grisel Ruiz and I am the Board Chair of Freedom for Immigrants. I write to thank you for your ongoing allyship and support as we look back at 2021 and forge ahead toward 2022. This year, no doubt, has been challenging for all. We've collectively grappled with year two of a pandemic while battling the longstanding systems of oppression propping up the detention and deportation system.

While these times are challenging, I take heart in the increased public awareness that immigration detention is inhumane and wholly unnecessary. I am assured by ongoing work to shape a world where instead of investing in cages, we invest in stabilizing community-based support programs. I am grateful for the volunteers, staff and supporters who contributed to our year-end accomplishments, including reuniting 143 people with loved ones by posting over \$1.5M in bonds.

I am assured by our own internal growth, as we launch an Executive Director search while under the deft, skilled leadership of Interim Co-Executive Directors Sierra Kraft and Layla Razavi. More than anything, I am inspired by the resilience of the immigrant community FFI serves and works alongside. It is through their leadership that we will abolish detention.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue the fight to #FreeThemAll!



In solidarity,

Grisel Ruiz
Board Chair

YEAR IN REVIEW

40K

CALLS RECEIVED BY
**100 HOTLINE
VOLUNTEERS IN
19 LANGUAGES**



151

**151 CIVIL RIGHTS
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
(CRCL) COMPLAINTS
SUBMITTED**



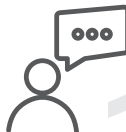
238

**COVID-19 MAP
SUBMISSIONS**



54

**STORIES POSTED
ON IMM PRINT
FROM PEOPLE
INSIDE DETENTION**



143

**PEOPLE FREED
WITH OVER \$1.5M
POSTED IN
IMMIGRATION BONDS**



This poem [originally appeared in IMM Print in December 2020.](#)

IMM Print is a publication by and for people affected by immigration detention.

FALL TO GET UP

by Emitiel Prophet, detained at Wakulla County Jail

Trees fall,
Leaves fall,
We fall and have a choice to get up
through it all.
It might be off a bike,
It's OK, get up and keep peddling.
Might from people who say "This per-
son, I don't like,"
No worries, to that person, don't settle
in.
I know it's hard,
You locked away and feel like you fell
short
Thinking you dealt the wrong card,
And smoked your chances away like a
Newport
Chin up, wipe those tears & don't feel
scared,
Life isn't a game but think of it as a new
sport.
Where you're on a winning team,
Ready to beat any odds you meet.
No matter how tough it seems,
You won't accept defeat.
We face storms,
On the outside & within.
That leaves us sore
But we still grin.
You're strong, not weak.
Not gone,
Nor decrease.
You may have come up from the pave-
ment,
It's alright you're worth it.
They're applauding, proud and gazing,
Just smile, cause from the start you
deserved it.
Trees fall,
Leaves fall,
We fall, I hope you make the choice to
fight through it all.



MONITORING DETENTION

During COVID-19

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2020, THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION POPULATION WAS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW OF LESS THAN 20,000 PEOPLE, DOWN FROM MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. This reduction in detention levels was in large part due to attacks on asylum access and an acceleration of deportations and border expulsions. However, 2020 saw the highest death toll in detention since 2005. By the end of FY 2020, the government reported 21 people had died in immigration detention due to COVID-19; FFI also recorded and reported instances of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) releasing or dropping off outside of detention people who were gravely ill with COVID-19 shortly before their passing, making the full scale of loss of life due to detention this year unknowable. The recorded rate of infection was at 18 percent, far higher than the national or global averages. This loss of life at the hands of ICE further underscores that these systems of power and abuse are incapable of keeping communities and people safe, especially during a pandemic.

Reporting COVID-19 Conditions in Real-Time



A few weeks after the pandemic began, Freedom for Immigrants began to monitor ICE's lethal response to COVID-19 inside immigrant jails and prisons on our [interactive detention map](#). As the number of cases rose, and visitation access at facilities across the country was shut down, those inside detention and advocates outside were able to call our hotline to report their experiences, which were then updated in real time to the map.

Our monitoring, hotline and policy teams used these real-time reports to document overall trends in detention through monthly [Real-Time Conditions Reports](#). These reports were crucial to our work filing [civil rights complaints](#) and advocating for [policy change](#).

[Freedom for Immigrant's Co-Founder Christina Fialho spoke with BuzzFeed's Pero Lik](#) about how the COVID-19 Detention Map is helping us hold ICE accountable.

Freedom for Immigrants' COVID-19 reporting has helped educate legislators on ICE's lethal response to the pandemic in immigration detention. We worked with Senators Warren, Castro and Booker to introduce and endorse the COVID-19 in Immigration Detention Data Transparency Act in both houses of Congress.

We also helped draft and endorse the [End Transfers of Detained Immigrants Act](#), legislation that would immediately stop ICE from transferring people between detention centers or from a jail/prison into a detention center during the pandemic.

TAKING ACTION

During an unprecedented pandemic year, we fought alongside partners and people organizing inside detention to file a series of **multi-individual civil rights complaints documenting ICE's abuses**. These complaints provide a paper trail detailing the agency's coercion, physical and verbal abuse, medical neglect, use of toxic chemicals, reckless endangerment, and torture and deportation of Black immigrants. People inside detention have been organizing and advocating for years to expose the abuses they are subject to, even amid increased retaliation from ICE.

Below we share a snapshot of the many advocacy efforts FFI's monitoring team has participated in and led this past year.

“Anti-Blackness and white supremacy are at the core of how our immigration system operates,” said Sofia Casini, Director of Visitation Advocacy Strategies at Freedom for Immigrants

ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF BLACK IMMIGRANTS

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center in Louisiana

In August 2020, we joined partners in [filing a federal CRCL complaint](#) detailing how prison officials used unnecessary lethal force to restrain 45 Black immigrants in chokeholds and threaten them with solitary confinement at gunpoint, in retaliation for hunger strikes that [began in March 2020](#) and were renewed in August.

Adams County Correctional Center in Mississippi

In October 2020, we helped [file a federal multi-individual complaint](#) against ICE officers who [coerced and tortured eight Cameroonian men into signing stipulated orders of removal](#) as part of a systematic attack on Black immigrants. Less than one week after we filed the complaint, [ICE deported 60 Cameroonian and 28 Congolese immigrants](#). But thanks to our network's direct advocacy, two of the men in the complaint were [pulled off the plane](#) so a federal investigation could go forward.

We continued the fight by engaging Congress, and along with 160 organizations and over 20,000 individuals, [sent a letter](#) to the Congressional Black Caucus demanding more action.

Jackson County Correctional Center in Louisiana

In November 2020, we joined immigrants' rights organizations in filing a [multi-individual CRCL complaint](#) detailing ICE's continued use of force and torture against six Cameroonian asylum seekers to coerce them into signing their own deportation paperwork.

Winn Correctional Facility in Louisiana

In February 2021, we filed a [multi-individual complaint](#) against ICE concerning use of torture against immigrants from Cameroon. With our partners organizations and volunteer Lara Nochomovitz (who lived at and managed our post-release house in

Louisiana), we urged the government to stop the deportation of these human beings who were coerced into signing orders of removal. We prevailed! [ICE cancelled the deportation flight.](#)

FIGHTING COVID-19 CONDITIONS IN DETENTION

Glades County Detention Center in Florida

In February 2021, we joined eight other immigrants' rights groups in submitting a [multi-individual federal civil rights complaint](#) on behalf of hundreds of people whose lives were being recklessly endangered at this county-run jail during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2021, we filed a [second CRCL complaint](#) after ICE officers at Glades retaliated against two men who were included in the February CRCL complaint.

Exclusive: Ice cancels deportation flight to Africa after claims of brutality

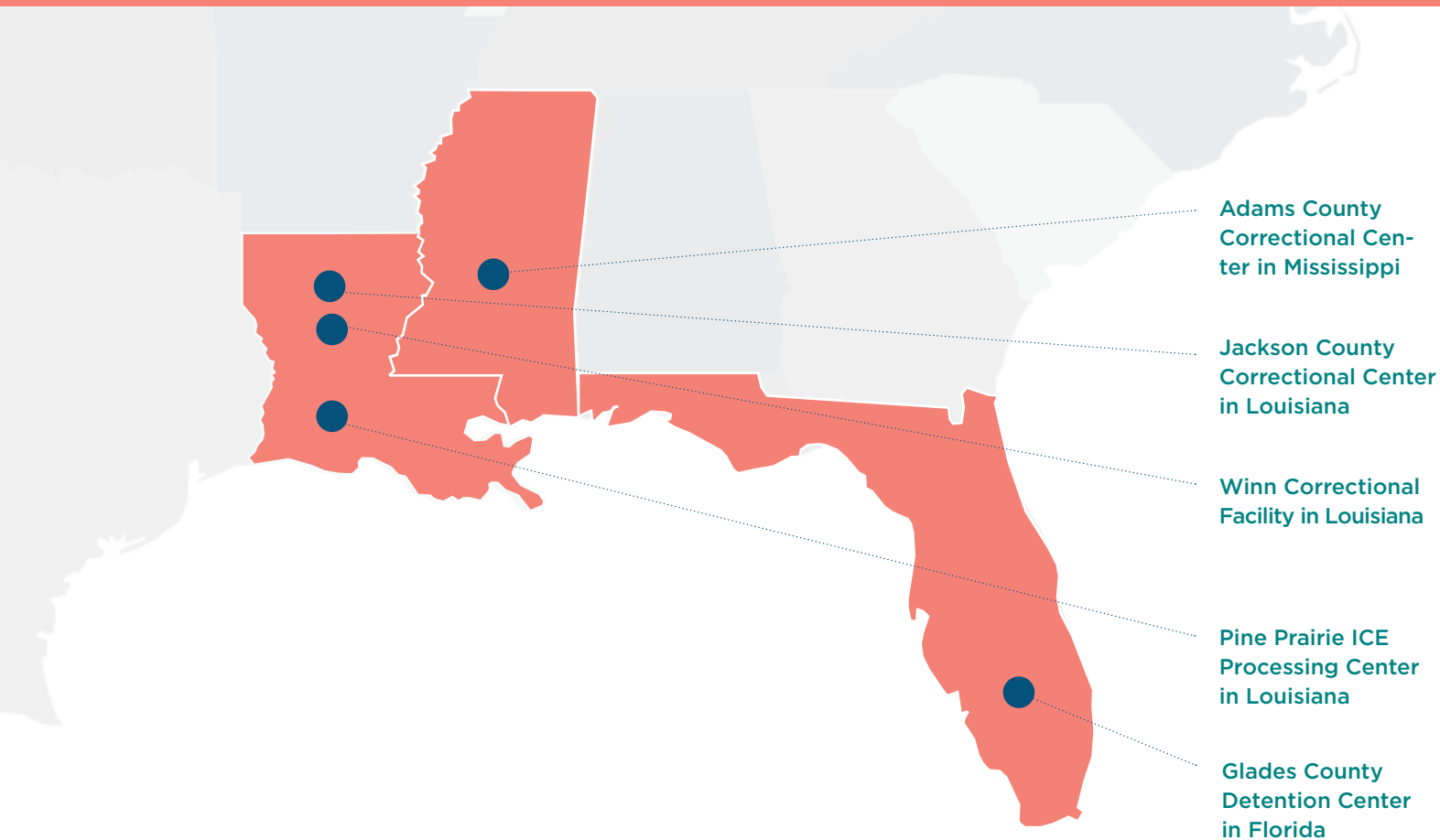
- Ice agents allegedly forced asylum seekers to agree to expulsion
- Flight was due to leave from Louisiana at 3pm on Wednesday



▲ Deportation flights had been stepped up under the Trump administration but Alejandro Mayorkas, the new homeland security secretary, appears to be asserting his authority. Photograph: David Ryder/Getty Images



*“The way they treat us is not what I pictured in my mind before coming to the United States,” said one of the complainants **identified as G.N.** “I have heard of other people who went to the United States, and they have not gone through the treatment I have gone through in Louisiana.”*



EXPOSING TOXIC CHEMICALS IN DETENTION

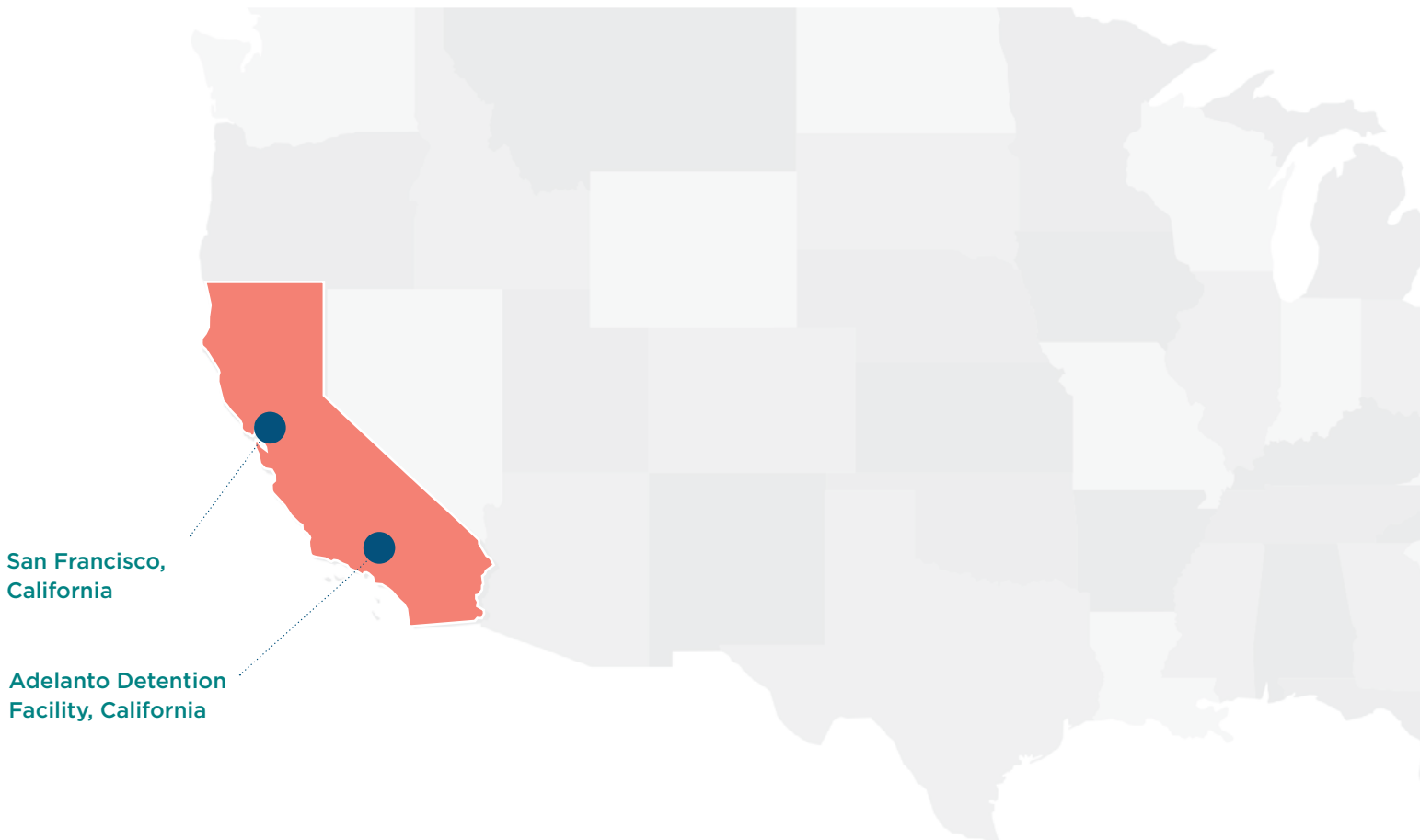
Adelanto Detention Facility in California

In March, we filed [two federal civil rights complaints with our partners against ICE and GEO Group](#) for the illegal use of toxic chemicals at Adelanto and at the Glades County Detention Center in Florida. In September 2020, a California District Court [ordered](#) that GEO immediately discontinue the use of HDQ Neutral due to the potential threat of the pesticide. After seven months of investigation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a [final report](#) and an official [Notice of Warning](#) to GEO Group for multiple violations in response to their misuse of the [toxic pesticide HDQ Neutral](#) inside the Adelanto Detention Facility.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST LACK OF FAIR REPRESENTATION IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS

San Francisco, CA

In November 2020, in coalition with 16 other legal services and immigration groups, we [filed a complaint against Judge Nicholas Ford](#) with the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) for his [racist, ableist and hostile treatment of immigrants, attorneys and witnesses](#). Judge Ford [stepped down in April 2021!](#)





NATIONAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION HOTLINE

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS' 100+ HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF 4,000 CALLS A MONTH FROM INDIVIDUALS IN DETENTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY. Hotline volunteers received a number of calls reporting medical neglect; unsanitary and unsafe conditions; use of solitary confinement; violent retaliation tactics (such as pepper spray and rubber bullets) used against hunger strikers; and an overwhelming number of immigrant detention centers not adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines.

As social visitation continues to be suspended, the National Immigration Detention Hotline remains a vital lifeline to the outside world for people isolated in immigration detention.

Every 3 minutes,

FFI receives a call from someone in detention needing support.

40K TOTAL CALLS RECEIVED

105 DETENTION CENTERS REACHED

238 COVID MAP SUBMISSIONS FROM HOTLINE

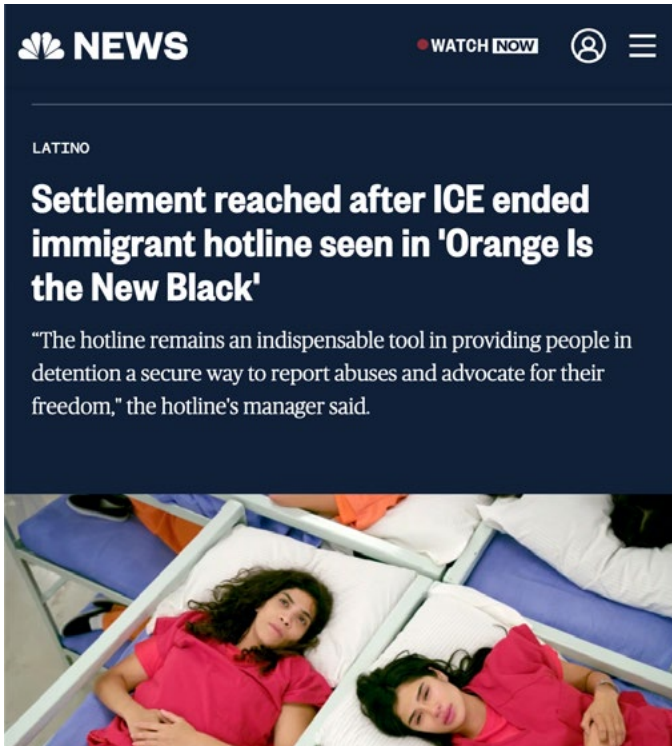
151 CRCL COMPLAINTS (SUBMITTED TO CRCL ALONE)

30 DIRECT ADVOCACY COMPLAINTS (SUBMITTED TO ICE FIELD OFFICE, WARDEN, AND CRCL)

10 MULTI-INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS (SUBMITTED TO ICE FIELD OFFICE, WARDEN, AND CRCL)

“In a system designed to dehumanize and disempower, the National Immigration Detention Hotline provides a critical means of connection for people in detention who are isolated from their loved ones and communities,” said **Amanda Díaz**, Freedom for Immigrants Hotline Manager.

A HUGE VICTORY FOR THE HOTLINE!



At the end of FY2021, we [won a significant settlement in our lawsuit against the federal government for its](#) shutdown of the FFI hotline. Under the [settlement](#), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agreed to provide uninterrupted access to FFI's [National Immigration Detention Hotline](#) for people in the immigration detention system across more than 150 detention centers and jails around the country for at least a five-year period. We are grateful to our partners at Hueston Hennigan LLC for their unwavering support these past two years; it is with their expertise and dedication that we have restored access to this critical lifeline for those in detention.



SPOTLIGHT ON FREEDOM

Yosif is a young man from Cuba who was detained in La Palma Correctional Center for nearly a year. In April 2020, FFI began to support Yosif and his family in advocating for his release on **humanitarian parole** due to the elevated risk of severe COVID-19 complications caused by his severe asthma. After an outbreak in La Palma in May, Yosif was put into solitary confinement in retaliation for his refusal to work his kitchen “job” due to his concerns about getting infected. By June, Yosif was reporting a shortage of breath and heart palpitations. He was finally released in mid-August and is now in Florida with his family.



NATIONAL VISITATION NETWORK

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS SUPPORTS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF VISITATION GROUPS, OPERATING IN 69 OF THE LARGEST IMMIGRANT PRISONS ACROSS 26 STATES. Visitor volunteers serve as community watchdog groups, documenting abuses and providing social support to those inside. While visitation continues to be suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our team continues to provide resources, monthly training and capacity building support to the Visitation Groups, which organize over 4,500 volunteers across the United States.

More Than 40 Women File Class Action Lawsuit Alleging Medical Misconduct by ICE Doctor at Georgia Detention Center



Dawn Wooten, left, a nurse at Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Ga., speaks at a news conference in Atlanta protesting conditions at the immigration jail, on Sept. 15. Jeff Amy—AP

We want to give a huge shout out to our affiliated Visitation Group, the [South Georgia Immigrant Support Network](#), that filed a complaint in response to coerced, non-consensual medical procedures, including hysterectomies, at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia. Dawn Wooten, a nurse who used to work at the jail, and whistleblower in the complaint, explained how women at Irwin told her that their uteruses had been removed without their consent. While this whistleblower complaint details forced hysterectomies at one immigrant jail, we know that abuse and many other forms of medical neglect against people detained is happening in ICE jails all over the United States. This complaint [led to a federal investigation](#).

JOHN GUTTERMAN AWARD: CONGRATS TO OUR PARTNERS AT EL REFUGIO!

In January, we recognized [El Refugio](#) (Lumpkin, Georgia) with the [2021 Reverend John Guttermann Legacy Award](#) for its outstanding contributions this year to the detention visitation and abolition movement. Each year, FFI awards the Reverend John Guttermann Legacy Award to one or more outstanding Visitation Groups.

El Refugio has its roots in Georgia Detention Watch, whose members began in 2008 to visit immigrants and asylum seekers detained at Stewart Detention Center, one of the largest immigrant detention centers in the country with 1,600 detained individuals. After witnessing the challenges shared by those visiting loved ones at Stewart, a group of friends established El Refugio.

In 2010, El Refugio opened a small hospitality house that offers meals and lodging at no cost, as well as friendship and support, to the loved ones of those who are detained at Stewart. This past year, El Refugio launched its Advocacy Team, a critical program which works with individuals inside to coordinate strategic responses to the constant barrage of medical neglect and physical abuse at the prison, which is infamously one of the deadliest in the country. We are grateful to be working in partnership with such amazing advocates.

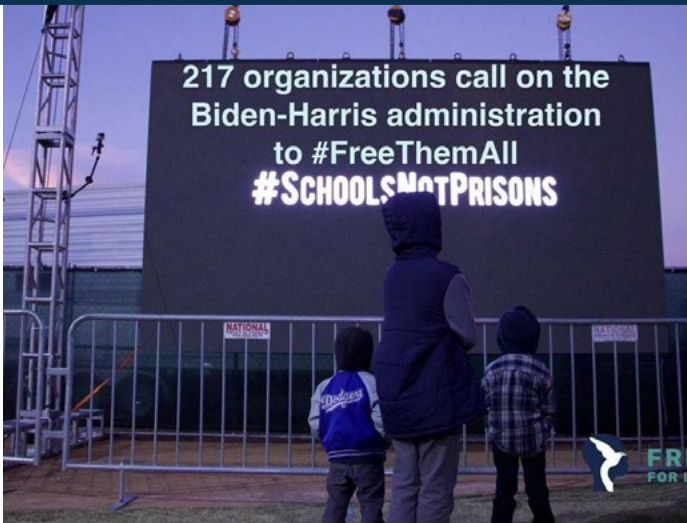


POLICY ADVOCACY

THIS PAST YEAR SAW THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND INAUGURATION OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION, AND MANY ADVOCATES AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF FROM THE INTENSITY OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS. But despite President Biden's campaign promise to [close down private ICE detention centers](#), there has instead been a stark rise in detention levels and deportations. Immigration detention is thriving, and we must continue to hold our government accountable.

“The past four years have laid bare the stark reality that the U.S. immigration detention system cannot be reformed. It must be abolished,” said Layla Razavi, Interim Co-Executive Director at Freedom for Immigrants

FEDERAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

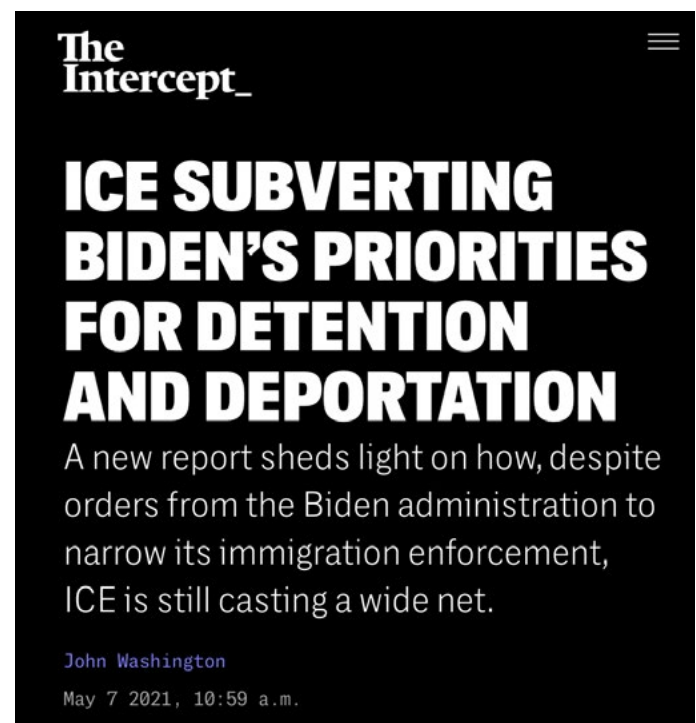


In partnership with the Defund Hate Coalition, Freedom for Immigrants [successfully influenced the House Appropriations Committee's Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) spending proposal bill](#) for fiscal year 2021, marking an important step in the long-overdue process of defunding the deadly immigration detention system. The proposed bill cut more than \$1 billion in spending for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations and limited custody operations funding equivalent to a population of less than half of the funded level from FY2020.

In January, we [put pressure on the Biden administration](#) and joined the Detention Watch Network in sending [a letter on behalf of over 200 organizations](#) calling for immediate releases.

We then used this momentum to work with [Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley to engage 22 representatives to send a letter](#) to urge the Biden administration to issue an addi-

tional Executive Order announcing a plan to phase out contracts between ICE and state, county and local jails and prisons. We also [signed on](#) to the Detention Watch Network's "First 10" campaign, urging the Biden administration to begin winding down the detention system by starting with the closure of 10 immigrant detention centers.



On its first day in office, the Biden administration issued a memo announcing interim immigration enforcement priorities accompanied by a **90-day review of DHS's enforcement policies and practices**. We utilized the review period to survey people inside immigration detention and, in April, we published the results from our investigation into a [detailed report](#) demonstrating the impact of categorical exclusions on immigrant communities.

Our report revealed that ICE agents did not follow the agency's prescribed policies, and we found that the priorities have already had lasting and harmful consequences for immigrants and their families, particularly for Black immigrants and other immigrants of color. We are happy to report that the administration has recently adopted standing priorities that no longer target people with a past aggravated felony conviction.

As we entered the second year of the pandemic, we supported FFI Visitation Groups in organizing to [call on the Biden administration to reopen visitation access](#). We are now organizing a national campaign to demand the administration reinstate Visitation Groups' access so that our volunteers can resume visitation at all detention centers. Family and community access is critical to our human rights monitoring work and reduces the severe isolation of people inside detention.

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS' POLICY OBJECTIVES FALL WITHIN TWO MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS:



**INVESTING IN
COMMUNITY-BASED
SOLUTIONS**

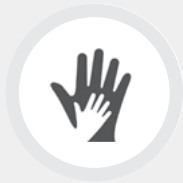


**HALTING DETENTION
EXPANSION AND
DIVESTING FROM
DETENTION**



End Transfers of Detained Immigrants Act

Working with Reps. Jason Crow, Sylvia Garcia and Veronica Escobar, we introduced the [End Transfers of Detained Immigrants Act](#) in both the House and Senate to halt the spread of COVID-19 that results from ICE's reckless transfer practices.



Pushing for Phase Out of ICE Detention

In March, we pushed back on the Biden-Harris administration's failure to follow through on its campaign promise to phase out the federal government's contracts with private prisons, including private contracts for the detention of immigrants and immigrant [children](#). We worked with Representative Ilhan Omar to urge the President to go a step further and [sign an executive action](#) to phase out contracts between ICE and public jails.



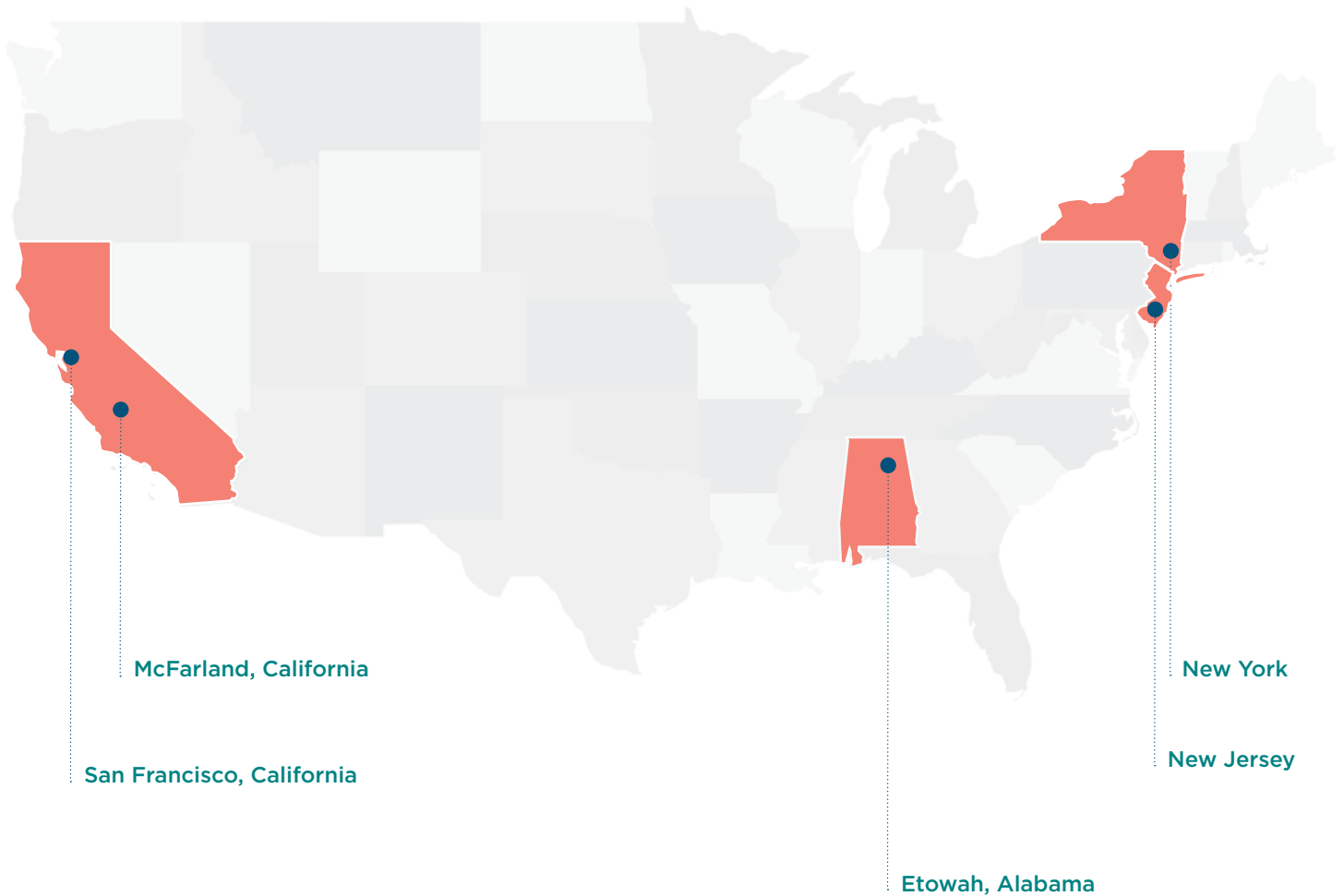
Investing in Community-based Solutions

In 2020, along with the Women's Refugee Commission, we convened a working group in Washington, D.C. on "alternatives to detention" (or ATDs) to push for investments in community programming. Congress passed a \$5M allocation in the budget for the FY2021 for a government-funded ATD pilot! While this federal investment signals a new approach to receiving and supporting immigrants, we are working to hold the government accountable for administering this first-of-its-kind pilot in line with our values.

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

State-by-State

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS IS CONTINUING TO WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS AND ADVOCATES AT THE STATE LEVEL FOR A MORE LOCAL APPROACH TO INVESTING IN A WORLD WITHOUT DETENTION. Since we worked in 2017 to pass [California's Dignity Not Detention bill](#), several more states have passed legislation to end private immigration detention and prohibit contracts with ICE, including Illinois, Maryland, Washington, and New Mexico. We are also taking the fight to court with several lawsuits ongoing across the country this past year such as in CA and Alabama.



THE NORTHEAST

Supporting Coalitions and Clinics: We convened the Abolish ICE NY-NJ Coalition and worked with the Immigrant Rights Clinic at NYU to introduce a [Dignity Not Detention Act for New York](#).

Supporting Communities: We supported the push from communities across the state, and [gave oral and written testimony in support of the NJ bill](#), which was [signed into law](#) in August, 2021!

Fighting for Closures: Hudson County officials [sought to renew](#) their contract with ICE for another decade. We [helped lead the fight](#) to ensure Hudson County would end detention once and for all, bringing our monitoring of conditions and abuses inside Hudson before county officials. We played this same role at detention centers throughout New Jersey, including Essex and Bergen. Today, Hudson and [nearly every other detention center](#) in New Jersey has been shut down!

Releases Not Transfers: We pushed for mass releases of the people inside NJ facilities before they were shut down, resulting in the release of hundreds of immigrants who are New York and New Jersey residents. For those who were transferred to other states, we worked to coordinate community groups and advocates across state lines to ensure immigrants transferred out-of-state continued to retain the support and services they had in New Jersey while connecting them to organizing efforts in their receiving communities.

CALIFORNIA

Defending AB32: Along with our partners in California, Freedom for Immigrants filed [an amicus brief](#) with the Ninth Circuit in support of AB32, which bars for-profit prisons in the state. We will continue to defend this bill from attacks by the Biden administration.

Stopping Detention Expansion: We sued the City of McFarland (and GEO Group) to halt the expansion of two new immigrant prisons in California and enforce elements of SB29, the “Dignity Not Detention Act.” We [won a preliminary injunction](#). After that injunction was vacated by the Ninth Circuit, McFarland residents [vowed to keep fighting](#).

Monitoring and Protesting Expansion: We [testified](#) against the City of Adelanto’s [decision](#) to expand the largest immigrant prison in the country by 750 beds. We worked with the Shutdown Adelanto Coalition and Adelanto Visitation Network to monitor and protest the expansion.

Budget to Save Lives: We help convene a statewide collaborative made up of immigrant rights and criminal and racial justice groups across the state to support and enact a Budget to Save Lives, a multi-year campaign to move California toward a “Care First” future by divesting from detention and all forms of incarceration and instead shifting state dollars toward community-based programming and alternatives to detention and incarceration.



INTERNATIONAL DETENTION WORK

As we look to abolish immigration detention in the United States, we must consider how the U.S. has exported immigration detention across the globe. Freedom for Immigrants is committed to finding humane alternatives and learning from colleagues around the globe so that we can truly build a world without immigration detention.

Learn more about how U.S.-based private prison companies have been exporting immigration detention worldwide in [this article](#) written by our Co-Founder and former Executive Director Christina Fialho and published by the International Detention Coalition.

THE SOUTH

Access for Local Visitation Group:

In Etowah, AL, we sued the government, with support from pro bono counsel Reed Smith, to demand reinstatement of access for local Visitation Group, the Etowah Visitation Project (EVP), after the county terminated access to the facility. We had an [initial hearing](#) in January and another hearing with witnesses, including our staff. We are confident that we will successfully restore visitation access for EVP.



BUILDING A WORLD

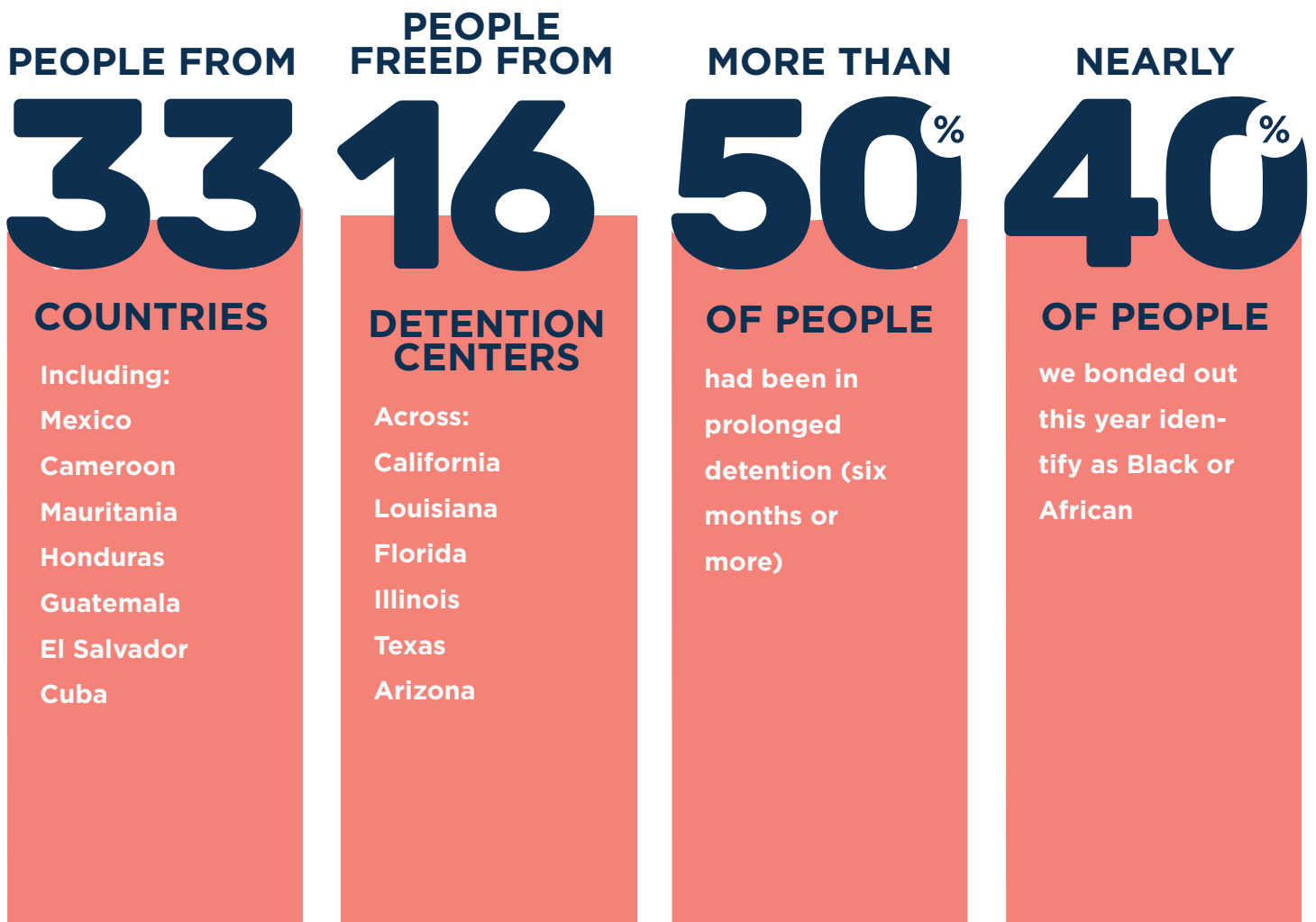
Without Detention

FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS BELIEVES THAT ANY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE BUILT UPON FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY; FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY; AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH. We must divest from immigration detention and invest instead in community-based programs that are welcoming and include and integrate immigrants into the social fabric of our society.

REUNITING IMMIGRANT Communities and Families



Freedom for Immigrants has run a [National Immigration Detention Bond Fund](#) since 2013, and we've paid over \$3.6M to free more than 450 people from immigration detention. During one of the most urgent years in recent history, we secured the release of 143 people from immigrant detention centers with over \$1.5M paid in bond.



FREEDOM100 IMPACT INVESTMENT FUND

In partnership with Mission Driven Finance, we launched the [Freedom100 Fund](#). This fund blends philanthropic and investment capital to allow us to rapidly free more people. From July 2020 to May 2021, we secured the freedom of 100 individuals with over \$1M paid in bond.



This past year, we successfully secured the freedom of people like [Randy](#), [Elpidio](#) and [Okunlola](#). *Randy is pictured here having a meal with her sponsor after being released.*

EXPOSING THE GOVERNMENT'S E-CARCERATION: "CAGED IN CYBER PRISON"

In June, 2021 [we released a new report](#) shedding light on the harms of the federal government's ankle shackling of immigrants. This first-of-its kind study, done in collaboration with Immigrant Defense Project and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, found that electronic ankle "monitoring," or shackling, subjects immigrants to many of the [same harms as incarceration](#), causing severe trauma and distress, demonstrating that ankle shackles are not a viable or humane alternative to detention.

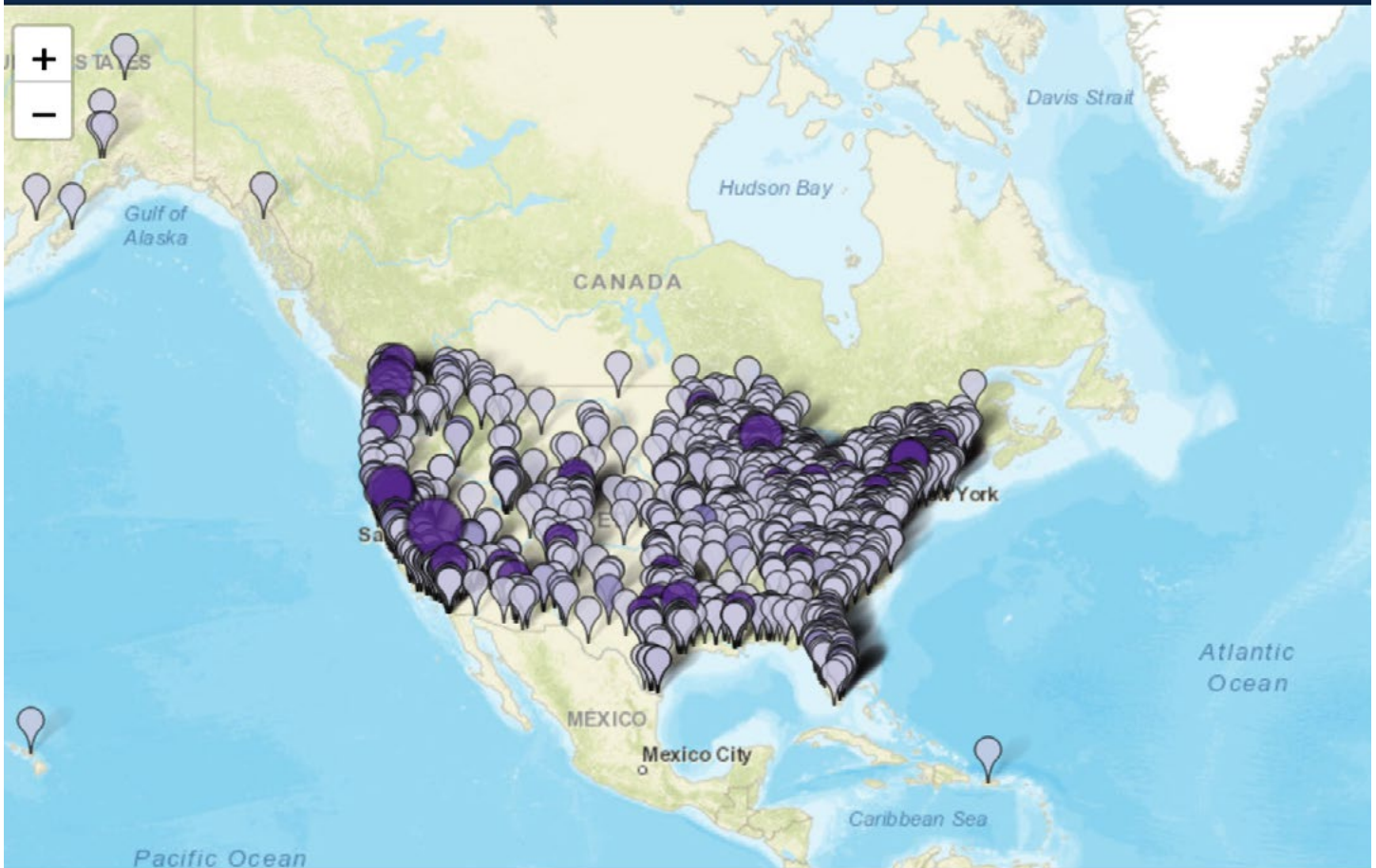
POST-RELEASE MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY PILOT

Immigration detention is a form of psychological torture. Many migrants face immense trauma, not only during their journey, but also while detained, leaving deep psychological wounds long after being released from detention. In a recent FFI study, we found that the emotional strain of detention is often more intense than the physical impact, with over 80 percent of survey participants sharing that they were depressed in detention. This summer, we launched a mental health pilot program offering trauma-informed psychoeducational support groups to immigrants recently released through our bond fund. Participants were offered a safe space to share detention experiences, offer mutual support to one another and connect to ongoing mental health support. This pilot provided a vital first step toward individual and community healing.

SECURING A SAFE RELEASE

Through Sponsorship

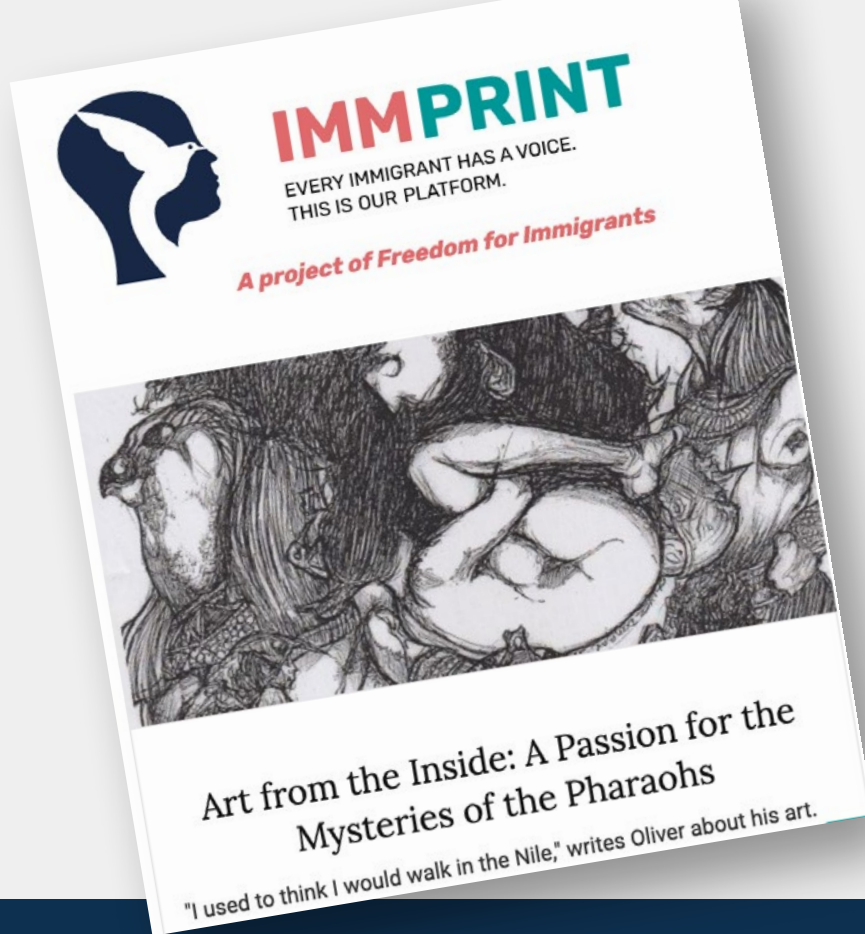
3546 have pledged their support



Liberating people from immigrant jails is central to our mission to abolish immigration detention. Many immigrants currently in detention could be eligible for release if they had a sponsor. We receive requests from people in detention for sponsors and route these requests to the Asylum-Seekers Sponsorship Project to be matched with a sponsor. Each match facilitates the release of immigrants from detention into supportive housing with a sponsor host volunteer.

MIGRANT FREEDOM HOME

This year, with the support of a past volunteer, Lara, Freedom for Immigrants operated the only safe house for immigrants released from immigration detention in Louisiana. During this time, the [Migrant Freedom Home](#) supported the safe release of over 100 people, offering them temporary and safe sanctuary upon release from detention, including warm meals, clothing, care packages and transportation.



NARRATIVE CHANGE

THIS YEAR, [IMM PRINT](#) PUBLISHED OVER 54 ARTICLES FROM PEOPLE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND DISTRIBUTED NEWSLETTERS TO NEARLY 900 INDIVIDUALS IN IMMIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. The magazine is an important organizing tool for people in detention, and it serves as a megaphone, allowing people inside a way to be seen and heard.



We wish to give a huge shout out and thank you to our inaugural IMM Print Editor, Cindy Knoebel, who is transitioning out of her role. Cindy first began working with Freedom for Immigrants in December 2016 as a hotline volunteer, and she became a contributing writer and editor of IMM Print in early 2017. Cindy brought years of experience as a communications executive, editor and published author to uplift the voices and stories of people inside, such as Valencia. We are grateful for her dedication to reaching people inside detention, and for making sure that each person who wrote to IMM Print was responded to individually and had their stories told.

Poem

Inclined in the evening
I throw my sad nets towards your oceanic eyes
your eyes, for me, the light of a distant lighthouse
with effort and resolve, I try to reach
No matter the hours, days, months, years
I need to navigate to reach
your warm and gentle coral lips.
Eyes like oceanic pearls, you are the light God placed
for this sad and solitary boat
Only your light guides an ocean of tenderness and love....

by Alonso Flores, formerly detained at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA



Why Abolition Wednesdays Instagram Live Series

In 2020, we led eight [Instagram live chats over the course of eight weeks](#), including a [Spanish-language episode](#), to educate the public about the ins and outs of abolishing immigration detention, reaching an audience of over 30,000 people.



In Plain Sight

We partnered with a coalition of 80 artists as part of a unique project dedicated to the abolition of immigration detention and the culture of incarceration. Over Independence Day Weekend, the coalition launched the nation's skytyping fleets to spell out artist-generated messages in water vapor, legible for miles over immigrant prisons, immigration courts, borders and other sites of historic relevance. We supported the coalition in [locating appropriate places with our map](#) and [contributed language](#) for the skytyping, and we ensured people in detention were aware of the action.

Thank you to our generous supporters and partners

**Thank you for your unwavering support
and commitment to this important work!**

We are fueled by this community of friends
and advocates who demand justice
and accountability.

**We would like to take a moment to uplift and thank our donors
who gave \$5,000 or more:**

The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation

The California Endowment

The Johnson Street Foundation

The Endeavor Foundation

Y&H Soda Foundation

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Firedoll Foundation

The Peggy & Jack Baskin Foundation

RembeRock Foundation

Schwab Charitable

Arch Stanton Charitable Fund II

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

Joyce & Irving Goldman Foundation

Social Venture Partners

Bear Dog Group

Leaves of Grass Fund

The Herb Block Foundation

Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation

Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation

Dunn Family Charitable Foundation

The Grove Foundation

Choose Love

East Bay Community Foundation

Elevate Fund

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Badflower

Cora Currier

Weiss Family Foundation

Bill Falik and Diana Cohen

Temple of Israel of Hollywood

Anonymous

*Every effort has been made to ensure
a correct listing of donors and we
apologize for any mistakes.*

Freedom for Immigrants is honored to be the recipient of over 4,500 donations from individuals this year. Our median donation is \$100, and it is because of these individual champions that our work is possible. Our voices and stories are powerful tools to effect change. Together, we can transform this inhumane immigration system and help our communities flourish.

Special Events and Creative Fundraisers

We wish to thank these people who contributed their talents in creative ways to raise support for people:

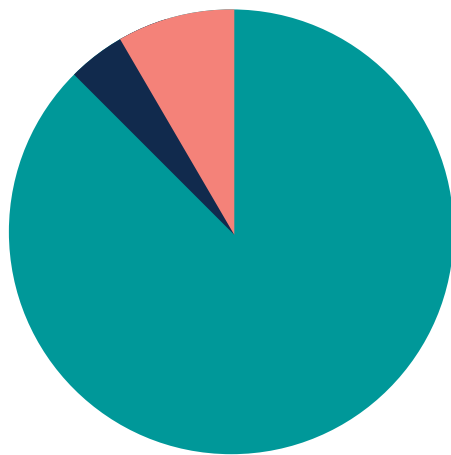
- The Elevate Fund for the \$50,000 match grant they provided to help us raise \$100,000 for our bond program;
- The rock band, Badflower, and their wonderful fan base that raised \$10,000;
- *Orange Is The New Black's* Vicci Martinez and Emily Tarver who put on an uplifting virtual concert for Freedom for Immigrants with support from Olivia.com;
- Broadway actress Shoshana Bean who took to Instagram to call on her supporters to help us end immigration detention; and
- Tal Mars who hiked the length of Vermont to raise funds and awareness.

2020 Louisiana Liberty Concert

With the support of some talented actors and musicians, we hosted our first Louisiana Liberty (Virtual) Giving Tuesday Concert in December. We are grateful to Shoshana Bean, Alynda Lee Segarra of Hurray for the Riff Raff, and Emily Tarver and Vicci Martinez for sharing their talents and helping us raise \$7,000 to continue our work in Louisiana.

OUR FINANCIALS

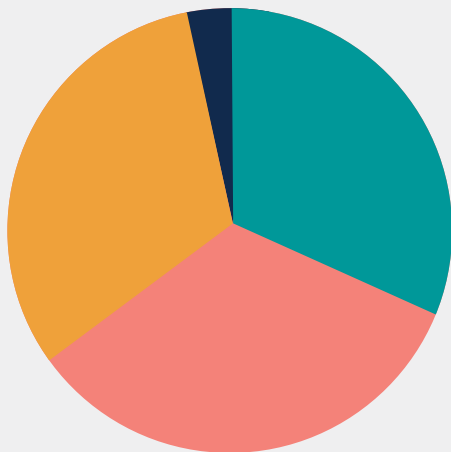
FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS’ MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ENSURE THAT OPERATING FUNDS RAISED IN THE CURRENT YEAR ARE EFFECTIVELY PUT TO USE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT FURTHER OUR MISSION OF CREATING A WORLD WITHOUT IMMIGRATION DETENTION. The following figures represent sources and uses of operating funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Freedom for Immigrants publishes detailed financial information in the form of its annual report and IRS 990 tax returns.



USES OF FUNDS

- **Program Expense (87%)**
\$2,699,667
- **Admin & Management Expenses (8%)**
\$233,045
- **Fundraising Expenses (5%)**
\$157,900

TOTAL: \$3,090,612



SOURCES OF FUNDS

- **Individuals**
\$1,142,531
- **Foundations**
\$1,054,114
- **Freedom100 Bond Investment**
\$977,800
- **Congregations & Corporations**
\$84,880

TOTAL: \$3,259,325

MEET OUR NEW

Team Members

WE WERE THRILLED TO WELCOME THREE NEW STAFF AND ONE FELLOW THIS FISCAL YEAR. READ THEIR FULL BIOS [HERE](#).



AMANDA DIAZ

NATIONAL HOTLINE MANAGER

Read an interview with Amanda on [why the hotline is so powerful and important](#).



JENNAYA DUNLAP

IMMIGRATION DETENTION BOND FUND COORDINATOR

Read an interview with Jennaya on [why bonds are a form of ransom](#).



CHRISTINE MLADIC JANNEY

ACLS LEADING EDGE FELLOW

Watch a documentary film, [Runasimiwan Kawsay \(Living Quechua\)](#), directed by Christi.



JEFF MIGLIOZZI

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Read an [article](#) co-authored by Jeff, for which he received the [2021 Carroll Kowal Journalism Award](#).



FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS STARTS WITH YOU!

To learn more about how you can support, contact Sierra Kraft at

SKraft@freedomforimmigrants.org

www.freedomforimmigrants.org/donate