

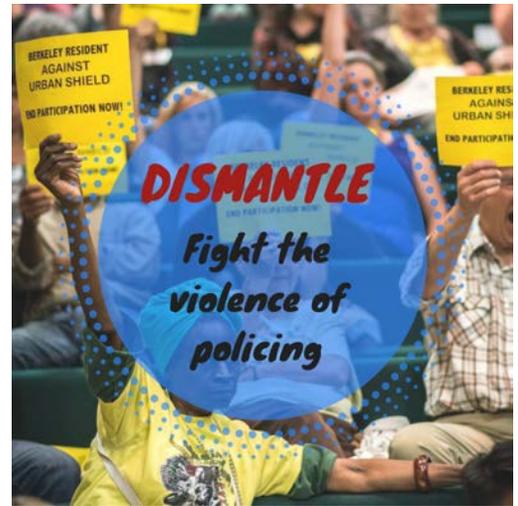
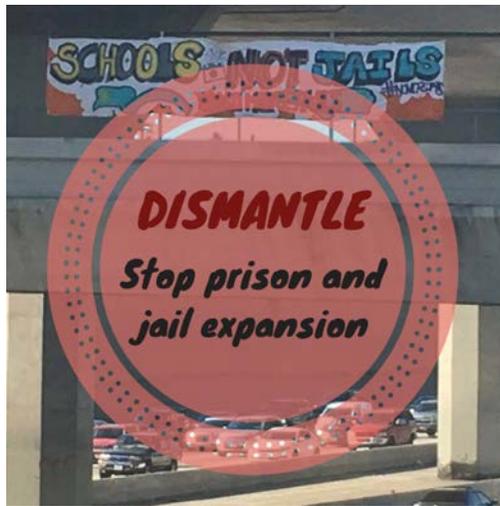
# CRITICAL RESISTANCE



## ABOLITION NOW:

FIGHTING WHITE SUPREMACY,  
DISMANTLING THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX,  
BUILDING FOR LIBERATION





CR makes abolition common sense through education, media work, and campaigns that achieve concrete abolitionist reforms. In all our work, we elevate life-affirming solutions as we tear down walls, cages, and policing.





# DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW TRAVELERS,

Critical Resistance is energized by the growing demand to move beyond the violence of imprisonment and policing and towards a society that centers health and self-determination. It's a ripe moment for advancing abolition, and we are ready to keep the movement growing. On the eve of 20th anniversary of CR's founding 1998 conference, "Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex," it is empowering to see years of concerted organizing and your loyal support coming to fruition.

In 2017, CR ran a number of transformative campaigns and projects, through the work of small staff, four chapters, a dedicated membership and hundreds of volunteers. In workshops, presentations, rallies, hearings, publications, and countless conversations, we advanced analysis and bolstered campaigns that are making headlines, shifting common sense, and impacting policies.

Facing the rise of global militarism, CR chapters strengthened ties with 3rd world internationalist struggles and joined forces to fight the violence of policing against Black and Brown communities. Against rising xenophobia, white supremacy, and fascism, we showed up to defend immigrants, broaden sanctuary and combat white supremacist gatherings. Fighting capitalism, we deepened our connections with organizations and communities fighting against economic divestment and gentrification. We want to uplift four main areas of impact:

- > **No New Jails:** With three campaigns fighting jail expansion in major U.S. cities—Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco— we are uplifting these campaigns and increasing resistance to jailing nationally.
- > **Eliminate the Violence of Policing:** Our Oakland and Portland chapters are running campaigns and projects to curb the violence of policing and halt the encroachment of policing into the programs and services that communities need for health, resilience, and emergency response.
- > **Empower and Organize with Prisoners:** Through our bilingual newspaper, chapter prisoner mail programs, collaborative prisoner reports, and Inside-Outside Reading Groups, we are bridging the silencing divide of prison walls and bringing imprisoned people into outside movements.
- > **Building Vibrant Internationalist Movements:** In 2017, CR continued to strengthen our existing partnerships, build new relationships in chapter cities across sectors, and join allies' demonstrations. We supported abolitionist causes in key areas such as Miami, Atlanta, Chicago, and even Australia. For our broader movement, we released media and educational tools to support analysis and abolitionist foundations, including the *Breaking Down the Prison Industrial Complex* video project and our Abolition of Policing workshop.

It's been twenty years since organizers kicked off the efforts to build a popular, more unified movement against the prison industrial complex. Since then, the analysis, ideas, and, increasingly, the *strategies* of Critical Resistance have been in high demand. **Even more is possible for our movement and our organization. We're hopeful and ready to keep building and growing.**

Onward, toward liberation,



Jess Heaney, Lily Fahsi-Haskell, Mohamed Shekh, CR Co-Directors  
and the CR National Fundraising Committee

## MISSION

Critical Resistance (CR) seeks to build an international movement to end the prison industrial complex (PIC) by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure. As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness. The success of the movement requires that it reflect communities most affected by the PIC. Because we seek to abolish the PIC, we cannot support any work that extends its life or scope.



## ABOUT CR

Critical Resistance is a national grassroots organization building a movement to abolish the prison industrial complex. We think of the PIC as the system of surveillance, policing, and imprisonment that government, industry and their interests use as solutions to economic, social, and political problems. Because the PIC is a huge, complicated system, we have to attack it from all different angles using many different strategies. Our broad abolitionist strategy embraces three main frames:

- > DISMANTLE
- > CHANGE
- > BUILD

**We fight to dismantle** the prison industrial complex, including the caging, policing, practices, and larger systems that harm, control, and impoverish communities and greater society.

**We strive to change** common sense, resource allocation, and practices (at all scales) away from harm, punishment, and control, and toward practices that empower communities and address harm and problems at their root cause.

**As we dismantle and change, we build:** we build practices, skills, relationships and resources that address the needs of our communities. From interpersonal to local community to state and larger-scale, we demand that investments be made that are life-affirming and enable us thrive.

We are building toward liberation for everyone, most especially people of color, poor people, queer people, immigrants, youth, and other oppressed communities who are targeted by the PIC.

Chapter projects are united by a commitment to working for the eventual elimination of the PIC as well as to taking practical steps to create the communities we envision for ourselves.

Our work reflects the local problems we think are most pressing and local solutions we think are most appropriate. Therefore, our organizational structure is based in chapters. Chapter projects range from fighting policing in working class communities of color, to community education projects, to grassroots campaigns opposing imprisonment and jail construction. These projects are united by a commitment to working for the eventual elimination of the PIC as well as to taking practical steps to create the communities we envision for ourselves.

We are a member-led organization with volunteer members and supporters across the country. CR currently has chapters in New York City, Los Angeles, Oakland, and Portland. Local chapters coordinate and communicate with sister chapters, other members, and national staff that make up CR's national organization.

### NATIONAL STAFF

**Jess Heaney**, Development Director

**Lily Fahsi Haskell**, Campaign Director

**Mohamed Shehk**, Media and Communications Director

**Feyi Ajayi-Dopemu**, Operations Assistant

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Our Community Advisory Board is a movement-building and membership-development resource for our organization that work hand-in-hand with membership and staff. Board members are scholar-activists, organizers with coalition partners, CR co-founders, and former political prisoners.

### Our 2016-17 Community Advisors:

**Avery Gordon**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Beth Richie**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Bonnie Kerness**, American Friends Service Committee

**Claude Marks**, Freedom Archives

**Craig Gilmore**, California Prison Moratorium Project

**Darryl Jordan**, Former Director American Friends Service Committee's Third World Coalition

**Dennis Childs**, University of California, San Diego

**Dolores Canales**, California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement

**Eddy Zheng**, Asian Prisoner Support Committee

**Ellen Barry**, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

**Fahd Amed**, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)

**Hashim Benford**, Power U

**Jason Lydon**, Black and Pink

**Kai Lumumba Barrow**, Gallery of the Streets

**Lara Kiswani**, Arab Resource and Organizing Center

**Laura Pulido**, University of Southern California

**Layne Mullet**, Decarcerate PA

**Linda Evans**, All of Us or None

**Linda M. Thurston**, War Resisters League

**Mariame Kaba**, Project Nia and Survived & Punished

**Melanie Cervantes**, Dignidad Rebelde

**Mujahid Farid**, Release Aging People in Prison

**Phil Scraton**, Queens College, Belfast

**Ruthie Gilmore**, City University of New York

**Tamika Middleton**, Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective

**Walt Senterfitt**, public health epidemiologist, Los Angeles Tenants Union, HIV Prevention Justice Alliance

*Affiliations listed for identification purposes only.*



**BRINGING OUR MISSION TO LIFE** The core of CR’s work is to advance material changes and a reinvigorated common sense in which the key to health and safety is not aggression, policing, & imprisonment, but healing, stability, & liberation. We do this through grassroots mobilizations, popular education, campaigns & coalitional efforts. Our goal at CR is to continue lifting up visions of freedom and self-determination as we work for concrete steps to dismantle cages, surveillance systems, and policing.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

**1**

**ADVANCING CAMPAIGNS ON NEW FRONTS**

CR Portland and CR New York City are advancing new fights to eliminate policing and imprisonment as responses to social, economic and political needs in their cities. CR Portland has built a campaign to advance the charge of Mental Health Care Not Policing, while across the country CR New York City is building public momentum against the Mayor’s jail expansion to expand, renovate, reopen, and construct four borough based jails.

**2**

**CHICAGO FOR ABOLITION**

CR partnered with over 14 local organizations to host five days of events, workshops and discussions on abolition and organizing in Chicago. The programming brought together over 20 community groups and organizers to connect anti-policing, immigration defense, bail reform, anti-jail expansion, prisoner solidarity and advocacy, reentry, and transformative justice efforts across the city. As CR continues to build a sharpened national understanding of PIC abolition, we are humbled and thrilled to learn from movements across the country and amplify lessons, themes, visions and strategies together. See videos and more at <http://criticalresistance.org/projects/chicago-for-abolition-was-a-success/>.

**3**

**STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIONS WITH IMPRISONED PEOPLE**

CR places a high value on communication and correspondence with people inside prisons, jails and detention centers in order to amplify the perspectives of those most targeted by the prison industrial complex. As the 2016 elections ushered in an era of potentially greater political repression and isolation, CR committed to share even more of the experiences and analysis of imprisoned people. Critical Resistance members produced five new reports in collaboration with imprisoned organizers, ran an inside-outside study group using *The Abolitionist* newspaper, and incorporated this expertise into two victorious campaign efforts in New York to defend against visiting cutbacks and mail restrictions for prisoners. See more at <http://criticalresistance.org/>

# CARRYING OUT OUR MISSION: CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS

CR understands struggles against imprisonment, policing, surveillance, and court abuse to be imperative to our goals of liberation and self-determination. Through our grassroots mobilizations and projects, campaigns, coalitions and prisoner mail, we put our analysis into practice. We are shifting common sense, developing organizers, and building critical power to eliminate the prison industrial complex. The road to envision and create the world we need is made by walking, by organizing, through struggle and victories large and small. Our chapter work in New York City, Los Angeles, Portland and Oakland is gaining strength and making abolition understandable and irresistible.

## CLOSE RIKERS WITHOUT JAIL EXPANSION!

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

Critical Resistance seeks to end imprisonment, policing, surveillance, and all extensions of the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). We know that prisons and jails create and perpetuate violence rather than resolve or prevent it and that caging and controlling people does not bring us safety. Instead, these systems devour resources that should be used to grow strong, healthy, self-determining communities.

### WHAT WE OPPOSE

Rikers Island must be closed without replacing it. We must reject the city's attempts to exploit the closure process by using it as an opportunity to build, expand, and reopen jails in the South Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Lower Manhattan. The horrors of imprisonment are not unique to Rikers and pretending otherwise is reckless and short-sighted. Rather than guaranteeing Rikers will never exist again, de Blasio is masking jail expansion as reform, improvements, and repairs, and expediting plans that will waste billions in public resources and further solidify the city's power to punish and hurt people.

### WHAT WE WANT AND NEED

In order to strengthen communities and truly meet people's needs, we must depopulate jails and stop the city from pushing people into them. Public funds must be diverted away from policing, surveillance, and jails and toward the growth of opportunities that keep communities alive and whole. The way forward must prioritize ensuring access to life-sustaining, transformative resources for all people.

We believe in building toward a Jail-Free NYC where communities are free and thriving. Shutting down Rikers and stopping any jail expansion will get us closer to that vision.

## TOWARD A JAIL FREE NYC!

GET INVOLVED WITH CRNYC  
For more information on how to volunteer and help us build our projects and campaigns, please contact us!

CRNYC  
PO Box 2382  
New York, NY 10163  
crnyc@criticalresistance.org  
www.criticalresistance.org

## CR NEW YORK CITY

's robust prisoner correspondence has increased collaborations across prison walls in order to build stronger inside/outside organizing, uplift the analysis and strategy of imprisoned people, and bolster prisoner perspectives and prisoner led advocacy. In spring of 2017, CR NYC joined a broad and vibrant effort by New Yorkers that defeated Governor Cuomo's plans to reduce visiting hours at New York's maximum security prisons. In addition to outreach and strategizing, we strengthened this campaign by discussing the cuts with prisoners in NYS maximum facility prisons and produced a report highlighting their opposition and analysis. CR NYC continued to build with allies in Challenging Incarceration, a state-wide coalition, and turned out to actions and mobilizations demanding the closure of Attica and the prioritization of resources for people coming home from prison.

Beginning with prisoner analysis and then engaging

in public debate, the chapter is steadily building opposition to plans that would reopen, expand, and renovate jails in NYC. We aim to collaborate with communities and we feel hope and energy as fights rise up across the city.

## RESIST VISITING RESTRICTIONS

TESTIMONIES FROM PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN NEW YORK STATE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS



## CR LOS ANGELES

forged ahead against jail expansion in Los Angeles with engaging mobilizations, events and workshops. Along with Californians United for a Responsible Budget, ACLU of Southern California, and Drug Policy Alliance, CRLA spent two years developing a policy proposal called Reimagine109, which aims to divest funding from the Sheriff's jail expansion budget (where it's mostly used for probationary control and monitoring) and invest it into community based resources. In 2017 CRLA began to organize with service providers, re-entry programs, and health organizations to join us in demanding "No New Jails!" CRLA's work, through practice and analysis demands that LA prioritize support, treatment, and care for people coming home from prison and communities targeted by policing, jailing and state divestment.

## CARRYING OUT OUR MISSION: CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS CONT.

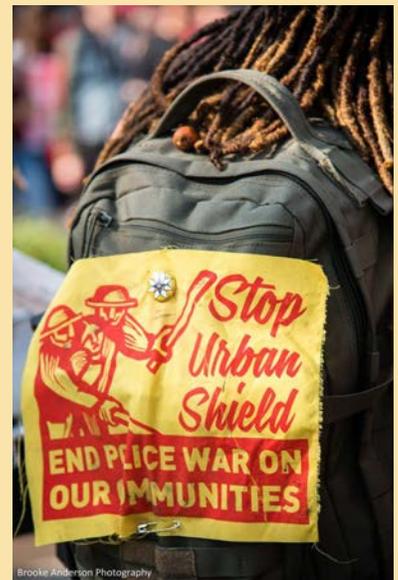


Three jail fight coalitions link up to share strategy

In the Bay area, **CR OAKLAND** and the No New SF Jail Coalition continued fighting San Francisco (SF) jail expansion plans, demanding that the City close the dilapidated jail at 850 Bryant and reject additional attempts by the Sheriff's Department to expand the jail system. Our 2017 reports and materials uplifted practical ways to reduce the San Francisco jail population, including decriminalization tactics, bail reform and community investments. This organizing led us to strengthen our regional power with Alameda and Contra Costa communities opposing jail expansion projects by hosting a regional strategy session and releasing a statement denouncing jail construction across the Bay Area.

CR Oakland and Stop Urban Shield Coalition waged a strong campaign against the controversial Urban Shield expo. 2017 saw vibrant 500+ people-strong mobilizations, banner drops, workshops, and the creation of reports condemning the daily violence of policing, SWAT raids, and militarized EMS response on Black and Brown working class and poor communities. **March 2018 update: we won this campaign and defeated Urban Shield!**

Since 2015 the Oakland Power Projects has skilled up over 500 community members with confidence, ideas, and practices to reduce reliance on policing and increase alternative options to calling 911. This year alone, the Anti-Policing Healthworkers Cohort offered over 25 free presentations, and we boosted their ranks by training 27 new health workers in early July. Building on the overwhelming success of this project, we've joined forces with radical American Public Health Association (APHA) health workers to amplify ways to minimize and eliminate the harm caused by the law enforcement, including from ICE and deportations.



Brooke Anderson Photography

**Portland police spend \$600,000 every day**  
In the past year, the Portland Police Bureau has increased its budget by **\$2.1 million (\$5,700 every day)**

**Does safety mean more policing?**  
**Portland policing looks like:**

- violence against people of color
- violence against people without housing
- violence against people with mental illness

**What would you do with \$600,000 to keep your community safe?**

Accessible Mental Healthcare?	Quality Education?
Equitable Transit?	Food Security?
	Fair Housing?

**It's time to imagine safety beyond police.**

Join the Mental Health Care, Not Policing community coalition!  
Email: [crpdx@criticalresistance.org](mailto:crpdx@criticalresistance.org)

**What does real safety in Portland look like to you?**

**CR PORTLAND** kicked off the year by launching their new campaign "Mental Health Care Not Policing" to address the violent engagement of law enforcement as a frequent response to health and mental health crisis in Portland. As Black and Brown communities bear the brunt of police responses to mental health crises, this campaign is an urgent effort to decouple healthcare from the police. Building on Portlanders' growing unrest with policing, "Mental Health Care Not Policing" stole headlines at the Portland City Budget Hearings with the demand to invest in life-affirming resources, not cops.

CR Portland's prisoner mail program met monthly in 2017 and distributed hundreds of political organizing resources, books, personal letters, and issues of *The Abolitionist* newspaper to people in Oregon and Washington state prisons and detention centers.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Through mainstream media and our grassroots media projects, we amplify strategic ways to address the harms of imprisonment and policing.

In 2017, we CR garnered over 80 media hits and gave dozens of interviews covering our campaigns, projects, events, and coalitions in a broad range of media outlets such as *The Nation*, *ABC News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Huffington Post*, *LA Times*, *Truthout*, and *The Guardian*.

From major national media outlets to small community based radio stations, CR has amplified the goals and demands of campaigns such as Stop Urban Shield, Mental Health Care Not Policing, No New SF Jail, and Jail Free NYC, and to uplift abolitionist common sense.

# okayafrica.

**Abolish the Police, Now!**

An interview Mohamed Sheik from Critical Resistance on what we mean when we say abolish police and prisons

BY ABEL SHIFFERAW  
Nov. 15, 2017 05:58am EST



## GOTHAMGAZETTE

The Place for New York Policy and Politics

Opinion

### Shut Down Rikers Island, and Don't Replace It

December 01, 2017 | by Kate Hudson & Marlene Nava Ramos

## BREAKING DOWN THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

- > Directed by Rachel Herzing and Isaac Ontiveros.
- > Since their summer 2017 release, the videos have been used at conferences, colleges, public libraries and community study groups.
- > We have released 40 video shorts featuring recognized movement leaders, former prisoners and organizers, featuring:

**Alice Kim**, Prison Neighborhood Arts Project

**Andrea J. Ritchie**, author, *Invisible No More: Police Violence against Black Women and Women of Color*

**Angela Y. Davis**, Social Justice Activist and Scholar

**Claude Marks**, co-founder, Freedom Archives, former US held political prisoner

**Craig Gilmore**, California Prison Moratorium Project

**Dorsey Nunn**, executive director, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, member, All of Us or None

**Dylan Rodriguez**, Professor, University of California at Riverside and founding member of Critical Resistance

**Kamau Walton**, Critical Resistance

**Jose E. Lopez**, Puerto Rican Cultural Center

**Lara Kiswani**, Arab Resource & Organizing Center

**Laura Whitehorn**, formerly incarcerated political prisoner, organizer, Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP:

**Marbre Stahly-Butts**, Movement for Black Lives Policy Table Leadership Team

**Mariame Kaba**, founder, Project NIA, co-founder Survived & Punished

**Mary Hooks**, Co-Director of Southerners on New Ground (SONG)

**Masai Ehehosi**, Critical Resistance

**Maya Schenwar**, Editor-in-Chief of Truthout and author of *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better*

**Ruthie Gilmore**, Critical Resistance 1997 Organizing Collective

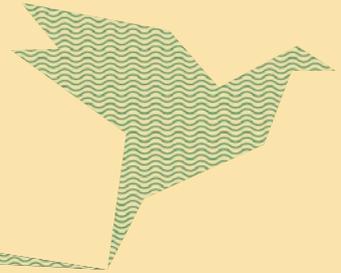
**Soffiyah Elijah**, executive director, Alliance of Families for Justice

And more to come...



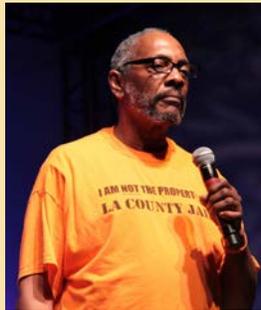
# RISE IN POWER!

Critical Resistance mourned the passing of two longtime members and former staffers this year. KevinMichael Key and Roze Braz, ¡presente!



“The international abolitionist movement owes a greater debt to Rose Braz than can ever be adequately acknowledged. Rose has always modeled the dedication, compassion, and humility that distinguish our very best social justice leaders. I consider myself one of the many who have been profoundly inspired by her example. Wherever there is struggle, resistance, and dreams of a better future, Rose’s spirit and legacy will be secure.”

—Angela Y. Davis



**KEVINMICHAEL KEY:** KevinMichael was a devoted performance artist and Skid Row organizer. A former CR Los Angeles staffer and active member, he also worked with the **Los Angeles Poverty Department** to address imprisonment, policing, homelessness, drug and substance abuse and to advance abolition. We are ever inspired by his love for his work and community.

We uplift his legacy as a proud and vocal proponent of abolition and the greatest outreach man CRLA could ask for.



**ROSE BRAZ:** Inspiring, seemingly unstoppable, and a fierce movement builder, Rose laid an indelible foundation for CR and the broader movement against the PIC. With sharp media and strong campaign organizing skills, Rose was a driving force behind the Delano II campaign, which halted the gargantuan 20-year prison building boom in California and

integrated environmental justice with anti-prison approaches for the first time. With Rose’s leadership, and participation in the organization from its inception in 1997 until 2012, CR boldly put forth a vision of the world we know is possible, one without policing or imprisonment, but rather one based on collective care, support, and dignity.

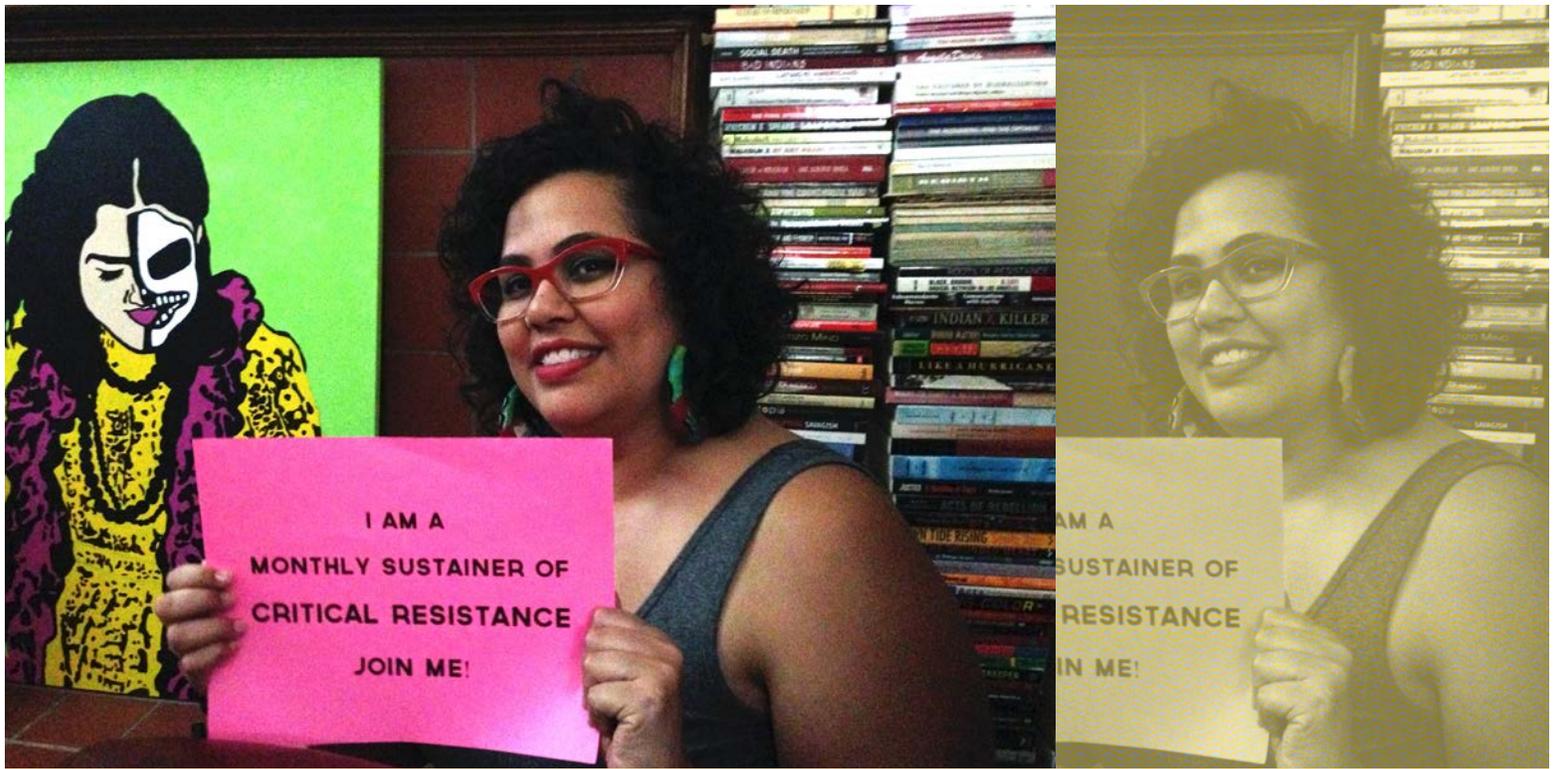
Critical Resistance joined family and friends for a memorial in San Francisco in August 2017 that uplifted her life of activism. In late September we hosted a CR reunion for members old and new to share stories and lessons learned from Rose’s incredible leadership.



## THE ZACHARY PROJECT

Founded in memory of CR Oakland member Zachary Ontiveros (1981- 2015), The Zachary Project has become a valued crisis prevention and mutual aid fund for CR community members in need. In 2017 The Zachary Project covered medical bills for cancer treatment, helped purchase hearing aids not covered by insurance, supported someone having a severe mental health crisis during a lapse of insurance coverage, and more.

With you all, we are developing an abolitionist mutual aid model that is practical, visionary, and urgently needed. The Zachary Project is maintained through individual grassroots donations and family gifts. Thank you for helping this resource grow and ensuring that Zachary’s legacy continues to rise in power.



**SUPPORT** In 2017, Critical Resistance was supported by an amazingly broad base—ranging from grassroots individual donors to organizations, colleges, universities, and foundations.

## FOUNDATIONS

Alcibie Alliance

Akonadi Foundation

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

Cali Futures

Common Counsel Foundation

Crossroads Fund

craigslist Charitable Fund

Harold K. Raisler Foundation

Left Tilt Foundation

Lush Cosmetics, Charity Pot

Old Stories, New Lives

Perry Family Foundation

Philip and Myn Rootberg Foundation

Regina and Melanie Myers Fund

Resist, Inc.

San Francisco Foundation

Stolyavich Fund

Thendara Foundation

Vanguard Charitable

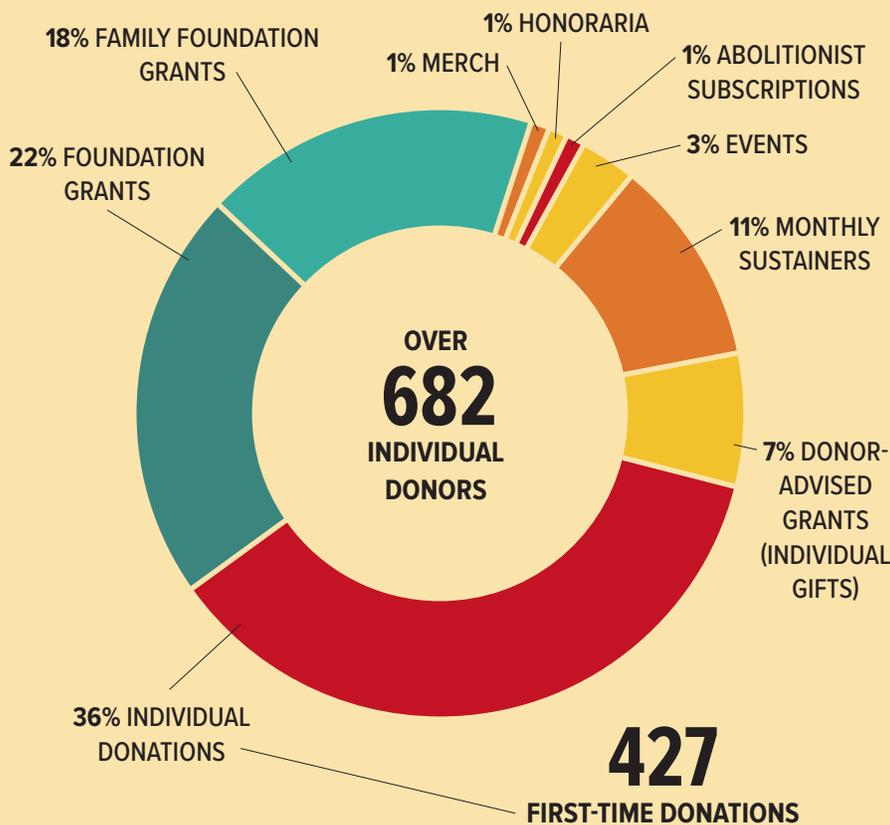
Women's Foundation of California:  
the Race, Gender and Human Rights Fund

Y.E.S. Phogg Phoundation

**In addition to financial resources, we were supported by donations of time, passion and creativity from thousands of Critical Resistance organizers, supporters and allied organizations. Thank you!**

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

## DONORS TO CR...



## GIVING SCALE

Every penny helps chip away at the prison industrial complex!



# TAKE ACTION!

Your support helps keep this work strong and vibrant.

Share this report with friends, family, and networks, and invite them to join the movement.

**1**

**MAKE A GIFT TODAY.** You can donate online at [www.criticalresistance.org](http://www.criticalresistance.org), mail a check to our National Office (see back cover), or call us at 510-444-0484 to donate using your credit card.

**2**

### WORKPLACE MATCHING OR MONTHLY GIFTS

Many companies have matching gift program that enable you to increase the value of your gift. Some workplace giving programs can also facilitate monthly donations. Please check your personnel department for these opportunities.

**3**

**LEGACY/ESTATE GIVING** A generous way to support Critical Resistance in the future is by remembering us in your estate plans. You can do this by simply including Critical Resistance as a beneficiary of your will or living trust, your retirement plan, bank account or in your life insurance policy.

**4**

**HOST A PARTY, HAPPY HOUR, DONOR BRIEFING** or other event to amplify abolition and encourage people to raise resources for CR.

For more information any of these options or to let us know that a gift is on the way, please contact Jess Heaney, Development Director, at (510) 444-0484 or email [jess@criticalresistance.org](mailto:jess@criticalresistance.org).

# THE YEAR AHEAD...

## BUILDING MOVEMENTS, ADVANCING STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS IN 2018

2017 was a year of bold-faced threats and even bolder collaborations to confront consolidated powers of white supremacy, fascism, and capitalism. Abolition has become an increasingly attractive vision, as people confront the expanded threats of policing, imprisonment, and surveillance and strive to envision safety, health, and defense against state violence. Our goal in 2018 is to continue arming our broader movement with sharp analysis and powerful tools as we enter this exciting new phase of struggle for abolition.

### ABOLITIONIST TRAINING SCHOOL

Critical Resistance plans to host a national organizer training school to share movement history, sharpen PIC analysis, and strengthen abolitionist campaign and organizing skills this year.

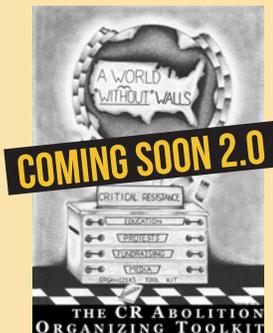


### 20 Years since the founding *Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex* conference

Critical Resistance began in 1997 when activists and organizations challenging the idea that imprisonment and policing are solutions for social, political, and economic problems came together to organize a conference that examined and challenged what we have come to call the prison industrial complex (PIC).

Now, thanks to two decades of organizing, educating, rallying, and struggling to make the vision of a world without policing, imprisonment, and surveillance, CR is humbled and enthusiastic to be in the center of movements demanding for social transformation, Black liberation, and internationalist solidarity. We look toward the next decade with humility, enthusiasm, and commitment to keep making abolition common sense, irresistible and strategically necessary. With abolition as our vision and strategy, we will fight to win!

We hope you can invest in CR and help keep the movement vibrant and ready.



### CR ORGANIZING TOOLKIT 2.0

As we celebrate 20 years since the CR conference that reinvigorated our movement, we will be revamping the wealth of educational material, organizing tools, and informational resources that CR has developed since we were founded. We plan to release these critical materials online and through our local chapters for free.

### ICOPA 18

CR members from across the organization will travel to London, England to attend the 18th International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA). In addition to presenting workshops, CR looks forward to learning from organizers from around the world and strengthening the international movement to eliminate the PIC.



## VISION

Critical Resistance's vision is the creation of genuinely healthy, stable communities that respond to harm without relying on imprisonment and punishment. We call our vision abolition, drawing, in part from the legacy of the abolition of slavery in the 1800s. As PIC abolitionists we understand that the prison industrial complex is not a broken system to be fixed. The system, rather, works precisely as it is designed to—to contain, control, and kill those people representing the greatest threats to state power. Our goal is not to improve the system even further, but to shrink the system into non-existence. We work to build healthy, self-determined communities and promote alternatives to the current system.

Critical Resistance (CR) is building a grassroots coalitional movement to challenge the use of punishment to “cure” complicated social problems. We know that more policing and imprisonment will not make us safer. Instead, we know that things like food, housing, and freedom are what create healthy, stable neighborhoods and communities. We work to prevent people from being arrested or locked up in prison. In all our work, we organize to build power and to stop the devastation that the reliance on imprisonment and policing has brought to ourselves, our families, and our communities.

