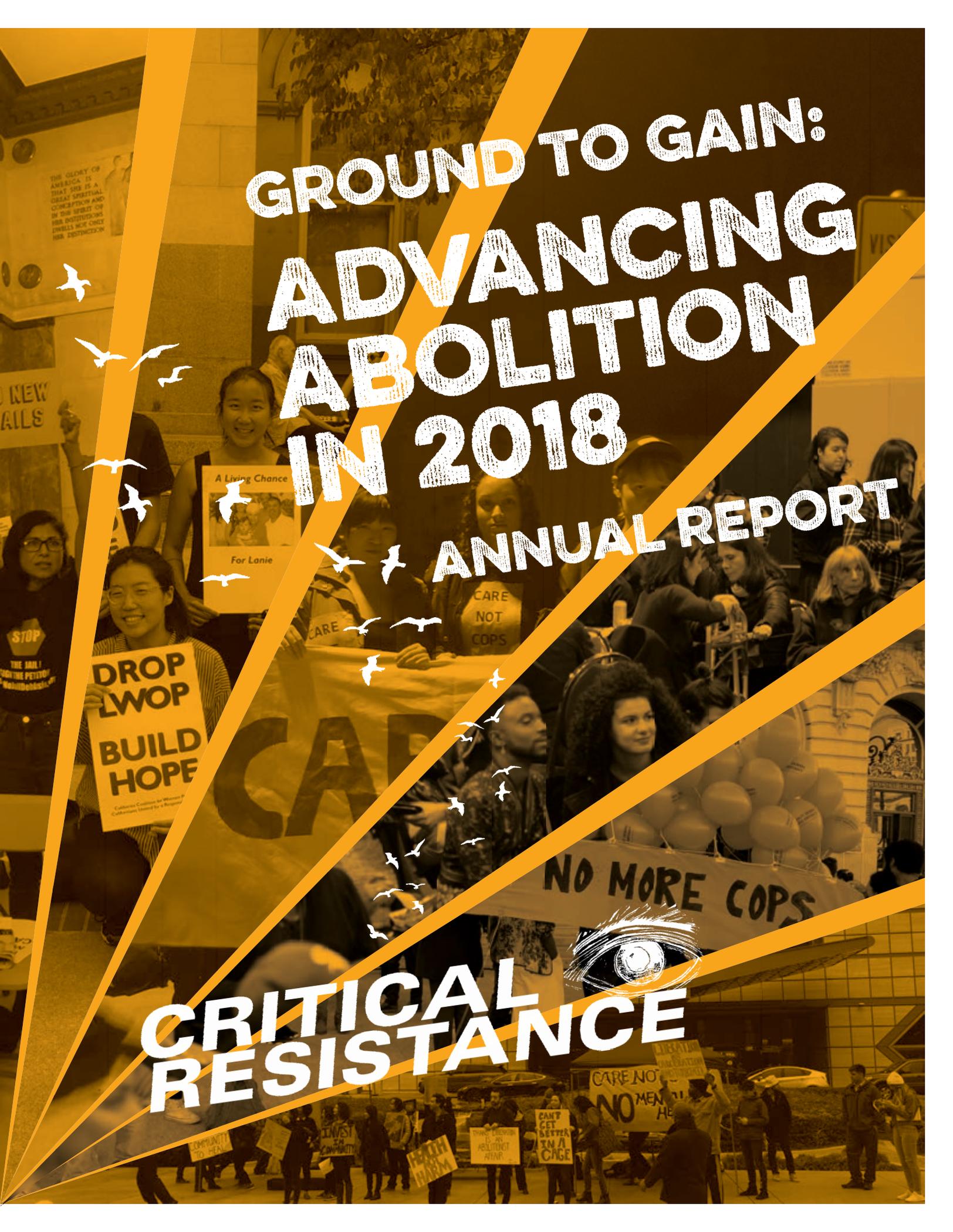


GROUND TO GAIN: ADVANCING ABOLITION IN 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

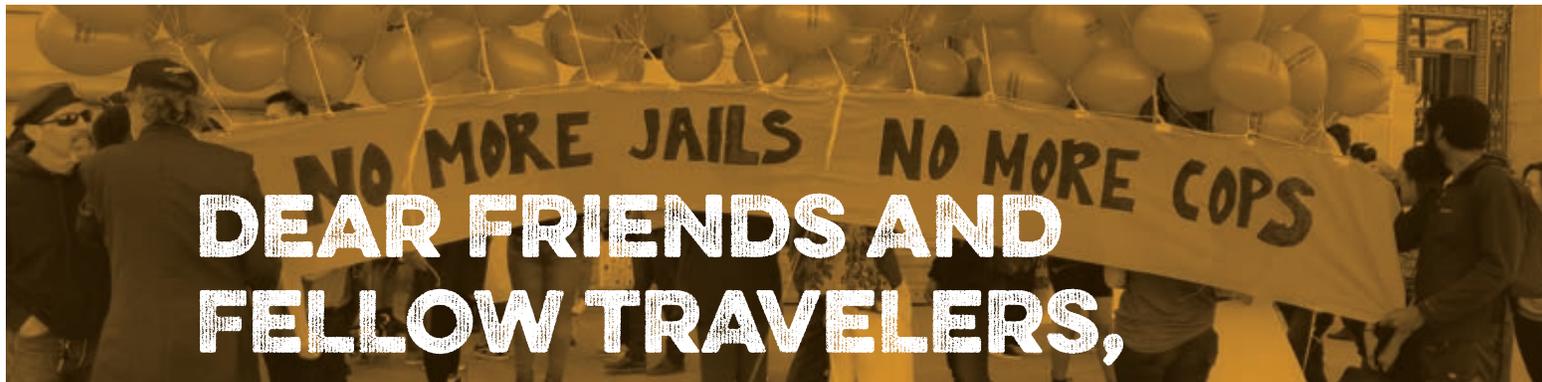
CRITICAL RESISTANCE





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





Twenty years since the first Critical Resistance conference seeded abolition as the solution to the devastating violence of the prison industrial complex, the analysis, ideas, and, increasingly, the *strategies* of Critical Resistance have flourished. Over the past 20 years, we have demonstrated that abolition is a practical vision and organizing strategy. To this end, our local campaigns, projects, and speaking engagements (over 175 workshops and presentations in 2018) are demonstrating the victorious impact that abolition can have.

In 2018, Critical Resistance forged ahead:

> FIGHTING CAGES: NO NEW JAILS

In three major U.S. cities (Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco) CR and our partners in No New Jails coalitions and campaigns challenged harmful jail expansions, the legitimacy of cages as public safety infrastructure, and amassed popular opinion against imprisonment.

> FIGHTING POLICING AND DEFENDING COMMUNITY NEEDS

With our movement partners in Stop Urban Shield, Care Not Cops and the Oakland Power Projects, CR drove campaigns and projects that confronted the violence of policing and challenged its encroachment into healthcare access and emergency response resources.

> BUILDING POLITICALLY WITH IMPRISONED PEOPLE

Through our bilingual newspaper, chapter prisoner mail programs, collaborative prisoner reports, and Inside-Outside Reading Group, CR exchanged mail, political ideas and organizing strategies with over 10,000 imprisoned people in 2018.

> ADVANCING ABOLITION INTO MANY WALKS OF LIFE

CR strengthened relationships, built strategies and shared materials with educators, faith groups and leaders, health workers and public health advocates, labor organizers, legal organizations and internationalist community groups.

We are at a pivotal point for our organization—and our movement—to influence the local and national criminal legal reform discourse with abolition. We're hopeful and ready to explicitly increase national abolitionist consciousness. With your support, we will uplift abolitionist campaigns, materials and analysis as beacons to uplift and guide the way forward through these treacherous times.

Onward, toward liberation,

Jess Heaney, Lily Fahsi-Haskell, Mohamed Shehk, 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 (PIC). 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 3 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.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

We are a member-led organization with volunteer members and supporters across the country. 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. Local chapters coordinate and communicate with sister chapters, other members, and national staff that make up CR's national organization.

Chapter projects range from fighting policing in working class communities of color, to community education and prisoner correspondence projects, to grassroots campaigns opposing policing policies, imprisonment and jail construction.

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

Chapters and our national office correspond with over 10,000 imprisoned people each year across all 50 states of the United States.

CHAPTERS

New York City, New York
 Los Angeles, California
 Oakland, California
 Portland, Oregon

NATIONAL STAFF

Feyi Ajayi-Dopemu, Operations Assistant
Jess Heaney, Development Director
Lily Fahsi-Haskell, Campaign Director
Mohamed Shehk, Media and Communications Director

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 2017-18 Community Advisors are:

- 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 Against Solitary Confinement
- Eddy Zheng**, Asian Prisoner Support Committee
- Ellen Barry**, Women and Justice Issues Consulting
- Fahd Amed**, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
- Hashim Benford**
- Jason Lydon**, Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois
- Kai Lumumba Barrow**, Gallery of the Streets
- Lara Kiswani**, Arab Resource and Organizing Center
- Laura Pulido**, University of Oregon
- 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 (1949-2018)
- 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

Our goal at CR is to work for concrete steps that dismantle cages, surveillance systems, and policing, while we continue to lift up internationalist visions of freedom and self-determination. 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, and imprisonment, but healing, stability, and liberation. We do this through grassroots mobilizations, popular education, campaigns & coalitional efforts.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

1

STRIPPING POLICING OF ITS TOOLS:

We Defeated Urban Shield!

After a six-year campaign, CR Oakland and the Stop Urban Shield coalition defeated and defunded Urban Shield, the ultra-racist, international police militarization expo and SWAT team training, which was hosted annually in Alameda County.

2019 UPDATE: CR and Stop Urban Shield defended this victory in February–March 2019 when the Sheriff attempted to steamroll ahead with another Urban Shield. Our strong organizing blocked his ill-intended plans and stopped Urban Shield for good!

2

CELEBRATING CR AND OUR ROOTS:

We uplifted movement milestones and amplified abolition!

2018 was the 20th anniversary of the founding “Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex” conference (1998, Berkeley, CA), as well as the 15th anniversary of CR South Regional conference (2003, New Orleans, LA), two immense grassroots undertakings that seeded abolition and rooted the movement.

We celebrated and boosted the strategic lessons, analysis and visionary politics through unique events with over 1,000 people and incredible abolitionist organizers in Oakland, CA, Atlanta, GA and a webinar on CR's Conference history.

3

FIGHTING POLICING VIA PUBLIC HEALTH:

We helped pass the “Law Enforcement is a Public Health Issue” policy statement through the 25,000-professional strong American Public Health Association (APHA)!

While CR chapter campaigns typically focus on local and regional targets, we know these issues are national in scope and relevance. In 2016, CR joined forces with a radical national network of public health organizers to transform the politics and practice of public health away from police collaboration and criminalization and toward health and non-PIC investments. And in 2018 we won! This policy statement is a now tool for organizers to wield in campaigns and for public health advocates to put to use. Learn more: www.criticalresistance.org/APHA

CARRYING OUT OUR MISSION: CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS

Organizers vocally and boldly resist local, regional and national regimes of confinement, deportation and law enforcement. CR is humbled and proud to be rooted in local coalitions and networking nationally to fight back and strengthen resistance.

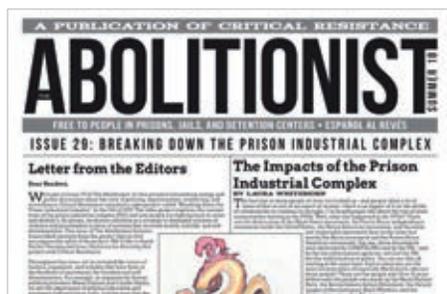
STRATEGIC AREAS:

1. FIGHTING CAGES: NO NEW JAILS



At a time when urban as well as rural areas face criminalization and unnecessary jail expansion, campaigns to stop jail expansion are anti-imprisonment beacons to uplift nationally. CR chapters are working with coalitions to lead three campaigns fighting jail expansion in major U.S. cities—Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco.

3. BUILDING POLITICALLY WITH IMPRISONED PEOPLE



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 connecting people with the national resistance to the PIC.

2. FIGHTING POLICING AND AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY NEEDS

With the violence of policing on the hearts, minds and agendas nationally—from ICE to SWAT to municipal police—sustained and strategic campaigns with targets are essential to eliminate its violence, protect people's wellbeing, and rebuild communities. CR chapters in Oakland and Portland are organizing with coalitions to curb the violence of policing and halt the encroachment of policing into programs and services that communities need for health, resilience, and emergency response.



UPDATE: In Spring 2019, **CR Los Angeles** hired a new organizer who was connected to Critical Resistance when in prison! **Michael Saavedra** first got to know CR while in solitary confinement at Pelican Bay State Prison (CA) through our prisoner mail program and organizing with the California Prisoner Hunger Strikes (2011-2013). We're fortunate to have Michael join us and bring all this experience plus more. Michael was a jailhouse lawyer and hopes to continue on and get a law degree one day. Since getting out, Michael has worked with CR allied organizations such as Youth Justice Coalition, Underground Scholars, and Beyond the Bars.

1. NO NEW JAILS



CR NEW YORK CITY

NO NEW JAILS NYC In 2018 CR New York City (CR NYC) and the No New Jails NYC coalition sprung into action with vibrant resistance to the Mayor’s \$12 billion jail expansion plan. No New Jails and CR NYC’s communications animated the urgent vision of No New Jails to NYC’s present and future horizon and added the demand of “No New Jails” to the people’s agenda in NYC.

Mobilization highlight: In October 2018, the City held the first of four public scoping sessions as part of a CEQR, or City Environmental Quality Review, for the proposed four new jails. Together with the No New Jails NYC Coalition, Critical Resistance NYC mobilized to the four hearings, culminating with a press conference and strong presence at the final scoping session in the Bronx Wednesday evening. **The coalition’s demands were loud and clear: shut down Rikers now, and do it without building any new jails.**

THE INDEPENDENT

“They’re trying to make it a nicer cage. We know that’s not the solution,” said Maschi, who was formerly incarcerated on Rikers Island during the ‘90s. “We know that the solution is bringing our people home. The solution is not locking them up in the first place, but figuring out ways to create a whole community.”



CR LOS ANGELES

Building off the work of the LA No More Jails coalition (2004-2017), CRLA and the JusticeLA (2017-present) coalition forged ahead to halt jail expansion in LA. CR Los Angeles led outreach and grassroots education to social service and mental health-care providers, and also supported abolitionist campaign and media strategies for the coalition.

2019 update: Our decade of pressure stopped the proposed women’s jail construction in February 2019!!



CR OAKLAND

NO NEW SAN FRANCISCO JAIL

“In spring of 2018, CR Oakland coordinated a day-long convening called “Joining Forces Against Policing and Jails in San Francisco” at the City College of San Francisco with over four hundred activists and community members in attendance. The gathering focused on unifying organizing against police brutality and jail expansion, and strengthening our collective strategies. In the fall, CR Oakland and the No New SF Jail coalition held an action in front of City Hall to launch a campaign to #Close850 Bryant, highlighting the growing jail population because of increased criminalization of homelessness and sex work and the need to shut down the seismically unsafe jail in the Hall of Justice.”

—Andrew, CR Oakland

2. FIGHTING POLICING



CR PORTLAND

CARE NOT COPS

2018 was a strong year for the Care Not Cops campaign, launched by CR PDX in Spring 2017 with a foundation of abolitionist principles.

“CR PDX has made significant contributions to the local fight against the violence of policing with strategic campaign coordination and our demands for abolitionist reforms: to end to the use of police as first responders, dismantle the gang policing unit (Gang Enforcement Team), and redirect funds from policing to investments in community resources.

People and organizations in Portland who understand that policing is antithetical to true safety and community self-determination have been powerfully amplifying the demands of Care Not Cops. Local media have picked up our talking points, and we have heard from abolitionist organizers in other cities beyond Portland who are inspired by our campaign.” —Anna So, CR PDX

CR OAKLAND

STOP URBAN SHIELD

In 2018, after over 5 years of organizing, the Stop Urban Shield coalition put an end to Urban Shield, the largest SWAT training, police militarization and weapons expo in the world! CR Oakland was a core member of the coalition, which developed a multi-pronged strategy to shift the frame of how Urban Shield was understood, mobilize communities to fight back, and compel decision-makers to decisively end the Sheriff’s war games.

“CR Oakland skilled up community members through spokesperson trainings, outreached to communities to mobilize, and contributed strong and strategic media which uplifted narratives of the impacts of policing.

By ending Urban Shield, we secured an international victory against police militarization, redirected millions of funding away from policing programs and disrupted the idea that policing and emergency-disaster preparedness go hand in hand.”

—Charlene Khoo, CR Oakland



SAN FRANCISCO NO INJUNCTIONS COALITION

Drawing on our knowledge and relationships from the victorious Stop the Injunctions Coalition (2010-2015), CR Oakland also supported the kickoff of a renewed campaign to defeat the San Francisco Injunctions! We won media headlines, pressured decision-makers to scrutinize the racist policies, and successfully got two thirds of the people named off the injunctions.

2019 update: the City Attorney has announced plans to sunset the injunctions this year—a signal that our people pressure is winning!

COLORLINES PUBLISHED BY *race forward*
 CULTURE CRIMINALIZATION TRUMP PRESIDENCY GENDER & SEXUALITY

WATCH: The 5-Year Fight to Shut Down 'War Games Training' in the Bay Area
 Bay Area activists have long maintained that the annual Urban Shield SWAT training and expo promotes police militarization under the guise of emergency preparedness. Here's how they shut it down.

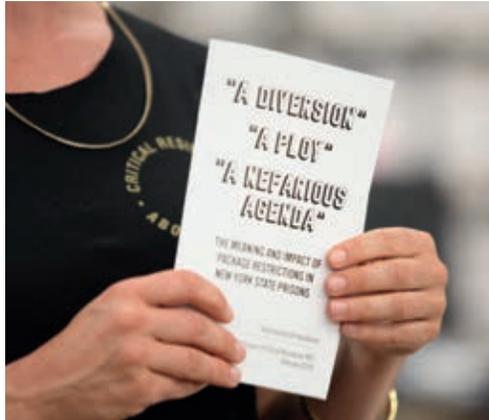
Jorge Arana | SEP 18, 2018 2:00PM EDT

3. BUILDING POLITICAL POWER WITH IMPRISONED PEOPLE

PRISONER MAIL: EDUCATION ACROSS WALLS

We know it is essential to uplift and amplify the perspectives of those most targeted by the prison industrial complex. From imprisoned contacts we have gathered (and then publicly shared) guidance, research, analysis, and testimony that has propelled our campaigns forward.

Critical Resistance mailed over 3,300 political education resources and over 13,000 newspapers to imprisoned people in 2018, ran 4 study groups and produced 5 collaborative reports. Through *The Abolitionist* bilingual newspaper, established 2005, Critical Resistance produces a valuable free source of news and analysis on the issues that affect prisoners and state-targeted communities.



ANNUAL SOLIDARITY MAILING

At the end of the year, all four CR chapters hosted holiday season mailing parties to send personalized cards to our ever-growing list of over 6,500 partners currently imprisoned in jails, prisons and detention centers. Chapters collaborated with local partners such as Black & Pink, Librarians of Color (Los Angeles), The Southern California Library, Survived & Punished, and Sex Worker Outreach Project, as well as numerous classroom educators to accomplish this ambitious mailing.



Rebirth of Revolution
by J. Kayne

Our 2018 solidarity postcard featuring art by Leslie Lopez, a visionary East Oakland artist organizer with Eastside Cultural Center (Oakland, CA) and Few and Far Women, a national mural and graffiti team. CR Oakland met Leslie through the 2010-2015 Stop the Injunctions campaign, when she contributed her incredible artistic skills and powerful speaking to defend her community and loved ones from the racist injunctions.



MAKING MEDIA

We utilize mainstream media and our grassroots media projects to amplify strategies to dismantle imprisonment and policing, to change common sense notions of safety, and to build life-affirming resources and practices that support Black, brown, working class, immigrant, trans and gender queer communities.

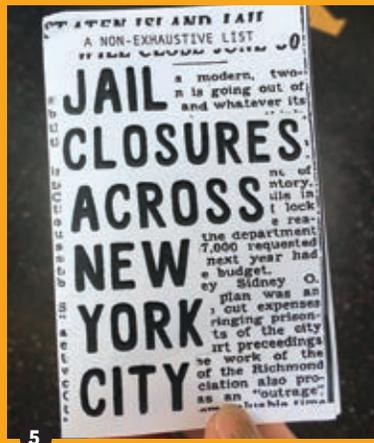
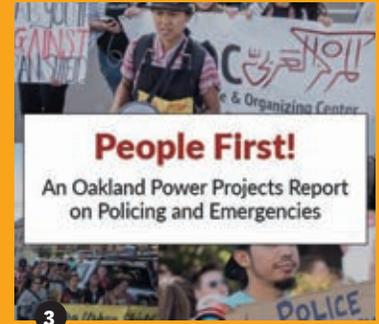
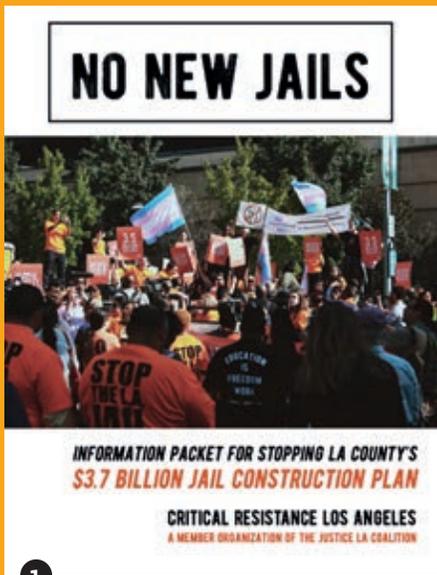
HITTING THE MAINSTREAM

Our media work is a key strategy to shift common sense and popular perception. In 2018, we CR gave dozens of interviews and garnered over 80 media hits in: *ABC News*, *Billboard*, *Black Agenda Report*, *The Economist*, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *LA Times*, *The Nation*, *The Oregonian*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *TeenVogue*, and *Truthout*, to name a few.

From major national media outlets to local radio stations, CR boosted the goals, language, leadership and demands of campaigns and coalitions such as Californians United for a Responsible Budget, Care Not Cops, JusticeLA, No New SF Jail, No New Jails NYC, Stop Urban Shield, and the “Law Enforcement is a Public Health Issue” APHA policy statement.

FROM THE GRASSROOTS

We create materials that educate, activate and uplift community expertise and resistance as a core grassroots organizing strategy. Members, staff and movement partners (including imprisoned people) work collaboratively to research, draft and design these materials. Here’s a sampling of publications and materials from 2018:



1. *No New Jails* info packet, CRLA for JLA; 2. *Jail Free NYC* Zine; Close Rikers Without Jail expansion flyer; 3. *People First!: An Oakland Power Projects Report on Policing and Emergencies*; 4. *Resisting the Prison Industrial Complex in San Francisco*; 5. *Jail Closures Across New York City* Zine; 6. CR’s Reformist Reforms vs. Abolitionist Steps in Policing Chart has moved through educator, organizer and funder hands to bolster the commitment to eliminating the violence of policing instead of buffering it from community resistance.

BUILDING FOR OUR MOVEMENT!



PORTLAND, OR CR Portland (CR PDX) has opened the Dismantle, Change, Build Center (DCBC) in Northeast Portland, a historically Black working class neighborhood. CR PDX took over the lease of a long-standing feminist bookstore that was closing to ensure that Portland would have a vibrant and accessible space for liberatory organizing and abolitionist programming. DCBC has already become a thriving hub, home to over 10 organizations and small scale vendors.

OAKLAND, CA After years of rising downtown rent and the common movement challenges in regularly securing spaces large enough for events, workshops, coalition meetings, and mobilization preparation, Critical Resistance seized an opportunity to acquire a 9,000 square foot building for our permanent use in Oakland, CA!



This acquisition was done in collaboration with a loyal major donor, who was inspired by the 20 years of CR's history and the abolitionist movement. Committed to transformative donor-organizational relations, we are forging

ahead with a unique Building Committee model, Principles of Unity and an Accountability team to bring this incredible dream to life. We're deeply appreciative of this donor and their political development with Resource Generation.

THE ZACHARY PROJECT



Over the last four years, The Zachary Project has become a valued resource for Critical Resistance Oakland and fellow CR members across the organization. Founded in memory of a CR Oakland member Zachary Ontiveros (1981- 2015), The Zachary Project is a crisis prevention and mutual aid fund for CR community members in need.

2018 was the most utilized year of the Zachary Project, truly demonstrating that this resource is vital and growing. Funds went to five people who are strongly connected to CR, including 2 formerly imprisoned people who were released in 2018 (and are volunteers and readers of *The Abolitionist* newspaper); 1 member, 1 regular volunteer, and 1 community friend of a 2017 recipient. The funds supported people in mental health crises, to help with housing and reentry support after prison, and recovery with time off work.

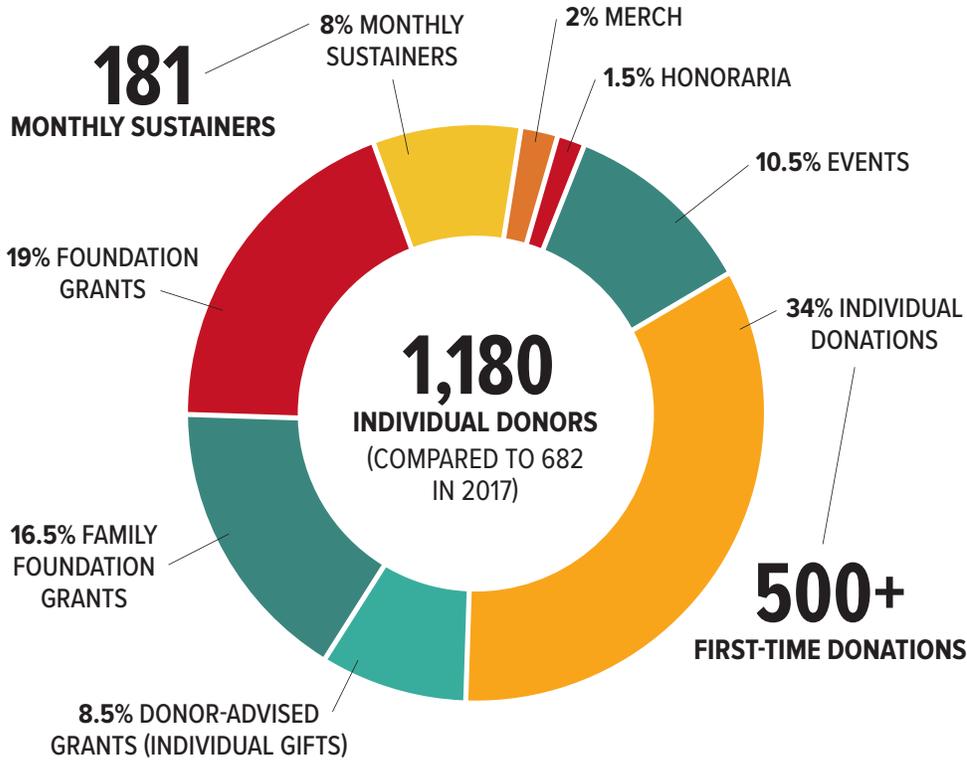
We distributed a total of \$2,420 in funds to 5 community members (in comparison to \$1,400 to 3 people in 2017; \$1,970 to 4 people in 2016, and \$200 to 1 person in 2015).

The Zachary Project is maintained through individual grassroots donations and family gifts. You can make a gift online (under Program Designation, make sure to select "The Zachary Project") or by check (payable to Critical Resistance, memo: Zachary Project).

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Since 2012, we have intentionally and successfully transitioned from being funded primarily by foundations to being funded primarily by grassroots donations. Grassroots donors like you provide 64% of our total budget, which increases our financial stability and shifts more power and leadership into the hands of our local members.

Further, since 2014, we have doubled our budget to expand our national infrastructure and chapters' capacities. Thank you for helping us grow our organization and the movement for abolition.



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, 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.

SUPPORT

In 2018, Critical Resistance was supported by an amazing, broad base, ranging from grassroots individual donors to organizations, colleges, universities, and foundations.

FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS:

Alcibie Alliance
Astraea Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Cali Family Foundation
East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF)
HK Raisler Foundation
The Justice Fund
Left Tilt Foundation
People's Life Fund
The Race, Gender and Human Rights (RGHR) Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF)
Resist, Inc.
San Francisco Foundation
Social Justice Fund Northwest
Thendara Foundation

ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES:

Aburaya Oakland
AK Press
American Culture Center (UC Berkeley)
AntiPolice Terror Project (AFTP)
Antioch University
AORTA: Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Alliance
Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC)
Arizmendi
Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership (AYPAL)
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Berkeley Copwatch
Black Organizing Project
Café 817

California Coalition for Women Prisoners
Catalyst Project
Causa Justa: Just Cause
Center for Political Education
Claremont Colleges (5C) Prison Abolition club
Coalition on Homelessness
Community Bank of the Bay
Community Printers
Creative Time
Design Action Collective
Democratic Socialists of America-San Francisco Chapter
EastSide Arts Alliance
Essie Justice Group
Flying Over Walls, Black and Pink
Freedom Archives
Gallery of the Streets
Hasta Muerte
IJAN: International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network
Justice LA
The Kebabery
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None
Loyola Marymount University
Medina Orthwein LLP
Mills College
MOMM's Pastries
Movement Generation
National Lawyers Guild
National Lawyers Guild of the San Francisco Bay Area
The Omni
Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)
People's Kitchen Collective
Phat Beets

Portland State University Student Union
Rosamunde
Pitzer College
PolicyLink
Public Health Justice Collective
Rainbow Grocery
Red Bay Coffee
Reed College
Reem's California
Resource Generation Bay Area chapter
Resource Generation North Carolina chapter
Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY)
Rethinking Psychiatry
Samba Funk!
Scripps College
Sentry Financial
St Catherine's University
SURJ Bay Area
SURJ Portland
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
TGI Justice Group
UnCommon Law
The UpRise Collective
Women & Justice Issues Consulting
Xicana Moratorium Coalition
Youth Justice Coalition

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!



THE YEAR AHEAD...

INVESTING IN CRITICAL RESISTANCE, LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR MOVEMENT

In 2018, we took stock of the threats and opportunities on the horizon and intentionally buckled down to strengthen our movement's capacity to rise to the fight. 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 2019 is to bolster our organizational foundations—from membership to staffing infrastructure to the brick and mortar spaces we need—while we build political unity and shared strategies with our broader movement.

ABOLITIONIST TRAINING SCHOOL

Critical Resistance is hosting a national organizer training school to share movement history, sharpen PIC analysis, and strengthen abolitionist campaign and organizing skills this year. 2018 was a busy preparation year for our member and staff planning committee and we closed the year with a four-phase plan: internal CR member political education, chapter-based skill-building, movement partner political education, and a culminating national all-participant school session. In 2019, we will kick off Phases 1 and 2 with an all-member retreat in the woods outside Portland, OR, followed by cross-chapter exchanges for campaign skill-builds.

SCALING UP OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPANDING STAFFING

In 2019, we have reached our first target budget goals to build organizational infrastructure to scale and expand our staffing. We plan to hire a national Membership staffer, two local chapter organizers (Oakland and Los Angeles), and a Building Project Manager, specifically for our new building. These positions will support the bursting expansion of our campaigns, projects, membership and movement hunger for abolition.

RENOVATING THE NEW OAKLAND BUILDING

In an era of intensified gentrification and displacement, we are heartened to create an accessible organizing hub for working class, Black, Brown, immigrant, and pro-queer movements and communities in the Bay area and beyond. We are currently working on renovation and design plans, in preparation for a 2021 move-in. 2019 will hold murals, neighborhood outreach and architectural decisions!

We hope you will renew your commitment to CR this year and support this exciting next phase of our organization.



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.

CRITICAL 
RESISTANCE

CRITICAL RESISTANCE NATIONAL OFFICE
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OAKLAND, CA 94612