

CRITICAL RESISTANCE

DECEMBER 2022

Dear friends and supporters of Critical Resistance,

During this year of intense political upheaval, Critical Resistance (CR) has steadfastly advanced prison industrial complex (PIC) abolition in our campaigns, projects, and analysis-sharing – and supporters like you have empowered us to do this work strongly. This year, we worked strategically with movement partners through our campaigns and coalition organizing; connected with community members through in-person and virtual mobilizations, mail days, and gatherings; and built politically with imprisoned comrades through our correspondence programs and inside-outside organizing tools. It remains abundantly clear that ending systems of caging and criminalization is fundamental to any project to get people free. Whether the work for liberation centers access to housing, healthcare, migration, environmental restoration, and more, CR remains committed to all our interconnected fights for freedom through our work to abolish the PIC.

Your generosity is crucial to our campaigns and projects, correspondence with imprisoned people, and building with movement partners. **Can you continue to support CR's organizing for PIC abolition?** With your support this year, we have:

- Collaborated with California movement partners to confirm a prison closure in Susanville, CA – with the possibility to close three more prisons across the state
- Bolstered the organizing to end immigrant detention in New York
- Strengthened our prisoner correspondence programs to better fuel our campaigns and political relationships
- Distributed a housing justice issue of *The Abolitionist* newspaper to over 4,500 imprisoned comrades for free, hundreds of outside paid subscribers, and many longtime movement partners. Issue #38 on labor organizing is on its way to the printers now!



Fights to dismantle systems of imprisonment and criminalization remain as crucial as ever, as do our collective dreams for a liberated world. This long-haul world-building will take time, commitment, and fierce organizing. Will you continue to support PIC abolition? **We invite you to donate what you can to sustain our organizing, this year and the next.**

You can give online at CriticalResistance.org/Donate – and more – all options listed on the last page.

RESISTING IMPRISONMENT

CR Oakland and CR Los Angeles have been engaged in the [campaign to close 10 California prisons by 2025](#) alongside our longtime movement partners in Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB). CR has contributed to this work by doing outreach with organizational partners and individuals across the state, developing media tools and doing press outreach, fostering relationships with imprisoned organizers, and developing legislative strategy and mobilizing bases of support to move state decision-makers toward prison closures. As a result of this strong organizing, we've seen many campaign wins! California Correctional Center, whose closure had been stalled for over a year, has finally been confirmed to close no later than June 2023. **Additionally, the enacted 2022-2023 California budget stated the possibility of closing three more prisons.** The coalition is pushing the state to name further California prisons for closure and will soon release a prison closure roadmap to illustrate and expedite

the process. We urge you to **continue sharing campaign materials, uplifting our calls to action, and coming to in-person and online mobilizations!** Your contributions make CR's statewide organizing strong and effective.

As part of the Abolish ICE NY/NJ coalition seeking to break local and state collaboration with ICE and discontinue immigrant detention in both states, CR New York City has joined the [Dignity Not Detention](#) campaign. The campaign is an effort to eliminate all existing and future immigrant detention contracts across the state of New York. **CR NYC has engaged with this campaign by helping develop a strategy and focus, creating campaign media, and doing outreach across the state of New York to build a broad base of support in order to make the elimination of immigrant detention irresistible.** CR NYC recently hosted a community event where they distributed copies of *The Abolitionist* newspaper and made art for the Dignity Not Detention campaign! **Your support makes community events and vibrant campaign visuals possible.**





BUILDING ACROSS THE WALLS

As part of the Oregon Prisoner coalition, Critical Resistance Portland is currently involved in two projects: developing a Know Your Rights resource for Oregon prisoners; and compiling a general resource hub for imprisoned people in Oregon, a hub which will be hosted through one of the other organizations within the coalition. Both resources will compile services and materials that exist in Oregon for imprisoned people to utilize. They will include materials on disability justice; resources for trans and gender non-conforming imprisoned people (e.g. transfer requests, name changes, etc.); information on filing complaints; reentry services; prisoner correspondence programs and letter writing; administrative rules; people's rights around mail correspondence; and more. **Resources to strengthen organizing and connection with people inside are key to PIC abolition.**

The Abolitionist newspaper editorial collective produced two issues of the paper in 2022 and distributed these to over 4,500 subscribers inside prisons, jails, and detention centers for free. **We released Issue #37: Housing Justice and prison industrial complex abolition** which shares strategies and tactics from fights for housing justice, and touches on eviction defense,

e-carceration, Palestinian liberation, and more! This December, we are gearing up to release Issue #38 on labor organizing – subscribe today to receive your copy. **Your support furthers CR's ability to create and distribute this essential**



inside-outside organizing tool to imprisoned comrades.

CR chapters have corresponded with thousands of imprisoned people through their mail programs, and continue to share strategies across our chapters and with movement partners, for more effective mail programs. While some **chapters continue to host biweekly or monthly mail nights virtually**, some of our chapters have been returning to monthly in-person mail days that maintain covid protocols. Through consistent volunteer recruitment, **CR has also significantly increased our ability to coordinate and answer our remotely-run phone lines this year.** We currently have a rotation of 40 volunteers answering phone lines 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. Additionally, our rigorous volunteer orientation workshops and political education sessions have poised CR to maintain strong relationships with our comrades inside and support our ability to strategize with - and uplift the demands of - imprisoned organizers within our campaigns and projects. **Your contributions help us strengthen the infrastructure to continue these intensive and meaningful programs.**

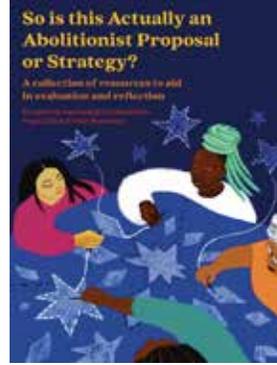


MOVEMENT BUILDING

This year, **CR led over 100 presentations** to movement partners to share PIC abolitionist analysis and strategy, to decision-makers to propel our campaigns, to media outlets to shift common sense and narratives toward PIC abolition, to volunteers to build capacity for our chapter and national work, and more. **Your support allows us to consistently show up for and work alongside our movement partners in long-haul abolitionist organizing!**

From March to June 2022, we continued to host Freedom Fridays at our 4400 Telegraph building in North Oakland. We shared important information about our campaigns, built relationships with movement partners and community members, and held space for community joy and storytelling.

In 2022, CR distributed over \$10,000 to community members through the Zachary Project, a fund established in 2015 to support community members in need. These funds



have gone toward people's basic needs, healing resources, schooling, and more.

NEW TOOLS AND MATERIALS

So Is This Actually an Abolitionist Proposal or Strategy? is a collection of resources to aid in evaluation and reflection for PIC abolitionists. This collection is full of excerpts from resources frequently used as jumping-off points when thinking strategically about abolitionist organizing. This resource was compiled by Interrupting Criminalization, Project Nia, and Critical Resistance.

OUR ASK

Will you celebrate our gains and make a gift to support CR this month? We are majority grassroots-funded, and gifts of \$15, \$25, \$50 and \$500 keep us thriving. We are also looking for major donor gifts of \$5,000-\$50k+! Every size donation keeps us thriving on the daily; monthly sustainers and major gifts allow us to invest in the longevity of our campaigns and organization. You can....

- **Donate generously – you can give online** at CriticalResistance.org/Donate or send us a check in the mail. Do you have a donor-advised fund or similar? Email Donors@Criticalresistance.org for giving details.
- **#SustainCR** - Become a monthly sustainer, by check or online at CriticalResistance.org/Donate
- **Subscribe to The Abolitionist**, our bilingual newspaper that we send to imprisoned people for free.
- **Make a gift to The Zachary Project**, a fund to support community members in need
- **Spread the word!** – Share about PIC abolition with loved ones, post on social media, and encourage people to support CR.
- **Contribute to our campaigns!** Boost our calls to action, join us at mobilizations, and stay up to date for the latest information.
- **Volunteer** with our chapter mail programs and our remote phone lines.

Every gift helps us advance PIC abolition. Thank you! Toward liberation,

Mohamed Shehk, Shirley Leslie, and Woods Ervin, CR National Co-Directors