

Keeping Up with the Voices from the Inside

THE U.S. INMATE POPULATION is the second highest in the world, based on prisoners per capita. Combined, U.S. and state prisons held 2.4 million people in 2014. More youth enter the U.S. system than in any other country in the world.

Angela Davis calls the school to prison pipeline, “What kids are learning in school is how to be a good prisoner.” For 12 years, PDF’s Criminal Justice Initiative has been funding grassroots organizations giving a voice to prisoners and working against mass incarceration, and supporting youth-centered intervention programs.

“This has been a year of dramatic growth and increased opportunity for the anti-incarceration movement as a whole,” reports the **New York State Prisoner Justice Network** (NYSPJN) based in Albany, NY. They cited #Black Lives Matter; the response to Ferguson, MO and Staten Island, NY; and the widespread call for police accountability in the deaths of people of color as factors for growth and organizing opportunity.

NYSPJN, which nurtures the leadership of newer, younger activists, brought those issues home to their local region with protests, clear and angry demands for justice, and much media coverage. “This movement is still ongoing,” Steering Committee member Naomi Jaffe says, “and as far as we know, ours is the only local structure in which the anti-incarceration movement both parented and remained the locus for the Black Lives Matter movement, integrating the issues of mass incarceration and police violence.”

As #Black Lives Matter has gained momentum, a new challenge to prisoner rights appeared in October when the state of Pennsylvania passed the re-victimization act, SB508. The act targeted specifically the actions of PDF grantee, **Prison Radio**, whose most high profile correspondent, Mumia Abu-Jamal, is imprisoned in that state. Prison Radio brings prisoner’s voices like Abu-Jamal to the airwaves, and the new legislation would allow a judge to forbid a prisoner to speak to the outside world.

Members of PDF’s **Sustainability Project**, Prison Radio launched a highly successful, nationwide fund-raising campaign to fight this new law. The lawsuit is ongoing, with significant implications for freedom of speech in other states, which are watching the outcome of this legislation with a predatory eye—ready to pass their own re-victimization act if the lawsuit fails, says Prison Radio Director, Noelle Hanrahan. A popular podcast like “Serial,” where the inmate, Adnan Syed, speaks about his case, could also be outlawed as a result.



Racial profiling, privatization of prisons, attacks on freedom of speech: prisons violate human rights in many different ways. Most of today’s prisoners come from economically and socially tough environments, to which they return after having served their time. A new study tracked 404,638 state prisoners from 30 states who were released in 2005. It found that 67.8 percent of them were re-arrested within three years of their release and 76.6 percent were re-arrested within five years.

PDF grantee, **Barrios Unidos**, believes that breaking this cycle of recidivism is a priority. A significant part of their work focuses on re-entry: they give those formerly incarcerated a true second chance by building long-term relationships and creating new opportunities. From Santa Cruz, CA, Barrios Unidos redirects these individuals into a positive life style, reducing the harm they can bring to themselves as well as others. “This approach will provide individuals opportunities to set up individual development goals,” they report. In addition, Barrios Unidos provides counseling services and adult mentorship opportunities, working with clients one-on-one to support the development of new attitudes, motivation and behavior.

Recidivism also points to the ineffectiveness of the U.S.’s incarceration system that focuses on punishment rather than re-entry. **Women on the Rise**, of the Racial Justice Action Center in East Point, GA, is lobbying the City of Atlanta to implement a community-based program that would divert many women out of the criminal justice system entirely. Pre-booking diversion is specifically designed to prevent low-level crimes from becoming long rap sheets. Their Solutions Not Punishment Coalition came together in the wake of Atlanta’s misguided attempts to add banishment to the list of ineffective punishments for street level sex work. The program would allow law enforcement officers to redirect low-level offenders engaged in drug or prostitution activity to community-based services, instead of jail and prosecution.

Our fundamental struggle for peace and equal treatment under the law becomes evident when speaking about U.S. prisons. Facing a harsh and highly inequitable system, PDF grantees

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ABOVE: courtesy of Alice Brody, New York State Prisoner Justice Network
 LEFT: courtesy of East Point Peace Academy

“What kids are learning in school is how to be a good prisoner.”

ANGELA DAVIS

Recent Grants

A ★ denotes a new grantee.

- ★ Archimedes Project, New York, NY
www.archimedesproject.com
- Aztlán Cultura A.C., Colonia del Valle, Mexico
- Be Present, Inc., Stone Mountain, GA
www.bepresent.org
- Bend the Arc, New York, NY
www.bendthearc.us
- Berkeley Community Fund, Berkeley, CA
www.berkfund.org
- Berkeley High School Development Group, Berkeley, CA
www.bhsdg.org
- breaking walls, New York, NY
www.breakingwallsprogram.org
- ★ Brighter Brains Institute, Piedmont, CA
www.brighterbrains.org
- The Center for Young Women's Development, San Francisco, CA
www.cywd.org
- CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities, New York, NY
www.caaav.org
- Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, South Deerfield, MA
www.buylocalfood.org
- ★ Critical Connections, Longmeadow, MA
www.criticalconnections.org
- Data Center, Oakland, CA
www.datacenter.org
- Destiny Arts Center, Oakland, CA
www.destinyarts.org
- Diné No Nukes, Albuquerque, NM
www.dinenonukes.org
- Encampment for Citizenship, Aptos, CA
www.encampmentforcitizenship.org
- Flying Eagle Woman Fund, Brooklyn, NY
www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org
- Foundation for Change, San Diego, CA
www.foundation4change.org
- Hayley's, Athol, MA
- ★ Hesperian Health Guides, Berkeley, CA
www.hesperian.org
- International Development Exchange, San Francisco, CA
www.idex.org
- Jewish Voice for Peace, Oakland, CA
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org
- Justice Committee, New York, NY
www.justicecommittee.org
- La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA
www.lapena.org
- Los Cenzontles, San Pablo, CA
www.loscenzontles.com
- Los Comanches de la Serna, Ranchos de Taos, NM
- Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Brooklyn, NY
www.mxgm.org
- Middle East Children's Alliance, Berkeley, CA
www.mecaforpeace.org
- National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA
www.nationalpriorities.org
- Ohlone Profiles Project, San Francisco, CA
www.ohloneprofiles.org
- Other Worlds, Oakland, CA
www.otherworldsarepossible.org
- Otros Mundos, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
www.otrosmundoschiapas.org
- Picture the Homeless, Bronx, NY
www.picturethehomeless.org
- Positive Action Committee, Sylvania, GA
- Prison Radio, San Francisco, CA
www.prisonradio.org
- Richmond Peace Education Center, Richmond, VA
www.rpec.org/index.php
- The Rosenberg Fund for Children, Easthampton, MA
www.rfc.org
- Springfield No One Leaves, Springfield, MA
www.springfieldnooneleaves.org
- Third World Newsreel, New York, NY
www.twn.org
- ★ Timekeeper's Project, Albuquerque, NM
- Toward Freedom, Burlington, VT
www.towardfreedom.com
- Voice Male Magazine, Amherst, MA
www.voicemalemagazine.org
- White Earth Land Recovery Project, Callaway, MN
www.welrp.org
- Women's Building, San Francisco, CA
www.womensbuilding.org



Art Creates Accountability

A NEW GRANTEE, **Peoples' Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability**, believes that education on their rights is essential to empower low-income communities to respond to and deter discriminatory, unlawful and abusive policing. Community art plays a significant role in their work. Involving youth and community residents in the design and painting process, they painted Know Your Rights murals all over New York City. They have also developed guerilla theater skits based on Augusto Boal's "Theatre of the Oppressed" techniques.

"Visual art communicates differently than the written or spoken word," maintains Peoples' Justice. "By creating Know Your Rights murals, billboards and guerrilla theater, we seek to bring important information directly to the streets where it is needed the most, in a way that is visually striking and memorable."

The murals also encourage the spread of the culture of Cop Watch by depicting scenes in which community members are observing and documenting the police. It reminds everyone (community members as well as police) that Cop Watch is legal.

Public art is also about shifting culture and creating hope. "Every day, low-income New Yorkers of color confront the prospect of being wrongfully stopped, frisked, arrested, harassed, injured and even killed by the police. Our hope is that our Public Art projects will be a beautiful and informative presence in the face of this reality and act as a permanent statement that we are demanding and creating change." ■



Circumpolar Conservation Union: Our Partner in the Climate Justice Struggle

- ▶ **An Arctic Community Advised Fund will assist indigenous community organizing in the region.**

PDF PARTNERS WITH THE **Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)**, an environmental and human rights NGO holding observer status at the Arctic Council (AC). The AC is a high level intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the arctic states, arctic indigenous communities and other arctic inhabitants. Common issues of sustainable development and environmental protection are at the forefront. CCU observers sit at the table with Russia, United States, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Canada, Iceland and Denmark.

While CCU is more than 20 years old, the past five years have been devoted to reviving and stabilizing core operations, raising essential program funds and, most importantly, participating in AC meetings and sub-meetings, preserving and utilizing the observer status seat at the AC.

The value of the observer seat cannot be underestimated. The AC, made up of the eight arctic nations plus permanent participants representing indigenous and other peoples from the region, has sought to limit and in some cases eliminate these seats. Once lost, they can never be recovered.

Board members and partners from environmental and climate justice organizations have been utilizing the seat at meetings around the North Country, from Alaska to Siberia, Iceland and Norway. Our partners, represented on the CCU Board of Directors include: Earth Justice, Ocean Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

While seeking foundation funding, CCU and PDF have set up an Arctic Community Advised Fund, which will support CCU, but also assist other arctic interests, most specifically indigenous community organizing and permanent participant activities. ■

To read more about this unique aspect of the global warming/climate justice/marine environment work, visit the CCU website: www.circumpolar.org; and the AC website: www.arctic-council.org.



Voices from the Inside

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continue to promote non-violence. **East Point Peace Academy** (EPPA) in Oakland, CA is dedicated to bringing about a culture of peace through training, education and the practice of Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation. EPPA conducts regular workshops and trainings with incarcerated communities, empowering people with the skills and resources to transform conflict in their lives and communities, as well as to lead powerful movements for social change and transformation.

EPPA's longest running program is a weekly training held inside the San Francisco County Jail, where a team of certified inmate trainers run regular peer-education workshops for other inmates. The Center for Disease Control reports there are twice as many suicides in the U.S. each year as there are homicides. Accordingly, EPPA teaches that emotional violence—low self-esteem, negative self talk, un-processed trauma—harm more people than physical violence. They also teach that holding onto anger and hatred is an act of violence we do to ourselves.

Community members go into the jails to work with inmate trainers, and EPPA is working on bringing youth inside prisons to both receive training and offer workshops for the inmates as part of an exchange. "We see this as a different type of school to prison pipeline" says Founder and Coordinator Kazu Haga, "a pipeline of peace, of education and encouragement."

"Hurt people hurt people," confirms Mr. Haga, "and healed people heal people."

Tina Reynolds, Executive Director of **Women on the Rise Telling HerStory**, tells of WORTH's recent work in the Seattle, WA prison system, helping women on their child welfare cases and specifically, maintaining their parental rights. She says, "It is because of PDF's support that WORTH was able to facilitate the 'Rise UP' training. With PDF, we are witnesses to the work these strong sisters are doing, and we are making a positive impact with sisters serving time." ■

PDF IS YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A simple bequest written into your will can help ensure the future of your national community foundation: the Peace Development Fund. Together, we can provide the critical grants that strengthen the social justice movement to create the new systems and institutions essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.

You may leave your gift to general support, endowment or a specific purpose that fits within PDF's mission, vision and goals—to provide grants, training and other resources in partnership with communities, organizations, trainers and donors with whom we share a common vision for peace and social change.

For more information about leaving a bequest to PDF and specific wording, call 415-642-0900, or email ray@peacefund.org.

How PDF Can Support Community Organizations

LATE LAST FALL I started working as an intern at the Peace Development Fund. I was really interested in learning more about foundations like PDF, their interactions and how they cooperate and support community organizations. As I see it, PDF is just that opportunity for me: a public foundation committed to finding hard-working community groups and working alongside them to achieve mutual goals.

At PDF, my project is to reach local, grassroots community organizations in the Amherst/Pioneer Valley region and educate them about the intricacies and potential of being one of PDF's fiscal sponsorship projects. It is also a way to galvanize and coordinate community outreach and cooperation. I will be working one-on-one with community groups, whether through events, meetings, publications or social media.

PDF offers me a wonderful opportunity to impact the Amherst region in a highly personal, organic and effective way that I honestly believe can lead to community betterment. With the theoretical and conceptual background I've gained in college, I can now apply my studies and ideas to combat systemic social injustice. I respect and appreciate the necessity of community organizations to build power from the ground up, so partnering with PDF can provide them with leverage to build that power and visibility. Meanwhile, I can use my internship to contribute towards greater social change. ■

Dan McNulty is a senior at University of Massachusetts Amherst, and double majoring in Anthropology and History, with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies.



Another Perspective



I JUST BEGAN to work at PDF this spring. To me, it is an amazing opportunity to understand the work of NGOs and especially the practical issues that they face. Not only does PDF aim at peace, but it also offers an inclusive definition of justice that widens the field of possibilities for all individuals to get involved. PDF gives the opportunity for grassroots organizations to act in the best way for their specific communities.

My project at PDF is to do research and writing about our grantees' work. I believe that we need to know the current global issues and the broader picture but that local action is key to change. I will draw the link between global issues and the way our grantees confront them while each one is facing very specific situations.

PDF will enable me to learn how local action can affect global issues. By working with PDF, I wish to know more about collective action's strategy and how to make actual change. I admire the way that PDF builds partnerships with organizations operating in very different ways but all standing for one common goal: justice. This focus put on cooperation and building communities is to me the best way to establish a stable base for social change. While studying social sciences in my own country, working on American issues also enables me to get a broader view on multiple issues. Working with PDF is especially a way to learn how to use my studies and abilities to help other people. ■

Cécile Hanff is an exchange student at Hampshire College. She comes from Sciences Po (France) and is double majoring in Political Sciences and Philosophy.

Internship to a Career

I BEGAN WORKING at the Peace Development Fund in the summer of 2014 and instantly fell in love with the people and the organization that is PDF. When I first started looking for an internship, I searched for a position at a non-profit where I would be able to be directly involved with the work and the mission of that organization. PDF, unlike many of the other organizations I examined, allowed me to do that, and more. Since working here, I have had the opportunity to work on projects such as "Where Are They Now?" contacting previous interns and former staff members and following their work post-PDF. PDF has played a role and shaped the social justice journeys of many inspiring people, which for me is truly humbling.

I read all the reports that PDF's grantees send nine months after they receive their grant. The guidance PDF offers grantees through **The Sustainability Project** (the technical support program) and funding through general support grants is truly incredible. PDF staff work tirelessly to make sure that our local community and beyond is one in which everyone has a voice and the ability to flourish.

My internship at PDF has fuelled my desire to continue to work in non-profits after I graduate this coming May. I am honored to work for an organization that enables so much change within the peace, human rights, social justice and environmental justice movements. ■

Emma Anthony is a senior at UMASS Amherst and is majoring in English with a minor in Sociology.



Touchpieces

Fog seeped into the room while the polonaise played Chopin.

Embracing bare winter tree branches pricklywarmed by my own joy
I walked against winter sun.

I watch scum caked water drain round and round mesmerized,
I've heard that water drains differently on the other side of the world.
Backwards.

Bored with the New Culture of excitement
fear speed up
gimmie and get,

It becomes old... tomorrow.

*Colin Godwin,
Helping American Veterans Endure*

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(labor donated)

Humor's Artistry

CREATIVE EXPRESSION IS AS IMPORTANT for the artist as it is for the artist's community. Self-expression is a powerful healing tool and a way to bridge cross-cultural and cross-experiential divides. It can catalyze broad social change.

Yet, self-expression can be both healing and destructive. Freedom of speech is often reserved for the privileged. Hate speech, poisonous speech, racial, cultural and phobic slurs are insidious diseases that infect and fester in our lives. Empowering expressive voices through humor is one of the most important ways to negate violence and hate.

Helping American Veterans

Endure (H.A.V.E.), based in Petaluma, CA, concentrates on the creative healing of war-affected and traumatized American veterans. Through a wide scope of free workshops in areas such as creative writing, music, art and humor, H.A.V.E.'s programs are intended to prevent veteran suicides due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Moral



Injury (an injury to someone's moral conscience which produces profound emotional shame). A keystone of H.A.V.E.'s expressive healing is an organic "peace garden" where veterans learn horticultural skills, enjoy the harvest and reap the rewards of collective creation. Such nourishing growth echoes the philosophical heart of their workshops; to understand the collective process, and processing, of self-expression there are no better teachers or metaphors than plants.

Humor also plays a critical role in H.A.V.E.'s philosophy. Director Lee Gooding says, "I want to teach the veterans how to use humor to defuse potentially volatile situations."

He goes on, "I am uniquely qualified for this from techniques that I developed during my younger twenty plus years as a motorcycle outlaw! Humor is the best defense against insanity." And it's hard to disagree, especially in a world plagued with violence and insanities, seemingly relentless in their breadth and perversion.

Such violence can result in cultural prejudice like islamophobia, which plague western dialogue and rhetoric. One of PDF's other fiscally sponsored organizations, **Critical Connections**, works to bridge the cross cultural divide between the Muslim and non-Muslim world by building resilient communities through dialogue, analysis and outreach. This, in turn, promotes greater understanding of the Muslim world and the diaspora while strengthening Muslim communities from within, here in the U.S. and internationally.

Critical Connections recently sponsored the screening of a documentary, "Wham! Bam! Islam!" It is about a comic book that provides readers with a unique opportunity to see the diversity of thought and opinion in the Muslim world. The movie is viewed through the eyes of a devout Arab-Muslim struggling to reclaim Islamic values as a force for peace and pluralism in a troubled region.

Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa originally conceived the comic book, *The 99*, as a way to peacefully combat the Internet gospel of violent extremists seeking to recruit young and impressionable boys and girls. However, in the same way the comic pushes against extremist propaganda, it also fights against western stereotypes of the Middle East and Islam. It is a powerful weapon in the quest for a pluralistic, knowledgeable and non-violent world. And it depicts great hairstyles, humor and a whole lot of joy.

Both H.A.V.E. and Critical Connections work tirelessly to provide critical dialogue and creative expression on pressing personal and global issues. Humor and art are essential tools in the battle against ignorance. ■



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MISSION STATEMENT

The PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND works to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training and other resources as partners in the human rights and social justice movements. As a public foundation, we nourish, foster and encourage the diverse, self-sustaining and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.