



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

TAKING INJUSTICE PERSONALLY

Annual Report 2017



Dear Friends,

As human rights activists, we are often exposed to the worst that humanity has to offer. Still, after years of watching slow but significant progress on human rights issues in the U.S., I was emotionally unprepared for the reality of the setbacks we suddenly faced under the Trump administration. 2017 was a difficult year for everyone who works to protect the rights of people and communities at risk, and organizations like ours were forced to pivot rapidly to take on a virtual avalanche of human rights threats. Although the landscape was and continues to be dire, there is still a light in the dark: the passion and drive of activists standing up in unprecedented numbers to join together and fight back.

During this year, Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) activists took hundreds of thousands of actions to protect human rights worldwide. We wrote letters, made phone calls, signed petitions, and showed up in person to advocate on issues that affect us, our loved ones, and our communities, alongside others in our global movement. AIUSA has been an active voice in the fight to protect immigrants and refugees from the Trump administration's Muslim ban, training members to advocate directly to their representatives; placing op-eds, editorials, and letters to the editor at publications around the country; and joining countless protests and actions. We have also stepped up our work to protect human rights defenders, a goal whose importance was driven home when two Amnesty International officials and a group of other activists known as the Istanbul 10 were arrested in Turkey for their human rights work.

This moment in history is chilling, and the constant bad news we hear can feel insurmountable. I am so proud to be a part of a movement that is not letting these challenges hold us down; instead we have decided to rise up and take a stand against bigotry, intolerance, and hatred. Thank you for standing with me as we continue to fight injustice and, together, work to create a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

In solidarity,



Margaret Huang, Executive Director



MISSION

OUR WORK

We work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth, and dignity are denied.

Amnesty International is a global movement of millions of people demanding human rights for all people – no matter who they are or where they are. We are the world’s largest grassroots human rights organization.

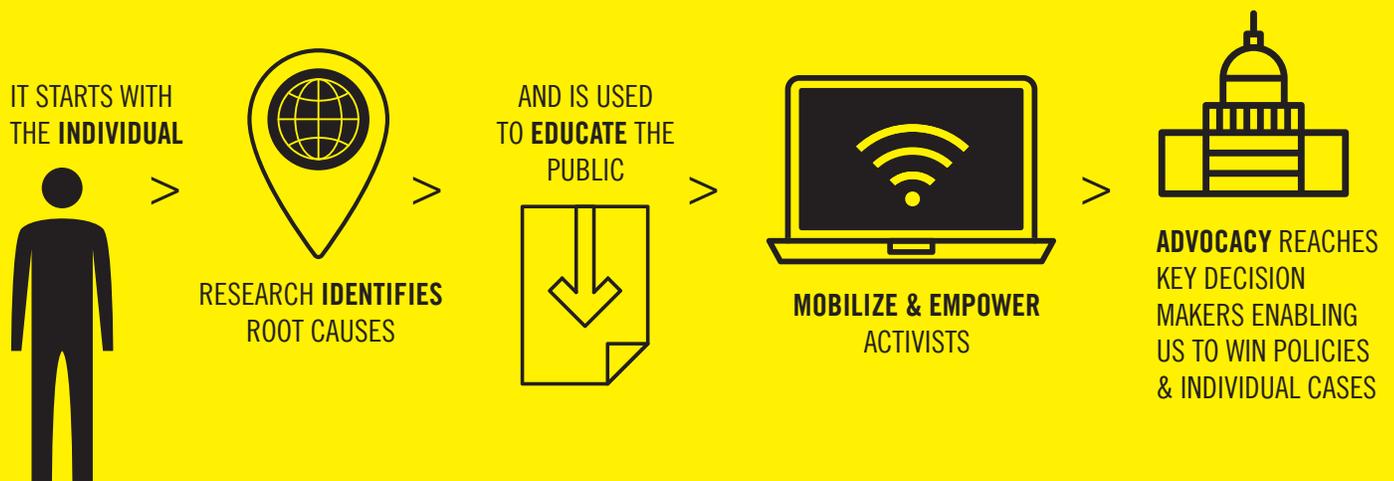
Amnesty International USA is a nonprofit human rights organization and the largest country section of Amnesty International. We have more than a million supporters in the U.S., including nearly 200,000 dues-paying members. We have hundreds of groups in communities, high schools, and colleges in all 50 states.

We engage people in the U.S. in protecting human rights around the world, while we also work to protect human rights here at home.

Amnesty International USA is part of a global movement with 7 million supporters and a presence in more than 70 countries.

Amnesty International’s uniquely effective approach for protecting human rights uses a three-pronged approach: we conduct research to uncover human rights abuses and document patterns; we use this research to educate the public and equip activists to demand change; and we mobilize grassroots activists to advocate for human rights in the U.S. and around the globe.

From start to finish, our work focuses on the individual – people whose human rights are abused, and people who stand with them and together have the power to change the world.



REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

Every day, around the world, people are forced to make the most difficult decision of their lives – to leave their homes in search of safety someplace else. They deserve to have their rights respected.



2017 SNAPSHOT

11: “I Welcome” Resolutions were passed in cities, states, and schools around the U.S.

53,716: 53,716 refugees were resettled in the U.S. in fiscal year 2017

160: We reached 160 congressional offices through briefings and visits in our response to President Trump’s Muslim ban

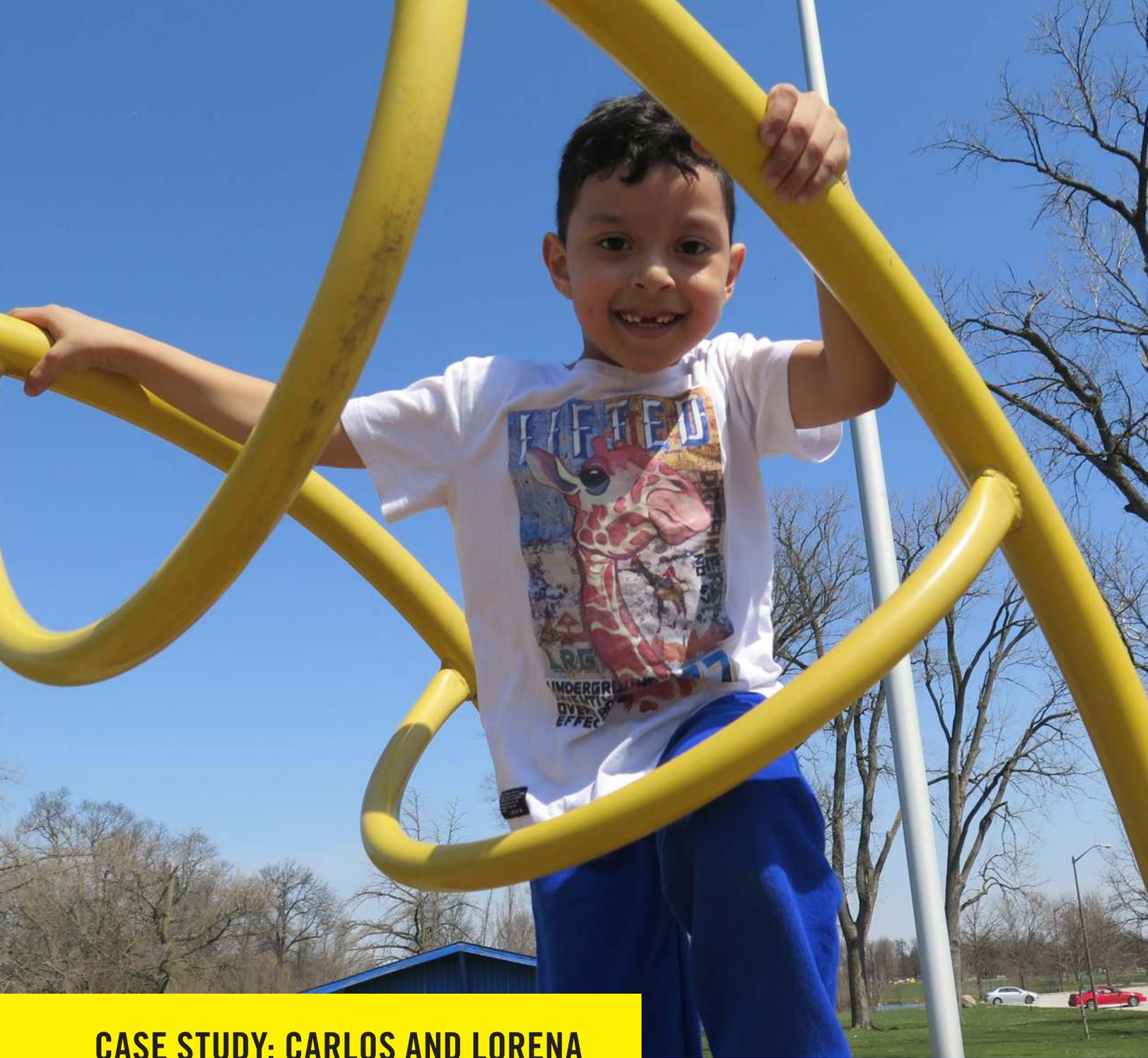
50%: More than 50% of refugees around the world are under 18 years old

Refugees and people seeking asylum are forced to flee their homeland to escape persecution, torture or other severe human rights abuses, armed conflict, and horrific violence.

In the face of this, we see governments and politicians around the world abandoning responsibility and failing to help people the way they should. In the U.S. alone, the Trump administration has implemented successive refugee bans and various administrative policies that are shutting the door on refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are families.

Amnesty International has a long history of advocating on behalf of refugees and people seeking asylum – conducting human rights research on the conditions they flee, documenting how government officials treat them, and empowering communities to welcome their new neighbors to safety.

In 2017, AIUSA helped save the State Department’s refugee bureau by preventing it from being transferred to the Department of Homeland Security. We also mobilized activists to call the U.S. government to account for detaining families seeking safety, forcing children to learn to walk and talk behind bars.



CASE STUDY: CARLOS AND LORENA

Carlos and Lorena, and Michael and Maribel were detained at Berks County Residential Center just for seeking safety. Finally, after over 22 months, in 2017 they were released.

Carlos and Lorena fled threats, intimidation and severe and repeated gender-based violence in Honduras before arriving in the U.S. Michael and Maribel fled El Salvador following constant death threats to the family when Michael was targeted for gang recruitment. Immigration officials refused to release these four children and their mothers from detention for nearly 700 days. Many of the families held at the Berks County Residential Center come from a region known as the Northern Triangle of Central America, an area widely recognized for its extreme levels of violence and insecurity, which AIUSA has documented extensively.



ISSUES

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Human rights are under attack in the U.S. and around the world. That's why human rights defenders are needed – and it's why Amnesty International works to protect them.

2017 SNAPSHOT

100,000: Actions taken by AIUSA members on behalf of Idil Eser, the Director of Amnesty International Turkey

43: Members of Congress who signed a bipartisan Dear Colleague Letter calling for the release of Taner Kilic, the Chair of Amnesty International Turkey

Six: Anti-protest bills stalled or defeated in six states

Around the world, human rights defenders face violence, intimidation, or imprisonment by governments who persecute individuals for peacefully speaking out against injustice.

For over 57 years, Amnesty International has fought for – and achieved – the freedom of people around the world imprisoned for their activism. This year, the Director of Amnesty International Turkey, Idil Eser, was released from prison on bail, and Honduran officials convicted someone responsible for threats against the leader of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH).

In the U.S. in 2017, we helped change laws to protect domestic human rights defenders and ensured that activists can take to the streets to express their views peacefully through stalling and defeating anti-protest bills in six states, including three bills in North Dakota and one in Arizona.

Protecting human rights defenders is central to Amnesty International's work – and is needed more than ever in the U.S. and the rest of the world.

CRISIS CAMPAIGNS

AIUSA mobilizes and empowers our grassroots movement of activists and allies to pursue advocacy that reaches key decision-makers in the U.S. and across the world.



This year, we took action when the Trump administration announced its Muslim ban and threatened the human right to freedom and safety of minority communities and refugees at large. Following the public outcry to which AIUSA contributed, the Trump administration was forced to withdraw some of the most egregious aspects of their original ban.

Despite the successive refugee and Muslim bans in 2017, 53,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. in 2017 and were given the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety.

AIUSA also worked to pressure the House of Representatives to pass a resolution addressing the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar. Following this, the U.S. imposed targeted financial sanctions against a Myanmar military commander, Maung Maung Song, through Treasury OFAC regulations.

Quick and responsive action on human rights injustice is central to AIUSA's work, and is necessary in today's unpredictable world.

2017 SNAPSHOT

110: Members participated in more than 110 actions

160: We reached 160 congressional offices through briefings and visits

Seven: AIUSA published op-eds in seven major newspapers

Member op-eds and letters appeared in local papers in Florida, Missouri, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Utah, and South Carolina



ISSUES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

All people have the right to live free from cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights and we oppose it in all circumstances. When interacting with law enforcement, everyone has the right to be safe, free from discrimination, treated equally under the law, and to live.

When police kill people without justification or accountability, when capital punishment is applied disproportionately against people of color and poor people, and when, in some countries, the death penalty is used by people in power to punish their political opponents, our fundamental human rights are violated.

Hundreds of people are killed by police every year in the U.S., and not one state in the U.S. has laws that meet international standard for police use of lethal force. AIUSA works in coalition to pass reforms for laws governing police use of lethal force at the state level, and we work with other Amnesty International sections around the world who are doing the same in their countries.

AIUSA campaigns to stop executions of specific individuals in the U.S. and around the world, conducts research on the death penalty, and mobilizes activists around the country to pass legislation abolishing the death penalty.

In 2017, we helped stop 11 executions, and we helped to pass the Right to Know Act in New York, advancing accountability in police reform.

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

We all have the right to be safe and secure, and to live without fear. But in the U.S., gun violence is an epidemic that directly threatens these rights – and AIUSA is addressing it as the human rights crisis it is.

Every year, tens of thousands of people in the U.S. die due to gun violence. The U.S. government has an obligation to protect people's safety, and inconsistent action in the U.S. at the federal, state, and local level does not meet that obligation.

On gun violence, we're conducting research to identify cases and patterns that show how human rights are jeopardized, and we're helping push for state and federal reforms that can help reduce and prevent gun violence.

In 2017, AIUSA helped defeat H.R. 3668 the SHARE Act, a federal bill to deregulate silencers. The bill was opposed by many law enforcement agencies, who argue that it is more difficult to identify an active shooter when the shooter uses a silencer. We also worked to stall federal bill H.R. 38, which would virtually dismantle concealed carry laws from state to state and create a race to the bottom effect in making the nation's weakest concealed carry law the law of the land.



2017 SNAPSHOT

38,658: In 2016, the last year for which data is available, 38,658 individuals were killed by firearms in the U.S.

80%: 80% of all gun deaths in high-income countries take place in the U.S.

10x: A black male aged 15-34 was more than 10x more likely to die from firearm homicide than a white male of the same age group.

30: 30 states allow the open carrying of a handgun in public without a license or permit

12: 12 state allow individuals to carry concealed weapons in public without any license or permit



GENDER, SEXUALITY & IDENTITY

We all have the right to be treated equally. When governments fail to protect people from discrimination or violence, AIUSA is there – helping ensure that all people can live in dignity, safety, and freedom.



People across the world and in the U.S. face discrimination and violence based on who they are, threatening their access to rights including safety, work, health care, and education, and impeding achievement of life goals.

This year, AIUSA fought against repeated attacks on sexual and reproductive rights, including helping to successfully prevent President Trump's Global Gag Rule from becoming permanent law. We've secured commitments from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help increase Indigenous sexual assault survivors' access to justice and safety. We worked with coalition partners to defeat legislation in the U.S. that would have further restricted access to reproductive health care.

This year we've also helped to repeal laws that criminalize abortion across the globe: Chile's Constitutional Tribunal moved to decriminalize abortion in Chile, and we worked to help Argentina move further toward decriminalization than ever before.



ISSUES

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

Around the world, people are tortured or imprisoned by their government simply because of who they are or what they believe – and AIUSA fights for their freedom.

Every day, people are convicted in unfair trials, prisoners are tortured, communities are forcibly evicted, people are disappeared after being taken from their homes by government officials, and people are put in prison because of their identity or their beliefs.

Through individual case work at AIUSA, millions of messages have been sent to governments around the world, giving hope to people in dire circumstances, and ultimately helping free thousands of people who were unjustly imprisoned.

AIUSA investigates hundreds of cases each year. Our researchers identify individual cases and patterns of human rights abuses, and we launch campaigns to free individuals and address the underlying causes of human rights abuses.

Our Urgent Action Network mobilizes rapid response by thousands of activists, often in life-threatening cases. Every year, during our Write for Rights campaign, hundreds of thousands take action on those selected individual cases and work with teachers to incorporate letter-writing on behalf of others into their classrooms.

In 2017, we helped free 82 prisoners of conscience around the world – people who spent months, years, and even decades in prison simply for exercising their human rights.

2017 SNAPSHOT

82: AIUSA contributed to the release of 82 prisoners of conscience

74: AIUSA contributed to positive developments on the cases of 74 human rights defenders

112: AIUSA contributed to good news on 112 cases in 2017

CASE STUDY: EBTISAM AL-SAEGH

**“THANK YOU TO ALL
AT AMNESTY FOR YOUR
EFFORTS ON MY BEHALF.
I WAS AWARE OF YOUR
SUPPORT AND THIS
BROUGHT ME JOY AND
A FEELING OF SECURITY.”**

Ebtisam al-Saegh was arrested in Bahrain, where she was beaten in custody and charged with terrorism, just for speaking out against human rights abuses by the Bahraini government. Amnesty International rallied support for Ebtisam and, in October 2017, she was released from detention.





ISSUES

SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

We all need safety from violence and terrorism, but no government should sacrifice people's human rights in the name of national security. Unfortunately, that's exactly what's happening – and AIUSA is helping stop it.

The U.S. government has offered us a false choice between being safe and respecting people's fundamental rights. For years, people have been detained indefinitely without ever being charged, and some have been tortured.

AIUSA works to expose and end national security policies that violate human rights – we've pressured the U.S. government to release information about its activities, change policy on toxic exposures, and prevent escalation of unlawful killings with drones and other weapons.

In 2017, AIUSA helped pass legislation improving the U.S. government's transparency on civilian casualties caused by its actions, including through the use of drones. We also helped to make sure that no new detainees were sent to the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, even though President Trump threatened multiple times to do so.



THANK YOU

Amnesty International USA is grateful to all of our donors, who have made a gift between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. While space doesn't allow us to list everyone, your support makes our work possible.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the members of our legacy giving society, the Circle of Light, whose foresight and generosity enable us to make lasting human rights impact worldwide by providing for our future. To join the Circle of Light, please visit: www.amnestyusa.org/plannedgiving or call 888-368-9356.

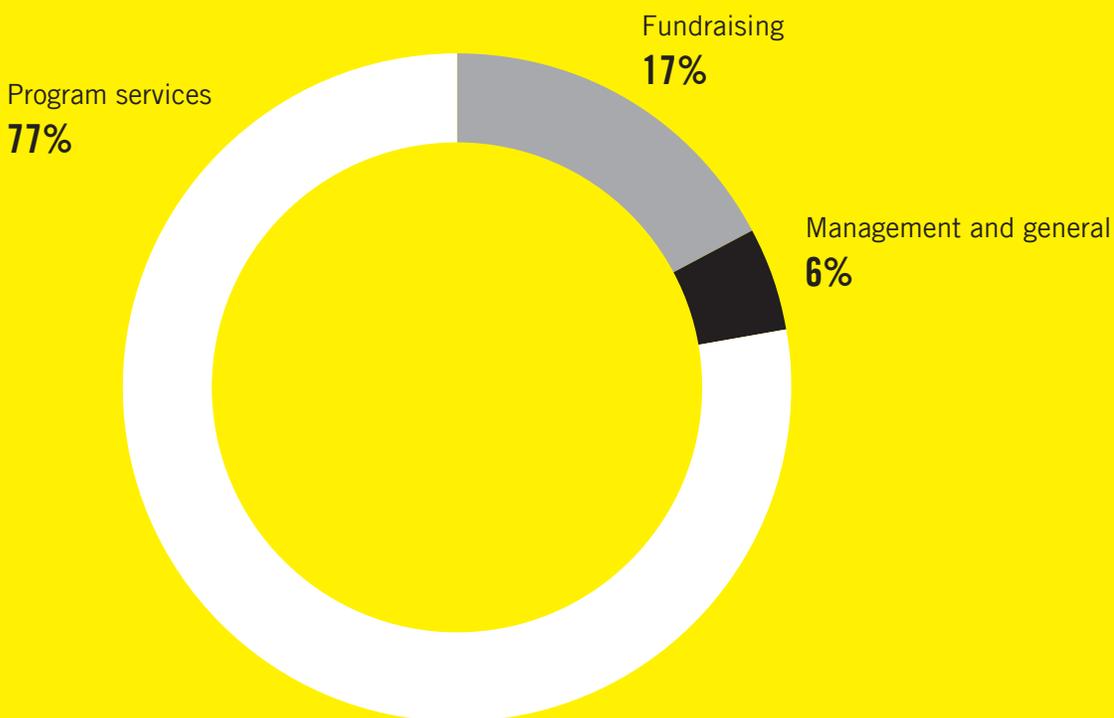


FINANCIALS

2017 was an incredible success for Amnesty International USA thanks to the generous support of our donors. Revenue increased by 2% over 2016 allowing us to expand our human rights work quickly in response to human rights crises. Programmatic spending increased by \$621 thousand, or 2%, in 2017 with 77% of AIUSA's overall spending going directly towards advancing our programmatic goals; including freeing prisoners of conscience, fighting discrimination, helping refugees, decreasing gun violence, and pushing for public policies that respect the human rights of people around the world. Due to the substantial increase in donor support in the past several years we can expand both programmatic and fundraising efforts going forward.

Our balance sheet is strongest in December which is the high-point of seasonal liquidity due to traditional year-end gift giving. AIUSA continues to be the largest funding section of the global movement with more than \$10 million going to the International Secretariat in 2017 helping to advance our international work. We are grateful to all our donors, whose financial support and dedication to human rights makes our work possible.

2017 EXPENSES



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE FULL SET OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OF THE USA, INC.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	12/31/17	12/31/16
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,457,063	6,746,822
Investments and restricted investments	16,833,163	15,500,677
Contributions and bequests receivable	3,794,850	4,140,600
Supplies inventory	4,491	8,319
Prepaid expenses and other assets	474,176	432,865
Fixed assets, net	542,763	351,277
Total assets	\$29,106,506	\$27,180,560
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	638,370	635,188
Payroll and payroll taxes payable	671,939	663,196
International Secretariat assessment payable	685,449	1,172,301
Charitable Gift Annuity obligation	2,431,974	3,287,768
Total liabilities	4,427,732	5,758,453
Net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	19,898,461	17,264,458
Temporarily restricted net assets	2,537,264	1,914,700
Permanently restricted net assets	2,243,049	2,242,949
Total net assets	24,678,774	21,422,107
	\$29,106,506	\$27,180,560

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDING

	12/31/17	12/31/16
Operating Revenues:		
Contributions, grants and bequests	39,284,744	36,319,823
International Secretariat grants	254,180	2,350,000
Donated services	44,825	27,761
Other revenues	225,753	334,156
Total operating revenues	39,809,502	39,031,740
Expenses:		
Program services	29,955,490	29,334,184
Management and general	2,319,559	1,921,507
Fundraising	6,736,688	6,351,570
Total expenses	39,011,737	37,607,261
Increase in net assets before nonoperating items	797,765	1,424,479
Change in value of gift annuity obligations	532,961	(1,010,709)
Interest, dividends, realized and unrealized gains	1,925,941	340,219
Changes in net assets	\$3,256,667	\$753,989

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

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Fight injustice and help create a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.
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LET KIDS
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