This Annual Report shows part of our work in the past two years (2019 & 2020). Thanks to our partners for their continued trust, their vision, and for inspiring actions of resilience. We’d also like to thank our base of supporters who have continued to engage with us during these hard times. Despite challenges related to our organizational restructuring and financial constraints due to the pandemic, we have carried out our mission to change unjust U.S. policies and corporate practices towards Latin America and the Caribbean. This Report is part of our accountability towards our partners and our base.

To all of you, a big thank you!
WITNESS FOR PEACE SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE

Witness for Peace was founded in 1983 in resistance to the U.S. central role in the war crimes committed against the Nicaraguan people throughout the Contra War. In December 2018, Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective (WFP-SC) emerged as a workers collective, formed from a commitment to build long-standing relationships that recognize the leadership of social movements of Latin America and the Caribbean, undo oppression in all its forms, and to mobilize the U.S. grassroots to change U.S. policy.

Today, WFP-SC is a horizontally-governed collaborative project between 3 WFP regional bodies: WFP Midwest, WFP Southeast, and WFP Northwest, two of which possess their own 501c3 legal status. WFP Solidarity Collective is an independent entity and is fiscally sponsored under WFP Midwest.

Our core methods include:

- **Political Education:** We provide educational resources and training to our networks about the harm caused by U.S. policies in Latin America and about the achievements of people’s movements; we mobilize them to affect change.

- **Advocacy:** Through concrete legislative campaigns and urgent actions, we consistently engage our supporters to advance peace, justice, and sustainable economies.

- **Physical, Political, and Media Accompaniment:** Our Colombia and Honduras programs stand with frontline communities and social leaders, offering an additional layer of protection on the ground, and organizing so that their voices are heard by policymakers and our grassroots networks.
ABOUT US

Our mission is to build grassroots transnational solidarity across struggles to end U.S. and U.S. backed militarization and policing, nurture fair and just economies, end imperialist wars, and live with peace and justice throughout the Americas. We work with youth, faith groups, farmers, elders, educators, organizers, university students and law-makers. By harnessing the resources, decision-making power, and networks of universities and other endowed institutions to grow our reach, and impact, we hope that more people learn about and practice solidarity to build movements that work for the benefit of grassroots struggles.

Our strength lies in forging coherent connections between the campaigns and struggles of US-based organizations and those in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our analysis is aligned with the wisdom of our partners: Indigenous, Black and campesinx land defenders, unions, community organizers, workers, feminist and LGBTQIA+ activists, social leaders, and their fight for a life with dignity and power.

List of members

Pambana Bassett, Cuba Program Co-Director
Julien Christe, Honduras Program Co-Director
Kris Hannigan-Luther, Northwest Region Organizer
Justin Jimenez, Cuba Program Co-Director
Evan King, Virtual Programming and Digital Organizer
Jessica Garcia, Colombia Program Co-Director
Allison Lira, Honduras Program Co-Director
Liz Hacker, Midwest Regional Organizer
Vanessa Peña, Delegations Coordinator
Paola Sarmiento, Southeast Regional Co-Director
Elise Roberts, Midwest Regional Director
Emily Rhyne, former Southeast Regional Co-Director
Samantha Wherry, former Colombia Program Co-Director
Corie Welch, former Honduras Program Co-Director
Aleja Rincon, former Honduras Program Co-Director
Lee Schlenker, former New England Regional Organizer
BUILDING SOLIDARITY ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE
Colombia
Supporting Peacebuilding

Colombia counts among the countries with the highest number of murdered human rights defenders, according to the United Nations. The social movements denounce these horrifying statistics, and the more than 1,000 murders carried out against their communities since 2016. In 2020 alone, there were 182 defenders killed, the highest number since the signing of the Peace Accords, according to Colombia’s Ombudsperson’s Office.

In that same year, there were 76 massacres specifically targeting communities in resistance, in certain geographic areas, and in Black and Indigenous territories. The people face mass forced displacement due to violence of armed groups - of the state, corporations, and paramilitaries.

When human and environmental rights defenders oppose megaprojects, and denounce the presence of armed groups, they are then made targets.

The need for international accompaniment is unfortunately greater than ever. Although we still need more capacity, in 2019-2020, we increased our Colombia Program’s activities to respond to the intensified threats against human rights defenders and organized peasant, Indigenous, and Afro-Colombian communities.

 MAIN FIGURES
- 24 international human rights accompaniments
- 8 different departments
- 12 meetings with Colombian partners and US Embassy

Sam Wherry accompanies partners in Cajibio, Cauca
Highlight
Humanitarian caravan to the Micay Cannon

The Colombia team accompanied the week-long Caravana Humanitaria to Micay. The march began in Popayán, Cauca, on October 30th and called attention to the increased violence faced by local communities. In the days leading up to the Caravan social leaders received threats and there were even assassinations. The marches continued, defying the intimidation! Dozens of civil society organizations and community groups participated, like the Black Communities Process (PCN), the National Agrarian Coordination (CNA), and the Northern Cauca Communitarian Councils Association (ACONC) and others. They denounced violence by illegal armed groups, the lack of state protection, and insisted on the full implementation of the 2016 Havanna Peace Accords. International solidarity with those on the frontlines is critical.
Honduras
Supporting Grassroots Democracy

Honduras is marked by high levels of poverty, violence, and insecurity. Since the U.S.-backed military coup in 2009, Honduras has become increasingly militarized as subsequent right wing governments have eroded civil society protections and broken down structural checks on executive power. State-backed violence and corruption wreaks havoc on people, place, and livelihood.

Human rights defenders are threatened, criminalized, murdered, and disappeared with impunity. Women and groups oppressed on the basis of gender suffer as the country has one of the highest rates of gender based violence in the region. Despite this, women play a central role in social movements.

There are clear connections between U.S. military and security aid and the rise in human rights violations; between foreign direct investment and Indigenous land struggles; between the U.S.-led War on Drugs and the militarization of the Honduran countryside; and the link between all these factors and the roots of migration.

MAIN FIGURES
- 15 International human rights accompaniments
- 10 Speaking events throughout the United States
- 62 Congressional members are sponsors of the Berta Caceres Act
4th Anniversary of Berta Cáceres’ Siembra

In March 2020, Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective accompanied the 4th commemoration of the assassination of Berta Cáceres in her hometown of La Esperanza, Intibucá.

We stand with the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) in their demand for justice for Berta Cáceres, and for an end to the ongoing state violence against those who defend the land, water, and life.
Building Solidarity with the Cuban People

The years 2019 and 2020 represented a drastic regression towards hostile U.S. relations towards Cuba. Under the Trump Administration, the major gains to end the Blockade we had celebrated not long ago, were rolled back. More sanctions and bans were imposed and legal educational travel to Cuba was made difficult. Despite this context, the Solidarity Collective and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center maintained a strong relationship continuing to run delegations until COVID precautions slowed programming.

We issued a statement on Trump’s elimination of the people-to-people license and remained the only U.S. based solidarity organisation with a permanent presence in Havana, with the Centro Memorial Martin Luther King Jr. Despite promises made during the electoral campaigns and the blow of a pandemic that requires international cooperation, Trump’s additional 243 sanctions and absurd ‘sponsor of terror’ categorisation, have all been maintained by the Biden Administration. Severe restrictions on popular tourist activities and purchases such as rum and cigars, bans on flights to provinces other than Havana, and the closure of cash remittances, have all been devastating to the economy of Cuban families, making daily life difficult. Shortages are a direct and intentional result of the U.S. hostility that does not represent the tens of millions who call for normalized relations.
Our delegations took hundreds of community organisers, professors, students, long-time solidarity activists, faith groups, and urban farmers to chip away at the Blockade with these delegations. They learned directly from Cubans about their achievements and aspirations, and how U.S. aggression such as the Blockade, the military occupation of Guantanamo, and interventionist policies have impacted the lives of all Cubans and even more cruelly, those of women, African Diasporan, LGBTIQA+, and working people.

During action-planning we supported delegates as they mapped their networks and planned meetings, reports, and teach-ins. We updated them on congressional and legislative work and made connections with their local experiences and organizing.

"We need the people who visit us to denounce what is happening as a result of the hostile dynamics of your country's policies, and to dedicate yourselves to lifting the Blockade. I would ask you to always be vigilant and to share with other people what is happening, in every possible way. It is a concrete way to show solidarity with the people of Cuba and to break the silence that they want to make of Cuba."

Marilyn Peña Pérez, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center (CMLK)
GRASSROOTS WORK IN THE UNITED STATES
Midwest Region

In March of 2019, we hosted a Minnesota book tour with the history scholar Dana Frank and her new book, “The Long Honduran Night: Resistance, Terror, and the United States in the Aftermath of the Coup”.

In April, we were thrilled to host Rosa Nelly Santos Navarro, the President and Coordinator of the Honduran Committee of the Families of Disappeared Migrants of El Progreso (COFAMIPRO). They bring attention to the human rights violations committed against migrants, and the push factors that force people to flee their homes. During events across the state, Santos Navarro made a clear call for governments to take responsibility and to protect migrants' rights.

In fall of 2019, we organized a Speaker Tour with Leider Valencia, the National Coordinator of the Growers of Coca, Marijuana and Poppy (COCCAM), including events with students, organizers, and land stewards. Valencia presented on “Eradicating Peace: The Other Side of the Colombian War on Drugs”. Leider told grassroots groups and Congresspeople about the impacts of US foreign policy, resource extraction by multi-national corporations, and how small-scale farmers are building alternative economic models in Colombia. This was one of, if not the first time, that a campesino and coca union spoke on Capitol Hill.

“You all do what other international organizations haven’t done so much. Thank you so much for always having us in mind. And to everyone in the U.S. who also shows us their support”. Leider Valencia, COCCAM Colombia
Highlight

Building Black Solidarity Across Borders

WFP-SC and WFP Midwest, in collaboration with the Black Visions Collective (BVC), Black Immigrant Collective, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), and Black LGBTQ Migrant Project (BLMP) hosted a two part roundtable series amongst titled “Building Black Solidarity Across Borders” in 2019 where Black movement leaders reflected on their experiences and visions for international solidarity work.

The second panel included a conversation between Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Garifuna leader Miriam Miranda, followed by a discussion with local Black organizers. Our roundtable discussion included conversation about U.S. military/police aid, the imposition of the U.S. prison model, and the effects of U.S. policies on Black and Indigenous communities in the U.S. and throughout the Americas, such as in the form of racist violence and mass displacement.

We also had the opportunity to hear about the incredibly resilient and visionary work of the Black Fraternal Organisation of Honduras (OFRANEH) and the Garifuna peoples, and ways to be in solidarity with them.
Southeast Region

Our first speakers tour of 2020 took place at the end of February and early March with Elodia Castillo Vasquez, who is a Maya Ch’orti’ Indigenous authority and president of COMUNDICH (Coordinator for Associations and Communities for the Integral Development of the Ch’orti’ Region) of Guatemala. She was able to meet over a thousand supporters across Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

Elodia spoke on Indigenous rights and her people’s fight to reclaim their ancestral territories, ancestral language, traditions, and food sovereignty. People were blown away by her fortitude and inspired by the organisation’s work at every stop. We spoke with university students, community organizers, and churches. We met with grassroots, social justice and environmental organizations and coalitions in the Southeast region like QLatinx; Jobs with Justice; The Farmworker Association in Florida; Down Home; Siembra in North Carolina, and connected with essential workers on the frontlines and with organizers, educators, and community members around the region.
Highlight

Caravan for Justice

Due to the pandemic we held our Caravan for Justice in support of the three remaining immigrant leaders fighting their deportation orders from inside sanctuary churches - Juana, Jose, and Eliseo in August 2020. It was a car caravan, which allowed participants to maintain proper physical distance from each other while still participating in the events. We linked the campaign for freedom for the 3NCSanctuary3 to the broader national call to #FreeThemAll, connecting the dots to our broken cash bail system and the overwhelming wave of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detentions.

We partnered with several organizations on the route, such as Down Home and Siembra in North Carolina (NC). The Caravan was co-coordinated with the three sanctuary leaders through the NC Sanctuary Coalition (of which WFPSE is a founding member) and Kelly Morales of the American Friends Service Committee.
Northwest Region

“We all would like to thank you, and the WFP Solidarity Collective for bringing Heidy Alachán and her collective. Her dedication and engagement with us all encourages us to take community power over our governments together for a safe community for all”.

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee

Heidy speaking at Portland State University
Our 2019 Speaker’s Tour featured Heidy Alachán, attorney, writer and activist with the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ). Based in Honduras, MADJ is a social and political movement committed to working against impunity and corruption while building alternatives rooted in transparency, dignity and respect to human rights and the environment.

In 2019, Heidy Alachán formed part of the MADJ legal team and represented the family of internationally renowned Indigenous and environmental rights activist Berta Cáceres, assassinated in 2016. During the tour, Heidy spoke to students at Western Oregon University, Lewis and Clark Law School, and Seattle University. She met with community organizations and members in Corvallis, Woodburn, Portland and Seattle.

Heidy also spoke with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and with staff from Senator Merkley’s and from Representative Bonamici’s offices about US involvement in the challenges facing Hondurans.
On 24 May 2019, we organized and hosted a special panel discussion on “empire, race and socialism in Cuba and Venezuela” in partnership with the July 26th Coalition of Boston, and the Boston Venezuela Solidarity Committee. The panel included Dr. Jourdy Victoria James Heredia, subdirector of the Global Economy Research Center in Havana; Gisela Arandia, president of the Cuban chapter of the Regional Articulation of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Jeanette Charles, international solidarity liaison with Venezuelanalysis.com.

In the face of escalating US economic warfare against these sister nations, three radical Black women of the Caribbean and its diaspora discussed the impacts of unilateral coercive sanctions on the Cuban and Venezuelan peoples; anti-racism and reparations within both revolutionary processes; and the ongoing construction of socialism, anti-imperialist solidarity and racial liberation throughout the Americas.

We also organized several educational events, related to fostering solidarity with Cuba through ongoing campaigns such as the Saving Lives Campaign coordinated by Saving Lives Massachusetts and the U.S.-CubaNormalization Committee as well as online presentations with the Community Church of Boston and the Western Massachusetts Latin American Solidarity Committee in celebration of July 26th.
Highlight

An Economy Under Siege: Building Socialism and Solidarity with Cuba Today

From September 28 to October 24, 2019, Cuban economist Dr. Jourdy Victoria James Heredia, subdirector of the Global Economy Research Center (CIEM), associate professor of the University of Havana and collaborator of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, participated in Witness for Peace New England’s 2019 Fall Speaker’s Tour.

On the East Coast portion of this tour, Dr. Jourdy participated in over 30 events throughout 7 states and spoke to thousands of students, activists, workers, intellectuals, organizers and Cuba enthusiasts. Dr. Jourdy also participated in the annual meeting of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) in Washington DC and met with members of Congress to discuss the impacts of US policies on the Cuban economy.
“What is the Berta Caceres law and what does it mean for the fight of the Lenca people and other communities that have been working for peace and demilitarization in this country? In Honduras, we have a number of specialized forces that were created after the coup d'etat and reinforced with a 100% increase in military budget, while sectors like education and health remain totally unattended. What the law describes is corruption and human rights violations, especially for those who are protecting our territories and rivers”.

Berta Zúñiga Cáceres, Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)
The Berta Cáceres Act

Two months after the shocking murder of feminist, indigenous and environmentalist leader Berta Cáceres in 2016, we led the grassroots coalition that developed into over 250 organizations endorsing and advocating for the introduction of the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (also known as “Berta Cáceres Act”). This is a landmark bill firstly introduced by Rep. Hank Johnson in 2016, and which was met with immediate and broad support from faith, labor, environmental, and human rights organizations. The Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) immediately applauded the action and praised the leadership of these Members of Congress.

Stop Funding Aerial Fumigations in Colombia

From 1994-2015, under the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations, the United States supported the aerial fumigation of glyphosate over coca crops in an attempt to decrease cocaine production. After the World Health Organization raised health concerns about the chemical in 2015 to be “probably carcinogenic to humans”, President Juan Manuel Santos ended the use of aerial fumigation, and the Supreme Court of Colombia banned the chemical for said health reasons in 2017.

WFP Solidarity Collective was one of the first U.S.-based organizations to document the harmful effects of glyphosate on the health in a documentary called “Shoveling Water” produced in 2009. Since then, the Collective has worked in conjunction with other U.S. and Colombia based organizations to campaign against this practice.
"The delegation experience provoked a deeper part of my humanity that is pervasively dormant in the States. The part that recognizes the well-being of the individual as nurtured by the well-being of the collective; that paints every corner of the country with affirmations of freedom, love, and humanity; the part that smiles effortlessly, laughs a ton; and can repurpose a literal trash dump into a vibrant neighborhood cultural arts cooperative, gallery, and school."

Ebony Sinnamon Johnson, Advocate for Black Youth, California
Eight delegates had the opportunity to attend the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) annual member assembly and meet with members of each organized community. Delegates were also able to visit the locations of two of these communities resisting illegal resource extraction.

Additionally, delegates met with the Committee of the Families of Disappeared Migrants of El Progreso (COFAMIPRO), the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), and the National Committee for the Liberation of Political Detainees.

Delegates analyzed the transcendental U.S. policy role in migration and how communities are organizing to combat environmental destruction, violence and displacement.
Colombia delegation

Confronting Climate Change and Building Peace—Environmental Justice

This delegation focused on the impact of climate change in communities affected by decades of war. The delegation travelled to the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca to investigate the effects of mega-mining projects and sugarcane monocultures on the livelihoods of frontline communities striving to build peace.

The delegation accompanied members of the National Coordination of Growers of Coca, Marijuana and Poppy (COCCAM), the Process of Popular Unity from the Colombian Southwest (PUPSOC) and the Popular and Peasant Process from la Vega Council (PCPV) to learn more about the impacts of extractive industries on the implementation of the 2016 peace process.

Delegates learned about the situation of the peasant communities after accessing the crops substitution program and the dire consequences of forced eradication through the use of glyphosate, a Monsanto product declared carcinogenic by the World Health Organization in 2015.
Cuba delegation

Healing our land, healing ourselves

Fourteen delegates from the Northeast and the Midwest traveled to Cuba to learn about the Cuban people’s relation to their land and built environment within the revolutionary process. Delegates engaged with these topics from various modalities including those of food sovereignty, labor rights, healthcare within a universal context, and alternative methods for healing and holistic wellbeing that are made accessible to all.

Delegates also had the opportunity to meet with artists, educators, Afro-Cuban religious leaders, and leading economists.

Delegates listen to a presentation at Alamar Cooperative Urban Farm to learn about Cuba’s permaculture movement and learn about the tools and strategies that Cuban farmers and agriculture workers developed during the Special Period.
Solidarity Radio - The People’s Voice

Solidarity Radio is an ongoing project which emerged in 2020 as a need to reconnect with our base and engage with a younger audience. Through a mixture of heartfelt stories, rich sound design, and expert interviews with renowned human rights activists and social leaders from directly-impacted communities across Latin America and the Caribbean, we challenge existing assumptions about U.S. policy in Latin America and invite our listeners to imagine what a democratic, just, and sustainable world might look like.

Leider Valencia and Evan King speak to KFAI community radio station in Minneapolis, MN
Our Partners

They are at the core of our work. We work with grassroots activists, human rights defenders and community organizations dedicated to pursuing peace and justice in Latin America (Indigenous, African-descendant and campesino communities, land defenders, unions, community organizers, workers, feminist and LGTBIQ+ activists and social leaders). In 2019 and 2020, our partners continued to demonstrate what solidarity means, how it can be applied, and why it is crucial to liberation for all of our communities and compañeros.

Our partners also taught us invaluable knowledge related to digital security and physical safety. In countries like Honduras and Colombia which are proven to be one of the most dangerous places in the world, they know better than anyone how to take care of yourself, your compas, and your community.

Finally, they have been the best guides on how to embody resistance and revolution in a way that celebrates life and love. Despite constant death threats, state surveillance, and politically-targeted harassment that are deliberately intended to cause physical and mental harm, our partners advocate that happiness and perseverance are also important acts of resistance.
Our Partners in 2019 & 2020

- 8 US-based organizations
- 33 regional partner organizations
- 16 universities and colleges

Hundreds of activists, faith leaders, organizers, educators, and community leaders
Our partners in 2019 & 2020

- 7 grassroots organizations in Mexico
- 3 community and faith based organizations in Cuba
- 12 grassroots and human rights organizations in Honduras
- 27 grassroots and human rights organizations in Colombia
- Dozens of activists, human rights defenders and communities
Financials 2019

**FUNDING**

- Delegations: 85.1%
- Donations & Contributions: 8.9%
- Speaker Tours: 5.9%

Total: $329,936

**EXPENSES**

- General administration: 6%
- Fiscal sponsorship: 5%
- Program: 89%

Total: $319,587
Financials 2020

FUNDING 2020
$138,979

Donors & Contributions
27%

Delegations
73%

EXPENSES 2020
$184,761

Programs
81%

General & administration
12%

Fiscal sponsorship
7%
Thank You to Our Donors & Base

Charities
- Fidelity Charity
- Network for Good
- Raymond James Charitable
- Safety Research Inc
- US Charitable Gift Trust

Individual donations
535 donors with a medium donation of USD50

Foundations
- American Endowment Foundation
- Clifton Foundation
- Community Foundation of Louisville Depository, Inc.
- San Carlos Foundation
- Tufts Health Plan Foundation
- Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

Faith communities
- First Congregational Church of Corvallis
- First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
- Mayflower Congregational Church
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Sisters of St. Dominic
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland

www.solidaritycollective.org  WFPSolidarityCollective  WfPSolidCollect  wfpsolidaritycollective
Thank You to Our Advisors & Supporters

Hani Ali
Steph Alvarez
Emma Banks
Karen Blanchard
John Clark Pegg
Lyn Clark Pegg
Gary Cozette
Moravia de la O
James Dimock
Maggie Ervin
Pilar File-Muriel
Walker Grooms
Thom Haines

Aleita Hass-Holcombe
Jessica Hayssen
Bette Hoover
Mónica Hurtado
Maria José Méndez Gutiérrez
Connor Klausing
Meghan Krausch
Ricardo Levins Morales
Rachel Mehl
Ryan Morgan
Dixie Olmstead
David Pegg
Kera Peterson

Gail Phares
Tom Power
Niccolo Roditti
Bryan Rogers
Mariah Rosenblum
Diane Stradling
Lisa Taylor
Genesis Torres
Cat Walker
Carol Wallace
John Walsh
Eleonore Wesserle
Norma Atuesta

www.solidaritycollective.org
WFPSolidarityCollective
WfPSolidCollect
wfpsolidaritycollective