

Dear WFPSC Community,

After many years of reflection, the WFPSC staff and board have decided to close the WFPSC programs in Honduras and Colombia. The lack of operating capital, impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, historical mismanagement and inability to provide the needed support to teams on the ground, have led to our decision to close the programs by December of 2024. The viability of the WFPSC program in Cuba will be decided in July of 2025. All delegations that have been coordinated through 2025 will continue as planned. *If you are interested in going on a delegation to Cuba, please see upcoming delegations [here](#).*

We start with gratitude to you, whether you've been with us for 4 months or four decades. It is the dedication of countless individuals and organizations that has allowed WFPSC to accompany our siblings in Latin America and to affect change of US policies. Even if you do not work for a nonprofit, you likely know that the landscape of nonprofits and funding has been shifting dramatically in the last decade. The rapidly changing layout of churches, foundations, universities, and even financial institutions has quickened the pace toward this place in which all institutions inevitably find themselves. Some of our coalition partners have been forced to close from one day to the next, leaving staff and partners alike in difficult situations. This year, we have asked ourselves again and again, how can we be proactive and protect our relationships with partners while being honest about our situation.

Despite our overwhelming sadness at the prospect, we have decided to be responsive to our current situation rather than be forced into reactivity in the future. We have spent months looking at sustainability models and asking ourselves deep and difficult questions. The conclusion to these questions is that it is the most responsible decision to intentionally and slowly end programming at WFPSC. In the WFPSC office hangs the banner that has traveled hundreds of miles on Pilgrimages in the hands of long-timers and WFPSC newbies alike. In our file cabinets are handwritten notes penned by dozens of directors, volunteers, and partners. The life of this organization has been long and beautiful but it has become necessary to guide it to a dignified end. Before your heart breaks, dear reader, please remember that ends are also beginnings and it is our desire that as we lay to rest what has been WFPSC, that many things can grow from the compost of this beloved body of history.

The principle reasons for the closure are as follows:

- **Financial Sustainability.** With growing essential and operational expenses and donations stretched thin, it is impossible for us to keep going. A considerable amount of money would be required to responsibly sustain this organization. Despite the steadfast support of you, our faithful community, we would need about double the funds that are within our ability to raise and continue raising, year after year.
- The effects of underfunding have manifested through understaffing and an overload of responsibilities falling on the shoulders of our team, which in turn has led to burnout. Navigating this scarcity has pushed us to prioritize operational

expenses and current employee wages without allowing us the opportunity to strengthen internal processes. We are not able to provide wages that would sustain the staff's long-term needs, especially for those of us living and working in the US. Additionally, our ability to effectively handle potential emergencies is extremely limited.

When will we be closing?

- After completing the existing commitments we have scheduled (delegations, Speaker's tour in US Southeast, and pending accompaniments).
- WFPSC programming will end in both Colombia and Honduras by December 2024.
- Programming in Cuba will continue at least until we complete our delegation commitments in July of 2025; at that point we will assess the situation and consider whether an extension is possible.

Is staying open a possibility?

- The Cuba program will complete the delegations that are scheduled. These delegations have been built into our sustainability plan through July 2025, after which, the future of the program has yet to be determined.
- The Southeast (which is already a separate 501c3) is going to continue indefinitely as a legal entity under which the SE board will focus on preserving the history of WFPSC and supporting international work on a small-scale in Central NC.

What will happen to the relationships with our partners?

- The beauty of this work is that it is relational and not centered around individuals. Our teams have been in conversation with each partner and are working on an engagement plan for those who want to continue supporting or being in relationship with those we have met on delegations and accompaniments.
- Our partners have requested to maintain relationships with US-based collectives, grassroots activists, and organizations who can continue supporting their advocacy efforts in the US.
- If you would like to keep in touch with our partners in Honduras, Colombia and/or Cuba, and to support their future peace endeavors, please let them know by filling out this [online form](#) (English) or [this form](#) (ESPAÑOL)

What about donations?

- We still need funds to continue supporting our team and our partners until the decided dates. We ask for your continued support so we may fulfill our commitments and continue supporting our team until closure.
- **If you have been wanting to join a delegation, now is the time! We currently have openings in three delegations to Cuba, one of which has an upcoming deadline of October 10, 2024. Other delegations are either full or institutional and not open to the public.**

- Any funds remaining after closure will be used for operating costs (in the US) for a limited period of time. After that, remaining funds will be distributed to coalition partners whose work fits the same mission of WFP.

What support do we need right now?

- [Apply for one of our delegations](#) or send this link to that group of friends who has been meaning to go for a long time!

This is disappointing news for the WFPSC community who had been participating in programs to support partners in Latin America and the Caribbean and others who have been touched by or supported the mission of WFPSC. But WFPSC's legacy will live on through the thousands of community members who are leading and fostering justice and peace-building efforts around the world.

In solidarity,
WFPSC Staff and Board