

# Detention Watch Network

## Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

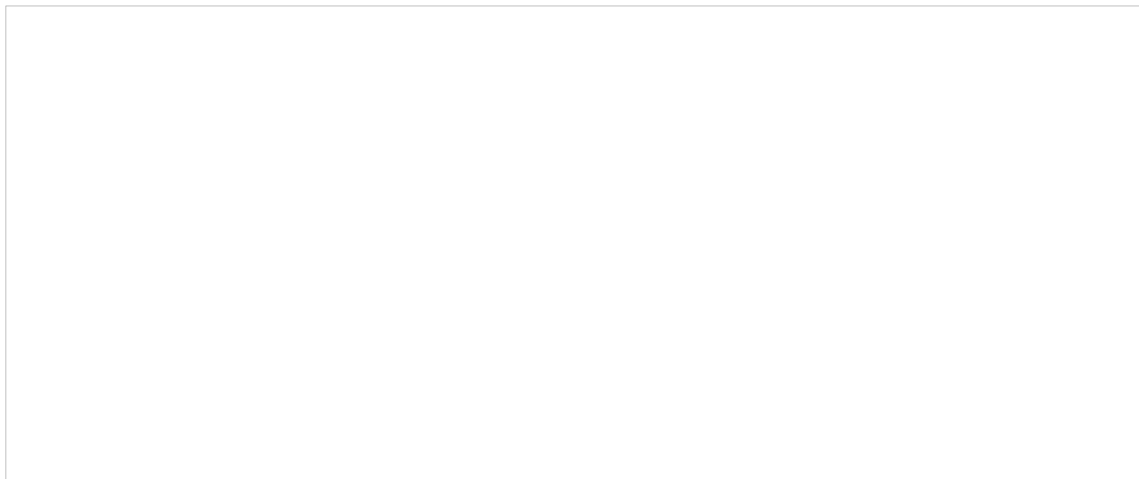
**<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/about>**

### Mission Statement

**Detention Watch Network (DWN)** is a national coalition building power through collective advocacy, grassroots organizing, and strategic communications to abolish immigration detention in the United States.

Detention Watch Network imagines a world where every individual lives and moves freely and a society in which racial equity is the norm and immigration is not criminalized. The abolition of immigration detention is part and parcel of struggles against racism, xenophobia, discriminatory policing, and mass incarceration and our aims coincide with these broader struggles against racialized oppression.

Detention Watch Networks values help guide our work both internally among DWN staff and members and externally with allies and partners:



Immigration detention is a key component of the United States immigration enforcement apparatus. By focusing primarily on immigrant incarceration, Detention Watch Network aims to remove one of the drivers of mass deportations while also addressing the broader role of incarceration and criminalization in U.S. society. DWNs core purpose is to bring together complementary strategies for a multi-pronged approach to ending detention, including organizing, advocacy, litigation, direct service, research and communications. DWN provides a space for networking and information sharing as well as for sharing analysis and expertise on shifting government policies. Building the capacity of members through training and peer-exchange is an important aspect of DWNs work. The Networks theory of change posits that a paradigm shift from an emphasis on punishment and deportation to one that promotes dignity and freedom must take place in order for us to achieve our vision.

DWN was founded in 1997 by [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#), [Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project](#) and [Lutherans Immigration and Refugee Service](#) to combat the explosive growth of the U.S. immigration detention system. In 2005, DWN re-launched

as a dues-based membership network comprised of individuals and organizations working collectively on advocacy, public education and grassroots organizing efforts.

Today, DWN is the only national network that focuses exclusively on immigration detention, bringing together diverse constituencies to advance the civil and human rights of those impacted by the immigration detention system. The Network is recognized as the go-to resource on detention issues by media and policymakers, as well as, a critical national advocate for just policies that promote an end to immigration detention.

*Detention Watch Network is a 501(c)(3) organization. Learn about DWN's [2020 audited financials](#) and [2021 audited financials](#).*

Join the DWN member community! Work with us to advance the civil and human rights of those impacted by the immigration detention system through collective advocacy, education, research, communications, organizing and network-building.

With a DWN membership, you have access to expert analysis, technical assistance, timely resources and meaningful trainings to strengthen and support your work.

Sign up to receive reports, action alerts, and our newsletter.

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Help strengthen a network of advocates and activists around the country fighting for the dignity and rights of immigrants in detention.

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