

2020 Results

Through a global pandemic, devastating hurricane season, and relentless political assaults on migrants seeking safety in the United States, Justice in Motion helped thousands of migrants access portable justice. The dominant work in the past year continued to be the response to the Family Separation Crisis. We are proud to share the following highlights.



Family Reunification Efforts

By October of 2019, the government was forced to reveal the names of 1,500 more children who had been separated prior to the well-known “Zero Tolerance” family separation policy. Our partners contacted hundreds of parents, but were unable to reach hundreds more via traditional means. Through painstaking on-the-ground searches over the past fiscal year, Justice in Motion Defenders have located nearly 200 parents who would have otherwise been unreachable**.

**These numbers reflect specific searches completed by the Justice in Motion Defender Network during our fiscal year spanning October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

COVID-19

The onset of the global pandemic in the Americas forced us to pause all on-the-ground work between March and August 2020. When it became clear that the pandemic would not end soon, many Defenders chose to don protective gear and resume the search.

Photo: Adobe Stock
Illustrations: Amanda Flores

In January 2020, nine parents returned to the U.S. to be reunited with their children while they seek asylum here.



With support from the Justice in Motion Defender Network, **30 administrative complaints** and two federal lawsuits have been filed by lawyers in the U.S. to help deported parents pursue justice for the harms they suffered after being separated from and then deported without their children.

VICE News

For an inside look at what it takes for Justice in Motion to find families, watch “The Unreachables,” a short documentary produced by VICE News on Showtime.

Defender Network

A unique network of over 40 trusted human rights advocates and organizations across Mexico and Central America. By partnering advocates working on U.S. legal cases with Defenders in migrants' countries of origin, Justice in Motion helps protect migrant rights across borders.

18
Defenders
in Mexico

8
in Honduras

13
in Guatemala

4
in El Salvador

2
in Nicaragua



"It is our job to find a communication channel from parents to their children and for them to have the opportunity to reunite one day. These parents and children are going to live with that trauma all of their lives."

Dora Melara
Defender, Honduras

Mexico

Arredondo & Amaro Abogados

Asociación de Auxiliares Voluntarios para Servicios Sociales

Centro de Acompañamiento a Migrantes

Centro de Orientación del Migrante de Oaxaca

Centro Juvenil Generando Dignidad

Comisión de Derechos Humanos y Laborales del Valle de Tehuacán

Comunitaria por los Derechos Humanos "Tzobibaltik"

Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales

Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración

Laboratorio de Innovación para la Paz

Observatorio de Violencia Social y de Género en Campeche

Pastoral de Migrantes – Chinameca, Veracruz

Pastoral de Migrantes – Hidalgo

Pastoral de Movilidad Humana – Diócesis de Zamora

Red de Mujeres del Bajío

Respuesta Alternativa

Servicios Educativos del Bajío

Voces Mesoamericanas, Acción con Pueblos Migrantes

Guatemala

Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala

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Pastoral de Movilidad Humana - Conferencia Episcopal de Honduras

El Salvador

Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador

Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por La Paz

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (UGB San Miguel) – Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas

Universidad Gerardo Barrios (UGB Usulután) – Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas

Nicaragua

Federación de Trabajadores/as del departamento de Chinandega

NicasMigrante

Migrant Worker Exploitation

- Our legal action team and Defender Network provided advice or cross-border support for **17 employment cases** helping hundreds of migrant workers defend their legal rights against human trafficking, wage theft, and abuse
- We published the report *The Case for Transparency* urging Congress to combat human trafficking of temporary foreign visa workers through data transparency
- We advocated for migrant workers on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic, including publishing an op-ed in *Truthout*
- We maintained and updated **Visa Pages: Temporary Foreign Worker Visas**, the leading resource for advocates and policymakers about U.S. migrant labor programs
- We provided training to employees of the National Council of Migrant Services of Guatemala on worker rights in the U.S. so they will be able to better protect their citizens

Lives in Danger

- Our legal action team and Defender Network supported **274 protection cases**, helping individuals find safety through asylum and other forms of humanitarian immigration, such as special immigrant juvenile status
- We provided advice or cross-border support on **11 cases** to ensure access to justice for deported migrants whose civil rights were violated during arrest, detention, or removal and to challenge efforts to exclude potential asylum seekers from entering the U.S.



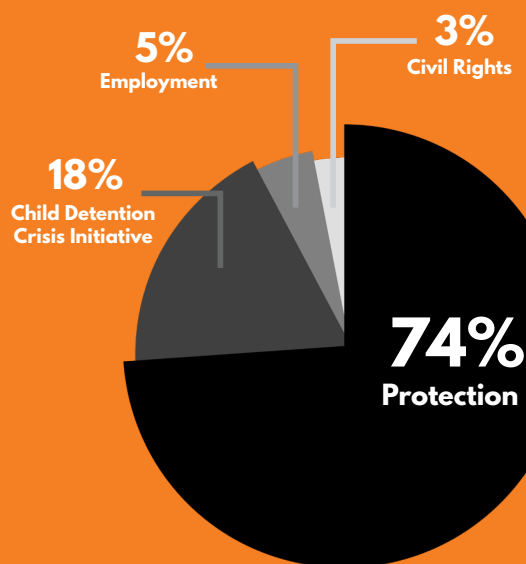
Child Detention Crisis Initiative

In April 2020, we launched a new crisis initiative to help expedite the safe release of children from U.S. government custody and safely reunite them with their families.

- The Defender Network provided cross-border support for **68 cases**
- We worked with Defenders to create trainings and written resources to help U.S. advocates support the safe release of countless more children



U.S. Legal Actions 2020



*Not including our family separation cases, summarized on Page 1.

Our Team & Partners

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Together Rising
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Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Where Your Donation Goes

Figures are based upon preliminary end-of-year forecasts for Fiscal Year 2020.

