



CITY PRISON DIVESTMENT

Making History in Portland, Oregon

In December 2016, Portland city council unanimously voted to temporarily halt all investments in corporate securities due to Enlace's powerful community organizing. Other organizations are already building on this victory, demanding the city stop banking with Wells Fargo, and create a municipal bank in Portland. Enlace's transformative campaign built a broad local movement for human rights and racial justice, linking prison divestment with #NoDAPL and the movement to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

PORTLAND COALITION:

American Friends Service
Committee
Black Lives Matter Portland
Causa Oregon
Enlace
Interfaith Movement for
Immigrant Justice
NAACP - Portland
National Lawyers Guild -
Portland and Lewis & Clark
Chapters
Occupation Free PDX
Oregon Immigrant Activists
Parkrose Community United
Church of Christ
Partnership for Safety and
Justice
Portland Association of
Teachers
PDX Campaign to End the
New Jim Crow
Portland Central America
Solidarity Committee
PDX Jobs with Justice
Race Talks
Rural Organizing Project
Sankofa Collective Northwest
SEIU Local 49
SEIU Local 503
Unite Oregon
Urban League of Portland
Voz: Workers' Rights
Education Project



HOW DID WE WIN?

- We built a **powerful diverse coalition** representing 10,000 Portlanders from the immigrant, Black, labor, faith, civil rights, LGBTQ communities.
- We **developed leadership of the people most impacted** by corporate and state violence and **built a movement** for human rights that targeted all corporate backers of human rights abuses.
- We demanded that city council act at every step in the interest of a safe, inclusive community, and understand how its investments in Wells Fargo lead to increased incarceration of immigrants at GEO Group's Tacoma facility.
- We committed to a **proactive campaign** that built the analysis of our communities around the shared roots of corporate and state violence against our communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY

- We pushed city council to adopt a socially responsible investments policy with a "**human rights impact**" criteria, setting the ground for divestment from prisons and all other human rights abusers. This language, the first of its kind in the country, is now a national model for human rights organizers.
- City council created a **diverse Socially Responsible Investments Committee**.
- Our strong coalition pushed Senator Ron Wyden to introduce the **Ending Tax Breaks for Private Prisons Act of 2016** (S. 3247, Wyden) in July 2016.

WHY CITY DIVESTMENT?

I believe in the prison divestment movement, and that detention centers will be shut down if people get informed and involved. People in my community are intimidated and afraid to fight back, but prison divestment is a way to get them educated and involved. This movement—in taking on prisons, detention, and corporations at once—can help us all look at each other as human, as brothers and sisters, as we take on and break the vicious cycle of immigrant and criminal systems by going after profits.

- Paulino Ruiz, Tacoma hunger strike organizer, and campaign supporter

RESOURCES