



Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

**THE  
WOLA  
PARTNERS'  
COUNCIL**



Recently reunited Afro-Colombian Mother  
and Child, Darién Province, Panama  
*Photo by Gimena Sánchez, WOLA*



**WOLA IS THE LEADING RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS.**

We envision a future where public policies protect human rights and recognize human dignity, and where justice overcomes violence. WOLA tackles problems that transcend borders and demand cross-border solutions. We create strategic partnerships with courageous people making social change—advocacy organizations, academics, religious and business leaders, artists, and government officials. Together, we advocate for more just societies in the Americas.

Too many people across the Americas face violence, poverty, and injustice every day. In Central America, these conditions hinder economic development and divert resources away from education, health, and other essential sectors. The situation is so dire that it has sparked an exodus. Tens of thousands of people a year are forced away from their homes, families, and communities.

Here in the United States, we can make decisions that improve the lives of everyone in our hemisphere. The Americas are interconnected like never before. Our communities, businesses, and families are linked—from Buenos Aires to New York, São Paulo to San Francisco. This has critical implications for human rights and the well-being of the most vulnerable communities.

At WOLA we believe the most effective way to make the Americas safer and more just is by strengthening the institutions charged with protecting the rights of citizens. Joining with leaders and activists throughout the hemisphere, WOLA works to advance strong judicial systems, accountable police forces, and transparent governments—the building blocks for just and prosperous societies.

WOLA has been strengthening institutions for over 40 years with powerful advocacy campaigns and hard-hitting research. Our reputation for getting results has made WOLA one of the most trusted organizations of its kind in the Americas. Our renowned experts are alternately called upon to testify before Congress and provide information to news outlets like The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. We have strong connections to the most influential people making change in the hemisphere today, and we can in turn connect them with decision makers at every level of government. This is the way we make sure that people impacted by policies have a voice in creating them.



**THE WOLA PARTNERS' COUNCIL IS A COMMUNITY OF PRAGMATIC AND PRINCIPLED PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS.** These highly respected citizens and thinkers play critical roles in WOLA's work, joining with WOLA's staff and Board of Directors to advance human rights and justice throughout the Americas.

The Partners' Council is a non-governing membership body whose participants are actively engaged in the intellectual and advocacy work of the organization. They serve as ambassadors for WOLA's mission in their communities. As the organization's leading patrons, they play a key role in strengthening WOLA's ability to fulfill its mission.

Membership in The Partners' Council also connects participants to a vibrant group of like-minded leaders and the most exciting social changemakers in the Americas. Through private briefings, regular events, memos, field visits, and research, members connect with WOLA's experts and leading figures from throughout the hemisphere. They gain new insights into the most pressing human rights issues facing the Americas today and press for their resolution.

**WOLA'S PROGRAMS ARE BOTH THEMATIC & COUNTRY OR REGION-BASED, INCLUDING:**

- CITIZEN SECURITY
- DRUG POLICY
- GOVERNANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- MIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY
- MILITARY RELATIONS
- BRAZIL
- COLOMBIA
- CUBA
- MEXICO
- VENEZUELA
- ANDES
- CENTRAL AMERICA
- SOUTH AMERICA

# HOW TO JOIN: CHOOSE A CIRCLE

Contributions to WOLA through membership in the WOLA Partners' Council support hard-hitting research and powerful advocacy to help advance human rights and social justice throughout the Americas. WOLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by U.S. law.

## VISIONARIES CIRCLE \$50,000+

- Annual one-on-one briefings with WOLA Executive Director Joy Olson
- On-request briefings with senior WOLA staff
- Invitations to attend WOLA Board of Directors events
- All other benefits listed below

## CHAMPIONS CIRCLE \$25,000 - \$49,999

- Annual engagement with members of WOLA's Board of Directors
- Opportunities to participate in calls and meetings with Latin American partners during their delegations in Washington
- All other benefits listed below

## LEADERS CIRCLE \$10,000 - \$24,999

- Annual one-on-one briefing with senior WOLA staff
- Invitations to participate in learning trips in the region guided by senior WOLA staff
- Personalized annual report on WOLA's outcomes and the impact of Partner support
- All other benefits listed below

## ADVOCATES CIRCLE \$5,000 - \$9,999

- Invitations to quarterly interactive conference calls with WOLA staff on timely issues
- Exclusive invitations to private events and dinners with WOLA experts and regional partners
- Priority invitations to public events held or hosted by WOLA
- All other benefits listed below

## ALLIES CIRCLE \$1,000 - \$4,999 ANNUALLY

- Personal update from WOLA's Executive Director Joy Olson through the Executive Director's Memo, discussing developments at WOLA and our latest work and analysis
- Complimentary printed and digital WOLA publications and materials
- Subscription to the monthly WOLA Digest, the institution's regular e-newsletter with WOLA's research, analysis of current events, and updates on WOLA's advocacy and impact.
- Prominent recognition on the WOLA website and acknowledgment in WOLA's annual report

*Please note: Participation in Council benefits is optional. Meetings with WOLA Staff and Directors will be scheduled based on availability. For additional questions, contact Kristina DeMain, Director of Development, at 202.797.2171 or [kdemain@wola.org](mailto:kdemain@wola.org).*



## INVEST IN IMPACT

Our impact spans the hemisphere. By supporting WOLA, you become a part of innovative partnerships, smart research, and strategic advocacy. WOLA's staff are renowned experts with extensive experience in policy and work on the ground. Whether responding to a breaking crisis or developing a long-term strategy for change, WOLA has influenced major events to promote respect for human rights.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As tens of thousands of migrant children began fleeing to the U.S.-Mexico border, policymakers, major press outlets, including The New York Times and NPR, and advocates relied on WOLA's decades of research and expertise. WOLA's analysis was critical in the early moments of this crisis, and helped direct focus to the crime and violence factors pushing the children to flee their homes.
- Leading up to President Obama's announcement that the United States would begin normalizing relations with Cuba, WOLA led a coalition of organizations working to change U.S. policy. In 2014, WOLA team members provided regular behind-the-scenes briefings to civil society, supporters, and the administration; testified before Congress; and shared in-depth analyses with the media, including HBO's comedy show Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.
- Guarantors of the first Colombia peace talks in a decade have turned to WOLA for our unique understanding of human rights. The government negotiators present at the negotiating table are informed by WOLA's analysis and recommendations. Our advocacy in Washington has helped ensure that the U.S. government plays a constructive role in the delicate process.
- When street protests erupted in a highly-polarized Venezuela, WOLA's Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights blog became the most widely-cited resource for insightful, non-partisan information about events on the ground. Our analysis influenced coverage of key media outlets, including The New York Times and The Washington Post. Our high-level advocacy helped U.S. policymakers avoid exacerbating the conflict and undermining efforts to promote dialogue.
- When the government of Uruguay sought to combat organized crime and rising prison populations by regulating and legalizing marijuana, reformers from civil society and the Uruguayan government sought WOLA's advice. WOLA's senior experts accompanied Uruguayan legislators, reformers, and leaders as they navigated complex challenges from treaty compliance to public opinion.
- Civil war and genocide left Guatemala's government institutions weak and overrun by organized crime. WOLA's advocacy helped establish an anti-impunity commission there, the first international body with the authority to conduct criminal proceedings in a national court. It made history in 2013 by helping bring former president Ríos Montt to court in his own country for acts of genocide—a historical "first" for the international community.

## WAYS TO GIVE TO WOLA

### 1. WRITE A CHECK

Most simply, you can support WOLA by sending a check to our office (made out to “WOLA”).

### 2. GIVE ONLINE

Visit [wola.org/donate\\_to\\_wola](https://wola.org/donate_to_wola) to quickly and securely make a gift via credit card.

### 3. MAKE A MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE

Help us plan for the future by making a multi-year pledge to be paid out over a number of years. WOLA can make ambitious plans when we know we have the revenue streams to support it.

### 4. BECOME A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER

Determine your level of support, then make that gift through monthly or quarterly contributions, allowing you to spread the cost of your membership across the year. When you pledge your support, let us know you’d like to become a sustaining supporter.

### 5. AMPLIFY YOUR GIFT WITH YOUR WORKPLACE

Many workplaces will match your gift to WOLA. Contact your human resources department to ask if they match charitable gifts. You will be included in the circle that represents the sum of your and your employer’s giving to WOLA.

### 6. MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK

Gifts to WOLA in the form of stocks are accepted through our brokerage account at Robert W. Baird & Co. Making a gift of stock may have an additional benefit to you in tax savings. Speak with your stock broker to determine if this is the right giving method for you.

### 7. SUPPORT THROUGH YOUR BUSINESS

WOLA looks to partner with businesses through sponsorship of the annual WOLA Human Rights Awards Ceremony and Benefit Gala. Please contact us to learn more about these opportunities.

### 8. MAKE A GRANT FROM YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND OR FOUNDATION

If you have established a donor-advised fund through a wealth management company or community foundation, consider making a gift to WOLA through your donor-advised fund.

### 9. TRUST WOLA WITH YOUR LEGACY

Leave a lasting gift to WOLA by leaving WOLA in your will. If you think a bequest to WOLA is a good option for you, please contact your attorney to update your will. Notify WOLA’s development staff when you’ve changed your will so that we can recognize you as a member of the WOLA Legacy Society.

*All Partners’ Council members may allocate their contributions as sponsorships of the WOLA Human Rights Awards Ceremony & Benefit Gala. Please note this may impact the tax-deductibility of your gift. For more information or to discuss your options for giving to WOLA, contact Kristina DeMain, Director of Development, at 202.797.2171 or [kdemain@wola.org](mailto:kdemain@wola.org).*

## 2016 PARTNERS' COUNCIL EVENTS

### WASHINGTON, DC

#### **Private Dialogue with Cuba Posible: The Challenges Cuba Faces Today**

April 11, 2016

**Speaker:** Marc Hanson, Senior Associate on Cuba, WOLA; Roberto Viega, Director, Cuba Posible; Lenier Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Cuba Posible

#### **Breakfast Roundtable with the Ayotzinapa Group of Experts**

May 24, 2016

**Featured Guests:** The International Group of Experts Investigating the Case of the 43 Disappeared Students from Ayotzinapa

#### **Keeping up with Colombia's Peace Process**

November 2, 2016

**Speakers:** Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, Senior Associate for the Andes, WOLA; Adam Isacson, Senior Associate for Regional Security Policy, WOLA

### NEW YORK CITY

#### **Private Reception with Ayotzinapa Group of Experts**

May 26, 2016

**Speakers:** The International Group of Experts Investigating the Case of the 43 Disappeared Students from Ayotzinapa

**Location:** Ford Foundation

### KEEP IN TOUCH

We are scheduling events for 2016 & 2017. If you are interested in hosting an event, contact:

Kristina DeMain, Director of Development  
(202) 797-2171 | [kdemain@wola.org](mailto:kdemain@wola.org)

### CONFERENCE CALLS

#### **Women & Incarceration: An Inside Look at WOLA's Policy Reform Guide**

February 4, 2016

**Featured Guests:** Coletta Youngers, Senior Fellow, WOLA; Adam Schaffer, Program Officer for Drug Policy, WOLA

#### **Discussing the Legislative Strategy on Ending the Cuba Embargo**

May 13, 2016

**Speakers:** Marc Hanson, Senior Associate for Cuba, WOLA; United States Congressman Rick Crawford

#### **What is Driving Central American Migration?**

August 12, 2016

**Speakers:** Kristel Muciño, Director of Communications, WOLA; Adriana Beltrán, Senior Associate for Citizen Security, WOLA

#### **Peace in Colombia: The Realities of Implementation**

October 28, 2016

**Speakers:** Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, Senior Associate for the Andes, WOLA; Adam Isacson, Senior Associate for Regional Security Policy, WOLA

#### **Town Hall: Transitioning Leadership**

December 9, 2016

**Speakers:** Joy Olson, Executive Director, WOLA