MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Our Vision

We envision a future where public policies protect human rights and recognize human dignity, and where justice overcomes violence.

What We Do

We help to create impact in Washington and throughout the Americas.

1. Partner
   We partner with courageous people throughout the Americas to identify urgent human rights problems.

2. Research
   We bring decades of expertise to analyze these problems and propose concrete policy solutions.

3. Advocate
   We advance human rights by combining cutting-edge communications and advocacy strategies.

4. Impact
   By changing policies, we create lasting impact for human rights and social justice in the Americas.
I have been president of WOLA for over a year. Every day, I am more impressed by the quality of our team—the innovative research, the sharp analysis, and the unwavering commitment to justice and human rights I see in each person who works with WOLA.

The year 2022 at WOLA has been everything—intense, challenging, fast-paced, exciting. It has been a year of travel for me. On the ground in El Salvador, Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Honduras and Mexico, I have met with partners, working with program staff to ensure that WOLA stays relevant and connected to Latin America. We have had the opportunity to work alongside incredibly courageous people who remind me why our fight for human rights is so crucial.

There have been uplifting moments. When we traveled to Bogotá last year, to mark the 5th anniversary of the peace accords, a woman who was deeply disappointed at the failures to implement the peace spoke of how, on that day, she was “content” because she said, “we are still here dreaming and supported by infinite hope.” Since then, we have witnessed peaceful elections in Colombia, the unveiling of the report of the truth commission, and new reasons to believe in peace.

There have been humbling moments. In Venezuela, we met families of victims and former political prisoners who struggle for basic rights, people who see in WOLA an organization that supports their cause. It is deeply moving to see the way people put their trust in our work. The stories and pain they shared with us reminded me of human rights defenders, journalists, and activists throughout the region whose lives and freedom are under threat. Such moments strengthen our resolve.

Here in Washington, I have been impressed with the doors that are opened because of the deep respect for WOLA’s integrity, credibility, and expertise. And how, even in an extremely divided political context, WOLA has remarkable impact—testifying before Congress, submitting solid recommendations that are translated into priorities for U.S. foreign policy, providing up-to-date briefings, and ensuring that voices from the region are heard in the halls of power.

This is a time when we face enormous challenges. It no longer makes sense to talk about setbacks to democracy. We are talking about the advance and consolidation of authoritarianism in many countries, especially in Central America, and extremist threats here in the United States.

Even as we are fighting these battles for human rights and justice today, WOLA is looking to the future. The “virus of authoritarianism” that is taking new forms throughout the hemisphere will require new strategies from human rights defenders, new forms of democratic expression, and representation.

WOLA is prepared to stand with partners in the region working for a more vital democratic future. As we look toward WOLA’s 50th anniversary, we are grateful to all our supporters who stand with us in this fight.

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
President
PRESSING FOR PROTECTION FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ABUSES AT THE BORDER

As the U.S. government continued to stress policies of deterrence rather than access to protections for migrants and asylum seekers, WOLA redoubled efforts to challenge these measures. With hard-hitting analyses such as Title 42 Must End. Here are 5 Reasons Why, WOLA experts pointed to the illegality and the dangerous consequences of expanding expulsions. In multiple trips to both sides of the U.S-Mexican border, WOLA’s Border and Migration team met with migrants, asylum seekers, service providers, and other stakeholders. Director for Mexico Stephanie Brewer’s commentary, Few Ways Forward, No Way Back: Asylum Seekers’ Search for Safety at the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez Border, and the accompanying video featuring the voices of migrants stranded in Mexico, was released as key decisions on Title 42 were announced.

This year, WOLA launched its Border Oversight database, a unique tool to systematize reports of human rights violations against migrants and asylum-seekers by U.S. border security agencies. Director for Defense Oversight Adam Isacson’s pioneering research on this project, featured at an event, Abuse, Accountability and Organizational Culture at U.S. Border Law Enforcement Agencies, will provide the basis for WOLA and partners to campaign for more accountable and humane border management. As numbers of migrants rise throughout the Americas, and the countries of origin shift, WOLA’s Weekly Border Update provides an invaluable resource to track the rapidly changing conditions at the U.S southern border, and to unpack the implications of regional-wide trends.

Latin America’s historic levels of migration were a central concern at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in June 2022. Vice President for Programs Maureen Meyer worked with colleague organizations to coordinate a series of meetings with U.S. congressional staff, State Department, and the National Security Council (NSC) in preparation for the Summit and organized an event, From Deterrence to Integration: Civil Society Voices on Migration Policy Challenges and Good Practices in the Americas, which WOLA co-hosted with leading U.S. and regional organizations in Los Angeles. The Summit produced innovative approaches incorporating some of these perspectives in the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, signed by 21 governments in the region. WOLA will be working with partner organizations to hold governments to these commitments, especially the United States where current policies fall far short of many of these principles.

CHALLENGING MILITARIZATION AND THE LACK OF JUSTICE IN MEXICO

As Mexico’s southern border faced rising numbers of migrants from throughout Latin America and beyond, WOLA’s Mexico team and Vice President for Programs Maureen Meyer traveled to Tapachula, Chiapas, the main city in southern Mexico receiving migrants and asylum seekers, where they documented a dangerous “system to wear people down.” The WOLA report, Struggling to Survive: The Situation of Asylum Seekers in Tapachula, Mexico, and the accompanying video gained wide media attention and helped pressure the Mexican government to seek more flexible (though shifting and often uncoordinated) responses towards asylum seekers.

In June, WOLA’s Director for Mexico Stephanie Brewer testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. House of Representatives on Human Rights Challenges in Mexico, emphasizing that the central human rights problem facing Mexico is the lack of a reliable system to prevent and punish abuses and crimes by state and non-state actors. As Mexico surpassed the grim milestone of over 100,000 disappeared, Brewer cited WOLA’s findings that persistent impunity in the overwhelming majority of cases contributes to more disappearances. She recommended to the commission that U.S. cooperation with Mexico under the Bicentennial Framework focus on improving civilian institutions and the criminal justice system, strengthening accountability, and protecting rights of victims, families, human rights defenders, and journalists, who face high levels of risk. WOLA’s ongoing congressional outreach yielded strong human rights language in the final 2023 omnibus appropriations bill.
WOLA continued to call for justice in the most widely known case of forced disappearances—that of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa. After dozens of additional arrest warrants were issued, including against members of the military, political interference in the investigation resulted in the resignation of the special prosecutor for the case, while the mandate of the independent group of experts from the IACHR ended. WOLA described these troubling developments in a commentary, *Interference from Above Closes Doors to Justice in Ayotzinapa Case.*

The trend of militarization of civilian tasks took a dramatic turn as the Mexican congress approved President Lopez Obrador’s bill to transfer control of the national guard to the army. WOLA outlined how such moves undermine democracy in widely publicized commentaries, briefed officials and other stakeholders, and led Mexican and U.S. human rights organizations in an open letter to both governments urging that on-going bilateral cooperation focus on strengthening capable and accountable civilian security and justice institutions.

**COUNTERING AUTHORITARIAN TRENDS IN CENTRAL AMERICA**

As the region faces what WOLA’s Central America Director Ana María Méndez-Dardón has described as “an immense regression of democracy,” WOLA continues to support those who are fighting for justice and human rights, and to inform long term strategies to counter authoritarianism.

In Guatemala, WOLA focused on fighting the evisceration of the justice system and the threats that have exiled dozens of courageous independent judges and anti-corruption advocates. WOLA’s analysis leading up to the selection of a new attorney general exposed how, in a process rife with constitutional irregularities, President Giammattei reappointed someone who has used the office to prosecute anti-corruption fighters, journalists, and human rights defenders. WOLA joined with partners in producing a series of reports focused on corruption, attacks on human rights defenders and journalists, and the lack of judicial independence. These reports informed a congressional resolution that challenges the U.S. government to strengthen its stance against the systematic undermining of justice in Guatemala.

As concerns about human rights mounted, WOLA President Carolina Jiménez and Central America Director Ana María Méndez-Dardón traveled to El Salvador to meet with civil society groups and independent media. When President Bukele declared a ‘state of exception’ in March and suspended civil rights guaranteed in the constitution, WOLA’s outspoken denunciation led to direct attacks on us by Bukele and an orchestrated army of bots on social media. WOLA responded by rallying 70 NGOs from throughout the region in condemnation of organized crime, widespread corruption, and impunity, and dire conditions for human rights defenders. For example, just as thousands have been imprisoned arbitrarily and how the elimination of transparency over public funds has led to widespread corruption. Throughout the year, WOLA highlighted alternative approaches to stemming gang violence based on working with rather than attempting to repress civil society, and has urged U.S. aid agencies to strengthen civil society ties.

With the inauguration of Xiomara Castro as Honduras’ first woman president, the year began with measured hopes that new leadership could help tackle corruption. As President Bukele extended the state of exception nine times in 2022, WOLA submitted testimony for the record to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in Congress detailing the toll it is taking as independent judicial system within Honduras that could help tackle corruption.

Throughout 2022, WOLA continued to work with partner organizations to focus attention on increasing repression in Nicaragua that has shutdown civic space, led to a growing number of political prisoners, and forced tens of thousands into exile. The Central America team helped arrange meetings in the U.S. Congress for a private delegation of Nicaraguan human rights defenders. In December, WOLA joined in a global call for renewed action from the UN Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The team leading WOLA’s Central America Monitor (CAM), a regional initiative to measure progress and identify trends over time in key areas directly relevant to rule of law and security in the Northern Triangle, met with partner organizations to calibrate new ways to make data more effective amid the worsening situation for rule of law and human rights in the region. This comprehensive data set continues to be a resource for sharp comparative analysis such as WOLA’s International Women’s Day posting *Little to Celebrate: 5 Facts About Women and Violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.*
PUSHING FOR ENGAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

With economic conditions in Cuba deteriorating, repression and censorship continuing after the government crackdown on peaceful protests in 2021, and long-term U.S. sanctions straining the island’s resources, Mariakarla Nodarse Venancio, who leads WOLA’s Cuba program, visited the island early in the year to gain new insights for WOLA’s ongoing work. WOLA pressed key human rights concerns in several commentaries, including a critical analysis of Cuba’s proposed penal code.

WOLA’s analysis Cuban Migration is Changing: The U.S. Must Take Note underscored how the dire economy and Trump-era restrictions have caused flows of migrants to spike dramatically. The analysis offered key recommendations for increased U.S. engagement to ease Cuba’s underlying humanitarian crisis.

Throughout 2022, the Biden administration began to take up these recommendations by reversing some Trump-era policies (including resuming flights beyond Havana as well as facilitating family reunification and remittances) and restoring engagement on select issues, particularly migration.

RENEWING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND CREDIBLE NEGOTIATIONS IN VENEZUELA

WOLA’s WOLA’s Venezuela program has continued to support a peaceful, democratic, and just solution to the country’s crisis, and, by the end of 2022, significant advancements occurred on two fronts – the renewal of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM), and the reopening of negotiations between the Maduro government and the opposition.

WOLA joined with a wide coalition of Venezuelan and international organizations in encouraging and supporting the UN Human Rights Council’s decision to renew the mandate of the FFM. WOLA promoted awareness of this group of independent experts’ documentation of grave human rights violations and crimes against humanity with analyses such as The Search for Justice in Venezuela published in El País. WOLA also advised Congressional offices on a bill that would require the Biden administration to support the renewal of the mandate of the FFM and worked to ensure the United States would vote to extend the FFM in the United Nations.

WOLA’s Venezuela team has long been focused on the need for credible negotiations to restore Venezuela’s democratic institutions and the rule of law. Throughout 2022, WOLA played a pivotal role in urging the U.S. administration to pressure the Maduro government to resume talks and to incentivize future agreements. A central piece of WOLA’s advocacy continues to be the concern that the revived negotiations include a robust and secure mechanism for civil society actors to engage in the consultative process and guarantees of justice for victims.

Throughout the year, WOLA deepened ties with Venezuelan civil society groups as WOLA’s President Carolina Jiménez and program director Geoff Ramsey traveled to Venezuela to meet with NGOs, relatives of political prisoners as well as diplomats and others. The Venezuela program also hosted various groups in Washington, including a delegation of the “Con Elas” platform, consisting of six member organizations seeking to bring attention to the plight of women and girls within Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis.

FOCUSING ON TRUTH AND NEW HOPES FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN COLOMBIA

The year in Colombia was marked by the election of a new government of President Gustavo Petro and the first the Afro-Colombian Vice-President Francia Márquez. WOLA’s Colombia team, headed by Director Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, published a stream of analyses laying out what was at stake in the elections and priorities for a new era of U.S.-Colombia relations. WOLA’s President Carolina Jiménez authored Colombia Made History. The U.S. Should Join It calling for the United States to provide greater support for implementing the peace accords, a new approach to drug policy, an independent judiciary, and continued humanitarian aid to Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Colombia’s historic truth commission, established under the 2016 peace accords, released its final report in late June and WOLA co-hosted the...
As Brazil faced contentious elections, WOLA worked on several fronts to ensure the democratic process would be upheld and that there would be a peaceful transfer of power, despite President Jair Bolsonaro’s threats to repudiate the results if he lost. WOLA co-organized a Washington Office on Brazil delegation from a broad range of Brazilian civil society organizations in July who met with U.S. policymakers, stressing the need for the United States to take proactive steps to guarantee free and fair elections. WOLA also worked with Members of Congress who introduced a bicameral resolution calling on the Biden Administration to “make it unequivocally clear that the costs of subverting a free and fair election will be immediate and severe.”

For the first round of the Presidential elections in early October, WOLA’s President Carolina Jiménez and Program Director Gimena Sánchez participated in an international human rights electoral mission with São Paulo’s electoral tribunal. Such international pressure contributed to safeguarding the electoral process and the eventual transfer of power to a duly elected new president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

WOLA hosted the first delegation of Colombia’s National Human Rights Prize awardees since the pandemic, bringing these concerns anew to U.S. policymakers. As a result, the State Department asked WOLA to submit suggestions for how to revamp the U.S. Racial-Action Plan (CAPREE). By year’s end, the U.S. government had stepped forward to become the first international accompanier of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Accord, an action that signifies a deeper U.S. commitment to justice as a foundation for peace in Colombia.

As drug policy reform was increasingly on the agenda with newly elected governments in the United States, Colombia and other countries in the region, WOLA’s drug policy team’s decades of experience was much in demand. WOLA’s comprehensive analysis, Loosening Drug Prohibition’s Lethal Grip on the Americas, authored by Director for Drug Policy John Walsh, outlined how moving away from a prohibitionist framework can contribute to easing the harms caused by drugs and the drug war. The report assesses how the embrace of harm reduction in the Biden Administration’s new national drug strategy, along with state and local innovations around overdose prevention, drug decriminalization, and cannabis legalization, are big steps in the right direction but warned that the prohibitionist core of U.S. policy remains intact and the drug war rages on in the Americas. The analysis laid out the still formidable obstacles to needed reforms—technical, legal, and above all political—and pointed to the role that the people of Latin America and the Caribbean can play in the shift toward more humane and effective drug policies.

Program Director John Walsh also participated in an array of meetings with advocates, academics, and policymakers from the United States, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe focused on strategies to ensure that cannabis legalization proceeds in ways that achieve justice and equity, especially by traditional cannabis producers in the Global South in the new legal markets being created in North America and in Europe.

This year, WOLA pioneered work at the intersection of drug policy and the climate crisis. A commentary...
In 2022, WOLA continued as a leading advocate exposing harsh prison conditions and fighting for the rights of incarcerated women throughout Latin America. Senior Fellow Coletta Youngers has served as a facilitator to growing networks of formerly incarcerated women and family members of those who are currently deprived of liberty, and she provided expertise and linkages between these women-led coalitions and international organizations. For instance, she offered strategic input on gender sensitive drug policies to the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPLAND)), stressing that a comprehensive approach to address the disproportionate impact of punitive drug policies on women must include the voices of civil society and women themselves. Youngers is also an expert advisor for a report on formerly incarcerated women in Argentina are coming together to create income-generating strategies, and the negative consequences of electronic monitoring for an indigenous woman in Mexico. WOLA’s communications team created an animated video to accompany an investigative report produced by RIMUF, a regional network of women-led organizations of family members of people deprived of liberty.

In November, Walsh spoke at a session organized by the Global Commission on Drug Policy in Colombia and emphasized the opportunity for that nation to play a leading role in modernizing the prohibitionist global drug treaty system and in linking drug policy reform with climate action.

WORKING TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE WOMEN’S INCARCERATION

In 2022, WOLA published impactful human stories and in-depth analyses giving voice to the lived experiences of formerly incarcerated women and the families of the incarcerated. This included the story of Kenya Cuevas, the founder of Casa de las Muñecas Tiresias based in Mexico City, the first shelter for trans women in Latin America, which has helped dozens coming out of prison.

Senior Fellow Coletta Youngers produced an explainer on Colombia’s groundbreaking new legislation that promotes alternatives to incarceration with a gender perspective. Other WOLA commentaries include one on how formerly incarcerated women in Argentina are coming together to create income-generating strategies, and the negative consequences of electronic monitoring for an indigenous woman in Mexico. WOLA’s communications team created an animated video to accompany an investigative report produced by RIMUF, a regional network of women-led organizations of family members of people deprived of liberty.
Our Impact by the Numbers

WOLA’S VIBRANT INSTAGRAM PRESENCE REACHES YOUNGER AUDIENCES

Total Impressions Across all 3 Social Media Platforms Grew to 2.5 million

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<td>2,900 over last year</td>
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Total Impressions Across all 3 Social Media Platforms Grew to 2.5 million

WOLA’S VIBRANT INSTAGRAM PRESENCE REACHES YOUNGER AUDIENCES

6,420 followers over 50 percent between the ages of 24-34

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022

BUDGET: $4,013,782

INCOME

- Institutional: 73%
- Individual: 23%
- Other: 4%

EXPENSES

- Program: 77%
- Administration: 13%
- Fundraising: 10%
- Other: 0%

*Unaudited figures as of February 2023. Audited figures will be updated on our website.
WOLA’s President Carlina Jiménez Sandoval opened the evening noting the rise and consolidation of authoritarianism in many countries, especially in Central America.

“Over recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic rollback on human rights, with governments promoting new and dangerous authoritarian approaches gaining ground. What has not changed, however, is the utter resolution of the human rights movement to fight for human rights and justice.

-Gina Chavez

WOLA’s 2022 Human Rights Awards Ceremony honored the courage of activists and communities in Central America and in the U.S. Congress who have relentlessly fought for justice and human rights. This was WOLA’s first in-person Gala since the global pandemic began. It was a night of celebration, inspiration, and deeply moving witness by our honorees.

WOLA’s documentary filmed in Sepur Zarco, Guatemala tells the story of the women who have fought for decades to bring to justice the paramilitary and military officials responsible for sexual violence against them during the Guatemalan internal armed conflict in the early 1980s. These women fought endless obstacles for government prosecutors to bring charges and for the courts to hear their cases. In January of this year, they won a victory with conviction of 25 of the former paramilitaries. Today, they are an inspiration to millions of women and girls around the world who are seeking justice for wartime rape and other forms of gender-based violence. The award was accepted by Máxima Emiliana García Valey and Demecia Yat on behalf of the women in their communities.

“...We achieved justice, but the road has been a very long one and there’s still a long way to go. We want to see more justice for all women.

-Máxima Emiliana García Valey.

“...We will continue with our fight until we have all the justice we deserve.

-Demecia Yat.

WOLA’S HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDEES

The Maya Achi women of Rabinal and the Maya Q’eqchi’ women of Sepur Zarco have shown undaunted determination to bring to justice the paramilitary and military officials responsible for sexual violence against them during the Guatemalan internal armed conflict in the early 1980s. These women fought endless obstacles for government prosecutors to bring charges and for the courts to hear their cases. In January of this year, they won a victory with conviction of 25 of the former paramilitaries. Today, they are an inspiration to millions of women and girls around the world who are seeking justice for wartime rape and other forms of gender-based violence. The award was accepted by Máxima Emiliana García Valey and Demecia Yat on behalf of the women in their communities.

“...For me, it was very important to open a path for other women, to provide a space and strength to other women to fight for justice. We are very grateful for this award and for being able to enjoy it while we can.

-Demecia Yat.
David Morales is Salvadoran human rights lawyer at Cristosal and has been the lead prosecutor representing the victims of the El Mozote massacre, where hundreds of people were killed by a U.S.-trained military force in El Salvador during the early 1980s. His uphill battle for justice continues to this day as he fights the growing attacks on human rights by President Nayib Bukele.

“I receive it as a personal recognition but also as a recognition of the work of everybody at Cristosal, who have supported relatives of victims of the El Mozote massacre in their long search for justice... I’m very proud to receive this award from WOLA, an organization that has a history of such great solidarity in Central America.” – David Morales

Congressman Joaquín Castro (D – TX) has taken a lead in Congress with his unwavering commitment to human rights at the U.S.-Mexico border and in U.S. policy towards Latin America. Castro has worked to promote policies that protect vulnerable migrants at the border and regionally and has consistently uplifted human rights concerns in Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America.

“For years, I’ve worked closely with foreign and domestic leaders to strengthen democracy, promote human rights, and create inclusive economic opportunities across the Americas. I look forward to working with my fellow nominees to uplift the voices of marginalized communities and local organizations and push for equality and justice for all.” – Congressman Joaquín Castro.

WOLA Partners’ Council

The WOLA Partners’ Council is a community of people that plays a vital role in championing human rights and democracy in our hemisphere. It is a non-governing membership body whose participants strengthen WOLA’s ability to fulfill its mission through their financial contributions and their strong engagement with our research and advocacy work.

Through the Partners’ Council, members are connected to a vibrant group of leaders and the social changemakers in the Americas. In 2022, WOLA’s experts offered an array of private briefings, memos, and events especially for our Partners’ Council such as:

• Biden’s First Year of Immigration Policies
• Central America & Authoritarian Trends
• Regional Migration Trends in the Americas
• Midterm Elections in the United States: Changes in Congress and Impact on Human Rights

WOLA Legacy Society Offers Opportunity for Lasting Impact

The vision of our founders and staff throughout the years has driven the effective advocacy that makes WOLA a trusted authority on Latin America. This year, we launched WOLA's Legacy Society with a moving testimonial video from Joe Eldridge and Maria Otero, members of WOLA’s founding generation, who spoke about what it meant to them to help ensure that vision for the future.

“It is a joy to my heart that we will be able to help WOLA continue its mission in bringing more justice, more human rights to Latin America.” – Joe Eldridge

As we approach WOLA's 50 anniversary, the WOLA Legacy Society will offer our generous donors a chance to make a gift through a will or trust or beneficiary donation to ensure that these values carry on for generations to come.
Research and Advocacy: Funded by People Like You

VISIONARIES CIRCLE $50,000+

- Anonymous
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)
- Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

CHAMPIONS CIRCLE $25,000 - $49,999

- Church World Service (CWS)
- Joe Eldridge & Maria Otero
- Mary Ann Stein
- Matthew & Margaret Baltsaris

LEADERS CIRCLE $10,000 - $24,999

- Dr. Cynthia McClintock
- Margaret Zeigler & Alfred Lee Zeigler
- Nancy Belden & John Russonelle
- Peggy & Brian Sassi
- Stewart R. Mott Foundation
- Thomas Belden & Janice Miller

ADVOCATES CIRCLE $5,000 - $9,999

- Andrew Morehouse
- Judith Brown Meyers
- Kevin Healy
- Susan Blaustein
- Helena Ribe
- John Marco

ALLIES CIRCLE $1,000 - $4,999

- Alan Kadrofske & Sarah Dufendach
- Alex Gross & Sofia Manchano-Gross
- Amy Sabrin
- Annie Burns & John Monahan
- Bernard & Felicia Aronson
- Bill Woodward & Robin Blackwood
- Bob Westendarp
- Caroline Ramsay Merriam
- Claudio Grossman & Irene Klinger
- Congressman David Bonior & Judy Bonior
- David Holiday
- J. Ann Tickner
- John Gitlitz & Patricia Lee
- Kathleen Gille & Doug Tanner
- Linda Cohen
- Lucy Conger
- Margaret Weir
- Mary Bronfman
- Mario Young
- Mary Patricia Davis
- Maureen Orth
- Carol Silva
- Melissa Birch & Russell Smith
- Melissa Kroning and Michael Lowe
- Patricia Templin Castellan
- Paul & Trisha Reichler
- Professor Jonathan Hartlyn & Debra Levin
- Professor Robert K Goldman
- Senator Tom Harkin & Ruth Harkin
- Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
- Stephen J. Rose
- A. J. Baime
- Marion Martin
- Virginia Ewing
- William & Carol Gehl
- William M. LeoGrande

Mary Ellsberg
Richard Newfarmer & Margaret Sarles
Sisters of Providence - of Mother Joseph Province
Wes Callender & Pat Davis
MARIANO AGUIRRE
Analyst on International Politics, Former Advisor to the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Colombia
Madrid, Spain
(Term ended: September 2022)

PHIL BRENNER
Emeritus Professor of International Relations and History
American University
Washington, DC

MARIO BRONFMAN
Former Representative for Mexico and Central America, Ford Foundation
Mexico City, Mexico

JUAN CARLOS CAPPELLO
International Communications Consultant
New York, NY

LUCY CONGER
Partner, Green Tank Mexico, Senior Consultant, Sarasota, FL

RÁMON E. DAUBON
Independent Consultant
Washington, DC
(Term ended: December 2022)

MARY ELLISBERG
Founding Direct, Global Women’s Institute
The George Washington University
Washington, DC

ALEX GROSS
President, Advantage Properties, Inc.
Bethesda, MD

SANDRA GROSSMAN
Partner, Grossman Young & Hammond, LLC
Bethesda, MD

NANCY BELDEN,
Chair of Board
Partner, Belden Russonello Strategists LLC, Washington, DC

STEVEN BENNETT,
Treasurer
Senior Vice President for Academic Operations, Syracuse University
(Term ended: December 2022)

MARY ELLSBERG
Founding Direct, Global Women’s Institute
The George Washington University
Washington, DC

DR. HELENA RIBE,
Vice-Chair
Founder and Board member Women’s International Study Center, Santa Fe, NM

JOHN DINGES,
Secretary
Godfrey Lowell Cabot Professor of Journalism Emeritus, Columbia University, Washington, DC

KEVIN HEALY
Adjunct Professor
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

PEGGY HEALY
Senior Vice President, International Programs
Covenant House
New York, NY
(Term ended: March 2022)

MARGUERITE ROSE JIMENEZ
Director for Policy and Public Affairs, Headwaters Foundation
Missoula, MT

DR. CLAUDIA PAZ Y PAZ
Director of the Mexico and Central America Program, CEJIL, San José, Costa Rica
(Term ended: March 2022)

LUZ MELY REYES
Journalist and Founder of Efecto Cocuyo
Washington, DC

CAMILLE RIEBER
Attorney and Foreign Legal Consultant Recor Rieber Law Firm, Miami, FL

MACARENA SAEZ
Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division
Human Rights Watch
Washington, DC

MAURICIO SILVA
Former Director for Central America Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, DC
It is an incredible experience to be part of an organization whose information is frequently used and referenced by my professors and peers. Few organizations give students the ability to meet directly with both human rights defenders working in the region and policymakers working in DC. WOLA’s community has been welcoming, inspiring, and committed to supporting its interns’ trajectories even after our time here.

Natalie Chaudhuri

I loved getting to learn the practice of making change at WOLA, and I continue to appreciate the connections I made with people there.

Kate Keelan