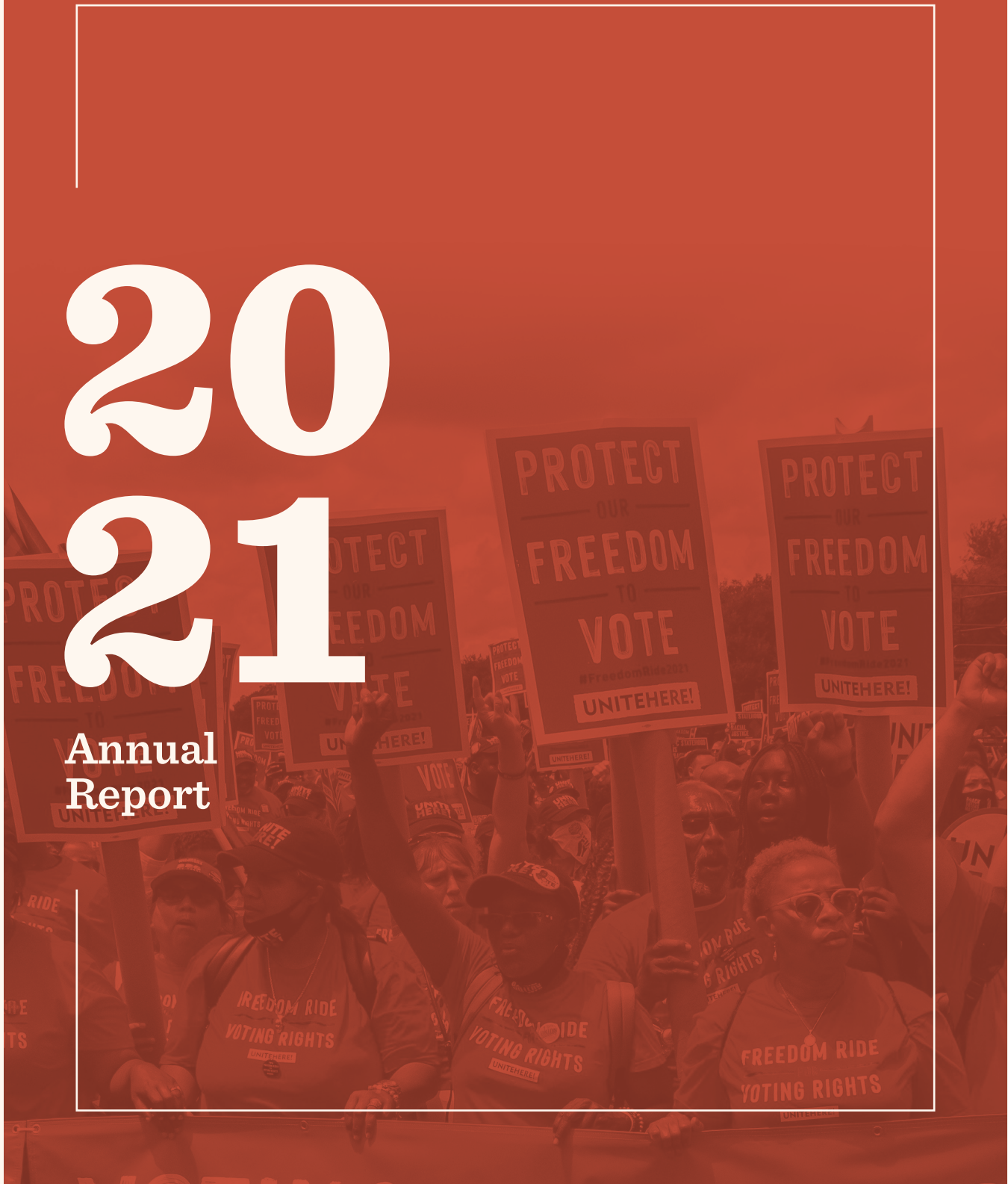


# 2021

## Annual Report



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PART 01

# Message from the President & CEO

“You do not have to  
be me in order for  
us to fight alongside  
each other.”

AUDRE LORDE



**2021 marked more than the 50th anniversary of the Southern Poverty Law Center.** It was a year that underscored the critical work that remains ahead for the SPLC and the nation. Nowhere was it more apparent than the Jan. 6 insurrection when a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol to overturn the results of the presidential election.

Despite democracy prevailing that day, it was a shocking reminder why we must do everything in our power to strengthen the constitutionally protected rights of the electorate and counter the embrace of extremist beliefs by elected officials and other public figures. As you read this annual report, you will see that this attack on democracy only strengthened our resolve.

At the SPLC, we have identified four areas of work — or “impact areas” — that offer the greatest opportunity for us to serve as a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond during this critical time. These four impact areas are protecting democracy, combating the incarceration and criminalization of communities of color, eradicating poverty and fighting extremism and white supremacy.

While we formally adopted a new strategic framework with these impact areas in 2022, you’ll see that much of our work in 2021 aligned with these impact areas that are guiding our work moving forward.

#### **Fighting extremism and white supremacy**

In the wake of Jan. 6, the SPLC testified twice before Congress. We explained how the extremist movement we have long fought is using social media and

## **“In the wake of Jan. 6, the SPLC testified twice before Congress.”**

other [technology](#) to amplify its message. We also testified how this movement is targeting military veterans for [recruitment](#) into domestic extremist groups. Our Intelligence Project submitted analyses on these issues to congressional committees.

Our annual *Year in Hate and Extremism report* sounded another warning. It found that despite a decrease in the number of hate and antigovernment groups in 2021, radical-right extremists are becoming more emboldened by mainstream acceptance of their beliefs.

The year also saw intense anti-LGBTQ rhetoric from public officials and others across the nation, highlighting the importance of our LGBTQ rights work. Our lobbying arm, the SPLC Action Fund, was active in statehouses across the South opposing legislation to deny equal rights to LGBTQ communities. In New Jersey, a state court [upheld](#) the dissolution of a conversion therapy provider in a landmark case we filed years ago to combat this junk science that claims to change a person’s sexual orientation.

Of course, education is key to any anti-racism effort.

For example, our Learning for Justice program helped educators enrich their lessons on American enslavement by launching a cohort training program for educators using its *Teaching Hard*

*History: American Slavery framework*. Learning for Justice also published its first issue of *Learning for Justice magazine*. The rebranded *Teaching Tolerance* magazine will continue to help educators improve their practice and turn K-12 schools into strong communities where all students have the opportunity to learn. The new magazine comes after the Teaching Tolerance program changed its name in 2021 to Learning for Justice to better reflect its work with schools, students and communities across the nation.

Despite remaining closed to the public in 2021 due to the pandemic, the Civil Rights Memorial Center also continued its efforts to engage and inspire people to pursue racial equity and social justice by publishing an anti-racism [community guide](#). The guide is designed to support educators and advocates leading these important conversations about racism in their communities.

#### **Protecting democracy**

While the siege of the U.S. Capitol signaled that democracy was under attack in the United States, the SPLC in 2021 warned of a different attack occurring in the Deep South. We submitted three reports for the congressional record detailing racial discrimination in voting across [Alabama](#), [Louisiana](#) and [Mississippi](#). We were also in the courts fighting voter suppression laws passed in the wake of the 2020 election. The SPLC Action Fund worked in the halls of government — at the state and federal level — to guard against the erosion of voting rights and restore vital protections of the Voting Rights Act.

Looking to the future, we announced a massive expansion of our [Vote Your Voice initiative](#) over the next decade to support voter outreach and civic engagement organizations in several Southern states.

#### **Eradicating poverty**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt people’s lives — and livelihoods — the SPLC fought for economic justice as part of our commitment to eradicate poverty. We [sued](#) the Georgia Department of Labor on behalf of people experiencing extreme delays in the processing of their unemployment claims. Elsewhere, we represented a coalition of more than two dozen farmers’ advocacy organizations as we [worked](#) with allies to ensure the viability of farms owned by people of color. In Louisiana, a lawsuit by the SPLC and co-counsel [won class action status](#) for 47,500 children who are entitled to — but do not have access to — Medicaid-funded mental health services.

**“2021 is proof that when people share a vision and passion for justice, equity and human rights, we can achieve incredible victories.”**



Margaret Huang, SPLC President and CEO  
Photo: Dan Chung

**“I am inspired by the work by our staff. And I am grateful for your support, which makes our work possible.”**

MARGARET HUANG

#### **Combating incarceration and criminalization**

We fought for criminal justice reform in 2021 as our nation continued to struggle with mass incarceration. In Alabama, a federal judge issued a sweeping order requiring the state to remedy the unconstitutional mental health services in its prisons — a welcome development in a long-running lawsuit by the SPLC and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program. The SPLC Action Fund also championed much-needed criminal justice reform in Congress and legislatures across the South.

Throughout the year, we continued defending children’s rights to prevent them from being pushed into the school-to-prison pipeline. In Alabama, we filed a lawsuit to protect the rights of foster care youth with mental health disabilities. We also **exposed** how Florida children, particularly children of color and children with disabilities, are involuntarily — and often illegally — committed to psychiatric facilities.

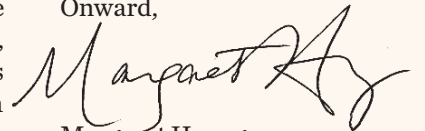
Our immigrant justice work continued in 2021 with the Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative expanding operations from two detention facilities in Louisiana to nearly a dozen between the state and Mississippi. We also successfully **fought** Florida’s “anti-sanctuary cities” law with our allies. Meanwhile, the SPLC Action Fund opposed anti-immigrant bills in Southern legislatures. At the federal level, it pushed for meaningful immigration reforms that open paths to citizenship and challenge the inhuman treatment of people detained at immigrant detention centers.

#### **A shared vision and passion**

As I reflect on 2021, I, like many people, cannot forget the images of the U.S. Capitol under siege. I am thankful, however, that my memories of 2021 include the great accomplishments outlined in this annual report. I am inspired by the work by our staff. And I am grateful for your support, which makes our work possible.

There is no doubt we have more work ahead, but 2021 is proof that when people share a vision and passion for justice, equity and human rights, we can achieve incredible victories. It’s a lesson we won’t forget as we continue our work in 2022 and beyond.

Onward,



Margaret Huang  
SPLC President and CEO



PART 02

# Program Areas

The SPLC is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

- 1 Intelligence Project
- 2 Voting Rights
- 3 Children's Rights
- 4 Criminal Justice Reform
- 5 Economic Justice
- 6 Immigrant Justice
- 7 LGBTQ Rights
- 8 Learning for Justice
- 9 Civil Rights  
Memorial Center

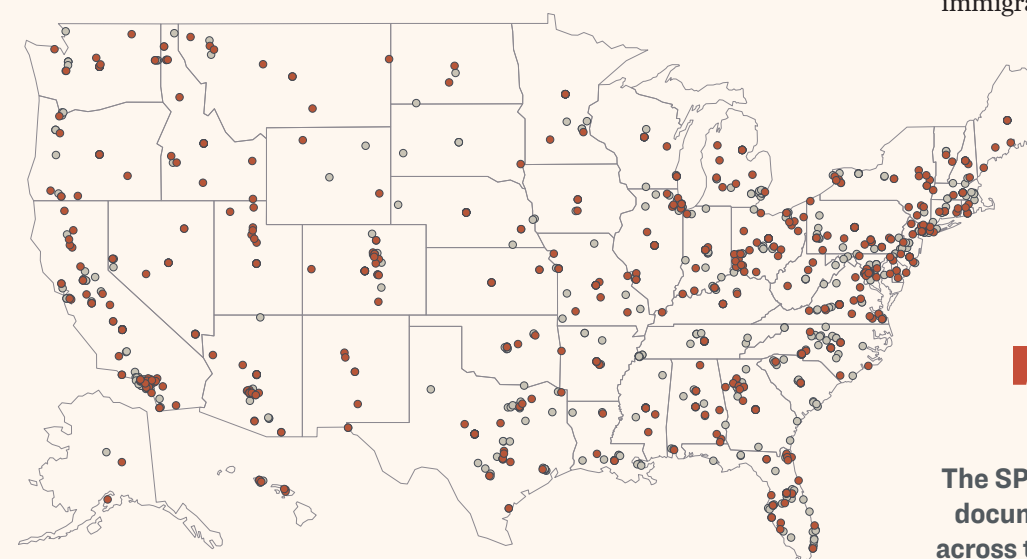
## SECTION 01

# Intelligence Project

The Intelligence Project monitors hate groups and other far-right extremists, exposes their influence in the mainstream and works to minimize their impact on society. Its team of investigators provides key intelligence and analysis to the media, law enforcement and the public.

## IN 2021

- The annual *Year in Hate and Extremism report* documented a decrease in hate groups for the third straight year. Hate groups slid from 838 groups in 2020 to 733 groups in 2021. Antigovernment groups also declined, from 566 in 2020 to 488 groups in 2021. Despite the decline, the report warned that it's not a sign of far-right extremists being diminished. Instead, they are emboldened by the mainstream acceptance of their beliefs by elected officials and others.
- The SPLC provided testimony to Congress twice in the first quarter of 2021. The testimony examined two areas exploited by the hate and extremist movement: [technology](#) and the [military](#). The movement has used social media platforms to amplify its message and has set its sights on recruiting veterans into violent domestic extremist groups. Intelligence Project analyses on these issues also were submitted to congressional committees.
- An Intelligence Project [investigation](#) published in July exposed border patrol agents actively working with far-right militias to detain migrants. SPLC President and CEO Margaret Huang urged U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and allies on Capitol Hill to provide information and encourage the DHS to hold extremists and border patrol agents accountable for violating immigrants' rights.



# 733

The SPLC's Intelligence Project documented 733 hate groups across the United States in 2021.



# 2,089

Memorials to the Confederacy are in public spaces in the U.S.

# 377

Confederate memorials have been removed since 2015.

- The third edition of the SPLC's *Whose Heritage?* [report](#) documented 2,089 memorials to the Confederacy in public spaces in the United States. However, the report, which examined data through Jan. 20, 2022, notes 377 Confederate memorials have been removed since 2015, when a white supremacist murdered nine Black people at a South Carolina church.
- In September, the Intelligence Project introduced a resource that tracks and exposes the role technology plays in fostering hate and white supremacy. [TechWatch](#) can be used by the media, policymakers and law enforcement to hold online extremists accountable for the spread of hate and disinformation. It debuted with a four-part report, *Inside the Far-Right Podcast Ecosystem*, which exposes extremists and groups that used this technology to create, fund and expand their networks of hate.
- The Intelligence Project collaborated with the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab at American University. The effort updated a [guide](#) for preventing radicalization in young people and created new [web resources](#). It is part of an effort to combat the spread of white nationalist ideology.
- New episodes of the *Sounds Like Hate* podcast were released throughout 2021. The audio documentary [series](#) examines the dangers and peril of everyday people who engage in extremism, and ways to disengage from a life of hatred.



Activist Jarius Adams helped power a movement to remove a Confederate emblem from Mississippi's flag. The SPLC found 377 Confederate memorials have been removed from public spaces nationwide since 2015.

Photo: Roy Adkins

**“An Intelligence Project investigation published in July exposed border patrol agents actively working with far-right militias to detain migrants.”**



## SECTION 02

# Voting Rights

The SPLC has been committed to expanding access to the ballot for more than four decades. The Voting Rights Practice Group works across the Deep South in collaboration with community partners and organizers to engage and mobilize voters, restore voting rights to returning citizens, pursue electoral policy reforms and bring litigation to challenge unconstitutional and discriminatory voting practices.

## IN 2021

- The SPLC and its allies filed [suit](#) in March challenging Georgia's sweeping and unconstitutional voting law. The law, which threatens to massively disenfranchise voters, particularly voters of color, was passed by the state's Legislature after the presidential and U.S. Senate elections saw record turnout. Its provisions restrict absentee and curbside voting and even criminalize providing water or food to voters waiting in line at polling locations. By December, a federal court had issued a ruling allowing the case to go forward, a defeat for state and county defendants and several Republican Party campaign groups seeking its dismissal.
- The SPLC and the Fair Elections Center filed a [lawsuit](#) in June challenging a voter suppression law in Florida. The law, among other provisions, requires groups engaged in voter registration activities to provide misleading information to voters that the organization "might not" submit the voter's registration application on time. A federal judge [overturned](#) the requirement in April 2022.
- Amid an attack on voting rights across the South, the SPLC announced a massive expansion of its [Vote Your Voice initiative](#) over the next decade. The effort, announced in December, will support voter outreach and civic engagement organizations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

**“Amid an attack on voting rights across the South, the SPLC announced a massive expansion of its Vote Your Voice initiative over the next decade.”**



Rosemary McCoy is co-founder of the Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters, a nonprofit group that registers voters. Through an SPLC lawsuit, the group challenged a Florida law that required such groups to provide misleading information to voters. Photo: Bill Corbett/ACLU

**“In contrast to state trends, the SPLC Action Fund saw some positive voting legislation pass.”**

- The SPLC released three major **reports** from its Voting Rights Practice Group. The reports detail racial discrimination in voting across Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The publications were incorporated into the congressional record, providing support for the Freedom to Vote Act and John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The SPLC’s lobbying arm, the SPLC Action Fund, was instrumental in shaping both bills, which ultimately passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2021.
- In contrast to state trends, the SPLC Action Fund saw some positive voting legislation pass. In Louisiana, lawmakers passed legislation providing an additional three days of early voting during the presidential election. Another successful bill increased the time allotted in the voting booth. In Alabama, lawmakers passed legislation updating the methods used for voter roll maintenance and ensuring that voters are not unnecessarily purged from the voter file.



**3**

The SPLC released three reports detailing racial discrimination in voting across Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

## SECTION 03

# Children's Rights

The SPLC works to eliminate systems of oppression that prevent all children in the Deep South from accessing education, health care, and other services and supports necessary to live, grow and thrive. Children across the region, in particular students of color, low-income students and students with disabilities, are being denied access to a quality public education and the mental health services they need.

At the same time, thousands are being pushed out of the classroom and into the juvenile justice system because of overly harsh disciplinary policies and practices, often in response to minor misbehavior.

## IN 2021

- The SPLC published *Costly and Cruel*, a [report](#) that exposed the excessive and illegal use of the Florida Mental Health Act, also known as the Baker Act. The Baker Act, which allows for the arrest, transport, hold and psychiatric examination of children, has been used against more than 37,000 children a year, including a disproportionate number of Black children and children with disabilities. The report, released in March, details how it has become a behavioral management tool for far too many Florida classrooms and residential foster care facilities. The Legislature has since passed some reforms, including mandatory school resource officer training in child mental health and de-escalation strategies as well as parental notification when the act is invoked.
- In Louisiana, the SPLC and co-counsel [won](#) class action status in May for 47,500 children entitled to — but without — access to Medicaid-funded mental health services. The lawsuit describes how the state's failure to provide these services forces children to needlessly cycle in and out of hospitals, psychiatric facilities and the juvenile justice system — often far from home.

## 47,500

In Louisiana, the SPLC and co-counsel won class action status in May for 47,500 children entitled to — but without — access to Medicaid-funded mental health services.





Throughout 2021, the Southern Poverty Law Center defended the rights of children across the Deep South.

Photo: iStock

**“The SPLC published *Costly and Cruel*, a report that exposed the excessive and illegal use of the Florida Mental Health Act.”**

- In Alabama, the SPLC filed a class action [lawsuit](#) in May for foster care youth with mental health disabilities. These youth are being unjustifiably segregated in psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The lawsuit describes how the Alabama Department of Human Resources is violating its legal obligations by allowing children to languish for years in restrictive residential programs — which should be a last resort for short-term therapeutic treatment— rather than allowing them to grow up at home or in community-based settings.
- **Daughters Beyond Incarceration** and the SPLC released *Cut Off From Caregivers: The Children of Incarcerated Parents in Louisiana*. The [report](#), published in March, provides a road map for a council investigating the impact of parental and caregiver incarceration on children in Louisiana, the incarceration capital of the world. An estimated 94,000 children in the state have at least one incarcerated parent or caregiver. That is nearly 1 in every 7 children. Nationwide, the rate is 1 in 28 children, according to the report, which describes parental and caregiver incarceration as a growing national epidemic.
- The SPLC Action Fund saw important victories for children’s rights in state legislatures. In Alabama, a bill requiring mental health training for K-12 employees became law. In Georgia, school voucher legislation that would have drained more money from public schools was defeated. Louisiana lawmakers passed legislation that asks the state’s department of education to study the feasibility of banning corporal punishment from public schools. And Mississippi increased public school funding by 4%, injecting an additional \$102 million into schools.



**almost  
1 in 7**

In Louisiana, almost 1 in 7 children in Louisiana have at least one incarcerated parent or caregiver.



**1 in 28**

Nationwide, 1 in every 28 children have at least one incarcerated parent or caregiver.

## SECTION 04

# Criminal Justice Reform

The SPLC's Criminal Justice Reform Practice Group works to reform the criminal justice and immigration enforcement systems so they operate fairly and equitably; to ensure the dignity and humanity of those interacting with these systems; and to reduce the population of jailed, detained, and incarcerated juveniles and adults in the United States.

## IN 2021

- A federal judge issued a sweeping order in late December requiring the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) to remedy unconstitutional mental health services. The judge cited years of inadequate mental health care provided to people incarcerated in Alabama prisons. The decision in *Braggs v. Dunn*, which was brought by the SPLC and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, set a 2025 deadline for the state to fully staff its correctional facilities. At least 27 people have died by suicide since the judge's first ruling in 2017 declared the mental health care system in the prisons "horrendously inadequate."
- In Alabama, the SPLC Action Fund saw the passage of a bill that will provide more transparency in the state's troubled prison system. Data will be collected, and a quarterly report will provide information such as the size or composition of the incarcerated population; prison deaths; staffing levels; participation in various corrections programs, such as education and reentry programs; litigation against ADOC employees; and data on the sexual abuse of incarcerated people in ADOC facilities. The Joint Legislative Prison Oversight Committee must also meet quarterly and include at least one public hearing.
- In Georgia, lawmakers repealed the state's *citizen's arrest law*, an important victory for the SPLC Action Fund. The law has provided legal cover for the lynching of Black people. It came under scrutiny after Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black jogger, was murdered by white vigilantes in 2020. Separately, state lawmakers improved the process for the early termination of certain felony probation sentences.

**“The decision in *Braggs v. Dunn*, a lawsuit by the SPLC and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, set a 2025 deadline for Alabama to fully staff its correctional facilities.”**



The SPLC is using litigation and advocacy to help end the era of mass incarceration, to root out racial discrimination in the system and to ensure humane, constitutional standards for incarcerated people.

Photo: iStock

- **In Mississippi, the SPLC Action Fund saw the passage of a modest parole reform bill expanding eligibility.** Its passage was an encouraging sign after more robust parole reform measures died during the final days of the session. Lawmakers also raised the minimum age for secure detention in juvenile detention centers from 10 to 12.
- **In Florida, the state passed policing reform that set a minimum age of arrest sought by the SPLC Action Fund.** The bill prohibits the arrest of children under age 7 unless the violation is a felony that involves the use or threat of physical force or violence. Other reforms include limits on the use of chokeholds, the creation of a database for police officers fired for misconduct allegations, establishment of training standards and mandates for certain data collection.
- **In Louisiana, lawmakers passed reform that will limit police from using chokeholds and executing no-knock warrants, a key reform sought by the SPLC Action Fund.** Other victories included passage of legislation that increases the possibility of parole for older incarcerated people. There was also reform in allowing people previously convicted of a felony the opportunity to serve as jurors if they have been off probation or parole a specified length of time. Additionally, lawmakers decriminalized small amounts of marijuana, making possession of 14 grams or less a misdemeanor, and limiting the fine to \$100 with no jail time.

“If you are free,  
you need to free  
somebody else.”

TONI MORRISON



## SECTION 05

# Economic Justice

The SPLC is working to ensure that people living in poverty in the Deep South — especially communities of color — are not punished or exploited because of their economic status.

IN 2021

- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the SPLC took action to protect farmers of color. The [action](#) came after passage of the federal American Rescue Plan Act, which dedicated \$4 billion for farmers of color. Discrimination lawsuits filed by white farmers halted the relief to this group, which has been subjected to decades of lending and aid discrimination and has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. 2021 saw the SPLC representing a coalition of more than two dozen farmers' advocacy organizations as it worked with allies to help ensure the viability of farms owned by people of color.
- The SPLC [threatened](#) to sue Knox County, Tennessee, in April as it worked to eliminate modern-day debtors' prisons. An SPLC investigation lasting more than two years found that the county's bail practices resulted in people who had not been convicted of a crime being locked up simply because they cannot afford bail. The county changed its practices, but the SPLC continued to monitor Knox County. At the beginning of 2022, the SPLC and Civil Rights Corps warned the county that while it had taken a step in the right direction, the changes in practice continue to violate federal constitutional law. In Mississippi, the SPLC filed a judicial ethics complaint and settled a lawsuit against a municipal court judge for similar practices.
- The SPLC and its co-counsel filed a [lawsuit](#) in March after the Orleans Parish assessor in Louisiana arbitrarily cut the value of large commercial properties — some by as much as 57%. The assessor cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason, although virtually no residential properties and few small businesses saw such reductions. The complaint, filed on behalf of two Orleans Parish residents, describes how the assessor's unconstitutional and illegal reassessment slashed commercial property assessments by \$317 million, benefiting mostly large national hotels and other commercial properties while other property owners owed at least 7% more in taxes.



## -57%

Louisiana's Orleans Parish assessor arbitrarily cut the value of large commercial properties by as much as 57%, according to an SPLC lawsuit.



## +7%

Other property owners in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, owed at least 7% more in taxes after the assessor's actions.



# +\$90

In Mississippi, legislators passed an increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Family payments by \$90 a month.

- The SPLC Action Fund saw key victories for economic justice in Southern legislatures. In Mississippi, legislators passed an increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Family payments by \$90 a month — a major win for residents. In neighboring Alabama, legislators removed the tax liability from COVID-19 unemployment benefits and the increase of a supplemental appropriation for rental assistance to help people affected by the pandemic. Georgia passed a Medicaid waiver that will make it simpler for children from low-income families to receive health care coverage.
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployed Georgians experienced extreme delays in the processing of unemployment claims by the Georgia Department of Labor, sparking an SPLC [lawsuit](#). Filed in April with co-counsel, Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP, the class action lawsuit describes how the state's delays, which left people experiencing months of uncertainty while trying to pay for necessities, violated state and federal law.

**“2021 saw the SPLC representing a coalition of more than two dozen farmers’ advocacy organizations.”**

**“Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity.”**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

SECTION 06

# Immigrant Justice

The SPLC’s Immigrant Justice Project works to protect the rights of immigrants and their families to safeguard the United States’ longstanding promise of opportunity and dignity for arriving immigrants.

IN 2021

- SPLC attorneys worked with the organization’s partners to win a **lawsuit** against Florida’s “anti-sanctuary cities” law. The statute, drafted in coordination with groups affiliated with white supremacists, including SPLC-designated hate groups, prohibited sanctuary policies and required local police to act as agents for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The court found in September that the law was adopted with a discriminatory intent. The state has appealed the ruling. The lawsuit was an effort with the Community Justice Project and the Immigration Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law.
- The SPLC’s Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative (SIFI) expanded operations from two detention facilities in Louisiana to nearly a dozen in Louisiana and Mississippi. These centers operate under the jurisdiction of the New Orleans ICE field office. Working with community partners – and after filing complaints highlighting human rights abuses at these facilities – SIFI persuaded the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to investigate the field office. It comes after ICE stopped detaining migrants at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, making Irwin the first SPLC site where authorities heeded calls for ending such operations.



The SPLC’s Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative provides pro bono legal representation to detained immigrants at immigrant detention centers in the South.

Photo: Mary Claire Kelly

- During legislative sessions across the South, the SPLC Action Fund worked to defeat anti-immigrant **legislation**. In Georgia, however, it saw the passage of legislation that created a committee to study barriers to employment for immigrant workers in the state. The SPLC Action Fund along with coalition partners plan to attend hearings to ensure that real barriers to immigrant engagement in the workforce, such as discrimination and lack of public transportation, are part of the conversation.



## SECTION 07

# LGBTQ Rights

The SPLC is dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights, dignity and freedom of the LGBTQ community in the Deep South and to removing barriers to equality. We're working to ensure that LGBTQ people achieve full equality under the law. Our work has a national reach but is focused primarily on the Southeast, where relatively few organizations advocate for the LGBTQ community.



The SPLC represented these clients in a groundbreaking lawsuit that led to a jury in 2015 finding that a conversion therapy organization violated New Jersey's consumer fraud law by claiming to change a person's sexual orientation. A state appellate court in 2021 upheld the dissolution of its successor organization and award of \$3.5 million in attorneys' fees.

Photo: Karsten Moran

## IN 2021

- A New Jersey appellate court in July **upheld** the dissolution of a “conversion therapy” provider and award of \$3.5 million in attorneys' fees. The group's founders were defendants in an SPLC lawsuit that led to a court barring them from promoting the fraudulent practice that purports to change a person's sexual orientation. In 2019, a New Jersey Superior Court judge ordered the dissolution of an organization known as the Jewish Institute for Global Awareness (JIFGA), which facilitated “conversion therapy,” because its founders were barred from promoting it in 2015 after an SPLC lawsuit led to a jury finding JIFGA's predecessor organization falsely claimed it could change a person's sexual orientation — a violation of the state's consumer fraud law. The New Jersey Supreme Court **denied** an appeal in early 2022.
- In Alabama, the SPLC Action Fund **successfully** urged state lawmakers to remove the requirement that sex education in public schools include legally inaccurate language that encouraged hate by depicting the LGBTQ community as criminal. And across all the SPLC Action Fund's states, it opposed anti-LGBTQ legislation during a year when legislators frequently resorted to introducing anti-trans legislation to score political points.

## SECTION 08

# Learning for Justice

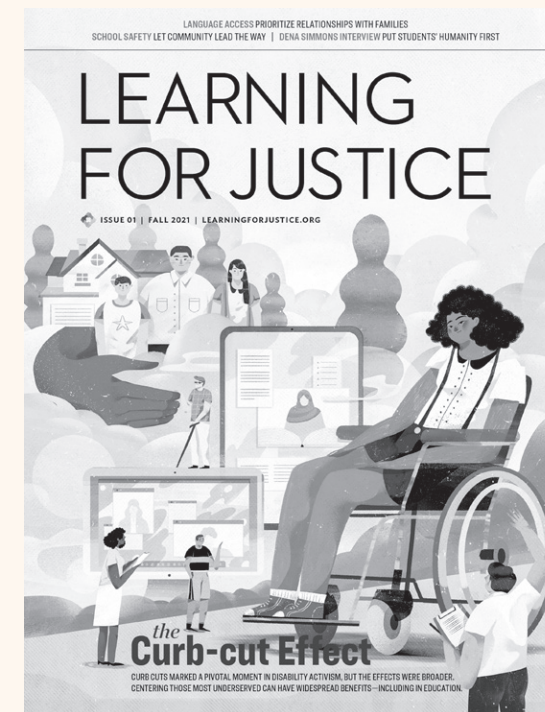
In our work with educators, schools, students and communities, Learning for Justice seeks to uphold the mission of the SPLC: to be a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements and advance the human rights of all people.

## 30 years

The new *Learning for Justice* magazine examines lessons learned from educating during the COVID-19 pandemic and the program's 30-year history.

## IN 2021

- The first issue of *Learning for Justice* magazine was published. The rebranded *Teaching Tolerance* magazine examines lessons learned from educating during the COVID-19 pandemic and the program's 30-year history. It came after a renaming of the Teaching Tolerance program to Learning for Justice to better reflect its mission and work.
- Learning for Justice launched a **cohort training program** for educators using its *Teaching Hard History: American Slavery* framework. Teachers learn how to use the framework to enrich their lessons on American enslavement, build students' civic engagement and critical thinking and deepen their mindsets around inclusion and empathy.



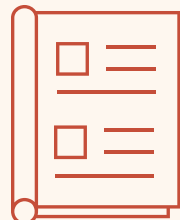
The inaugural issue of *Learning for Justice* magazine was published in 2021.

## By the Numbers



**5.8 Million**

Visitors to Learning for Justice website



**600,000**

Magazine issues delivered

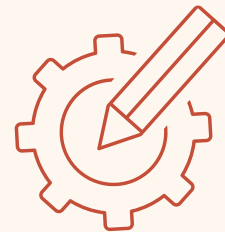
**5,250**

Professional development certificates awarded for completing a Learning for Justice podcast



**826,567**

Views of films on YouTube and website



**795,459**

Resources downloaded

**374,242**

Podcast downloads



**7,195**

Webinar viewers



**1,227**

Virtual professional development training attendees

## Resource Page Views

“Our New Name: Learning for Justice”

545,564

“What Is White Privilege, Really?”

300,456

“When Bad Things Are Happening”

133,507

“What Is the Model Minority Myth?”

123,060

“Teach This: ‘The Hill We Climb’ and the 2021 Inauguration”

87,546

“Teaching Hard History: American Slavery”

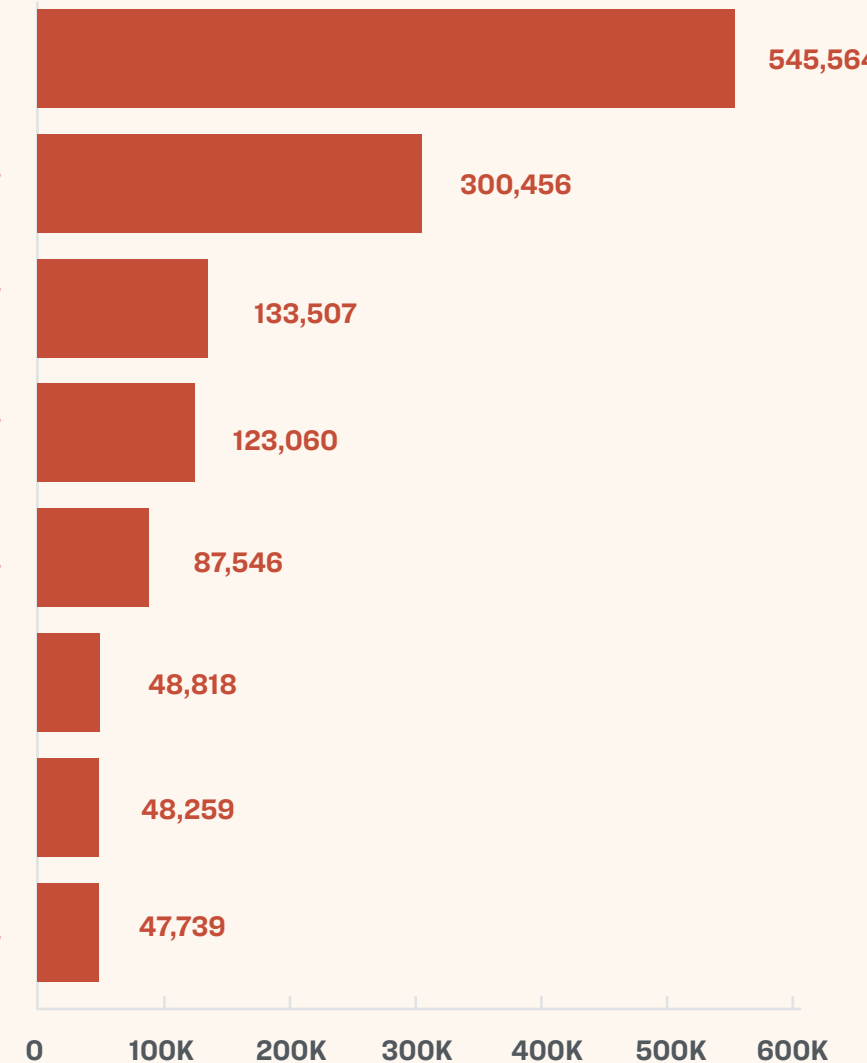
48,818

“How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism”

48,259

“Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence”

47,739





## SECTION 09

# Civil Rights Memorial Center

## Civil Rights Memorial Center publishes anti-racism guide

A year before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's intention to "save the soul of America."

"[We] affirmed the conviction that America would never be free or saved from itself until the descendants of its slaves were loosed completely from the shackles they still wear," he said.

In 2021, the SPLC's Civil Rights Memorial Center published a [community guide](#) dedicated to that mission, *Movement and Space: Creating Dialogue on Systemic Racism from the Modern Civil Rights Movement to the Present*.

"Visitors to the CRMC often ask why, after all the gains from the civil rights movement, does racial injustice persist in our country," said CRMC Director Tafeni English. "We are offering this guide to both provide the historical context and encourage nuanced conversations in our schools, communities and families that thread the past to present-day struggles for Black liberation."

The guide, released while the CRMC remained closed due to the pandemic, is designed to support educators and advocates leading these important conversations about racism in their communities. It offers a series of lessons and discussion questions focused on the experiences of Black people from the perspective of movement and space.

The guide describes movement and space as the ability to move freely and occupy space without discrimination, harassment or violence. For Black people, these experiences have historically been shaped by racism, including Jim Crow laws, sundown towns, school segregation and other practices to limit and exclude Black people from the liberties white people freely enjoy.

Discrimination, harassment and violence continue today. On Feb. 23, 2020, for example, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old Black man, was gunned down by white men while jogging in a Georgia neighborhood. The guide provides an overview of such stories, along with discussion questions and other resources to help people engage in conversations about anti-racism and Black liberation.

"We wanted to provide the tools necessary to foster these important conversations," English said. "These discussions are critical if we hope to achieve the freedom Dr. King spoke of decades ago."



**MOVEMENT AND SPACE**  
Creating Dialogue on Systemic Racism from the Modern Civil Rights Movement to the Present  
**CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL CENTER**  
SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

The Civil Rights Memorial Center published *Movement and Space*, an anti-racism guide, in 2021.

PART 03

# Financials

“Hope will never  
be silent.”

HARVEY MILK

THE MARCH  
CONTINUES  
*for Equal Rights*

# Charitable Status and Management

The Southern Poverty Law Center was incorporated in 1971 and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The SPLC tax identification number is 63-0598743. All contributions, grants and bequests to the Southern Poverty Law Center are tax deductible.

The SPLC's work is supported primarily through donor contributions. No government funds are received or used for its efforts.

During its last fiscal year, the SPLC spent approximately 73.9% of its total expenses on program services. At the end of the fiscal year, the SPLC's endowment — composed primarily of board-designated funds to support future work — stood at \$731.9 million. The SPLC is proud of the stewardship of its resources.

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Margaret Huang

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# Operating and Action Funds

## ASSETS

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents                      | 11,862,953        |
| Contributions receivable                       | 3,204,949         |
| Other receivables                              | 1,370,647         |
| Inventory                                      | 109,158           |
| Prepaid expenses                               | 2,645,662         |
| Investments of building fund reserve           | 20,000,000        |
| Investments of gift annuity program            | 12,292,004        |
| Other investments                              | 620,301           |
| Right of use leased asset                      | 4,168,387         |
| Land, buildings and equipment, net             | 15,770,557        |
| <b>Total operating and action funds assets</b> | <b>72,044,618</b> |

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                           | 4,579,354         |
| Gift annuity liability   | 7,693,886         |
| Lease obligation   | 4,168,387         |
| Long-term debt   | 15,000,000        |
| <b>Total operating and action funds liabilities</b>                | <b>31,441,627</b> |
| Net assets without donor restrictions - operating and action funds | 38,835,225        |
| Net assets with donor restrictions - operating fund                | 1,767,766         |
| <b>Total operating and action funds net assets</b>                 | <b>40,602,991</b> |

**TOTAL OPERATING AND ACTION FUNDS LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **\$72,044,618**

*A copy of the SPLC's audited financial statement is available upon request and at [splcenter.org](http://splcenter.org).*

# Statement of Activities

## CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS FROM OPERATING AND ACTION FUNDS

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Operating support and revenue   |                    |
| Public support  |                    |
| Contributions   | 99,837,874         |
| Grants  | 4,501,275          |
| Total public support  | <b>104,339,149</b> |
| Revenue   |                    |
| Investment income (excluding endowment), net                                    | 2,070,803          |
| Other   | 288,612            |
| Total revenue   | <b>2,359,415</b>   |
| <b>Total operating and action funds support and revenue</b>                     | <b>106,698,564</b> |
| Net assets released from restrictions   | 1,972,737          |
| <b>Total public support, revenue, and net assets released from restrictions</b> | <b>108,671,301</b> |

## OPERATING AND ACTION FUNDS EXPENSES

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Program services   |                    |
| Legal services   | 33,798,598         |
| Public education   | 44,981,069         |
| Total program services   | <b>78,779,667</b>  |
| Supporting services  |                    |
| Management and general   | 13,379,682         |
| Development  | 14,460,632         |
| Total supporting services  | <b>27,840,314</b>  |
| <b>Total operating and action funds expenses</b>                                 | <b>106,619,981</b> |
| Changes in net assets without donor restrictions from operating and action funds | 2,051,320          |

## CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS OPERATING AND ACTION FUNDS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Operating and action funds support and revenue                            |             |
| Contributions and grants  | 900,000     |
| Net assets released from restrictions                                     | (1,972,737) |
| Changes in net assets with donor restrictions from operating action funds | (1,072,737) |

**CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATING AND ACTION FUNDS** 978,583

**TRANSFER TO ENDOWMENT** (270,618)

**TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT IMPACT INITIATIVES** 19,571,060

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR** 20,323,966

**NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR** **\$40,602,991**

# Acknowledgments

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## **OUR MISSION**

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.