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**.

**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**

City Divestment Toolkit | The Banks that Finance Private Prison Companies Report