



2018 Annual Report



American Friends Service Committee ARIZONA OFFICE



Message from the Director:

"We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it."

-Barack Obama

For many of us in these times, it feels as if the world is in a perpetual state of conflict. We are besieged by images of war, violence, and despair. Our impulse—arguably, our duty—is to resist.

As an organization dedicated to reforming our broken criminal punishment system, much of our work historically has been to tear down the unjust systems and institutions that contribute to mass incarceration; to oppose policies that criminalize, discriminate, and undermine our communities.

All this undoing of the established systems of control, surveillance, and incarceration is necessary, and we are making great strides. But equally important is what we are *building*.

Our work is visionary, innovative, and forward-looking. We know that to create real and lasting change, you can't just tear something down without building a true alternative to take its place.

By working with those directly impacted by the criminal punishment system—incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated people, survivors of crime, and their families—we can create a new vision of what "safety" and "justice" could and should look like in practice.

We all want the same things—less crime, healthy communities, solutions to social problems like addiction and mental illness. The system we have does not deliver any of these results, but we know what does. And we can create it together.

Thank you for being part of our vision. We look forward to working with you in our struggle for collective freedom.



Caroline Isaacs, Program Director



The AFSC-AZ Team. From left: Rebecca Fealk, Jason Martinez, Caroline Isaacs, Tiera Rainey, Grace Gámez, Joe Watson

May 2018



Expanding Our Work

Our program and staff have grown through the generous support of these foundations:



Please welcome Jason Martinez, our *Administrative Associate*

Jason grew up in Albuquerque, NM, a city that has been home to his family for many generations. As a student at the University of New Mexico, he happened upon a flamenco dance class and became entranced by this unique art form. Eventually, he met his wife through flamenco and they toured together as part of a dance company. Jason later completed his undergrad from the University of New Mexico in Sociology. In 2006, he moved his family to Tucson, AZ and more recently, obtained his MA in Communication from Northern Arizona University.

Today, along with his wife and two daughters, he enjoys participating in and promoting Tucson culture. He produces the *Between The Lines with Jason Martinez* podcast toward this end: <https://jasonmartinez.podbean.com>



Please welcome Tiera Rainey, *Treatment Industrial Complex Program Coordinator*

Tiera received her B.A. in Anthropology from Vassar College and M.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University. She comes to us after having worked overseas for several years and most recently running the Women's Business Center at the YWCA of Southern Arizona. An abolitionist, Tiera also volunteers her time with Black Lives Matter-Tucson and the Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund.

Reframing Justice Podcast

Hosted by AFSC-AZ's Joe Watson, the **ReFramingJustice** podcast amplifies the voices of people who are formerly incarcerated and directly-impacted by our system of criminal punishment. Recorded in Tucson, the podcast also features discussions with local and national experts on sentencing and drug policy reform, prosecutorial accountability, the challenges of re-entry, and alternatives to mass incarceration. <https://afscarizona.org/media/rfjpodcast/>



Reducing Prison Populations

More Legislative Victories!

For the seventh year in a row, we were successful in advancing progressive sentencing reform legislation. In 2018, four of the bills we worked on were passed and signed by the Governor.

All four originated within the Arizona Supreme Court's Fair Justice Task Force, which convened around the need to lessen the burden of the criminal justice system on poor people.



*Director Caroline Isaacs testifies before the Arizona Legislature
May 2018*

HB2169 allows Judges to restrict, rather than revoke, driver's licenses for those who do not pay their fines and fees. This allows people to keep their jobs, making them more likely to pay the fines in the future.

HB2312 clarifies the process and criteria for setting aside a conviction

HB2313 allows judges to waive or mitigate surcharges on fines and fees

HB2414 allows misdemeanor defendants to do community service in lieu of fines and fees

Menstrual Equity Bill



*Adrienne Kitcheyan and Tuesday Brauer, ReFraming Justice participants who spoke out in favor of adequate access to feminine supplies for incarcerated women.
February 2018*

AFSC-AZ was approached by Representative Athena Salman (LD-26) assist in the passage of HB2222, to allow women in Arizona prisons to have access to an unlimited amount of feminine hygiene supplies. The policy at the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) at the time was that women were provided with a maximum of 12 low-quality pads per month from the ADC and had to purchase tampons or any additional supplies from the prison commissary at an inflated price. Our office kicked off an aggressive social media campaign, reaching out to women's groups and other allies using the hashtag, *#LetItFlow*. ReFraming Justice

participants Tuesday Brauer and Adrienne Kitcheyan, both of whom were incarcerated in the Arizona women's prison, testified before the Military, Veteran's and Regulatory Affairs committee—which consisting of nine men. While the bill was eventually scuttled under the promise of the ADC making internal policy changes, AFSC-AZ, HB2222, and the lack of



menstrual equity in Arizona prisons received a great deal of media attention, raising this issue nationwide.

Opposing Prison Expansion and For-Profit Incarceration

Local Campaigns to Stop Private Prison Companies

Following the unfortunate vote to contract with private prison company, CoreCivic, to manage the Mesa City Jail in May 2017, AFSC-AZ began a campaign to prevent other municipalities from making the same precarious choice. Last year, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution barring privatization of the County jail.

On May 8, 2018, we were able to pass a similar resolution through the Tucson City Council. The City Council Resolution adds additional language requiring a review of any proposed expansion of privatized services, including electronic monitoring or home arrest programs.



Joe Watson, Rebecca Fealk, Tiera Rainey, and Caroline Isaacs celebrating the passage of City Council Resolution to bar privatization May 2018

ReFraming Justice

Common Justice Livestream and Panel



Attendees of the Ever After share what a Just Community means to them May 2018

In May of 2018, we hosted a conversation on harm, accountability, safety, and justice in collaboration with [Common Justice](#). Common Justice is working to shift the narrative nationally about violence and how we might respond differently to harm. Part of this sea change work is a digital campaign, entitled “[Ever After: Stories of Violence, Accountability, and Healing.](#)” The project is a collection of short



videos with directly impacted people that aims to give a more nuanced understanding of harm, its impacts and how we might as a society respond to harm.

AFSC-AZ held a live screening of the first five videos. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring panelists representing [Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund](#), [Flowers & Bullets](#), [Tierra y Libertad/LOCAS](#), and [Ojalá Systems](#). These vibrant, community inspired, responsive collectives are working to amplify safety and justice in their communities from uncommon vantage points. Their approaches are not readily seen as addressing “criminal justice issues.” Yet, each collective demonstrates ways to organize, take care of each other, and resource ourselves—creating viable alternatives to reliance on the current broken system for communities that are heavily impacted by policing and incarceration.

Emerging Leaders Training

With the support of the Colin Kaepernick Foundation, we were able to partner with [JustLeadershipUSA](#) to offer the first statewide leadership training for systems-involved people in Arizona. Over 50 formerly incarcerated people gathered at Arizona State University in August 2018 for a full day of leadership skills training, including responsibility, self-reflection and collective leadership, communications skills, and interviewing and employment skills.



*Attendees of the Emerging Leaders training in Phoenix, Arizona facilitated by JustLeadership USA
August 2018*

Holiday Cards to Incarcerated People

For our 5th annual holiday card-writing party, we decided to expand to a larger, more public venue to accommodate the ever-growing numbers of participants. La Cocina restaurant in downtown Tucson graciously offered its lovely courtyard, cantina, and delicious taco bar on a





Sunday afternoon. With live music provided by Loveland, one of Tucson's most cherished local bands, attendees sipped hot cocoa under the desert sky and wrote messages of love and hope to people incarcerated throughout the state of Arizona. The beautiful artwork on our holiday cards was custom-made by local artist Jacob Robles of [Flowers & Bullets](#) collective. We were immensely gratified by the wonderful turnout for the event and the strong show of community support.



Impacting Change in Arizona

Stay connected with AFSC-AZ throughout the year by following us on social media, joining us at events, and providing financial support.



www.afscarizona.org



facebook.com/AFSCArizona



Twitter @AFSCaz



Instagram @AFSCaz



To make a donation...

Log onto our website, www.afscarizona.org and click on the “Make a Donation” button on the “Contact Us” menu.

Write a check and simply mail your contribution to our office:
103 N. Park Ave., Ste. 111, Tucson, AZ 85719.

On your check, be sure to earmark your contribution for the Arizona office. Simply write “Arizona office” on memo line on the bottom left corner of your check.

→ Please note that if you do not explicitly state on your check or otherwise in writing that you want your donation to go to Arizona, it will automatically be deposited into AFSC’s national general fund.

THANK YOU!



**American Friends
Service Committee**
ARIZONA OFFICE

