



# Liberation Fund

March 2024

Investing in community-led solutions to  
end system involvement for girls &  
gender expansive youth.

**Liberty  
Hill**  
FOUNDATION

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# Liberation Fund

Liberty Hill established the [Liberation Fund](#) with the aim of preventing young women and individuals across the gender spectrum from becoming trapped in ineffective and abusive governmental systems. Instead, all measures of success show they can access better support within their own communities. By fostering collaboration across our diverse communities and fully resourcing their solutions, our vision is the complete de-carceration of girls and gender-expansive (GGE) youth in Los Angeles County.

## The Liberation Fund offers the following:

- Infrastructure funding and Grants
- Facilitation, relationship building, and healing opportunities
- Support for the development, dissemination, and implementation of a movement blueprint for change

This collaborative fund offers an opportunity for community-based organizations specializing in youth development, legal advocacy, and organizing to prioritize the unique needs and experiences of Black, Indigenous, GGE youth of color. It aims to develop targeted strategies that address these needs while simultaneously confronting the systemic failures and harmful practices affecting them.

## The Liberation Fund works to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop a strategy and blueprint to create pathways for GGE youth to fully secure their rights to community safety, equity, housing, education, health, and wellness.
2. End the criminalization and incarceration of GGE youth, and prioritize their well-being, thereby minimizing harmful system contact.
3. 3-Center the experiences, power, and leadership of girls and gender expansive youth in the countywide strategy aimed at advancing youth development.

**We invite you to join the Liberation Fund or support these organizations directly.**

## Current Grantees & Community Partners

[A New Way of Life](#)

[Khmer Girls in Action](#)

[Students Deserve](#)

[Alliance for Girls](#)

[National Center for Youth Law](#)

[Young Women's Freedom Center](#)

[Arts for Healing and Justice Network](#)

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## A New Way of Life (ANWOL)

Los Angeles *(re-entry, policy advocacy, housing, health & wellness, legal services, family reunification)*

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** Empower communities with opportunity where justice impacted women (including transition aged youth (TAY) heal, excel, and lead while disrupting systems of oppression and harm.

Established in 1998, ANWOL is committed to providing housing, legal services, workforce and education development, and advocacy, with a focus on women and TAY (Transitional Age Youth). ANWOL's services are comprehensive and multifaceted, specifically designed to address the needs of women, youth, and families impacted by incarceration. In addition to offering housing and facilitating family reunification, their programs encompass reentry assistance. This assistance spans from providing pro-bono legal services and aid for acquiring personal identification to accessing eligible benefits and attending substance misuse recovery meetings. They also offer support in workforce development and education counseling.

## Alliance for Girls (AFG)

California *(network, research & evaluation, policy advocacy, education)*

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To champion leaders who transform their communities and work toward systemic change for girls. Currently an alliance of 120 organizations in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Since its establishment in 2012, AFG has involved more than 3,000 girls and gender-expansive youth as leaders and decision-makers in research, leadership development, and advocacy programs. This involvement has resulted in the creation of eight research reports and 50 policy recommendations crafted by girls and gender-expansive youth. These recommendations inform all AFG programming and have contributed to the inception or enhancement of more than 10 legislative bills, policies, and public budgets at various levels, including local, district, county, and state. AFG has now launched the Meeting Girls' Needs Initiative in the Oakland and San Francisco Unified School Districts and celebrated two legislative wins in 2023. AB 452 (Justice for Survivors Act) eliminates the statute of limitations for civil cases involving the sexual abuse of a minor, allowing survivors to seek justice years later. Similarly, SB434 (Public Transit for All) requires California's top 10 public transit systems to collect data about rider experiences with harassment.

## Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN)

Los Angeles *(youth development, health & wellness, arts education, organizing, policy advocacy)*

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** An interdisciplinary collaborative that provides exceptional arts programming in order to build resiliency and wellness, eliminate recidivism, and transform the juvenile justice system.

AHJN stands as the sole arts collaborative centering incarcerated youth within the state of California. It provides structure, coordination, and support to arts organizations serving youth within the Los Angeles County youth justice system. AHJN employs the arts as a tool for healing among the youth it serves, aiming to reform the systems that surround them. Through AHJN's high-quality, healing-informed arts programming, leadership development, mentorship, skill-building, and other resources, girls, young women, LGBTQI+ youth, and gender-expansive youth are empowered to utilize their voices to alter the course of their lives and the youth justice system as a whole.

## Beloved Youth

Alameda, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Santa Clara counties *(housing, health & wellness, guaranteed income)*

[Website](#)

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**Mission:** To support the self-determination of young people, their families, and communities through innovations in housing.

Beloved Youth seeks to address housing and economic opportunities as core strategies to end the criminalization and incarceration of girls and trans youth of all genders. Beloved Youth is an emerging organization created by staff at the Young Women's Freedom Center that focuses on building housing and economic opportunities for GGE youth. After a successful 6-month emergency housing program in San Francisco that housed 45 individuals, Beloved Youth is launching a 3 year pilot centered on the continuum of care, financial support, and wrap-around services using an ecosystem model. Beloved will serve 20 young people each year, providing them with safe housing options through expanded kinship and community care networks, and guaranteed income to meet economic needs and self-determined goals.

## Khmer Girls in Action (KGA)

Long Beach, Los Angeles (*immigration, youth justice, organizing, voter engagement, health & wellness, data & research*)

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To build a progressive and sustainable Long Beach community that works for racial, gender, and economic justice led by Southeast Asian women and youth.

Since 1997, Khmer Girls in Action has been dedicated to centering healing and providing a safe space for young women, transgender and gender non-conforming youth, and gender expansive youth. KGA's mission is to empower these individuals to develop their leadership and organizing skills, with the aim of decriminalizing immigrants, refugees, and Black and Brown communities who are disproportionately impacted by the justice system or the intersection of immigration and criminal justice (often referred to as "crimmigration"). In addition to advocacy work, KGA's programs take a holistic approach to positive youth development. Through initiatives like the Young Women's Empowerment Program and Young Men's Empowerment Program, they offer social and emotional support, mentorship, gender healing circles, and restorative practices. KGA's Youth Organizing Long Beach program focuses on equipping youth with organizing skills while providing academic and social-emotional support. This dual approach allows them to heal from past traumas and progress along leadership pathways. KGA's work centers the Long Beach community and through their participation in numerous coalitions has had direct implications and influence across Los Angeles County.

## National Center for Youth Law (NYCL)

Los Angeles (*policy advocacy, sexual violence, legal services*)

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To center youth voices and experiences through impact litigation, policy advocacy, collaboration and research that fundamentally transforms our nation's approach to education, health, immigration, foster care, and youth justice.

The National Center for Youth Law is a policy organization dedicated to advancing justice and civil rights since its establishment in 1971. Over the years, NCYL has successfully advocated for reforms in youth jails, championed the rights of foster children, and facilitated transformations within the welfare system, both at the federal and state levels. NCYL prioritizes serving girls, young women, LGBTQ+ youth, and gender expansive youth who are most vulnerable, primarily through its efforts in California and specifically in Los Angeles. Currently, NCYL focuses on several key areas, including

Education, Foster Care, Health, Immigration, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and Youth Justice. The center employs various strategies such as legal advocacy, impact litigation, law and policy initiatives, collaborations and partnerships, as well as youth and community empowerment efforts to achieve its objectives.

## New Village Girls Academy

Los Angeles (*education, workforce development, case management, youth development, health & wellness*)

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To provide a high quality, engaging educational opportunity with integrated support services for young women and gender-expansive youth, especially those for whom the challenging circumstances of their lives have led to previous school failure and alienation.

Since 2008, New Village has been dedicated to promoting social justice for young women of color and gender-expansive youth by providing high-quality education and supportive services. The school intentionally reaches out to and supports vulnerable, disadvantaged, and overlooked young women and gender-expansive youth who are confronting extreme personal challenges, including incarceration. Its philosophy acknowledges that addressing students' critical unmet needs is paramount, followed by nurturing their understanding that a commitment to education leads to a brighter future. In January 2023, New Village initiated a partnership with Eastlake Juvenile Hall, enabling the school's community liaison to visit adolescent girls in youth custody and assist them in enrolling in the school. Additionally, a collaboration with GRYD (Gang Reduction and Youth Development) offers students who are involved in gangs or vulnerable due to behavioral changes the support of caring adult mentors. Furthermore, all New Village students participate in direct internships for a half-day twice a week, initiating their journey into work and career development.

## Spirit Awakening Foundation (SAF)

Los Angeles (*arts education, health & wellness, diversion programs, addressing sexual violence*)

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To help underserved youth, children in the juvenile justice system and other systems-impacted young people realize their authentic identity, value and self-worth.



Since 1995, the Spirit Awakening Foundation has been a pioneer in restorative justice and keeping youth out of the youth justice system. SAF operates the Writes of Passage Curriculum within the Dorothy Kirby Detention Center for girls, making them one of the few providers offering services to incarcerated girls. Through mentorship, exploration of identity, writing, and role-play curriculum, including sessions with community artists and leaders, SAF aims to empower these girls. Additionally, SAF extends its reach throughout LA County, offering intergenerational intervention, prevention, and diversion programs for youth and their families. Utilizing trauma-informed, restorative, arts-based programs, SAF supports underserved youth in high schools and provides life skills and re-entry programs for young people upon their release from incarceration. Furthermore, SAF offers programs for incarcerated youth, ensuring comprehensive support throughout their journey.

## Students Deserve (SD)

Los Angeles *(organizing, youth justice, policy advocacy, abolition, BIPOC student achievement)*

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** Schools to divest from criminalization and policing and to invest in Black, Muslim, undocumented, indigenous, and queer youth in poor and working class communities of color.

Students Deserve is committed to centering Black students in schools, advocating for divestment from criminalization and policing, and investing in Black, Muslim, undocumented, indigenous, and queer youth in impoverished and working-class communities of color. SD's programs empower young girls and gender-expansive youth by nurturing their leadership abilities, advocacy skills, public speaking proficiency, and facilitation expertise. They offer support for them to articulate their stories and demands to those in positions of power, aiming to transform the circumstances perpetuating negative and abusive outcomes for girls/young women and LGBTQ+ youth. Furthermore, Students Deserve prioritizes the unique experiences of girls and gender-expansive youth, instilling in them the confidence and agency necessary to become genuine leaders. They accomplish this through initiatives such as public speaking training, strategic thinking exercises, team-building activities, and mentorship opportunities—resources for leadership development and skill-building often overlooked for girls and gender-nonconforming students.

## Young Women's Freedom Center (YWFC)

Los Angeles and Oakland *(youth justice, organizing, policy advocacy, research, health & wellness, addressing sexual violence)*

[Website](#) | [Video](#)

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**Mission:** To provide fiscal sponsorship, operational support, coaching, and training to projects that center systems-impacted women, girls, and trans people of all genders with the primary purpose to inspire and empower young women who have been involved in the juvenile justice system, criminal justice system, and/or the underground street economy to create a positive change in their lives and communities.

Since 1994, YWFC has been dedicated to offering support, mentorship, training, employment, and advocacy to young women and trans youth of all genders in California. These individuals have endured the challenges of growing up in poverty, navigating the criminal legal and foster care systems, surviving life on the streets, and coping with significant violence. The organization provides a safe space, along with support and resources, enabling young people to attain safety and stability in their lives. Through this process, it fosters the development of movement and community leaders, reshaping the narrative surrounding systems-impacted young people. Moreover, the Center works towards transforming programs, laws, legislation, public systems, and institutions to minimize harm and better meet the needs of the individuals it serves.