

# Annual Report 2019-2020

STAND: The student-led  
movement to end mass atrocities





## From our Student Director

Before our Managing Committee (MC), State Advocacy Leads (SALs), Action Committee Members, and Chapters were forced to return home from their classrooms, engage in distance learning, and face the daunting reality of COVID-19, I was already immensely proud of all we accomplished this year. Now, after having seen this community persevere and adapt – I am even more so.

I first became involved in STAND during my Freshman year of high school. Over seven years later, I am graduating from college and grateful for the countless opportunities STAND has afforded me. STAND allowed me to lobby my legislators in Washington D.C. ten times, attend a U.N. Women event in New York City, and learn countless organizing skills that I will carry with me.

My experiences are echoed by those of the many youth STAND engages with each year. Our many lobby meetings, calls, and legislative victories speak for themselves. However, as you read this report I ask you to read between the numbers and witness the many “firsts” STAND provided this year. For many MC members, our Retreat was their first opportunity to travel to D.C. and experience lobbying. For our SALs it was the first time they saw their words go to print after submitting an op-ed. For others, STAND helped them find the courage to pick up a phone and call their reps, or click “join meeting” on a webinar for the first time. STAND’s success this year is not just in the many lobby meetings we’ve held or the bills we’ve seen signed into law, but in the youth we have prepared to continue tackling this fight tomorrow.

I am proud of every training we hosted, blog we wrote, and material we created for the way in which it has helped to empower youth leaders across the U.S. As I end my time as STAND’s SD, I look forward to all that I know STAND will accomplish in the years to come.



**GRACE FERNANDES**

*Simmons University, '20*



## Mission

To build, organize, and empower a grassroots network of students and young people committed to advocating for the prevention and mitigation of genocide and mass atrocities wherever they may occur.

## Vision

We envision a world in which the global community is invested in preventing, mitigating, and sustainably resolving genocide and mass atrocities.

## About

Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide and mass atrocities wherever they may occur. By creating political will, we hold our elected officials accountable for preventing and ending genocide and mass atrocities, and by supporting young peacebuilders in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, we help communities build resistance to conflict.

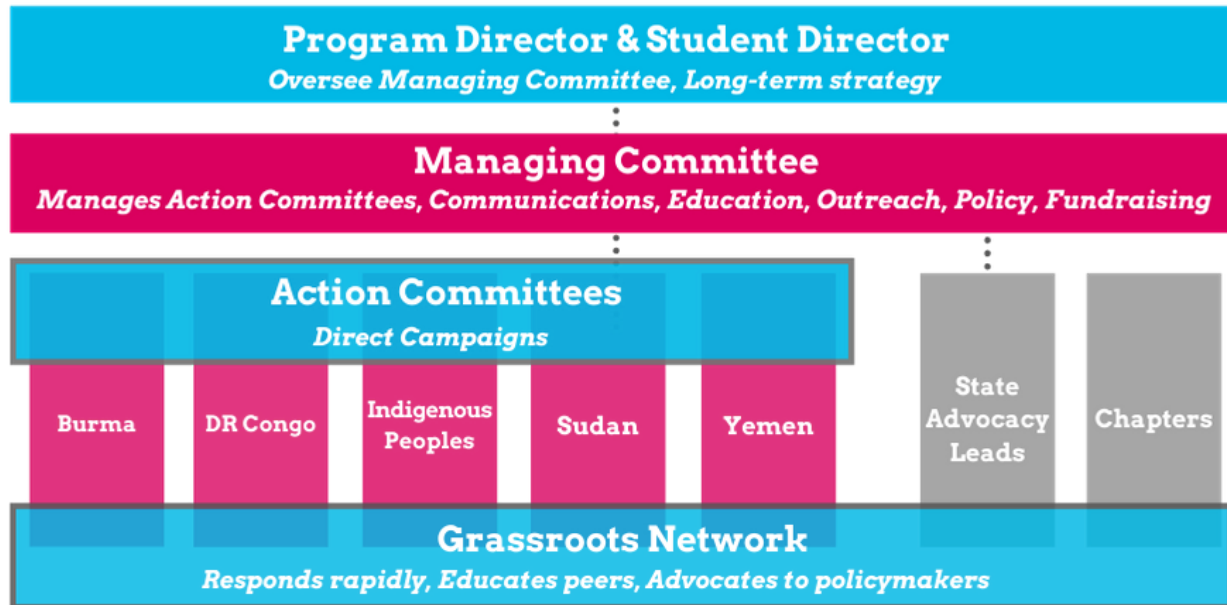
STAND is truly youth-led. We mobilize our youth network to **respond rapidly** to emerging crises, **educate** their peers on ongoing issues, and **advocate** to policymakers to enact change.

STAND is the U.S.-based Youth Department of the Aegis Trust.



## Our Model

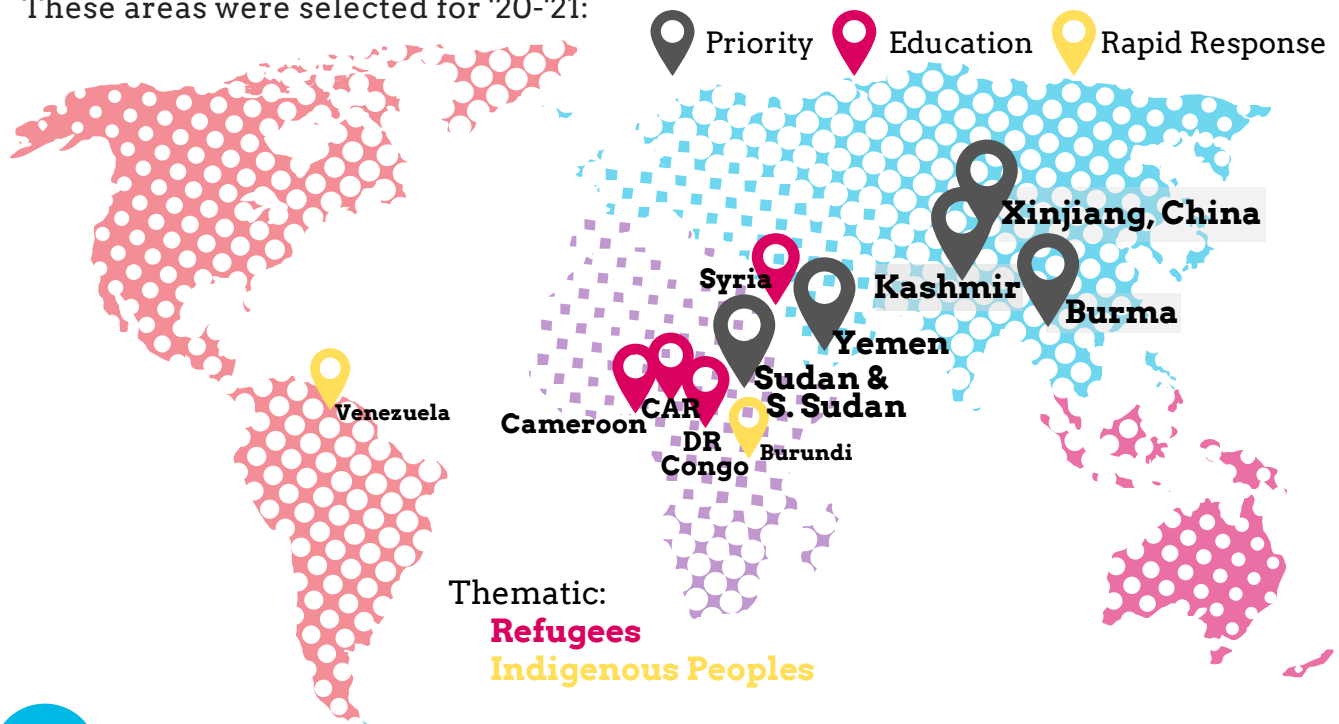
We offer several levels and types of engagement. Our volunteer Managing Committee oversees programming and leads issue-based Action Committees. Individual activists participate in ACs, direct advocacy for their area as State Advocacy Leads, and/or participate in school/community chapters. Anyone can be a member of our grassroots!



## Issue Areas

In 2020, the Managing Committee developed a new Selection Methodology to facilitate an annual review of our priority conflict areas and thematic issues. We engage with issues in three tiers: Rapid Response, Education, and Priority.

These areas were selected for '20-'21:





# 2019-2020: By the Numbers

73

Meetings with Policymakers

Op-Eds & Letters to the Editor  
Published in ID, AZ, WA, AR, NJ, TX

7

30

Action Committee Calls

Avg. Managing Committee  
Experience Rating out of 5

4.56

7

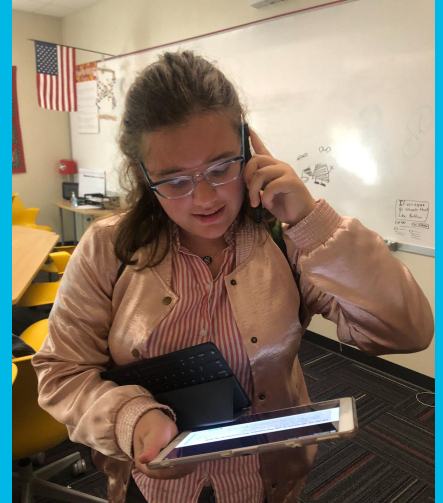
State Advocacy Leads

Major Bill Introduced  
**The Youth, Peace and Security Act**

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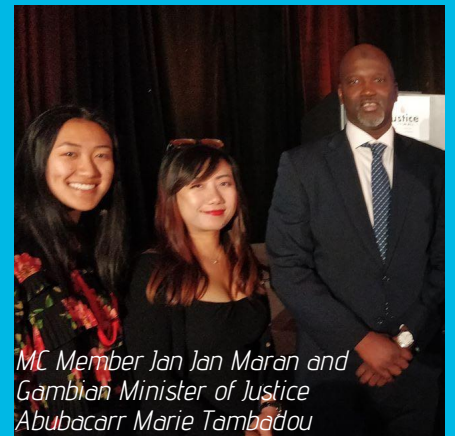
Major Bill Passed  
**The Global Fragility Act**



*"Coming from a Kachin ethnic background myself, I had always wanted to do something about the atrocities in Burma but wasn't sure how I would until I met STAND.*

*Since joining the Managing Committee, I have been given various opportunities to advocate for people endangered by genocide not only in Burma, but in countries all over the world. **There's literally no other organization that will allow you to do this, and that's what makes STAND so unique.***

*-Jan Jan Maran,  
George Mason University, Junior*



MC Member Jan Jan Maran and  
Gambian Minister of Justice  
Abubacarr Marie Tambadou

## STAND-Wide Campaigns

### Peacebuilding Action Week

STAND joined the first-ever global [Peacebuilding Action Week](#) in September 2019. We offered grassroots activists a series of daily actions to take throughout the week, highlighting each of our major issue areas. Youth from across the U.S. called their reps, wrote op-eds, and joined Action Committees to extend their advocacy throughout the year.

### STANDiversary

2019-2020 was our 15th STANDiversary year. The first STAND chapter formed at Georgetown in 2004, and we've been advocating for genocide prevention ever since. We celebrated by sharing highlights from our history and looking ahead to the next 15 years of youth activism.



15 YEARS AND COUNTING

# STAND-iversary

### Global Fragility Act

STAND was thrilled to welcome the **passage** of the Global Fragility Act in December 2019! We advocated for this bill since its introduction, meeting with countless policymakers, calling representatives, hosting events, and writing op-eds.

### Youth, Peace and Security

Building on the success of the Elie Wiesel and Global Fragility Acts, STAND mobilized for the House introduction of the Youth, Peace and Security Act in March 2020. We amplified our own youth voices in support of this bill through op-eds and videos. We look forward to working toward passage in 2020-2021, in coalition with our partners.

YOUTH, PEACE, SECURITY  
YOUTH, PEACE, SECURITY

#YES4YPS

YOUTH, PEACE, SECURITY  
YOUTH, PEACE, SECURITY

# Action Committees

## Burma

The Burma AC welcomed over 20 new members throughout the year. They advocated for the BURMA Act, which passed the House of Representatives on September 24th! The Committee kept members educated on major updates like the case against Burma in the International Court of Justice. Call speakers included Pulitzer-prize winner Esther Htusan.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Our DRC Committee ran a Refugee Awareness campaign on social media. They featured stories directly from Congolese refugees on the importance of maintaining admissions to the U.S. Monthly calls featured guest speakers such as Maurice Carney of Friends of the Congo and a special exchange with the leaders of youth peacebuilding organization Telema.

## Indigenous Peoples

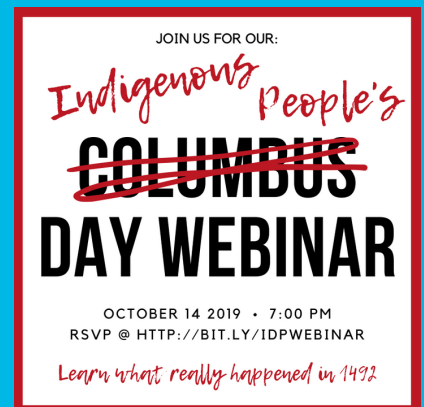
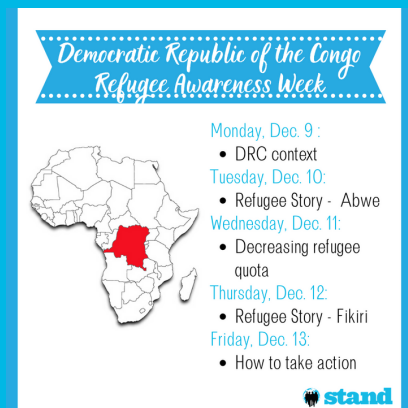
As the only topical committee, the IP AC introduced members to opportunities to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples in the United States. They held a webinar on Indigenous Peoples' Day to dispel myths about the history of colonization.

## Sudan

Building on STAND's long history advocating for peace in Sudan, this AC monitored major changes in Sudan's governance. They hosted several educational calls and coordinated with diaspora partners to keep members up to speed.

## Yemen

The Yemen AC partnered on a Thanksgiving campaign, #NoFamineWhileWeFeast. With progress stalled in Congress on the War Powers Resolution, AC members researched creative ways to advocate for the end of conflict in Yemen, such as campus divestment from arms manufacturers.







## Class of 2020

We are so proud of and grateful to the four graduating MC members! From totally revamping our State Advocacy Lead program, to standing up new Action Committees, to keeping our Conflict Updates concise and informative, these four prove that youth aren't just the leaders of tomorrow – they are leading the atrocity prevention field TODAY! [Read the MC's tribute here.](#)

### **Grace Fernandes, Student Director**

Simmons University  
Bachelor of Arts  
Political Science

### **Rujjares Hansapiromchok, Sudan AC Lead**

George Washington University  
Master of Arts  
International Education

### **Megan Smith, Education & Outreach co-Lead**

University of Southern California  
Bachelor of Arts  
Double Major in International Relations & French

### **Jordan Stevenson, Communications & Policy co-Lead**

Eastern Washington University  
Bachelor of Arts, International Affairs  
Minors in Spanish & Economics  
Concentration in Global Public Policy

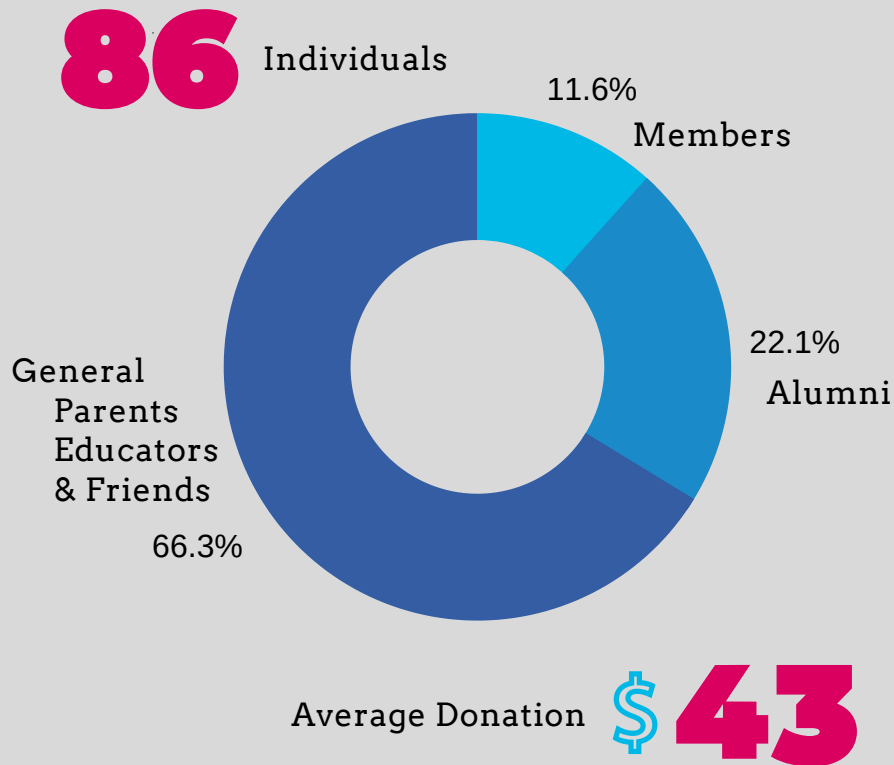


# Finances

June 2019-May 2020

Your support this year enabled STAND to acquire new communications tools, convene the Managing Committee in Washington, DC, for retreats in August and January, and replace our one full-time staff member. STAND's student leadership model allows us to be innovative and agile. We offer our members a range of no-cost tools and experiences to help them build the anti-genocide constituency.

## Grassroots Giving



## Revenue and Expenses

### Revenue

Grants and Institutions	\$34,883.95
Individuals	\$13,857.08

### Expenses

Human Resources	\$49,679.00
MC Retreats	\$ 8,069.53
Materials and Services	\$ 692.89



# Thank You

## Managing Committee:

Grace Fernandes (MA)  
Abby Edwards (SC/NY)  
Aisha Saleem (NY)  
Caroline Mendoza (CA)  
Claire Sarnowski (OR)  
Jan Jan Maran (VA)  
Jordan Stevenson (WA)  
Megan Rodgers (AR)  
Megan Smith (NH/CA)  
Rujjares Hansapiromchok (CA/DC)  
Vishwa Padigepati (CA/CT)

## State Advocacy Leads:

Alison Rogers (TX)  
Brandon Alonzo (NY)  
Eesha Kashif (MA)  
Grace Harris (FL)  
Mira Mehta (NJ)  
Rachel Bernstein (CA)  
Yasmine Halmane (NJ)

## Our generous 2019-2020 Donors:

Ryan Brenner  
Tricia Cook  
Patricia Fernandes  
Colin Hamilton  
Mac Hamilton  
Tamara Harper  
Luke Kubacki  
Lyn Lambert  
Maxine and Susan Laszlo  
Patricia Luft  
Susan Luft  
Inés Mendoza  
John and Ann Montgomery  
Ashley Morefield  
Emily Murray

Carol Sarnowski  
Lauren Shaman  
Bilha Spatz  
Gregory Stanton  
Melinda Strawmyer  
Kalpana Telikepali  
Scott Zellner  
  
Bridging Cultures Group  
Fabiani Cohen & Hall  
Schroder Investment  
Terre Haute South High School  
  
Open Society Policy Center

& many others!



Special thanks to our parent organization,  
Aegis America/Aegis Trust.



## Up Next

STAND has big plans for the next academic year. The 2019-2020 Managing Committee committed STAND to developing a greater emphasis on being a "youth"-led movement inclusive of those not in school. We plan to expand our outreach more intentionally to non-traditional students and non-schooling youth. We pledge to double our grassroots support by engaging even more students in our Action Committees, chapters, and State Advocacy Leads Program, as well as increasing ties to diaspora groups.

Building on lessons learned in the first full year of the Action Committee model, we are looking forward to adopting two new priority areas: Xinjiang, China, and Kashmir. STAND will play a leading advocacy role in promoting the Youth, Peace, and Security Act. We also plan to think beyond Congress by executing state- and local-level campaigns on genocide education, divestment, and more.

As a remote organization, our members are already trained in digital organizing and advocacy, and we are prepared to work virtually and remain agile throughout the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have the tools, the tactics, and the heart to be a youth-led genocide prevention movement for the next 15 years, and beyond.

*Art by Jordan Stevenson*





**stand**

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