

STAND: THE STUDENT-LED MOVEMENT
TO END MASS ATROCITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



stand

FROM OUR STUDENT DIRECTORS

This year has tested the commitment and resilience of STAND's student leaders in many ways.

Despite the many challenges they have faced, our Managing Committee (MC), State Advocacy Leaders (SALs), Action Committees (ACs), and Chapters have risen to the occasion - making it clear that youth care about global atrocity prevention even when encountering chaos in their own lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID also led us to lean in to our STAND family. We have prioritized community care and developed deep relationships with our teammates despite being unable to meet in person.

Through a variety of successful campaigns, advocacy, and education events, we believe that STAND has made a significant impact this year.

We have also seen and experienced the impact of STAND in our own lives as it has provided us with opportunities to take a stand on issues we are passionate about, improve our leadership, and grow our skills.

From lobbying on Capitol Hill to directing campaigns to hosting educational calls on important areas of ongoing atrocity, we can confidently say that STAND has equipped us and young people across the country for a future of continued impact on these issues.

ABBY EDWARDS

Columbia University '21

MEGAN RODGERS

University of Arkansas '21



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

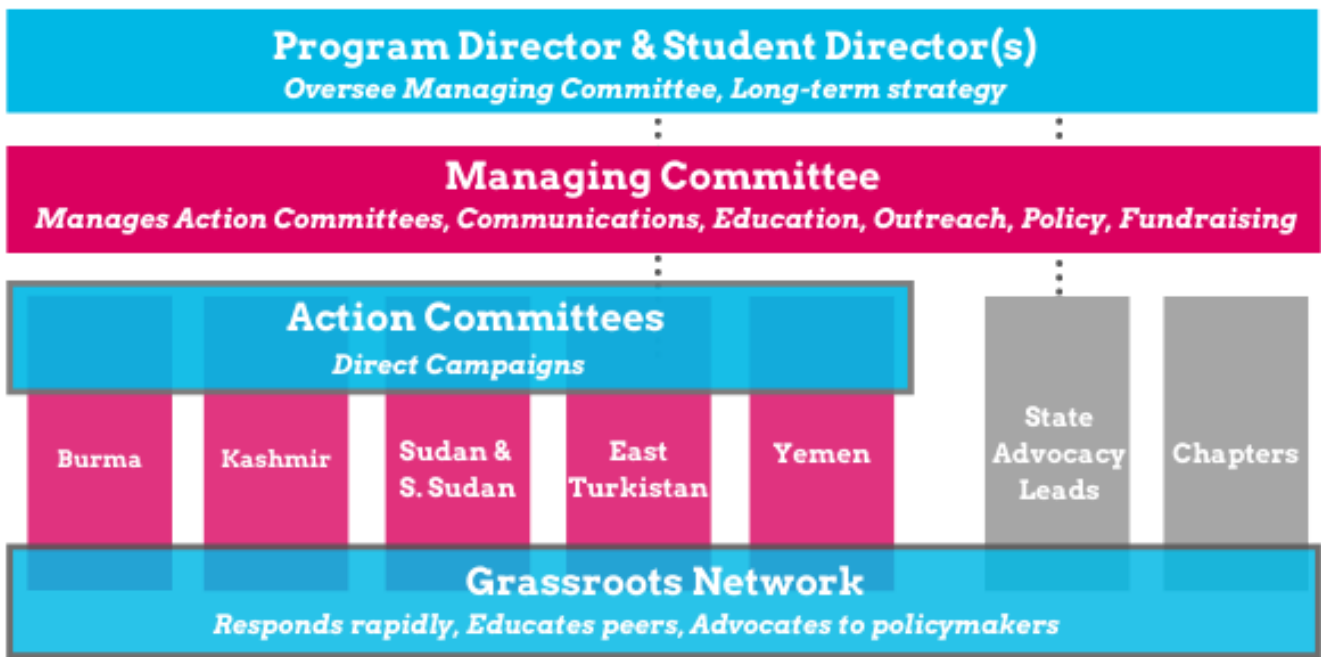
We envision a world in which the global community is invested in preventing, mitigating, and sustainably resolving genocide and mass atrocities.

ABOUT

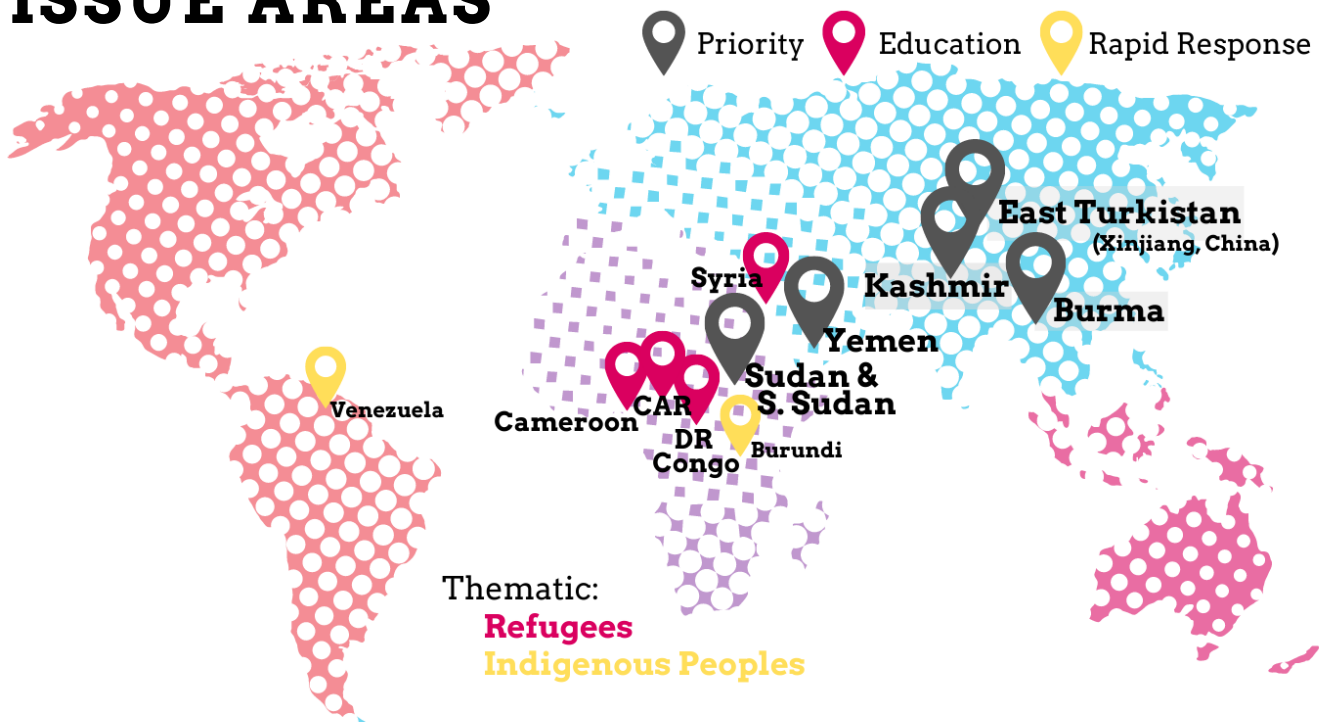
Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide and mass atrocities wherever they may occur. By creating political will, we hold our elected officials accountable for preventing and ending genocide and 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.

MODEL



ISSUE AREAS



ACTION COMMITTEES

Action Committees are platforms for individual youth activists to join an advocacy community for one or more topical areas.

Burma

As it grew rapidly, the Burma AC led policy actions including calling representatives about free and fair elections and the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act. They updated members throughout the events of the February coup, trained on advocacy meetings, and held an event with the U.S. Campaign for Burma.



East Turkistan (Xinjiang, China)

The East Turkistan AC began amidst major policy changes. A previous version of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) passed the House in September, by a vote of 406-3. Our leadership team lobbied for the UFLPA and co-led an op-ed training. Members published blogs on forced labor and the UN Human Rights Council. In January, the State Department declared the treatment of Uyghurs a genocide.

Kashmir

Our new Kashmir AC focused on educating members and building partnerships. Members created a timeline of events to educate our network. AC calls kept members updated on issues including land laws and the repression of journalists.

Sudan and South Sudan

Combining STAND's longest-running issue, Sudan, and South Sudan, this AC promoted the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda in these young countries.

Yemen

The Yemen AC explored many tactics. They developed a campaign strategy for university divestment, co-wrote a blog for the 6th anniversary of the conflict, wrote an op-ed guide, and worked with advocacy coalitions to develop legislative strategy.

STAND-WIDE CAMPAIGNS

Conscious Consumption Campaign

Over 15 weeks, the Conscious Consumption Campaign built our members' power as consumers. For the first time, this campaign brought together 3 Action Committees: Burma, East Turkistan, and Yemen. Starting with education, we used social media, videos, and materials to teach our network about the links between mass atrocities and the private sector. Using this knowledge, we shared opportunities to take action. Our team created 9 original resources and 5 videos/live events, including a Toolkit, Syllabus, and Pledge, and concluding in a "tweetstorm" week. Overall, the campaign attracted 78,308 social media impressions across all platforms, 4,685 engagements, and 224 people signed a 30-day boycott pledge.



Global Fragility Act

In summer 2020, STAND teamed up with Mercy Corps for a fully virtual Global Fragility Act campaign that included a petition, social media, videos, 3 interactive events, 5 blog posts, 1 policy statement, and 2 op-eds. In total, the campaign attracted over 431,000 social media impressions.

Virtual Book Club

Selections for our new club included The Girl Who Smiled Beads, Factory Girl, On Tyranny, and The Frontlines of Peace with author Séverine Autesserre.

Education

Our Education team published 10 Conflict Updates, 3 Writer of the Month features, 2 lesson plans, a syllabus on displaced persons, a briefier introducing the new U.S. Action Committee, and a statement introducing Palestine as an Education issue.

State-Level Genocide Education

We updated our webpage with a map of state initiatives. Efforts are moving forward in Maine and California.

Youth, Peace, & Security

STAND is a proud supporter of the Youth, Peace, and Security Act and an active member of the U.S. YPS Coalition.

20/20 Vision: World without Genocide

Our holiday giving campaign featured 20 members and 20 alumni. Our showcase presented our members' many talents.

Events

We held many virtual events, including with Amb. Samantha Power and for Indigenous Peoples' Day. Our leaders spoke at events with NewGen Peacebuilders, Together We Remember, North American youth activists, National Activism Day, a side event of the State Department's Intl Religious Freedom Ministerial, PeaceCon, and elsewhere!



BY THE NUMBERS

Graduates strongly agreed
STAND helped shape their career goals & choices

100%

78K+

Social Media Impressions:
Conscious Consumption Campaign

Meetings with Policymakers
Including 11 offices we haven't met before

38

44%

Average Increase in
Action Committee Members

Action Committee Calls

23

Managing Committee
Experience Rating

4.78

Average
Out of 5.0

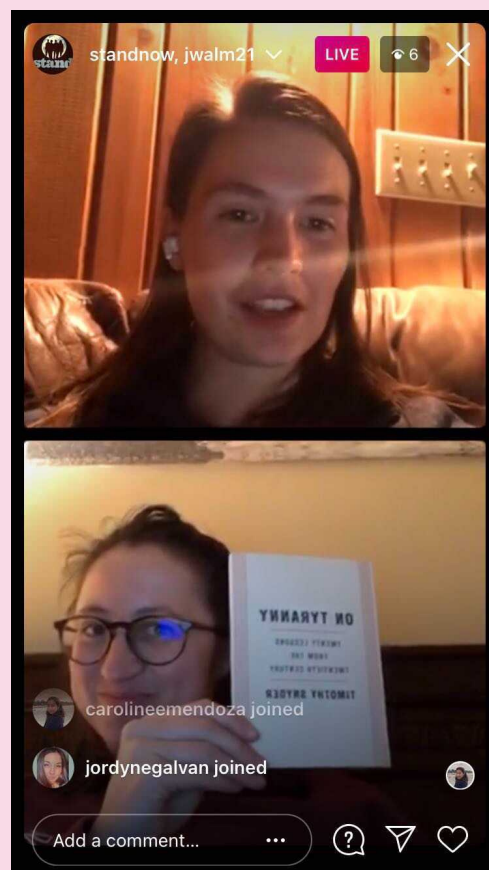
"I am grateful to know and work together with some of the most passionate, inspiring, and motivated individuals I have ever encountered through STAND. Being on the MC has been an experience that I feel like I cannot get enough of, because I was learning every moment about conflict area issues, policy updates, and Congressional processes...I truly cherish all that STAND has been able to offer me thus far, and hope that STAND keeps up its stellar work in empowering the youth and training individuals with useful life skills that they can carry with them for life beyond STAND." -Managing Committee member



CLASS OF 2021

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 STAND year, we had no idea if the Managing Committee could be as close, supportive, and impactful as usual with all of the challenges of the pandemic. We've been blown away at how the team has become a true community that has run some of our most effective campaigns ever - while never meeting in person!

Under the leadership of these four graduates, STAND has grown its grassroots reach, attracted discussion with high-level experts, and become a more inclusive and accessible movement. All of these women are continuing their studies related to international issues and atrocity prevention. They remind us every day that the future is bright, and we are so hopeful for their next steps. Thank you, and congratulations!



Abby Edwards, co-Student Director

Columbia University and
Sciences Po Paris
BA in Politics and Government,
Human Rights
Next: MAIR at Johns Hopkins' School
of Advanced International Studies

Jenna Walmer, co-Education & co-Policy

West Chester University of
Pennsylvania
MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies
MS in General Psychology
Next: PhD in Social Psychology at
Syracuse University



Megan Rodgers, co-Student Director

University of Arkansas
BA in International Studies, Political
Science and Spanish
Peace, Security and Human Rights
Concentration
Next: MAIR at Johns Hopkins' School
of Advanced International Studies

Jan Jan Maran, co-Burma AC Lead

George Mason University
BA in Global Affairs and
Environmental Sustainability
Studies
Next: Completing coursework at
George Mason University

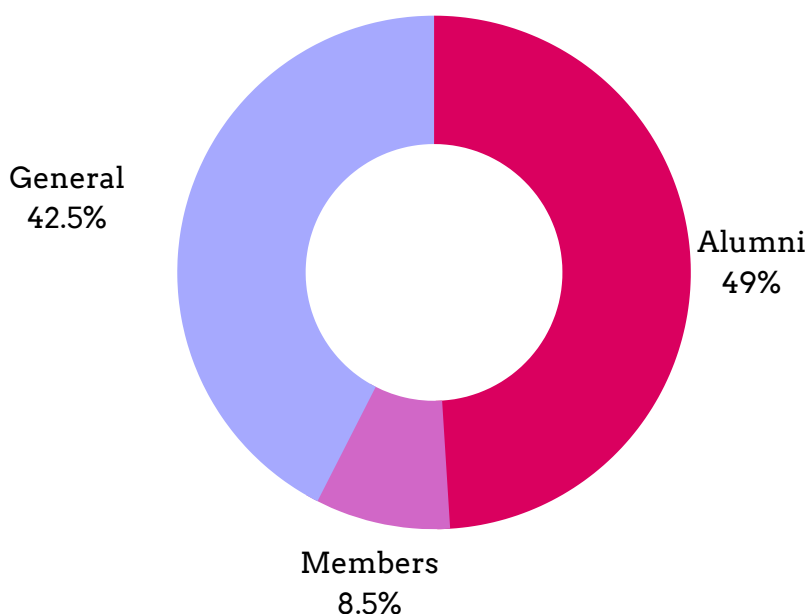
GRASSROOTS GIVING

July 2020-June 2021

For the first time, STAND's programming was completely virtual this year. Major events like our two Managing Committee retreats were held on Zoom. Your grassroots support made it possible to send resources across the country and build our toolbox of digital organizing platforms.

STAND offers our members a range of no-cost tools and experiences. We prioritize making every opportunity accessible to youth of all backgrounds.

Donations by Group



114 Individuals

Average Donation **\$42**

\$6,905.51 Total Grassroots Giving

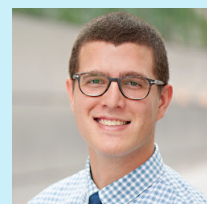
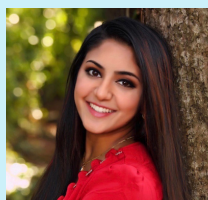
For the year 2020, our holiday giving campaign featured 20 members and 20 alumni. They shared their ["20/20 Vision" for a world without genocide](#). We are SO grateful for our incredible alumni, who made nearly half of the donations to STAND this year!

“

STAND has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the world around me, especially human rights and foreign policy, and how much of an impact younger generations and voices can make on politics both nationally and internationally.

-Shreya Satagopan

Washington State &
District of Columbia
State Advocacy Lead



STAND has energized a generation of life-long activists by empowering students with the leadership and advocacy skills needed to bring about change.

-Aaron Alberico

Former Regional Organizer &
Sudan Education Coordinator
co-Founder of Raynor Ave.
Public Affairs

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THANK YOU!

Managing Committee

Abby Edwards, co-Student Director
Megan Rodgers, co-Student Director
Jordyn Galvan
Grace Harris
Ishreet Lehal
Jan Jan Maran
Mira Mehta
Caroline Mendoza
Alison Rogers (Fall 2020)
Aisha Saleem
Claire Sarnowski
Jenna Walmer
Allison Weiner (Spring 2021)

State Advocacy Leads

Khadeeja Abd-Allah (MD)
Dorene Hantzis (IN)
Iyanu Osunmo (TX)
Shreya Satagopan (WA/DC)
Rohan Shah (IL)
Divya Singh (MO)

Advisory Board

Ursula Knudsen-Latta, Chair
Niemat Ahmadi
Grace Fernandes
MacKenzie Hamilton
Ashley Morefield
Scott Warren
Carl Wilkens

Our generous donors

Aaron Alberico
Jessica Arkel
John Bagwell
Stefan Bauschard
Ryan Brenner
Tricia Cook
Kim Czander
Bailey Cato Czupryk
Dr. Scott Edwards
Raheem Farishta
Amrita Farook
Grace Fernandes
Melissa Fireside
Katie Fuller
Janessa Goldbeck
Peggy Grabowski
Katja Grillitsch
Colin Hamilton
Laurie Hamilton
MacKenzie Hamilton
Timothy Hirschel-Burns
Hilary Jampel
Luke Kubacki
Susan Luft
Christina MacKenzie
William McKeen
Amisha Mehta
Katie Mitten
Yusef Mohammed
Sunish Oturkar
Sean Redding
Carol Sarnowski
Ken Sarnowski
Patrick Schmitt
Lauren Shaman
Beth Smith

Thomas Smith
Drew Stiling
Melinda Strawmyer
Chelsea Strelser
Mary Taylor
Bethany Vance
Jay Waldon
Lori Walmer
Lindsey Woolf
Lauren Wright
Katie Zander
Scott Zellner

Terre Haute South Vigo
High School

...and many others!

With special thanks to
our parent organization,
The Aegis Trust &
Aegis America



UP NEXT

This year has reinforced that activism is unpredictable. From the pandemic, to a new U.S. Congress and President, to a military coup in Burma, we were constantly adjusting our strategies and tactics. Thankfully, STAND is designed to be agile and proactive.

We'll be using the lessons of 2020-2021 to propel our movement forward. The new types of integrated virtual campaigns we developed for the Global Fragility Act and Conscious Consumption will help us dream of larger goals with larger impacts.

Through our Action Committee model, we will be recommitting to three areas that have both urgent atrocity risks and immense potential for U.S. policy change: Burma, East Turkistan (Xinjiang, China), and Yemen.

As we continue our international work, we will be establishing a new United States Action Committee. We have long seen atrocity risk factors in our own communities, and we will be finding ways to support local movements and activists addressing these issues.

We will also be adding new Education topic areas alongside longstanding issues such as Sudan. In particular, we will be adding the complex issue of Palestine.

We know we'll need to be ready for even more changes as our members head back to campuses and our Priority areas evolve rapidly. But if there's one thing that will never change, it's that STAND will be a home to teach, inspire, care for, and celebrate a new generation of atrocity prevention activists.



"Shout out to STAND for teaching me everything I know about organizing and activism. I have truly learned so much, both professionally and personally, and can't imagine who I would be today if it were not for the formative time I've spent with STAND. I think that the MC has so much power in encouraging especially young women to speak their ideas and know that they are valued members of a team. I know I personally have become much more outspoken and willing to contribute in places I previously would have shied away from."

-Managing Committee member

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