

December 12, 2018

Dear Friend,

When **the Trump Administration began separating immigrant children** from their families this summer, often detaining them and deporting their parents, the **Vance Center went into action**. We traveled to Guatemala, Honduras, and Brazil and worked through our Pro Bono Network of the Americas and found **many Latin American lawyers eager to join us**.



In short order, these lawyers began helping the children's U.S. immigration lawyers make contact with relatives, get documents corrected or copied, and otherwise advance dozens of cases. This was **vital help that the children otherwise would likely not have been able to get**.

The Vance Center is proud to serve as a **bridge across borders in the legal profession**. We do that regularly in our pro bono representation of human rights, environmental, and other organizations worldwide, in which lawyers from 97 law firms in 32 countries participated last year. We helped **indigenous peoples** in Cambodia, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, **environmental defenders** in Colombia, and **investigative journalists** in Cyprus, Jordan, and Serbia, among many others.



Alongside this daily work, the Vance Center just launched a **3-year initiative on women's incarceration worldwide**, based on our work over the past few years. This has shown remarkable similarities across the usual North-South divide: women are going to prison at an accelerating rate, often for non-violent crimes related to drug or human trafficking; and prison conditions

**fail to meet basic international standards** for women's health, care of their infants and young children, and preparation for release.

However, little is known about the causes and consequences of women's incarceration in most countries, and no structure exists for advocates to work together. So, we brought 49 advocates from 23 countries, including 9 formerly incarcerated women, to a **conference in Bogota, Colombia**, and began operational research and an online collaboration platform. We are working with **Clean Start, a Kenyan NGO** supporting currently and formerly incarcerated women, to study that country's estimated 3,058 women held in 34 prisons, as a **model for research** in dozens of other countries.

The Vance Center over the past 15 years has gained the **trust and reliance of more than 100 client organizations**, as well as the partnership of more than **170 law firms** in representing them, always for free. We have become a vital resource for human and environmental rights worldwide, but remain vulnerable ourselves. **We depend on friends like you to support us.**

Please help us fight child separation in the United States and improve conditions for incarcerated women worldwide.

Many thanks,



Alexander Papachristou  
Executive Director



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