

upEND

IMPACT REPORT



2022





The movement is moving! This is the answer I give when asked how things are going at upEND.

I continue to be proud of our team’s commitment to reshaping the narrative surrounding the U.S. family policing system. In 2023, we did this work in several notable ways. Through our groundbreaking podcast series, The upEND Podcast, we’ve endeavored to democratize access to vital information, shedding light on the historical context and present realities of this harmful system.

Moreover, our 2023 Convening “Living Abolition Now” served as a dynamic forum for dialogue and action, with a particular focus on abolition as everyday praxis. Additionally, our team organized an in-person workgroup meeting, which provided a space for diverse stakeholders—fundamental change agents, organizers, and those directly impacted—to unite for the collective purpose of ending family policing.

We are excited to continue the work of family policing abolition, where we hope to not only dismantle what has been but also build what we know is possible—a world where all families can stay together and thrive.

Josie Pickens,
upEND Program Director



CHANGE THE CONVERSATION

We create and share resources that counter harmful popular narratives and equip community leaders to influence policy and bring about change.



FOSTER NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We develop partnerships and support on-the-ground efforts to build a network of grassroots advocates and allies, led primarily by impacted youth and families.



Core
Strategies



RESEARCH

We support and disseminate research that identifies the harms that result from family policing intervention and advances innovative and non-punitive means of care that truly prioritize the safety and support of children, families, and communities.



SUPPORT PRAGMATIC AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Our framework for change, How We endUP, provides seven actionable steps toward eliminating the family policing system, and creating the conditions that truly support child, family, and community well-being. We also advocate for learning from, supporting, and sustaining the efforts of others who are actively innovating and imagining.

2023

AT A GLANCE

13,682
Total Subscribers
and Followers
in 2022



launched the Framework for Evaluating Reformist Reforms vs. Abolitionist Steps to End the Family Policing System



talked with Roxanna Asgarian about her book *"We Were Once a Family"*



organized an urgent reproductive justice webinar



supported the Black Mothers March in DC



launched The upEND Podcast Season One



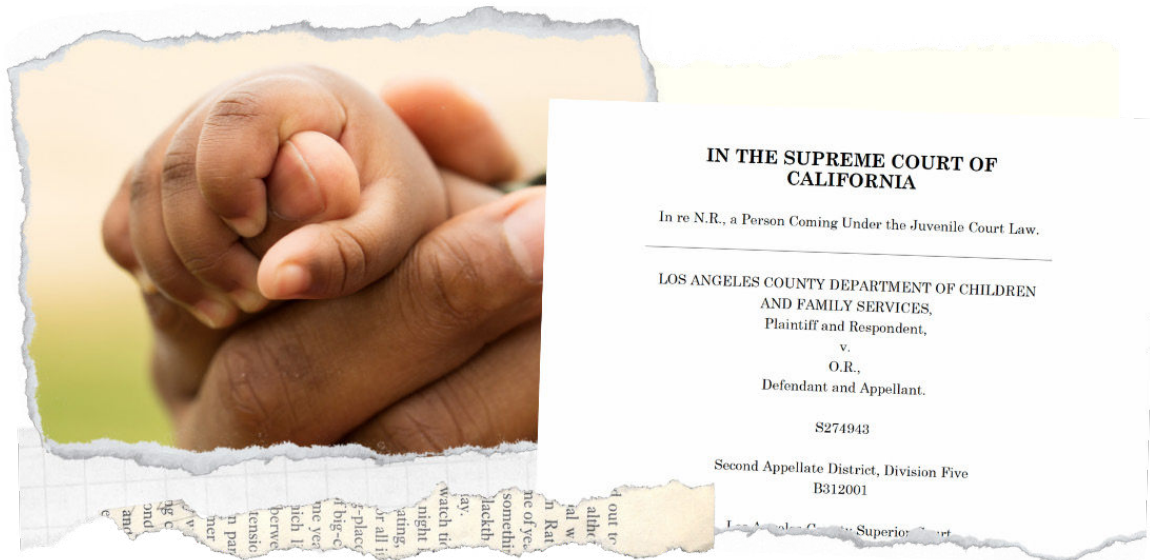
upEND Staff and advisors spoke at **34 events**



hosted our first hybrid convening with participants from over 300 cities

23,700
Total Subscribers
and Followers
in 2023

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

A 17-month-old boy was forcibly separated from his father following a single drug test indicating the use of cocaine when the child was not in his father's care.

upEND advisor Alan Dettlaff and other social workers submitted an amicus brief to the California Supreme Court arguing that the use of a substance should not be used to make any determinations about the safety of a child. Further, the well-documented harms of family separation should be factors considered in these decisions.

In a groundbreaking decision, the court agreed and struck down the "tender years doctrine." This decision will reduce California's ability to forcibly separate families and can provide a model for actions in other states.

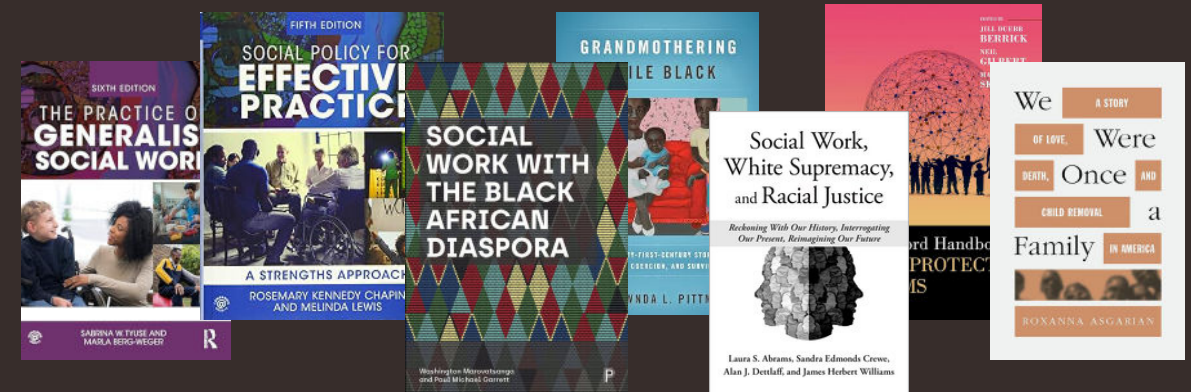
in 2023, upEND's work was cited in...

7
books

94
academic articles

12
news articles

1
court decision



I'm following up to thank you for presenting at our event yesterday. I have received nothing but positive feedback about how the participants were energized and thankful for the opportunity to learn and feel validated in their experiences. I think you moved the needle.

Thank you!

Kirsten
Director of Training and Technical Assistance
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence



THE **up**END PODCAST



@myschelle81

Just listened to episode 1!!! So good!!! I always feel like I am struggling to explain abolition, and this first episode was a master class in its explanation! Great work!!!

@trainbanshee

I am disseminating this episode IMMEDIATELY, it is fantastic.

Knowledge is power.

We produced the first season of The upEND Podcast for someone completely new to family policing abolition to trace its lineage from chattel slavery to present day, then imagine a radically different future. It's designed to be accessible and to be shared. It's designed to empower.

In episode 2, Geoff Ward, author of *The Black Child-Savers: Racial Democracy and Juvenile Justice*, remarks, "Though our institutions don't recognize and acknowledge the value of podcasts in our communities, I think what you're doing has so much impact. And I'm just really grateful to have been invited to be a part of this." We're grateful for our guests as well as our new listeners.

Episode guests for season one include Ndujoh MehChu, Mical Raz, Vanessa M. Holden, Dorothy Roberts, Dylan Rodríguez, Alan Dettlaff, Brianna Harvey, Victoria Copeland, Maya Schenwar, Maya Pendleton, Angela Burton, Joyce McMillan, Shanta Trivedi, and Geoff Ward.

7

episodes
released in
2023

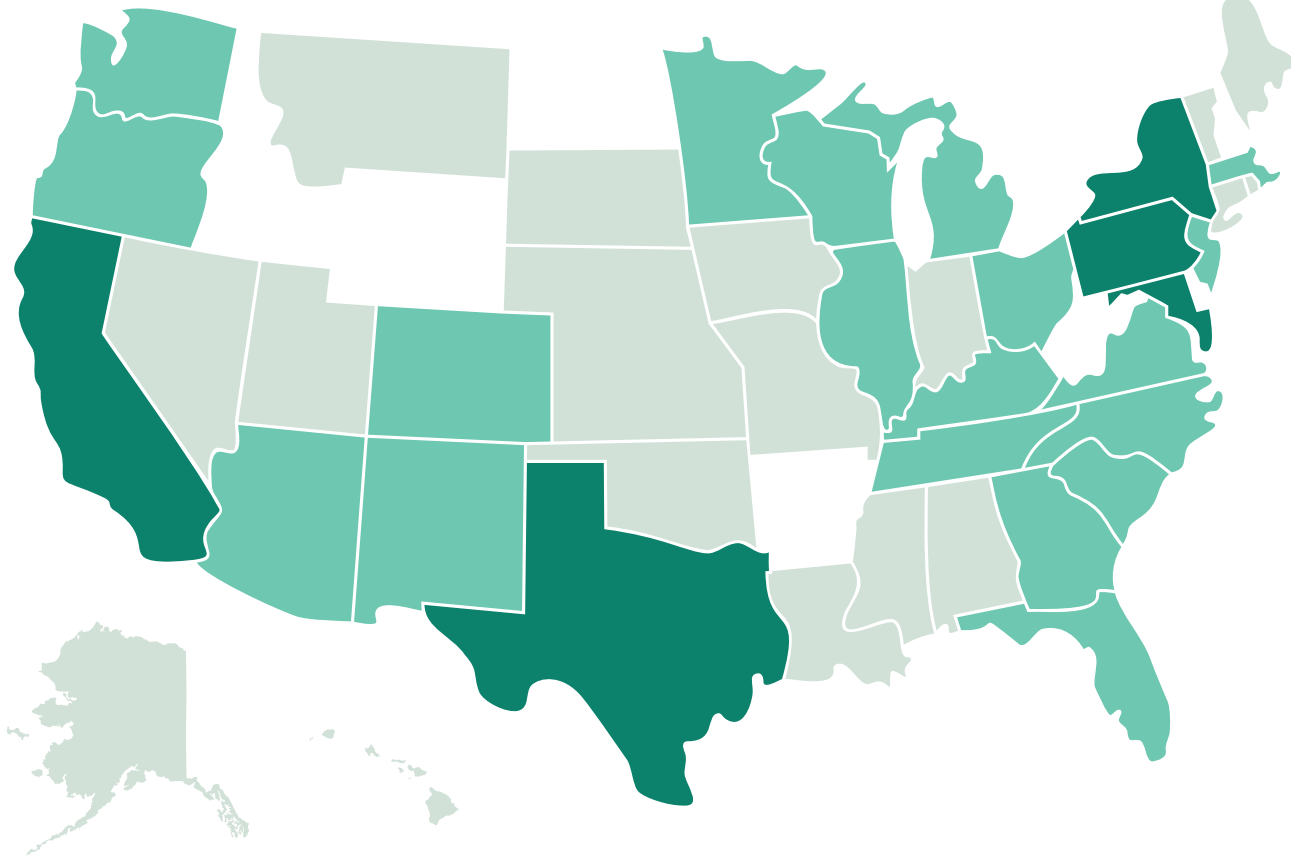
15

guests in
Season One

984

subscribers





**43
STATES**

were represented by registrants for our 2023 Convening

100

participants attended in-person in Houston, TX, and 537 joined virtually



A child holds a sign that reads "A Black Child Was Kidnapped Today" at the Black Mother's March in Washington D.C.

FOSTERING NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

By prioritizing relationships with thought leaders, organizers, funders, and individuals directly impacted by the family policing system, we've cultivated a diverse coalition committed to family policing abolition.

After cosponsoring the Black Mother's March in Washington, D.C. we felt the the importance of gathering in-person to build community. So we convened the Ending Family Policing Coalition in Houston where over twenty organizers gathered to strategize and found solace and solidarity in the formidable work ahead. This foundation of collective action is preparing the movement to make an even greater impact.



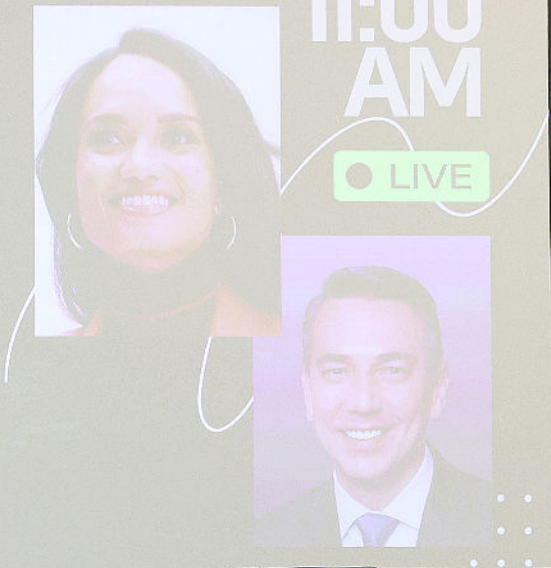
Organizers from New York City attend the 2023 Convening.



The new Ending Family Policing Coalition meets for the first time.

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION WITH

JOSIE DUFFY RICE & ALAN DETTLAFF

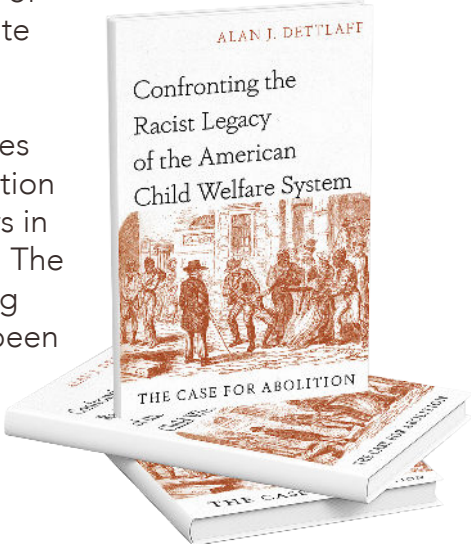


RESEARCH AND WRITING

The cross-country book tour for *Confronting the Racist Legacy of the American Child Welfare System*, by upEND Advisor Alan Dettlaff, demonstrated rapidly growing understanding of the harm caused by family policing and the need for abolition.

Featuring contributions from upEND collaborators Maya Pendleton, Victoria Copeland, Reiko Boyd, Kristen Weber, and Jesse Hartley, the book traces the history of family separations in the United States to demonstrate that the intended outcomes of the separations done during the era of chattel slavery are the same intended outcomes of the separations done today by the child welfare system - the subjugation of Black Americans and the maintenance of white supremacy.

Alan was invited to bookstores and universities across the country to share the case for abolition presented in the book and to engage readers in the ongoing work of the upEND Movement. The tour reached hundreds of attendees including those new to abolition and those who have been deeply engaged in this work for years.



SUPPORTING PRAGMATIC AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

We were devastated to hear about a new mother in Dallas, Texas whose infant was forcibly removed from her by social workers and police in the middle of the night.

After being reported by the family's pediatrician for receiving care under a licensed midwife, the baby was ripped from her parents' arms only to be returned several weeks later after the parents bore their pain in press conferences and the public applied pressure on their behalf.

This is a trauma too often inflicted on Black parents, and it highlighted so clearly the intersections between family policing abolition and reproductive justice, and the urgency of action following the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

We quickly responded with a webinar featuring Houston locals who are countering regressive reproductive health policies. Later, we continued the conversation in a panel called "Start Where You Are" where listeners received advice and inspiration from community organizers, police abolitionists, and an abortion doula.



In our webinar "How Reproductive Justice Demands Freedom From Surveillance," we learned from Dr. Kim Baker, a researcher working on systems-level-interventions to increase access to contraception, and Kay Matthews, an organizer working for improved maternal health outcomes.



What do community gardens, abortion doulas, and #StopCopCity have to do with ending family policing? We're not free until we're all free to make choices about bodies, food, families, and communities. And everyone has a place in this work.

Our new "Framework for Evaluating Reformist Reforms vs Abolitionist Steps to End the Family Policing System" asks, does this policy reduce the prospect of harm caused by family policing? Does this practice promote family and community autonomy? It was the most viewed resource on our website in 2023.





Space to Dream

In the three years since upEND launched in 2020, we have seen a drastic shift in how news outlets, social workers, and even the general population talk about the family policing system. We're chipping away at the myth of child welfare's benevolence and proposing a radically new form of safety for families that meets their needs and sees them flourish together.

With every presentation that we give and every new subscriber that we gain, our network and our collective power grows. It is essential that we keep up this momentum and expand the reach of our message. Our big dreams include increased funding for staff, storytellers, researchers, and direct collaboration with people impacted by the system.

\$376,159
**ANNUAL OPERATING
BUDGET**

EXPENSES

Staff - 52%
Advisors - 10%
Parent & Youth Engagement/Creators - 16%
Researchers - 6%
Communications - 5%
Convening - 13%
Travel - 4%

upEND is a national movement based in Houston, TX that is funded entirely through grants and donations.

This year, our increased capacity was largely due to a generous donation from Andrus Family Fund to support our first hybrid convening and sponsor the attendance of impacted persons, organizers, and activists. We are also grateful to the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Ms. Foundation, and to our individual donors for their generosity.

COMING IN 2024...



Our first creative publication, "Dream, Create, Liberate: A Future Without Family Policing"



Building power with the Ending Family Policing Coalition



Collaborations in research & writing



The upEND Podcast Season 2