



We can't reform a punishment system. We must imagine and invest in care and healing.

What is the family policing system?

Current “child welfare” interventions are based on an historical ideology of surveillance, separation, and punishment in order to control families and communities. This history includes chattel slavery, genocide of Indigenous peoples, and erasure of culture and peoples through separation and assimilation. Today, this violence is repeated by forcibly separating families in response to poverty, immigration, incarceration, and other societal failures. Because of this, upEND believes that the child welfare system is better described as family policing.

What does abolition mean?

upEND advocates for dismantling the family policing system and shifting power and resources to innovations, organizers, and community-based supports that truly help children and families. upEND focuses on promoting solutions that address the core economic, social, and structural reasons that cause children to be considered unsafe. This includes advocating for investments that address poverty, food insecurity, lack of affordable and safe housing, and a lack of accessible health care, child care, and meaningful prevention services. This also includes imagining and promoting non-punitive ways of addressing harm and promoting healing so that children are safer and families thrive. Ultimately, upEND works to make the current system of foster care obsolete.

Our Mission

upEND's mission is to advance the abolition of the family policing system by providing political education and resources that equip organizers, bridge gaps between liberation movements, and promote abolitionist approaches to serving families and communities.



Our Goals

Stop the harm and dismantle the family policing system

upEND is pushing the field to grapple with the concept of abolition—now it is time to take pragmatic steps forward. Together, we can end policies that cause harm, actively shrink the carceral components of the family policing system, and provide direct material supports to youth and families.

Imagine new ways of supporting and serving children, families, and communities

As we work to dismantle the existing carceral system, we can also work to eliminate the root causes that create conditions for harm to occur by creating robust supports for families and communities.

To truly achieve these goals, we cannot operate at half measures and must instead fully work to upEND the system. We also must not recreate the current power structures or merely change the names of existing agencies. *This is a call for radical change.*



This work isn't about modest reform.

Abolition is about ending the current family policing system and creating new, community-based ways of keeping children safe and protected in their homes and communities.



Our Strategies



raise political consciousness about family policing and state violence

We create resources that contextualize family policing and family separation as interventions of state violence.



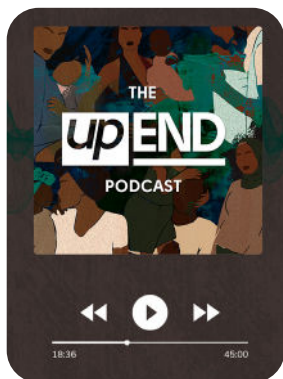
bridge gaps between movements to dismantle carceral systems

We connect family policing abolition to other movements such as prison abolition, immigrant justice, reproductive justice, and queer and trans liberation to strengthen our collective power.



promote abolitionist approaches to community safety

We discuss actionable steps toward eliminating the family policing system and creating the conditions that free children and families from state violence.



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