Private Prison Divestment
Youth Retreat

August 15th, 2014 – August 17th, 2014 – Miami, FL
Florida International University Labor Center
11200 SW 8th Street Miami, FL 33199 (Labor Center, Room 304)
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Contacts & Helpful Information

If you have any issues, please contact Enlace & Responsible Endowments Coalition staff:

- Daniel Carrillo........323-303-4434........daniel@enlaceintl.org
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- Jamie Trinkle........503-757-4375........jamie@enlaceintl.org
- Lauren Ressler ........917-930-0123........lauren@endowmentethics.org

Retreat Venue

- FIU Labor Center, Room 304
  11200 SW 8th Street
  Miami, FL 33199

Housing Locations

- 1st United Methodist Church of South Miami
  6565 Red Road, Miami, FL 33143

- Wesley Hispanic United Methodist Church
  133 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Miami, FL 33135

Shuttle

Enlace & REC are renting minivans to move all our beautiful selves between the airport, housing, and the retreat venue. We do not plan to be a taxi service, so if you go out at night, please plan ahead to use a real cab! If you are out and get in an unsafe situation, call us.
Welcome to the Private Prison Youth Divestment Retreat!

Peace Family:

Hello and welcome to our Private Prison Divestment Youth Retreat! We’re looking forward to a weekend of youth building a movement to resist and dismantle the Prison Industrial Complex through divestment from major private prison contractors.

Over the weekend you’ll be spending time with youth who have come from all over the country and whose experiences of this issue will be different. Some of us will have been part of divestment movements on campuses, others in our communities fighting local governments and corporations, and others may be new to the movement but not to understanding the harms against our communities that prisons represent.

Inside of this packet you’ll find the agenda, listing what we’ll be doing over the next 3 days. It includes a contact sheet, so you can find the phone numbers of the retreat’s organizers or the address of our location if you need it. We’ve also included short biographies of our two excellent keynote speakers, Maria Rodriguez and Desmond Meade as well as descriptions of the organizations that have supported the planning of this retreat and some resources for you to consult as you move on from the weekend and into your work.

Our events are planned in various ways. Some will be focused on concrete skill building, and some on building connections between folks. Some will build your knowledge on the way institutions and corporations function and how to target them, while others will give you a better grasp of the way these corporations and their institutional investors are not just complicit in, but actually exacerbating the violence that is entailed by Mass Incarceration. Our hope is that what you learn will all tie together to make you more effective and strategic about your work.

Many of the events are quite different, as you may have noted, but all of them come together, ideally to build something meaningful for you to come away with. Understanding how grassroots lobbying works can be extremely critical, especially in local campaigns. Simultaneously, the skills to do so can exist only alongside content and knowledge; we need to make the connections between the major institutions that make up the system.

A large part of this retreat, however, is not what is planned by the agenda or what is given by the facilitators. It is the power to resist that we constitute as a collective. We invite you to come here to share your knowledge, your experiences, your feelings, and your beliefs about issues whose history runs as deep as the history of this country. We invite you to learn and become empowered by the words and deeds of others; Change will be found in nowhere but in the hearts and minds of people who seek it.

In Solidarity,
Retreat Steering Committee
Safe Space Resources at the Prison Divestment Youth Retreat

Here at the Prison Divestment Youth Retreat, our priority is that you feel safe, respected, and comfortable. **If any situation arises that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe, or unhealthy, please contact an Enlace or REC staff member at any time to address the situation.** While we are not crisis support professionals, we will do our best as individuals to support you, resolve interpersonal issues, and direct you to helpful outside resources as necessary with privacy and respect.

**Crisis Hotlines:**

**National Sexual Assault Hotline (24-hour): 1.800.656.HOPE (4673)**
By RAINN, the largest anti-sexual violence organization in the United States. [http://rainn.org](http://rainn.org)

“RAINN does not have any record of a caller's phone number or name. Callers always have their choice of whether or not to share their real name or phone number with counselors; they are never obligated to reveal this information. In other words, we will know who you are only if you choose to tell us. If a caller is under age 18 and chooses to share personally-identifying information with the counselor, most states require the counselor to notify authorities of the sexual assault of a minor. Only in this situation – when a minor calls and chooses to reveal identifying information – does the pledge of confidentiality not apply.”

**SAMHSA's National Helpline: 800-662-HELP**
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's 24-hour free and confidential information on substance use disorder issues and referral to treatment, in English and Spanish. [http://www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

**The Trevor Project Helpline: 866-488-7386**
“The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. Out trained counselors are here to support you 24/7. If you are a young person who is in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgment-free place to talk, call The Trevor Lifeline now. It’s free and confidential.” [http://trevorproject.org](http://trevorproject.org)
Organizational Sponsors

**Enlace** is a strategic international alliance of low-wage worker centers, unions, and community organizations. Through strategic campaigns and organizational capacity building, we come together to create a fortified movement for self-determination, justice, and global transformation. We partner with our members in international campaigns to pressure transnational corporations and governments to treat workers and communities with dignity and respect.

In 2011, Enlace convened the **Private Prison Divestment Campaign** to fight the devastating impacts of criminalization and mass incarceration on low-income, immigrant, and black and brown communities. We aim to break the lobbying power of the private prison industry at all levels of government to make it possible to halt unjust incarcerations of immigrants and people of color. The campaign is working with more than 145 student, community, and labor organizations in the US and expanding around the globe to end the prison industrial complex and create a freer world without bars and without borders.

**The Responsible Endowments Coalition (REC)** works to change the way colleges invest, shifting from investments that fund social and environmental destruction and creating pathways to investments that build community, a clean energy infrastructure, and a just economy.

REC builds power by organizing students, alumni, university administrators, and the larger community to challenge and pressure universities to invest their endowments more responsibly. We empower these groups to understand the nuances related to the investment of money and how it plays huge a role in all aspects of society, either exacerbating or improving the environment, working conditions, human rights, and community relationships locally and globally. We are committed to building an inclusive, diverse movement that is representative of the constituencies most affected by corporate and environmental injustice.

REC has been involved with the national prison divestment campaign since 2013, and continues to support student organizing for divestment from private prison companies as a way to undermine the links by which prison profiteers continue to draw support and legitimacy from our colleges and universities.
The **Dream Defenders** is a black and brown youth-led organization. We build concrete power on our campuses and in our communities through strategic non-violent direct-action, issue advocacy, civic engagement, and an unlimited creativity. Dream Defenders across the state work on various issues, including dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, fighting against mass incarceration, and working towards the abolition of all prisons. Ignited by the unjust death of one of our own, one spring night in Sanford, we have dedicated our lives to battling the criminalization of our generation. We are committed to defending the dreams of our community and our generation.

As one of the only system-wide collectives for Black students, the **Afrikan Black Coalition** is a vital tool in promoting networking amongst peers, generating positive images of Black students and staff to their campus communities, inspiring innovation, and providing an environment where the Black cultural experience is valued. ABC is designed to unify Black students across the UC system in order to discuss and resolve issues concerning academic policy, campus climate, matriculation from the University, and more by presenting the opportunity for unity in spite of geographical boundaries. Over the past year, ABC has worked toward ultimately getting the University of California to divest from the Private Prison Industry.
Keynote Biographies

Maria Rodriguez has worked to defend basic human rights of low-income and migrant peoples for 25 years. She is a graduate of Georgetown University, where Maria was active in the anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity movements. She connected with Tenant and Workers’ United, where she became the lead organizer on a campaign to create a housing cooperative. She has worked to defend public health care coverage and promoted the growth of award-winning free clinics: La Clinica del Pueblo in Washington, D.C. and Good News Care Center in Florida. She also served as Deputy Director of the Human Services Coalition in South Florida. Maria has been a Board Member for Florida New Majority, ACLU of Florida, New World Foundation Board in New York, and the Highlander Center in Tennessee. She founded FLIC in 2005 and is the mother of Dante. (Borrowed from FLIC’s website, www.floridaimmigrant.org)

Desmond Meade is the outgoing president of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition as well as the State Director of the Lifelines to Healing Campaign. He is a graduate of Florida International University College of Law.

Meade’s story is a powerful one. Caught and dismissed for stealing liquor while stationed with the Army in Honolulu, Meade moved to Miami to work as a celebrity bodyguard when he was first convicted of several drug charges. In 2001 he was charged with possession of a firearm as a felon and following his early release from a fifteen year sentence Meade found himself on the streets. At some point, Meade felt the need to change directions and attended a drug treatment program.

After that, Meade attended Miami-Dade community College and graduated summa cum laude in paralegal studies. He then moved on to acquire his law degree.

Today, Meade is a part of a national campaign to fight mass incarceration, gun violence in urban communities and, and disenfranchisement experienced by the 5 million citizens who are prevented from voting. Mead’s commitment against institutionalized racism is truly inspiring and we’re excited to hear from him.
Agenda

Friday:  
_Laying the Foundation: Understanding Our Context_

1:00 | Keynote  
Keynote speaker Maria Rodriguez, a long-time activist, has been engaged with the struggle for immigrant rights for years. She embodies a wealth of knowledge, experience, and guidance that will provide necessary practical insight into our work. In this keynote, Maria, will offer words of wisdom and inspiration to launch us into a productive weekend of resistance.

1:45 | Community Building | Lauren/Responsible Endowments Coalition  
All organizations are relational. They are built upon the relationships established within them. This segment will help us to begin forming the relationships necessary to do this work.

3:15 | Leadership Styles | Salih/Afrikan Black Coalition  
An essential component to developing strong campaigns is strong team dynamics. However, strong team dynamics cannot develop if individuals are unable to identify with clarity their style of leadership and preferences for working environment. This training session will help you answer the question, “What type of leader are you?”

4:00 | Power and Politics | Ian/Responsible Endowments Coalition  
Ultimately, our political work is about the redistribution of power. But what exactly is power? And how do we attain it? This workshop session will lay a conceptual framework for us to understand, power, politics, and their interrelation.

4:45 | Grassroots Organizing | Daniel & Jamie/Enlace  
Breaking into groups, this session will train you in the most effective organizing tactics that we know. This session is meant to provide you with knowledge, practice, and resources needed to effectively organize a campaign on your campus.

Saturday:  
_Practical Application_

9:30 | What is the Private Prison Industry? | Desmond Meade  
Saturday’s opening keynote will propel us into a day full of hands-on work in order to develop a national youth-led approach to prison divestment. Desmond Meade, a long-time activist, will provide acute insight into understanding the private prison industry. What exactly is a private prison? And where did they originate from? Meade will help participants to gain clarity of understanding in regards to America’s massive private prison industry.
10:30 | Prisons, Race, and Policy: Making the Connections | Salih/Afrikan Black Coalition
This workshop will provide a historical context to the development of the prison industrial complex through a hip-hop lens. Hoping to make the connection between the civil right/Black Power era and the subsequent explosion of mass incarceration, the workshop hopes to answer “why” the prison system exploded in the way it did.

10:00 | Grassroots Messaging | Ian/Responsible Endowments Coalition
How do you message prison divestment? This workshop will examine best practices and methodologies for messaging such “controversial” issues. In addition, the session will allow us to craft a united message for prison divestment.

12:00 | Grassroots Lobbying | Lauren/Responsible Endowments Coalition
This workshop session will help participants to understand and navigate lobbying with administrations. What are the best and worst practices when advocating for prison divestment with campus administrators?

1:45 | Lunch

2:30 | Developing a National Strategy | Jamie/Enlace
This segment will be a deliberative dialogue to help us development a national prison divestment strategy.

3:45 | Leadership Development | Salih/Afrikan Black Coalition
Especially within the college context, leadership turnover is extremely high. Students graduate, change organizations, or have increased class schedules - all of which lead to poor leadership transitioning. This help participants to learn innovative management structures and team work styles that allow for effective leadership development.

5:00 | UnConference Time and Office Hours with REC & Enlace staff

6:00 | TBA
(Possibilities include: Movie Night, Meet Up with Freedom School, Solidarity Action)

**Sunday:**
*Establishing the future*

9:00 | Breakfast

9:15 | Time Management Training | Guest TBA
This skill is essential to anyone managing organizational structures. In this session, people will leave with innovative and practical time management skills.

10:00 | UnConference Time or Office Hours with REC & Enlace staff
11:00 | Conducting Divestment Research | REC/Enlace/UCF Dream Defenders
Research fuels many of our divestment campaigns. How do you find out which companies are invested in private prisons? How do you find out how much money your campus or community has invested? This workshop session will give practical tips on researching more information of your school’s and community’s investment practices.

12:00 | Crafting a National Campaign: Building divestment for the future | Enlace
This closing session will continue from Saturday’s conversation, hoping to develop a national prison divestment campaign strategy.

3:00 | Closing Circle | UCF Dream Defenders
Fundraising and Social Media

As a Planning Committee, we're proud to have been able to provide over $3,500 in travel support for retreat participants, in addition to covering the costs of meals and lodgings. To make this possible, however, it was necessary to start a fundraising directly in our networks through our online campaign.

From now through the end of the retreat, we’re asking you as participants and supporters to please circulate our fundraiser among friends, family, and supporters. The page will not close until August 17th, the last day of the retreat, and we’re hoping to continue fundraising through the whole weekend. If we can match or exceed our goal of raising $4,000 in that time, we’ll be able to fully cover the costs of the weekend, and perhaps even have something left over to continue to fund youth taking action for racial and migrant justice!

To take us there, please send the link out to your networks. Feel free to take inspiration from the following sample communications:

Facebook:

- **Hey Everybody! I am leaving for Miami on Thursday to attend a national gathering of youths working to end the for-profit prison industry.** For profit-prisons have grown in this country in recent years, targeting people of color, undocumented peoples, and members of the LGBTQ community as potential prisoners to saturate their market. As a student I am ready to take on this industry using the established channels of power that exist in my university; I am ready to start a divestment campaign to dump private prison stock and invest in industries that build communities instead of break them.

- **If you or anyone you hold dear has been affected by the violent and demeaning practices of the private-prison industry please consider donating to the fundraising drive for this retreat.** Myself and all the other participants will greatly benefit from it and so appreciate your generosity. If you can’t donate but still believe in this work, that's okay-- drop me a shout-out on here.

Twitter:

Can you support a National Youth Gathering to End the For-Profit Prison Industry? bit.ly/tt2oWZ RT and help us find donors!
Sample meme (courtesy of Aaron Abudu Nininger):

![Image of prison conditions]

**Email (short version):**

Subject: Sponsor a Youth Organizer

Dear XXXX,

This week, we're bringing together over 40 youth from across the country for a youth retreat on prison divestment. Let’s be clear--this isn't just a retreat--this a 3-day get together to strengthen the movement against bars and borders, and cultivate youth leadership from communities of color. **We need your help to bring everyone together.**

The Retreat will prepare youth and students for a flurry of organizing on prison divestment this fall. At the retreat, youth will learn strategic research, base building, and campaigning. They’ll dig into private prisons and industry connections to the education system. They’ll develop critical relationships with each other and movement elders. Keynotes Maria Rodriguez and Desmond Meade will inspire and guide.

Youth will leave with the skills, the plans, and the relationships they need to successfully bring the Private Prison Divestment Campaign back to their schools and communities.

**Help us make this convening possible.** Please donate what you can today to strengthen the movement against mass incarceration and immigration enforcement.

Many thanks,

- XXXX
Email (long version):

Dear XXXX --

This week, this space will be realized! Together, with over 40 youth from around the country, I will be gaining the skills and resources to halt my [university's/city's] investments in prison profiteers like CCA and the GEO Group, and to redirect these resources towards investments that strengthen our communities rather than criminalize and fragment them.

**We are $3,500 short of our goal to support participants’ travel costs. Please donate to sponsor a student organizer!**

At this first ever National Prison Divestment Youth Retreat, participants will learn strategic research, base building, and campaigning. They'll dig into private prisons and industry connections to the education system. They'll develop critical relationships with each other and movement elders. Maria Rodriguez of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, whose work bridges environmental and migrant justice, and Desmond Meade of the PICO Florida Lifelines to Healing Campaign to end gun violence will keynote this exciting weekend.

**Can you donate $20 dollars today?**

Since the national campaign began in 2011, we have already caused a long list of firms (ranging from Pershing Square Capital Management to most recently DSM Netherlands, Amica Mutual Insurance and Scopia Capital) to move hundreds of millions out of private prison companies. But this fight is far from over. In spite of continuing reports of abuse in immigrant detention centers and other private prisons, the prison profiteers are continuing to make record profits and influence legislation.

Fortunately, the youth movement is only getting started. From three active campus divestment campaigns and two city campaigns this past spring, we are looking forward to bringing youth from **over 20 college campuses and 15 municipalities** to gain tools to start their own campaigns this fall!

Help us make this convening possible! Please [donate](#) what you can today to strengthen the movement against profit-driven mass incarceration and immigration enforcement, because private prisons are a public problem!

In solidarity,

- XXXX
Packing List

Must-bring items are in **bold**. (A lot of this may seem obvious, but it can’t hurt to double-check!)

- **Sleeping bag/ bed roll!**
- **Bathroom kit (with shampoo, toothbrush/toothpaste, and any other bathroom essentials)**
- **Notebook and pens**
- **Towel**
- **Swimsuit**
- **Clothing**
- **Camera**
- **Phone and charger**
- **Laptop (with a convenient carrying case to keep it with you at all times--neither we nor the locations we are staying can be held responsible for lost or stolen items)**
- **Inspiration!**
Housing Arrangements

**Women’s Church**
Wesley Hispanic United Methodist Church
133 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Miami, FL 33135

**Men’s Church**
1st United Methodist Church of South Miami
6565 Red Road, Miami, FL 33143

**Jamie Trinkle**  
**Lauren Ressler**  
Daniela Martinez  
Miri line King  
Yessica Gonzalez  
Ashiera Jones  
Nancy Uddin  
Arlene Cornejal  
Shayla Machado  
Asha Rosa  
Star Bacon  
Blanca Vazquez  
Abigail Salazar  
Itzel Santos  
Alanah Camacho  
Anya Dickson  
Alexis Servantez  
Angell Perez  
Natalie Casal

**Daniel Carrillo**  
**Ian Trupin**
Tony Bravo  
Kyron Covington  
Wil Prada  
Dean Santos  
Salih Muhammad  
Rasheed Shabazz  
Carlos Perea  
Miri line King  
Kashira Ayers  
Ashiera Jones  
Nancy Uddin  
Arlene Cornejal  
Shayla Machado  
Asha Rosa  
Star Bacon  
Abigail Salazar  
Itzel Santos  
Alanah Camacho  
Anya Dickson  
Alexis Servantez

People staying in Wesley Hispanic United Methodist Church on Sunday/Monday night:

**Daniel Carrillo**  
**Jamie Trinkle**  
**Ian Trupin**  
**Lauren Ressler**