



truthout
annual report 2014-2015



mission statement

Truthout works to spark action by revealing systemic injustice and providing a platform for transformative ideas through in-depth investigative reporting and critical analysis. With a powerful, independent voice, we will spur an evolution in consciousness and inspire the direct action that is necessary to save the planet and humanity.

our organization

Truthout is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing independent news and commentary on a daily basis. In order to remain free of bias and adhere to high editorial standards, we accept no advertising or commercial backing. Instead, we depend on our readers to support our work.

our values

In organizational structure and practice, Truthout walks its talk. Since we do not accept advertising, we're able to provide a growing, thriving alternative to mainstream, corporate news organizations. We are committed to integrity, transparency and accountability in our workplace and editorial practices, valuing truth over the mythical construct of balance. We empower highly trained investigative journalists and analysts, giving voice to the principles of old-fashioned muckraking in a technologically advanced environment. We intend to inform policy, inspire reform and spur direct action, enabling a true revolution in political consciousness.

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Truthout is where I go to get the unvarnished version of the news. Straight no chaser, not sugar coated or spun toward this political party or that. News the way it's meant to be, honest, tough and reliable.”

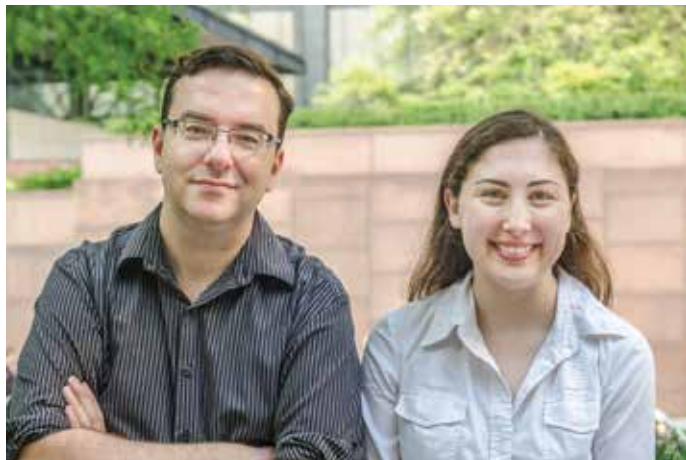
Mark Ruffalo | Actor, producer, director and activist

letter from the editor-in-chief and publisher

The stakes are high. That's something of which we find ourselves acutely aware, as we come to the end of another year as editor-in-chief and publisher of Truthout.

The original investigative reporting and in-depth analysis published at Truthout - not to mention the carefully selected stories we choose to reprint from our media partners - cover a dizzying breadth of issues. None of them are trivial. We address a number of issues that are interconnected but which each also constitute urgent crises in and of themselves. Each of these issues are given inadequate scrutiny by the corporate media, yet each of them demands our society's full attention.

In terms of sheer scale, the biggest issue we have tackled this year has been the climate disruption caused by human activity. Anyone who is paying attention to the science now understands that the time for debate is over. The irreversible impacts of climate change have begun.



Joe Macaré, Publisher & Maya Schenwar, Editor-In-Chief

This is such a vital issue that, in addition to publishing climate-focused investigative reports, Truthout has devoted a monthly feature to assessing the ongoing impacts of climate change, in dispatches from our staff reporter Dahr Jamail. Dahr's work has unflinchingly laid out the worst-case scenario scientific predictions that are rapidly becoming reality. While confronting these grim prospects, his writing has also grappled with the necessary question of how to address our irrevocably changed climate without giving in to despair.

Arguably the biggest story on the US homefront has been the emergence of a movement (or a number of overlapping movements) demanding that Americans acknowledge that Black Lives Matter - and act as if they believe it - in the face of the staggering number of Black people killed by police and racist vigilantes. Truthout's coverage has delved into the global, structural and historical context, the intersections of this movement with other causes, and the different solutions being proposed.

We have invested in Black journalists and other journalists of color writing about racial inequality, the police and the criminal justice system, including Alicia Garza, Thandisizwe Chimurenga, Nicholas Powers, Adam Hudson, Victoria Law, Aaron Cantú, and William C. Anderson. As a result of the strength of our coverage of these issues, in 2016 Haymarket Books will publish an anthology of reporting and analysis curated

and edited by Truthout, entitled *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?*

The punitive criminal legal system that incarcerates and isolates so many people was also the focus of Maya's book *Locked Down, Locked Out*, published in November 2014 and promptly acclaimed by everyone from Angela Davis and Michelle Alexander to "Orange is The New Black" creator Piper Kerman.

The last year has also seen the beginning of election fever. Presidential elections - and their ever lengthening run-up - are a time period in which many in the media, even otherwise reputable outlets and individuals, lose their way. As we look forward to the future, we are resolute that our election coverage will stay true to the values Truthout has demonstrated in the last year, maintaining our independence as we examine the policies (not *just* the rhetoric) of candidates from the presidential level down to the judicial.

Of course we will also be covering those factors that interfere with the very process of democracy itself (or what's left of it) - voting restrictions, mainstream media distortions, party politicking and vast avalanches of corporate money. The distorting effect of corporate power on every sector into which it intrudes - from the privatization of infrastructure and public utilities like water, to ongoing bogus education "reform" - has continued to be a mainstay of Truthout's reporting.

This past year was also the last one for two beloved members of the Truthout staff: our managing



editor, **Victoria Harper**, and **Leslie Thatcher**, our content relations editor, who are now enjoying their well-earned retirements. Victoria and Leslie are two of the people who made Truthout's history of almost 15 years so remarkable, and we're proud to carry on their legacy.

The Truthout team as it exists today is a remarkably talented, committed and deeply principled group of people, from all kinds of backgrounds and based all across the United States. We're excited to have them with us as we move forward into another challenging, transformative year.

As Truthout pushes onwards into the future, we're also inspired to know that we have an amazing community of readers behind us. Thank you all, so much, for your support - we hope you find this annual report to be an informative and engrossing read!

With thanks, *Maya & Joe*

Maya Schenwar & Joe Macaré
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher

editorial highlights

Looking back over the past year of Truthout’s original coverage, it’s difficult to narrow it down to the “highlights.” Every single day saw hard-hitting investigations, deep analysis and unique commentary. All told, we view this year as our best year yet for original coverage. What follows is just a small glimpse of the vibrant energy that our staff reporters and contributing writers pour into their work, day after day, producing pieces that make an impact long after their stories leave our homepage.

“

I go to Truthout morning, noon and night, and I always learn something new. Truthout is indispensable to my work as a journalist and my duties as a citizen.”

Bill Moyers | [Legendary journalist and broadcaster](#)

environmental destruction and global healing

- Award-winning Truthout staff reporter Dahr Jamail has provided monthly, globe-spanning updates on the state of human-caused climate disruption and the movement to reverse it. These “[Climate Disruption Dispatches](#)” have become indispensable reading for activists, concerned citizens and academics across the country. Beyond the monthly dispatches, Jamail has carried out groundbreaking investigations into the impact of [methane releases](#) in the Arctic, which have spurred a runaway feedback loop toward accelerating warming. Additionally, he has tracked the mass species extinction spreading across the planet, and has even tackled the sobering topic of [human extinction](#) multiple times, cultivating sources among the world’s top climate scientists. Jamail has also found new ways to discuss the process of grieving our environmental and spiritual losses, conducting several rounds of [interviews with climate scientists](#) about the ways in which they are mourning for our shared planet.

- Years ago, Truthout was one of the first outlets to report on the dramatic rise of hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and we continue to be on the front lines of reporting on this issue. A key report by [Ben Ptashnik](#) in early 2015 chronicled how the “fracking bubble” quietly poses a grave threat to our economy, along with its staggering environmental impacts.



Staff reporter Mike Ludwig, who has followed the fracking beat for Truthout since 2010, spent 2014 on the federal government’s trail, filing numerous Freedom of Information Act requests to pursue

the details of fracking in the **Gulf of Mexico**. And in a series of exclusive - and very personal - reports, Truthout staff reporter Candice Bernd brought us the story of her hometown of Denton, Texas's **fight to ban fracking**, and then **to defend that ever-vulnerable ban**.

- Too often, the links between militarism and the environment go unacknowledged in the dominant

media. At Truthout, we broke two massive stories on this front over the past year. Dahr Jamail came out with a series of investigative stories about the US Navy's plans to carry out major war games over **Olympic National Forest**, wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest, and the **Gulf of Alaska**. As a result of Jamail's reporting, which revealed a quiet, widespread **expansion of domestic militarism**, Navy personnel have



been met with outrage and growing concern from the public about the negative **health and environmental impacts** of the plans. A very prominent environmental law firm is now filing a lawsuit against the Navy to prohibit it from conducting electromagnetic warfare exercises. This action will slow down the Navy's plans and could possibly stop them altogether.

- Also exposing the link between the military and environmental degradation, Mike Ludwig broke the national story of the Environmental Protection Agency's push for a massive, hazardous **open munitions burn** at Camp Minden in Louisiana, where a bunker explosion occurred two years prior. Ludwig's piece was cited by The New York Times and many other media. Eventually, residents' resistance, coupled with nationwide pushback, resulted in the EPA's capitulation: The open burn will not occur. Ludwig **continues** to follow the story, as officials determine how they will dispose of the munitions.
- Truthout writer-in-residence **Chris Williams** has reported from many corners of the earth over the last year, investigating the critical intersection between

global capitalism and environmental destruction. Williams has investigated "**green growth**" in **Kenya** (where new wind power developments are being imposed on residents without regard to their interests); the clashes of climate change and **exploding capitalism in Vietnam**; the attempts at economic colonization occurring in Morocco and how **Moroccans are fighting back**; and (in a piece coauthored with Marcela Olivera) the towering challenge **Bolivia faces** as it strives to overcome capitalism.

- Not all of Truthout's environmental coverage has been doom and gloom. Over the past year, we've teamed up with YES! Magazine to create **Climate In Our Hands**, a special feature that spotlights revolutionary ideas and actions for defending the planet and human survival. From the successful battle waged by El Salvadoran farmers **against Monsanto**, to the triumphs of the fossil fuel **divestment movement**, to "**open source farming**" that is demonstrating we can provide for ourselves without corporate agriculture overlords, we've shone a hopeful light on some possibilities for our collective future.

policing, prisons and resistance

- When Michael Brown was killed by a police officer and protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri in August 2014, Truthout's Mike Ludwig went to cover events from the ground. Ludwig talked with **Ferguson residents** who were participating in the protests, amplifying the voices of those most directly impacted. In the weeks after Brown's death, Truthout published analyses that **picked apart the politics of respectability** that require Black victims of violence to be pristinely "innocent" if their suffering is to be acknowledged.
- Ferguson's police department is not unique, and Truthout has made a point of investigating ingrained racist practices elsewhere. Sarah Macaraeg revealed patterns of institutionalized bias in Chicago's handling of "justified" police shootings, **exposed failures of accountability**, and found that the vast majority of misconduct complaints are effectively purged. Aaron Cantú traced a **"ring of snitches"** at the Detroit Police Department, chronicling the use of informants to falsely convict young, Black men of murder.
- Truthout's coverage of policing emphasizes broader systemic injustices and root causes. Our reporting fellow Adam Hudson responded to the revelations of police torture at Chicago's Homan Square by tracing the **roots of policing in slavery** and outlining the way that torture has been a central tool of the state throughout US history. When a Black activist in California was charged, absurdly, with "lynching" in early 2015 (for attempting to pull a fellow protester away from the police), Truthout **contextualized the incident** within the history of lynching, making it possible to comprehend our arrival at this strange historical moment. Roberto Rodriguez **delved into the history of state violence against Black, Brown and Indigenous people**, stretching back to colonization, and weaved into his reporting his personal story as a survivor of police violence in Los Angeles.

• US policing and prisons are integrally tied to race and racism, and the past year saw the emergence of a mass movement to challenge the persecution of Black lives by law enforcement and beyond. As Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza put it, the movement started as “a love note to our people.” It has grown into a multifaceted force for liberation - and Truthout has covered it from many different angles, from long-form analysis on the importance of making people see racist violence, to reports on protests happening locally in cities around the country, to a collaborative graphic journalism piece (by Thandisizwe Chimurenga and Sarah Rosenblatt) narrating the lead role that Black women have taken in the current movement.

• William C. Anderson has written numerous essays for Truthout on race, policing and white supremacy, from the racial implications of the

death penalty to the predicament facing Black veterans returning home to neighborhoods patrolled by hostile police. Anderson’s piece on “Commodifying Black Death” has become key in debates around the use of such images in journalism and social media.

• Victoria Law has covered prison issues for Truthout since long before prison became a “hot” topic in the media. Over the past year, Law has reported on abuses of women placed in solitary confinement, the role of private prisons in the 2014 elections, the gruesome condition of reproductive health care in prison, the fight to end discrimination against former prisoners in college admissions, and how the war on drugs has influenced prison policy in Latin America.

• The prison population’s explosion over the past three decades has been accompanied by a massive chunk of profit for a few very savvy companies. Activist, scholar and former prisoner James Kilgore has carefully tracked some of these big money endeavors. They include a giant German construction company, a quickly expanding electronic-monitoring producer, famously unhealthy food service provider Aramark, and Securus Technologies, which earns billions off charging prisoners’ loved ones to make phone calls.

war, intervention, imperialism and international struggle

- Although Truthout doesn't have the budget to install bureaus around the world, when a crisis hits and mainstream media fails to provide trustworthy coverage, we do our utmost to step in and get out the facts. When Israel attacked Gaza in the summer of 2014, Truthout quickly reached out to our contacts on the ground. **Mohammed Omer** responded to the call, reporting on the catastrophic state of health care in Gaza in the wake of strikes on ambulances and hospitals. Meanwhile, original analysis by scholars like **Hessam Akhlaghpour**, **Noam Chomsky** and **Gareth Porter** set the record straight on misconceptions about the conflict and urged decisive US policy changes.
- As the US geared up for military action against ISIS, veteran Truthout staff writers **William Rivers Pitt** and **Dahr Jamail**, both of whom were integral to our coverage of Iraq in the first decade of this century, took stock of the prospect of new US interventions. Pitt authored commentaries on **war profiteering** and **chemical weaponry**, and Jamail wrote an **in-depth, widely circulated analysis** chronicling how US policies sparked the conflicts and carnage plaguing Iraq today. These two acclaimed writers also collaboratively



authored a Truthout ebook: a collection of pieces entitled *The Mass Destruction of Iraq*.

- US imperialism sometimes comes in the guise of charity and “rescue.” The anti-sex-trafficking movement in the United States provides an odd case study of such a scenario. Over the past year, long-time Truthout contributing reporter Anne Elizabeth Moore analyzed documents from the 36 biggest anti-trafficking organizations, following the money and the organizational ties. Her **report** reveals that, overwhelmingly, the American rescue industry is focused on intervening in the lives of women without regard to their needs or effective results. Moore also investigated the **murky funding and intense misinformation**



campaigns behind many US anti-trafficking efforts around the world - campaigns that are seldom questioned and widely endorsed by powerful figures.

- Throughout Latin America, indigenous communities are threatened by violence, economic destruction, starvation and displacement - but they're also fighting back. In a broad-ranging series, reporters Santiago Navarro F. and Renata Bessi have delved into **the struggles of indigenous people** in Mexico and Central and South America, who are fighting for autonomy, for land and for freedom. Navarro and Bessi reported on how the **reordering of territorial borders** has impacted indigenous nations, how Mexico's **electoral "reforms"** are threatening indigenous self-determination, how CIA-trained military personnel **used napalm** against indigenous people in Brazil, how **"green neocolonialism"** is driving an Afro-Brazilian rebellion, how the mass **cultivation of soy** (originally introduced through US military aid) is driving small-scale farmers from their land, and how indigenous people in Brazil are working to

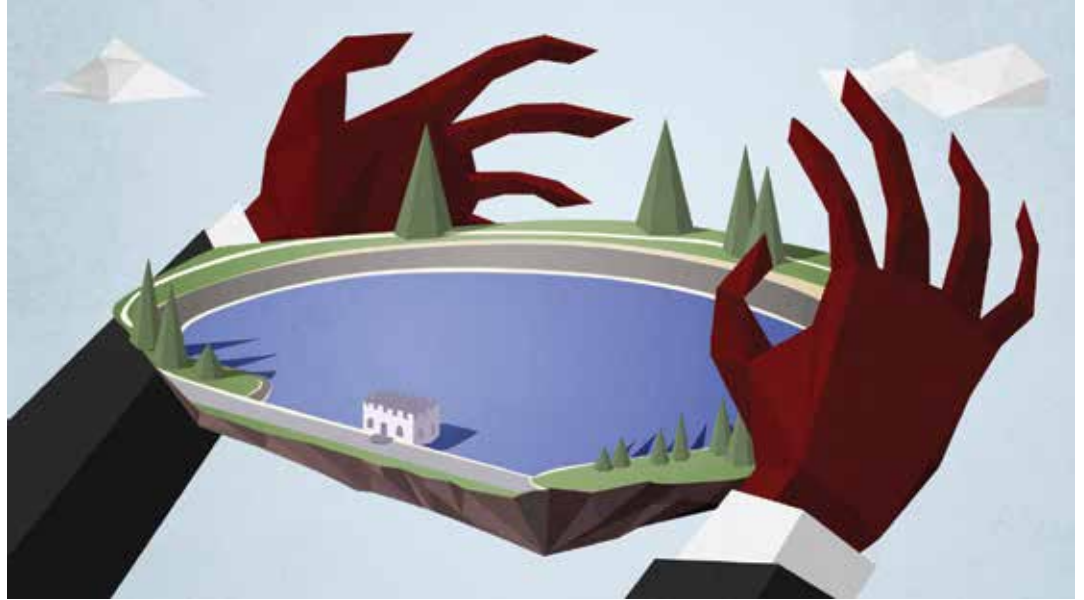


recover their land through reclaiming water supplies and taking over abandoned houses.

- In 2014, law professor and renowned social critic Marjorie Cohn launched the **Human Rights and Global Wrongs** column, an exploration of the intersections and contradictions between human rights and US foreign policy. Over the course of the column, she has covered topics ranging from Agent Orange and the legacy of the **Vietnam War**, to Obama's request to reauthorize the federal government's license to carry out **perpetual war**.

privatization, trade and corporate plunder

- Privatization courses through US society, but one of its most painful and deep-cutting manifestations is the privatization of water. In early 2015, Victoria Collier covered the **corporate water takeover** in Portland, Oregon, where the city's well-loved public reservoirs have become a private development project.



Meanwhile, prompted by the water shutoff in Detroit, Ellen Dannin traced the savvy marketing and lobbying efforts of **water industry groups**, analyzing their strategies for a long-term shift toward privatized water.

- From the get-go, Truthout's coverage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) recognized both the gravity of the impending trade deal and the unjust means by which its passage was being secured. Thom Hartmann

repeatedly called out the utter secrecy cloaking the deal's actual contents, and criticized its provisions extending patent preventions for Big Pharma drugs. William Rivers Pitt laid out the congressional processes by which the TPP could be squeezed into place intact, and also posed the question of why Obama chose **"this terrible thing as his 'legacy.'"** Truthout board president Robert Naiman examined the language attached to the TPP involving the **blockage of European sanctions** against Israeli settlements, forcing us to question



the ways in which the agreement was being used as a vehicle for a range of covert agendas.

- In a summer 2014 breaking news report, Mike Ludwig laid out new Wikileaks revelations about the Trade in Services Agreement, a global trade agreement kept even more secret than the TPP, which would make it simpler for corporations to pull in profits and operate with impunity from country to country. Ludwig's report shed new light on an agreement that would include dozens of countries. Meanwhile, [economist Dean Baker](#), nearing a decade as a regular Truthout columnist, explained in clear terms why the dangerous logic (or mythology) of "free trade" falls flat.

- Truthout's ongoing comic journalism series, [The Ladydrawers](#), explored trade policy from a different angle in a year-long series, "Our Fashion Year." This unique series illustrated (literally) how US and EU trade agreements have opened the door for widespread

labor abuses and violence against women working in [the garment trade](#), while simultaneously facilitating the further criminalization of sex work in the same areas of the world.

- Throughout Greece's battle with austerity, privatization, the IMF and the European Union, political economist [C.J. Polychroniou](#) has tirelessly highlighted the disconnect between rhetoric and reality, challenging the narratives put forward by both the EU and Syriza, and providing a much-needed reshaping of the terms of debate.



communities in peril: housing and education

- Truthout has always emphasized that the best reporting involves lifting the voices of those most affected by the problem at hand. Our coverage of housing and gentrification is grounded in the words and lived experience of those forced from their homes. In 2014, Rebecca Burns covered the development of a new federal housing program that has handed the fate of tenants and homeowners over to **investment groups and hedge funds**. Burns interviewed homeowners and tenants, juxtaposing the profit motive with the brutal impact on real people's lives. In early 2015, she investigated another glaring injustice in US housing policy: the **rampant, official exclusion** of people with criminal records from public and subsidized housing. And Toshio Meronek spelled out the federal government's new plan **to at least partially privatize most of the country's public housing**, a move which tenants' rights organizations warn is the beginning of the end for public housing.



focusing on little-investigated policy changes and the mechanisms by which harmful, racist shifts take place. For example, Aaron Cantú reported on “**De Blasio-style**” **gentrification** in New York, in which the mayor’s supposedly progressive “affordable housing” plan will actually hasten the displacement of residents. Meanwhile, Adam Hudson has closely tracked the progression of gentrification in the Bay area, including the new insidious strategies through which **evictions take place** in San Francisco: misusing zoning laws, “going out of business” and bullying residents until they leave.

- Over the past year, Truthout has covered gentrification’s effects on cities across the country,

- The intertwining of moneyed interests and education is a worrisome prescription for most neighborhood



schools. In a trenchant piece of investigative graphic journalism, Adam Bessie and Dan Carino sketched the educational “vision” of Bill Gates, the richest man in the world, who blames “bad teachers” and champions “free-market education reform.”

- It’s not just funding sources (or lack thereof) that fuel destruction and disintegration in public schools. It’s also censorship and curriculum policy. A March 2015 piece by Patrick Strickland laid bare Texas’s lack of accurate textbooks and other learning materials. The state even deemed the AP US History curriculum “anti-American.” Roberto Rodriguez covered the battle over Mexican-American studies in Tucson, Arizona, where the state’s school superintendent warned against students learning material that falls “outside Western civilization.”

- Truthout board member and long-time contributing writer Henry Giroux has for decades been a voice for justice in the realm of education and broader questions of democracy. This year, Giroux tackled the crisis of higher education on a number of levels, urging us to understand it as larger than a problem of funding or political repression alone. In the face of the conservative grip on higher education, Giroux urges a different vision: the need to create “a radical global commons in the service of a radical democracy.”

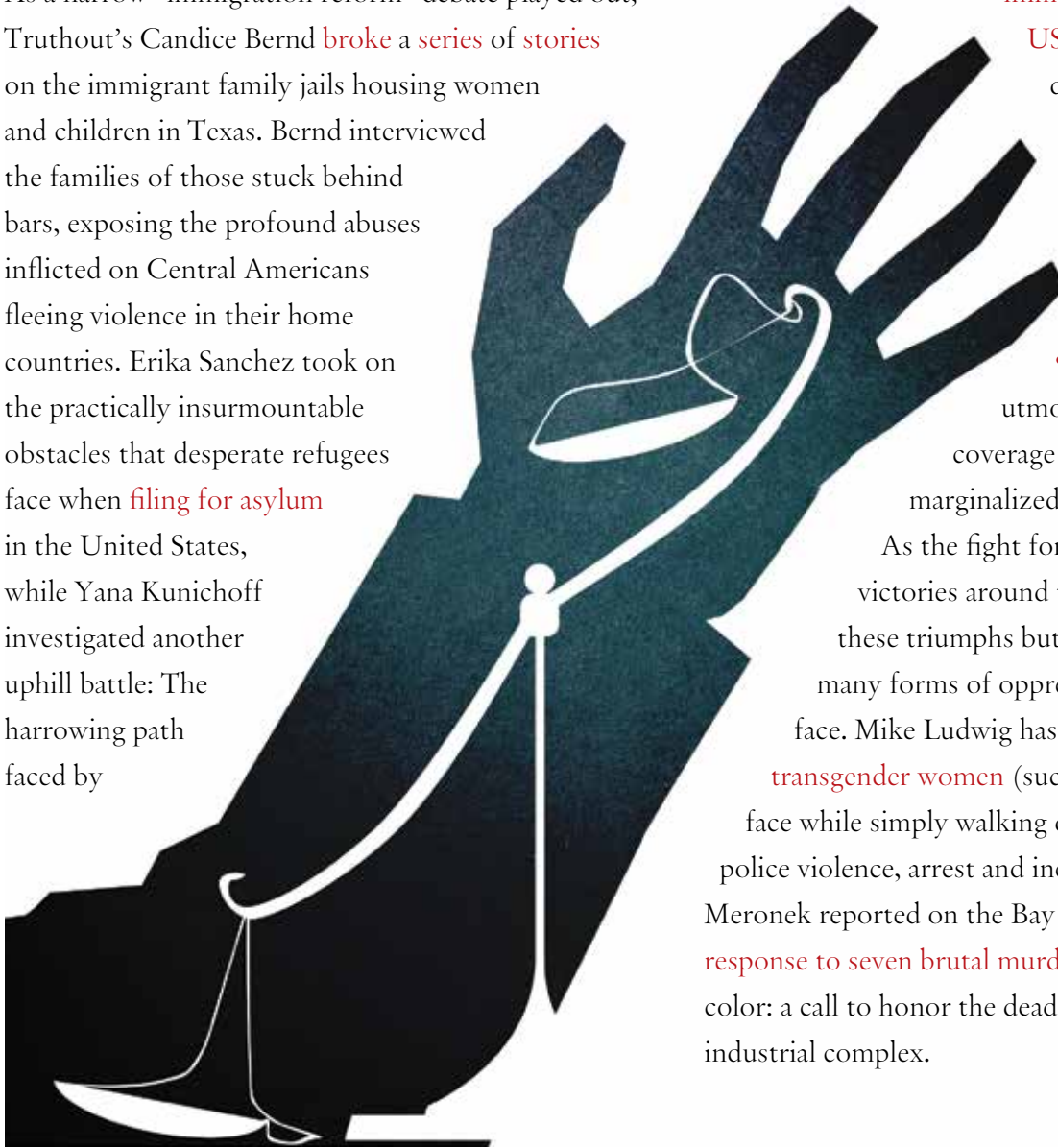


rights and freedoms

- As a narrow “immigration reform” debate played out, Truthout’s Candice Bernd **broke a series of stories** on the immigrant family jails housing women and children in Texas. Bernd interviewed the families of those stuck behind bars, exposing the profound abuses inflicted on Central Americans fleeing violence in their home countries. Erika Sanchez took on the practically insurmountable obstacles that desperate refugees face when **filing for asylum** in the United States, while Yana Kunichoff investigated another uphill battle: The harrowing path faced by

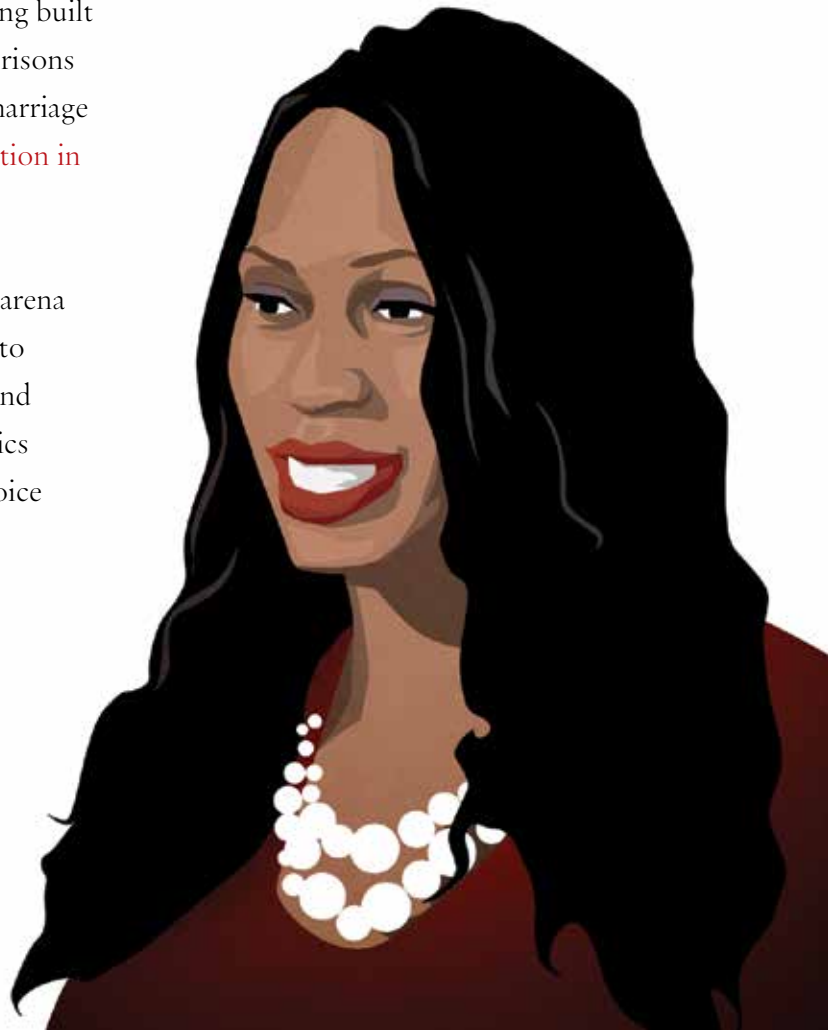
immigrants who return to the US after previously being deported and who must endure secrecy and legal purgatory in order to reunite with their families.

- Truthout does our utmost to make sure that our coverage always includes the most marginalized people in any community. As the fight for same-sex marriage yielded victories around the country, we covered these triumphs but worked hard to tackle the many forms of oppression LGBTQ people still face. Mike Ludwig has covered the dangers that **transgender women** (such as activist Monica Jones) face while simply walking down the street - including police violence, arrest and incarceration. Toshio Meronek reported on the Bay Area trans community’s **response to seven brutal murders** of trans women of color: a call to honor the dead by ending the prison-industrial complex.



Meronek called attention to other **widely ignored** LGBTQ news stories, including the growing movement of “undocuqueer” immigrants and solidarity being built between LGBTQ people inside and outside of prisons - stories that were often overshadowed by the marriage conversation and the **debate over trans participation in the military**.

- The past year has been a tumultuous one in the arena of reproductive rights, and Truthout was lucky to have **Katie Klabusich** covering abortion access and reproductive justice. Klabusich reported on topics including the concrete consequences of anti-choice extremism, “buffer zones” around abortion clinics, the drastically diminishing level of abortion access in “red” states, the push against abortion in state legislatures, and the right-wing rhetoric around “life” - and how we can push back with new definitions of “life” and liberation.



Monica Jones

buzzflash

- In 2015, BuzzFlash celebrated 15 years of incisive and informative commentaries. Among many other topics, BuzzFlash editor Mark Karlin has detailed how past and future partners at Eric Holder's former and current corporate-defense law firm filled key positions at the Department of Justice. As a result, white collar crime, including ongoing financial fraud, was treated with kid gloves.
- Other columns by longstanding and new writers for BuzzFlash dispelled myths about US policies and actions, and presented readers with alternative perspectives on pressing challenges facing the nation and the world. Bill Berkowitz, for example, regularly provides nuanced analysis of the leaders of the religious right and their activities, while Jacqueline Marcus connects the dots between the deterioration of the climate and political opportunism.



progressive picks

Here's a few things we know about Truthout's readers.

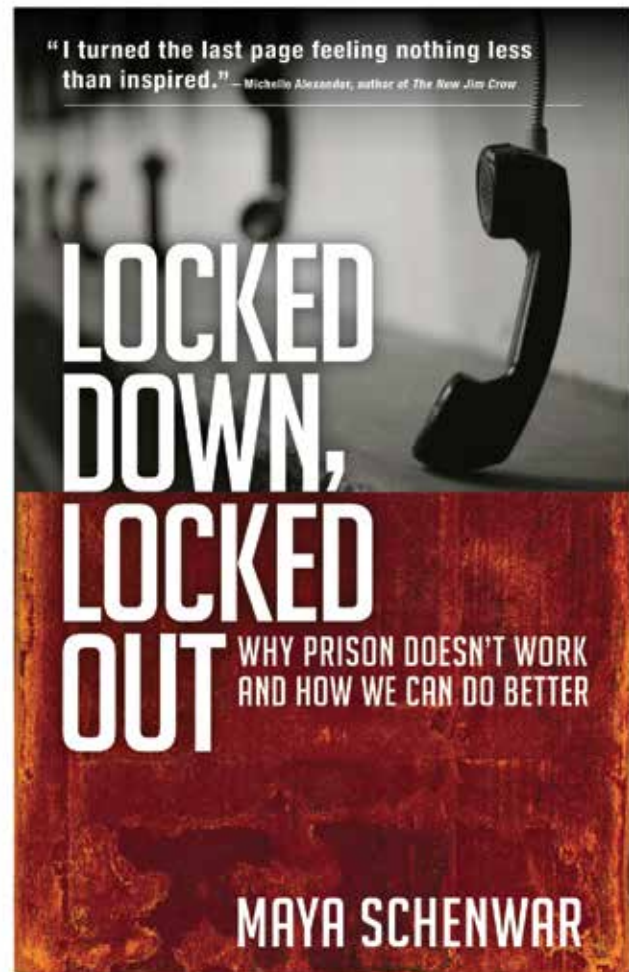
You read voraciously. You care deeply about the world and the issues we face as a society, as a species, as a planet. If there's a topic you believe is important that you don't know much about, you want to find out more. You want to read books (and watch films) that challenge, inform and inspire you.

Those are a few of the reasons why Truthout's Progressive Picks program has become such a mainstay of what we do. It's not just part of our fundraising (although it does give our supporters a great way to contribute in exchange for a tangible benefit). Book excerpts, reviews and interviews with the people responsible for the works we pick also form an essential part of our editorial mission.

Some of the most popular Progressive Picks in the last year included: *The Violence of Organized Forgetting* by Truthout board member and contributor Henry Giroux; *This Changes Everything*, Naomi Klein's epic explanation

of the relationship between capitalism and climate change; *Masters of Mankind* by Noam Chomsky (still always a favorite); *An Indigenous Peoples's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Oritz; and our own editor-in-chief Maya Schenwar's *Locked Down, Locked Out*.

In the next year, expect to see more great offers, presented in new ways. For example, you can look forward to find out which members of the Truthout team loved which book in particular - a great way for readers to get to know us a little better!



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I have enjoyed the coverage your journalists are sharing on the increase in police abuse and other law enforcement misconduct. Keep up the good work.”

Samuel Paz | Civil rights lawyer, reader and donor | California

our growing audience

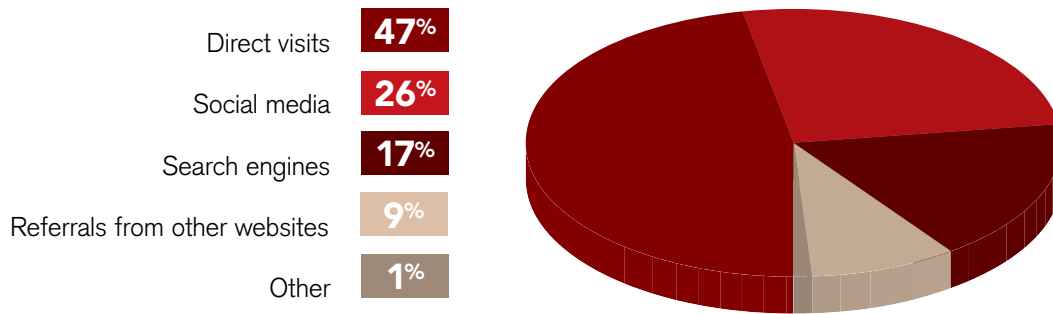
From May 2014 to April 2015 inclusive Truthout.org received in excess 34 million pageviews from just under 11 million unique visitors. That's over 2 million more visitors than we had in the previous year - an increase of over 28 percent.

Facebook is our largest single source of referrals, accounting for 85 percent of readers who visit Truthout via social media (with almost half that number coming via cell phones or other mobile devices). The audience for our Facebook page grew from just under 460,000 in May 2014 to over 595,000 in April 2015. At the time of writing, Truthout has over 650,000 Facebook fans and over 120,000 Twitter followers, while BuzzFlash has almost 18,000 Facebook fans and over 30,000 Twitter followers.

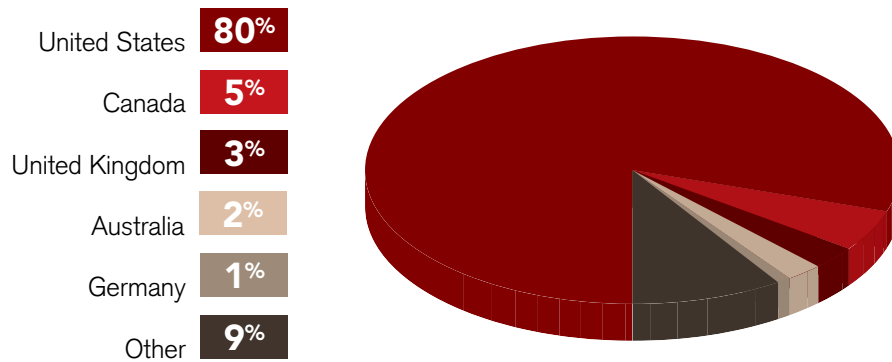
Twitter and Facebook have continued to deliver our news and analysis to a growing audience whose online news experience tends to begin with social media interactions. Shares and retweets have consistently driven our work into the path of new readers, bolstering the reach of our articles. The interactive nature of these platforms has allowed us to learn a great deal about what matters to many of our readers and what subjects they are most passionate about. (For those readers who still come to our site primarily through our newsletter, we conducted a reader survey to learn more about our audience's concerns.) Building a presence on Tumblr has also helped us to understand how we might expand our online presence, and gauge what kind of material is appropriate in different online spaces.



How Our Readers Find Us:



Where Our Readers Are:



what makes truthout different?

When Truthout first began fundraising, our model was almost unique. Years before Kickstarter, IndieGoGo or GoFundMe existed, we understood that a large number of dedicated people pitching in small amounts online could fund great things. We were “crowdfunding” before people started using that term, let alone doing it.

Now, not only other media outlets but also advocacy groups and political candidates fill up inboxes with requests for donations. In spite of this challenge, reader donations continue to make up 80 percent of our budget, and we’ve increased the amount we pay our freelance contributors, interns and fellows.

The fact that Truthout is primarily supported by donations from our readers gives us editorial freedom that most publications can only dream of - but it’s also a responsibility we take very seriously. It means we’re accountable to you, for giving us not only your time and attention but also the funding that makes what we do possible. When readers donate to Truthout, you need to know that your money is going to be put to use thoughtfully and responsibly.

This responsibility informs the ways in which Truthout continues to be unique. Unlike so many of our competitors and peers, we don’t rent our email list out to anybody - which means that readers who sign up to receive our daily newsletter don’t also receive requests for signatures or money from political candidates and campaigns you never asked to hear from, or advertisements for other magazines or cell phone companies.

Integrity is of the utmost value to Truthout and, sometimes, that means that what we choose not to publish is as important as what we choose to publish. One consequence of not relying on advertising dollars is that, while we want our stories to reach as large an audience of readers as possible, we don’t chase traffic alone. We don’t publish stories whose only point is to be provocative or to generate controversy purely for its own sake. And we don’t use deliberately misleading headlines or salacious images.

We’re also accountable to the communities and planet we claim to be working to help. Truthout believes that journalism should focus on what is “in the public interest” - but with a broader definition of who is



included in “the public” than that phrase was once assumed to apply. We don’t just ask “why not publish this story?” - although if there’s a good reason, we won’t - we also ask “why publish this story?” We still believe journalism should afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, to quote Finley Peter Dunne.

Our management is also accountable to Truthout’s staff, because we’re a union shop - part of The NewsGuild-CWA. We unionized in 2009, long before other news websites came around to the idea. It’s another way in which we’re committed to walking the walk and putting our values into practice.



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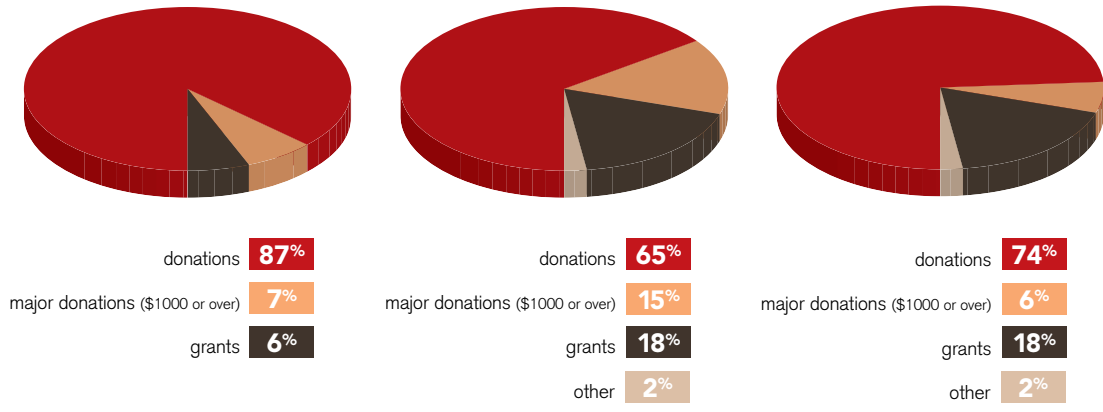
Without an objective press our democracy will perish. I am so tired of the sound bites and the spin from news organizations that are simply working for their corporate masters. Thank you Truthout for the great reporting that you all do and your work in presenting the facts as they really are.”

Joe Bradley | Reader and donor | Indiana

truthout's financial statements

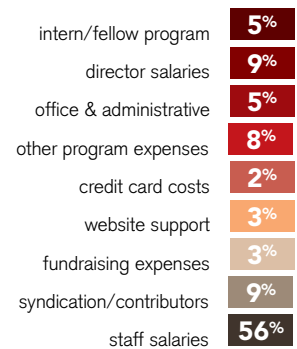
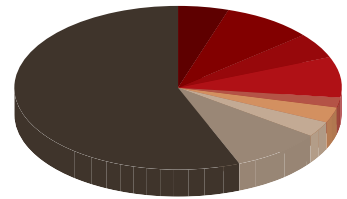
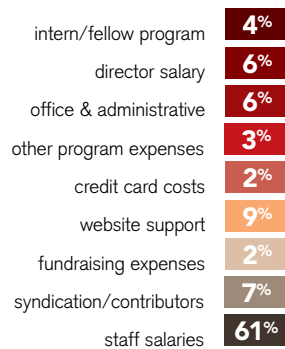
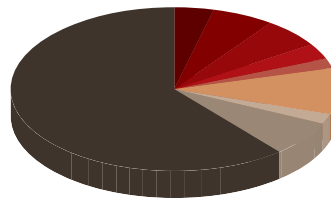
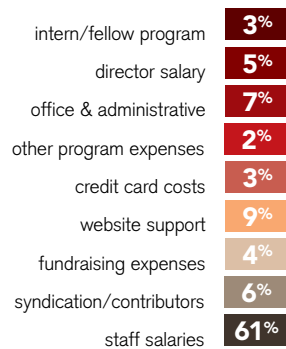
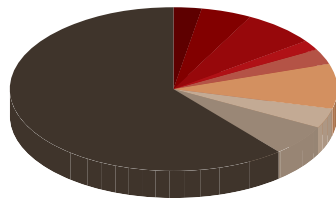
revenue

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Grants	\$83,215	\$257,379	\$234,940
Donations	\$1,260,754	\$929,076	\$953,769
Major Donations (\$1000 or greater)	\$102,321	\$212,309	\$82,500
Interest, Royalties & Collaborations		\$26,423	\$17,345
Total Income	\$1,449,463	\$1,425,187	\$1,288,554



expenses

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Program & Staff Expenses	\$1,315,484	\$1,234,306	\$1,167,407
Fundraising Expenses	\$64,932	\$33,348	\$42,534
Administrative Expenses	\$180,224	\$162,526	\$199,484
Total Expenses	\$1,560,640	\$1,430,180	\$1,409,425
Net Income	-\$111,177	-\$4,993	-\$120,871



donor honor rolls

Thomas Paine Donor Circle (\$10,000+)

Judi Poulson Thomson von Stein

Nellie Bly Donor Circle (\$1,000 to \$9,999)

Ellen Baker	Laoni Davis	Nancy Heyser	Roberta Shinaberry
Scott Blau	Nora Daly	Ervin Johnson	Richard Smith
Ron Bozman	Linda Gochfeld	Thomas Johnston	Lana Touchstone
Farah Brelvi & David Ball	Gail Goldsmith	David Kandel	Howard Wilshire & Jane Nielson
Randy Ching	William Griffith	Kerry Madigan	
Nancy Cohen	Bruce Harper	Anne McCook	
	Leonore Herzenberg	Van Jones, Dream Corps & Magic Labs Media LLC	

I.F. Stone Donor Circle (\$500 to \$999)

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Brightwater Fund
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Cloud Mountain Foundation
Edwards Mother Earth Foundation
Lannan Foundation
Leaves of Grass Fund
M&T Weiner Foundation
Mattlin Foundation
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Quitiplas Foundation
Seeds of Justice
Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation
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“

I donate to Truthout because they do good work and it needs to be done: The madness and darkness spread by the military-industrial complex needs to stop!”

John | Reader and donor | California

board of directors

Robert Naiman is policy director at Just Foreign Policy. Naiman writes regularly for Truthout, The Huffington Post and Common Dreams. He is a frequent commentator on radio programs, including recent appearances on NPR and the BBC. Naiman has worked as a policy analyst and researcher at the Center for Economic and Policy Research and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. He has master's degrees in economics and mathematics from the University of Illinois.

Henry A. Giroux currently holds the global TV network chair professorship at McMaster University in the English and cultural studies department. In 2002, he was named as one of the top 50 educational thinkers of the modern period in *Fifty Modern Thinkers on Education: From Piaget to the Present Day*, as part of Routledge's Key Guides publication series. Giroux has written more than 50 books, the most recent of which is *America's Education*

Deficit and the War on Youth: Reform Beyond Electoral Politics. He is on the editorial and advisory boards of numerous national and international scholarly journals, and he serves as the editor or co-editor of three scholarly book series.

Lewis R. Gordon is a professor of philosophy, African American Studies, and Judaic studies at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. He previously taught at Temple University, Brown University, Purdue University and Yale University. A public figure and much-sought-after speaker, Gordon has lectured internationally, held several distinguished visiting appointments, been a commentator in print and online magazines and newspapers, radio, and television, and is the subject of dissertations, journals, monographs, and academic forums across the globe. He has served as the president, chairperson or founding director of several associations, centers and institutes.



Maya Schenwar is Truthout's editor-in-chief. Previously, she served as executive director from August 2009 until March 2014, and before that was a senior editor and reporter at Truthout, covering criminal justice, US foreign policy and budgetary priorities. Prior to Truthout, she served as contributing editor for Punk Planet magazine. Her work has been published in Truthout, The New York Times, The Guardian, The Nation, Ms. Magazine, In These Times, Bitch Magazine, and others. She is the chair of the Media Consortium's coordinating committee and serves on the advisory board of Waging Nonviolence. Her book, *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better*, was published in November 2014.

Victoria Harper is Truthout's former managing editor. Before becoming a part of Truthout, Harper served as professor in the Graduate School of Education at San Jose State University, where she created the Academy for Critical Research: a home for graduate students and faculty working to better understand the intersection of politics and education. She also helped found the university-wide Center for Faculty Research and Development.

“

I have dealt with many publishers of books and journals in print and electronic forms over the years. I have no hesitation in telling you that my connections with Truthout have been the outstanding example of what the best in professionalism should mean.”

Professor Richard D. Wolff | Economist and author

our team

The Truthout team is made up of smart, passionate, fiercely motivated people who work hard, seven days a week, 365 days a year, to bring you the best in investigative reporting and critical analysis.

These are the editors, reporters, designers, proofers, and all the people who make things happen behind the scenes - these are the people who, along with our board, our contributing writers and you, our community, make Truthout what it is.



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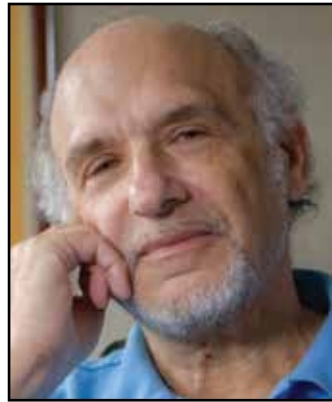
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looking forward

Truthout has begun a collaboration with the Roosevelt Institute, using the Institute's Campus Network to help us feature more political analysis by smart student writers - on topics beyond narrowly defined "youth" or "student" issues.

Recognizing the need for better, deeper reporting on violence against Black people, the Media Consortium has created a program to strengthen and amplify the reporting of its member organizations on this issue. At blackspringindymedia.org, the Media Consortium intentionally curates articles from its members on the Black Lives Matter movement and related issues. Truthout's coverage of these issues has led to our stories being heavily featured on this site, and we intend for this to continue.

Also due to the strength of our coverage of these issues, in 2016 Haymarket Books will publish *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?*, an anthology of reporting and analysis curated and edited by Truthout, combining work already published at our site and new work, on the topic of police violence, racial inequality and the criminal justice system. Contributors will include Alicia Garza, Thandisizwe Chimurenga, Nicholas Powers, Aaron Cantú, and William C. Anderson.

We will continue to improve our fundraising and audience development, and our communication with our community of readers. We recently completed an online reader survey for the first time in several years, and we will be putting the results to good use, tailoring our messaging to address those issues that we know concern our readers most.





“

Truthout has consistently made available information that is hard or impossible to find in the major media, as well as penetrating analysis and insight . . . It is performing an invaluable service for those who hope to understand the world, and to go on to change it.”

Noam Chomsky



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