



KEVIN CARTER/GETTY IMAGES

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We will be frank with you: this past year was harder than we expected.

When the second Trump administration took office, WOLA — like many organizations in our field — prepared for significant headwinds. We had seen this before, or so we thought. What unfolded over the course of 2025 exceeded even our most sobering projections. The gutting of U.S. foreign aid dismantled programs that had taken decades to build. Attacks on migrant communities were carried out with a speed and ferocity that shocked even seasoned observers. The administration's embrace of authoritarian leaders sent a chilling signal to civil society and democratic movements across the region. And the illegal boat strikes in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific — extrajudicial killings dressed up as counter-narcotics policy — reminded us that the rule of law itself cannot be taken for granted.

In WOLA's more than 50 years of defending human rights in the Americas, we have weathered difficult moments. But we say with full seriousness that this past year has presented one of the greatest challenges in our organization's history. The threats came wide, fast, and compounding. The funding landscape became increasingly precarious, testing our resilience and demanding creativity from every corner of the organization.

And yet — WOLA showed up.

Our small but mighty team worked tirelessly across every area of our mission — from democracy and civic space, to security and justice, to migration and equity — producing rigorous research, driving advocacy on Capitol Hill, and standing alongside partners across the hemisphere. We launched a new website, celebrated Pride Month, hosted our first annual Human Rights Awards Lecture, and debuted our newest podcast, Democracy&. In the pages that follow, you will find the highlights of that work.

WOLA was built for moments like this one. We have been here for more than 50 years precisely because the people of this organization, and the people who support it, refuse to look away.

Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, President
Nancy Jane Belden, Chair of the Board of Directors



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT WE DO	<u>3</u>
OUR IMPACT	<u>6</u>
WOLA IN THE NEWS	<u>8</u>
OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS.....	<u>10</u>
LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE	<u>11</u>
DONORS	<u>12</u>
HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS MONTH.....	<u>14</u>
LAUNCHING DEMOCRACY&	<u>16</u>
WOLA STAFF.....	<u>17</u>
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	<u>18</u>
HONORARY COUNCIL	<u>19</u>
SALLY YUDELMAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.....	<u>20</u>
SUPPORT OUR WORK	<u>21</u>

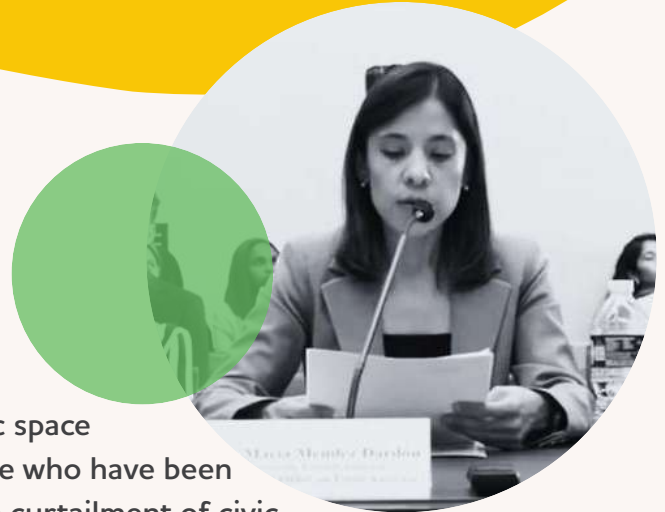
OUR VISION

WOLA envisions a future where public policies protect human rights and recognize human dignity, and where justice overcomes violence.

WHAT WE DO

INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY SUPPORTED BY A VIBRANT CIVIL SOCIETY

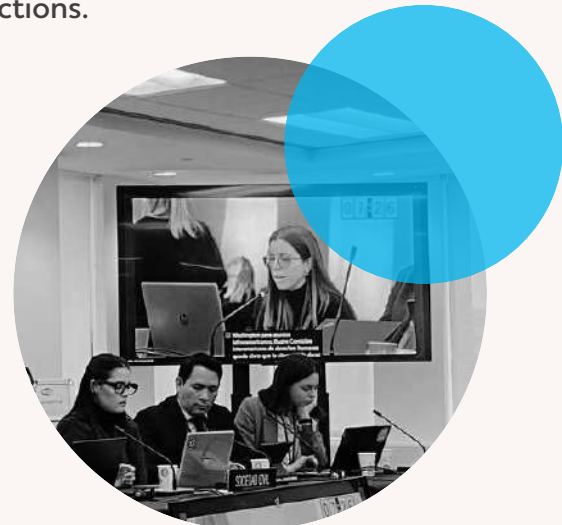
Throughout the year, WOLA staff worked to preserve civic space and support human rights defenders at risk, including those who have been forced into exile. In June, WOLA published a report on the curtailment of civic space in the Americas, citing the growing number of anti-NGO laws in the region and offering recommendations for actors in the international community. In September, WOLA's Director for Central America, Ana María Mendez Dardón, testified in a hearing on laws regulating NGOs organized by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. House of Representatives.



In the lead-up to the November 2025 general elections in Honduras, WOLA advocated for a free and transparent electoral process. Our Central America team traveled to Tegucigalpa to monitor the pre-electoral conditions and the March primary elections. We actively engaged with the OAS election observation mission, met frequently with Honduran civil society groups, and engaged with Honduran officials, including members of the National Electoral Council. WOLA staff met with U.S. officials and briefed congressional staffers on the electoral process and published various pieces highlighting concerns about the integrity of the elections and the international community's role in supporting free and fair elections.



WOLA continued to document and respond to Venezuela's deepening democratic and human rights crisis following the July 2024 elections. This work emphasized supporting human rights defenders inside and outside of Venezuela, preserving civic space, and assessing the impact of U.S. policies. In coordination with international organizations and local partners, Director for Venezuela Laura Dib participated in a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, raising concerns about attacks on human rights defenders and the implementation of laws restricting NGOs.



WHAT WE DO

SECURITY AND PEACE ROOTED IN JUSTICE

In March, WOLA's Director for Drug Policy, John Walsh, participated in the annual session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, where he moderated a WOLA co-sponsored side event on the human rights impacts of synthetic drugs, coca leaf policy, and the environmental harms linked to drug trafficking and extractive activities. A key outcome of the session was the adoption of a Colombia-led resolution establishing an expert panel to review the UN drug control system, a measure WOLA has actively supported and will continue to advance.

In September, following the first kinetic strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela, we shifted our attention to respond to these unprecedented attacks that violate international law. As the strikes continued, WOLA staff carried out extensive advocacy on the illegal boat strikes and extrajudicial killings by U.S. military forces against alleged drug trafficking in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, and the then impending threat of military force in Venezuela. This work included congressional outreach, a statement, a fact sheet, a real-time tracker of the boat strikes, an intervention at the OAS drug policy session, multiple joint events and webinars with U.S. and regional partners on the implications of U.S. actions, and a podcast episode.



WOLA also addressed security tensions with the Colombian government, including developments leading up to the U.S. decision to decertify Colombia over counter-drug efforts.



We continue to advocate for judicial independence throughout the region, raising concerns about Mexico's June judicial elections by popular vote, the criminalization of judicial actors in Peru, and the need for international support for the 2026 judicial appointments and a new Attorney General in Guatemala.

WHAT WE DO

EQUITY AMONGST CLIMATE CRISIS, GENDER, AND MIGRATION

During Pride Month, WOLA launched a Pride campaign, creating content that highlighted the important work of LGBTI+ advocates across Latin America. The campaign included a month-long WOLA graphics redesign, three podcasts, an [Instagram carousel](#) showcasing the work of activists, articles on [LGBTI+ migration](#) and [trans rights in the region](#), and a [webinar on authoritarianism and LGBTI+ resistance](#).



WOLA published “[The Era of Women](#)”: challenges and priorities in the women’s human rights agenda in [Mexico](#), in which we took stock of Claudia Sheinbaum’s election as Mexico’s first female president, her pledges to advance women’s rights, and some of the priority areas in which women continue to face gender-based violence and discrimination in Mexico.



WOLA collaborated with the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus to promote the rights of Afrodescendants in the Americas and the UN’s Second Decade of Afrodescendants. This included participating in events in Congress and publishing an analytical article on the lessons of the first Afrodescendant decade. Later in the year, Director for the Andes Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli traveled to Buenaventura, Colombia to support work focused on youth programs, human rights training, and services for internally displaced people and survivors of domestic violence.

Throughout the year, WOLA maintained its Weekly Border Updates to inform policymakers, the media, partner organizations, and other interested parties about the dynamics at the U.S.-Mexico border, abuses against migrants and asylum seekers in the U.S. and beyond, and regional trends in migration, enforcement, the dangers of using military personnel for border and migration missions, and border security. A mid-year, three-country research trip focused on what can be learned from people being deported, shed early light on the severity of abuses that migrants are suffering while in Department of Homeland Security custody.

OUR IMPACT

WOLA'S WORK ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA

1 Assessing the administration's policies towards Latin America

Throughout the year, WOLA published pieces on what Trump's executive orders mean for Latin America, the impact of the cancellation of the majority of U.S. assistance to the region, an assessment of the administration's first 100 days, and the impact of the State Department's restructuring and proposed cuts to foreign aid.

2 Testifying in Congress on migrant rights, security cooperation, and civic space

Staff were called to testify in Congress three times during the year. We raised our opposition to reviving the brutal "Remain in Mexico" policy, support for maintaining U.S. assistance for judicial and rule-of-law programming instead of a return to failed "drugs-and-thugs" approaches to countering organized crime, and the impact of anti-NGO legislation on civil society organizations in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

3 Preserving U.S. funding for democracy and human rights in Latin America

WOLA's advocacy in Congress helped maintain key conditions on FY2026 U.S. foreign assistance for Central America and Colombia; human rights funding for Colombia; support for democracy programming globally, including \$50 million for Venezuela; and recognition of the need to prioritize programs that address the drivers of migration and support host communities.

4 Putting a spotlight on the fentanyl crisis in the United States and cooperation with Mexico

Alongside parents in the U.S. directly affected by overdoses and addiction, WOLA staff participated in a major delegation to urge Congress to adopt a compassionate, evidence-based, public health approach to drug consumption rather than punitive drug-war policies. The delegation highlighted the need for a new framework in U.S.-Mexico cooperation and raised concerns about proposals to use military force to combat fentanyl trafficking, laying the groundwork for continued joint advocacy.

5 Reaffirming the role of Congress in authorizing the use of lethal force

WOLA participated in a coalition of organizations supporting congressional initiatives to curtail the administration's illegal boat strikes, including votes on War Powers Resolutions in the Senate and House.



OUR IMPACT

WOLA'S WORK ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA

6 Supporting congressional oversight over executive actions

Throughout the year, WOLA staff provided information and analysis to Congress to develop hard-hitting questions in hearings with administration officials and supported letters from Members of Congress to the administration on issues including the independence of Colombia's judicial system and the termination of Temporary Protective Status for Venezuelans.

7 Placing a spotlight on abuses in El Salvador

WOLA briefed several members of Congress prior to their trips to El Salvador, including a visit to Maryland resident Kilmar Abrego, who was unlawfully deported and imprisoned in the country. We supported a Senate resolution requesting a report from the U.S. Department of State on the Government of El Salvador's compliance with internationally recognized human rights and letters to the administration that raised concerns over torture and inhumane prison conditions in El Salvador and requested the text of the U.S. agreement with El Salvador to unlawfully transfer and detain migrants in the CECOT prison.

8 Encouraging U.S. support for election observation in Honduras and scrutiny over executive actions

WOLA supported bipartisan legislation directing the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy to monitor and oversee Honduras's general elections, strengthen support for electoral observation, and assess risks to democratic governance. Following President Donald Trump's pardon of former President Juan Orlando Hernández, we supported congressional resolutions and other actions seeking scrutiny over human rights abuses associated with Hernández's administration.

9 Sustaining a bipartisan understanding of the situation in Venezuela

Our consistent work to inform Congress about the human rights situation in Venezuela and the repression on civil society contributed to bipartisan congressional statements and resolutions condemning the situation in Venezuela and expressing support for a peaceful and democratic transition.

10 Advocacy for the creation of a Venezuela Restoration Fund

WOLA and partner organizations supported the Preserving Accountability for National Assets Act (PANA Act), which would create a mechanism for the Venezuelan people to benefit from the recovery of assets seized in the U.S. from corrupt actors, in accordance with international standards.



WOLA IN THE NEWS

In 2025, WOLA remained a consistent and trusted expert voice in the media on human rights, security, and migration across the Americas. Over the course of the year, WOLA staff conducted more than 350 interviews and written exchanges with journalists, providing facts and context at a time when disinformation has been reshaping public understanding of the region. This work took on particular urgency in a year in which public opinion shifted sharply against the administration on both immigration and military intervention.



“Venezuela sets a dangerous precedent for democracies in the hemisphere, [showing that] in the 21st century, an important country in Latin America can disregard the will and sovereignty of the people and remain in a de facto government.”

-Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, The Washington Post



“Arevalo is looking for support from the Trump administration, because he knows his own government has been threatened by internal forces that oftentimes have had strong relationships with members of the Republican Party.”

-Maureen Meyer, France24



“It’s tragedy after tragedy. It has been a really hard day for all of the human rights movement in Venezuela. This sends a very clear message about the risks of transnational repression.”

-Laura Dib, Associated Press



“It’s the drug that is impacting Americans the most, so you can see why Trump would invoke it to try to justify building walls, imposing punishing tariffs, or unlawfully using lethal force in the Caribbean ... But there’s just no evidence to back up using fentanyl as a pretext.”

-Adam Isacson, The Atlantic



WOLA IN THE NEWS

WOLA's Border Updates — published 40 times throughout the year — gained even more relevance as an essential resource for journalists, policymakers, and advocates tracking developments at the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond, combining for over 350,000 downloads from our website.



“U.S.-Guatemala cooperation has had its ups and downs under different administrations, but this one in particular has pursued some policies — especially on migration and security — that don’t align with Arévalo’s messages in Guatemala: respect for human rights and freedom of expression. This issue of gangs is not necessarily a matter of national security. When it’s framed that way, governments like the U.S. end up involving special forces and the military in tasks that rightly belong to civilian institutions.”

-Ana María Méndez Dardón, The New York Times



“The US already takes a lot of actions against these groups. They surveil them, sanction them, and prosecute their members in court. So this decision will not change much in terms of the tools they have at their disposal.”

-Stephanie Brewer, Al Jazeera



“All of Colombia's presidents in recent decades have taken great care to maintain good relations with the United States. Petro has not been like that from day one; the relationship is no longer a priority.”

Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, Associated Press



“Waiving the sanctions may have been meant to reduce the sting for Colombians, but the decertification will still raise questions about U.S. reliability as a partner, even for its closest allies in the region.”

-John Walsh, NPR



OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

WOLA WEEKLY: THE LATEST ON LATIN AMERICA

Our newsletter offers analysis from WOLA's experts on the latest news in Latin America. Join more than 13,000 subscribers and stay up to date on WOLA's work and developments in the region! **SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

4,241
NEW
SUBSCRIBERS
IN 2025



**WOLA'S WEBSITE
RECEIVED 1.2 MILLION
VISITORS IN 2025**

TOP 5 ARTICLES OF 2025

- 1. WEEKLY U.S.-MEXICO BORDER UPDATE: A QUIET BORDER, MASS DEPORTATION, MILITARY FLIGHTS: 90,130 VIEWS**
- 2. EE.UU. EMPUJA A SU HISTÓRICA ALIADA EN SUDAMÉRICA HACIA CHINA: 89,671 VIEWS**
- 3. WEEKLY U.S.-MEXICO BORDER UPDATE: TRUMP'S FIRST DAYS: 49,176 VIEWS**
- 4. WEEKLY U.S.-MEXICO BORDER UPDATE: NEW ADMINISTRATION, MASS DEPORTATION, LAKEN RILEY ACT, DECEMBER MIGRATION: 47,294 VIEWS**
- 5. TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND LATIN AMERICA: KEY THINGS TO KNOW: 45,055 VIEWS**

SOCIAL MEDIA



**1,324 NEW FOLLOWERS
8,813 TOTAL**



**2,560 NEW FOLLOWERS
16,098 TOTAL**



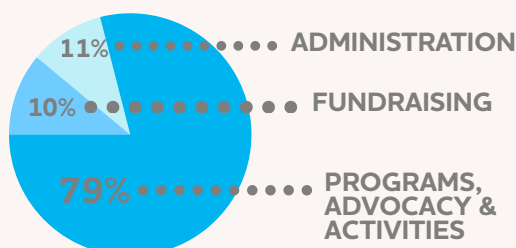
**488 NEW FOLLOWERS
52,227 TOTAL**



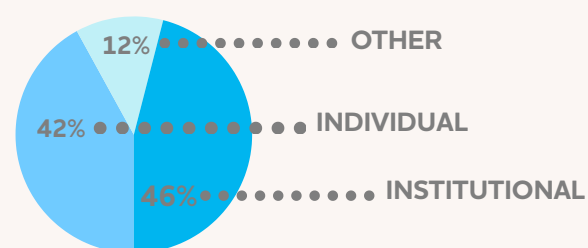
**98,263 IMPRESSIONS
15,278 FOLLOWERS**

**ANNUAL
BUDGET:
\$2,368,901**

EXPENSES:



INCOME:



LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE

In January, we launched our newly redesigned website, [WOLA.org](https://wola.org), to reinvigorate and modernize our online presence.

The new interface is designed to be more user-friendly while aligning with our updated strategic priorities and organizational branding. Built with search engine optimization in mind, the site maximizes our reach and ensures our research and analysis can connect with broader audiences across the Americas.



The results have been encouraging. Last year, we had over 1.2 million visitors from 192 countries. Our most-read analysis was an article about the changing relationship between China and Latin America, which received nearly 90,000 views. Our weekly border updates continued to perform well, with one week earning over 72,000 views. The redesigned platform has made it easier for journalists, policymakers, researchers, and concerned citizens to access WOLA's expertise on human rights, democratic governance, security, and drug policy reform throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FUNDED BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU

VISIONARIES CIRCLE (\$50,000+)



Anonymous (5)

Agencia Española de Cooperación
Internacional para el Desarrollo

Ford Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

CHAMPIONS CIRCLE (\$25,000-\$49,999)



Anonymous (2)

Matt Balitsaris

Peter and Lucia Gill Case

Edgar James and Katherine Kinsella

David and Louise Simone

Margaret Spaeth Zeigler

Stewart Mott Foundation

LEADERS CIRCLE (\$10,000-\$24,999)



Anonymous

Nancy Belden

Leonor Blum

Diakonia

Dr. Bronner's All One Fund at San Diego
Foundation

Mary Ellsberg

Greater Washington Community Foundation

Lynne Horning

Marlene Johnson

Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation

Manoogian Simone Fund

Dr. Cynthia McClintock

Andrew Morehouse

Kristel Muciño

Peggy and Brian Sassi

Mauricio Silva

University of Pennsylvania

Philippe and Kate Villers

Western Union

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FUNDED BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU

ADVOCATES CIRCLE (\$5,000-\$9,999)



Susana Cárdenas
Church World Service
Kresge Foundation

Victor Rivera
Geoff Thale

ALLIES CIRCLE (\$1,000-\$4,999)



Anonymous (4)
Silvia Arrom
Fanta Aw
Anders Beer
Thomas Belden and Janice Miller
Joe and Sylvia Bergstrom
David and Judy Bonior
Phillip Brenner and Betsy Vieth
Cindy Buhl
John Bushman
Juan Cappello
Lucy Conger
Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois
Justin Eldridge Otero
Jan Flora
Heather Foote

Rachel Garst
Kathleen Gille
John Gitlitz
Claudio Grossman
Senator Tom Harkin
Ruth Harkin
Jonathan Hartlyn and Debra Levin
Kevin Healy
Hilton Foundation
David Holiday
Eric Jacobstein
Vic Johnson
Judith Brown Meyers Fund
Caroline Kronley
Erica McFarquhar
McNamara Foundation

Cheryl Morden and Reuben Snipper
Nancy Newbert and James Swigert
Helena Ribe
Mitch Ryerson
Amy Sabrin
Margaret Sarles
Michael Shifter
Alec Simone
Russell Smith
Heather and Paul Westendarp
Alexander Wilde and Anne Perotin
George Withers
William Woodward
Mary and Michael Young

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS MONTH



In 2025, WOLA reimagined its longstanding tradition of honoring human rights champions by transforming the annual gala into Human Rights Awards Month — an entire month dedicated to deepening public understanding of our honorees' work and the broader fight for democracy in the Americas. The month was anchored by specialized branding and a robust program of original content spanning podcasts, analyses, multimedia storytelling, and an inaugural keynote lecture.

OUR HONOREES



MOVIR

(MOVIMIENTO DE VÍCTIMAS DEL RÉGIMEN DE EL SALVADOR)

MOVIR received the 2025 WOLA Human Rights Award for their courageous defense of justice and democracy in El Salvador.

Since the implementation of the state of exception in March 2022, tens of thousands of arbitrary detentions have occurred under the Bukele government and MOVIR has been on the front lines, supporting victims and their families, and demanding truth, justice, and reparations. Operating under some of the most severe repression in the hemisphere, their work has shone a light on the human cost of mass incarceration and the criminalization of dissent, standing as a powerful example of resilience and solidarity for human rights across the region.

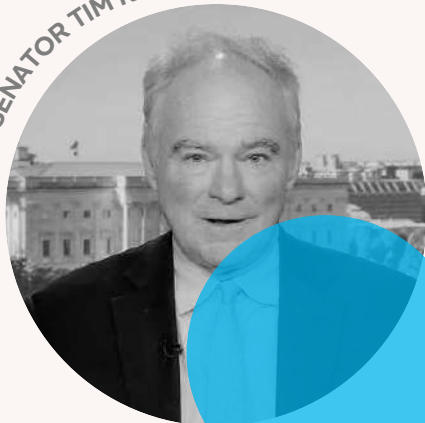
SENATOR TIM KAINE

WOLA awarded Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia with the 2025 WOLA Human Rights Award for his decades of principled leadership on Latin America, from championing accountability in El Salvador to defending the rights of migrants and TPS holders. His commitment to a U.S. foreign policy rooted in human rights has made him a consistent and powerful voice for the region.



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS MONTH

SENATOR TIM KAINE



SAMUEL RAMÍREZ, MOVIR



DR. STEVEN LEVITSKY



CONTENT AND PROGRAMMING

Throughout October, WOLA published a suite of original content tied to the themes of the awards. A centerpiece of the month was a short documentary produced by WOLA to honor the work of our honorees, bringing their stories to life. Two podcast episodes explored the reality behind El Salvador's much-discussed "security model," examining the fragility beneath Bukele's propaganda operation and the human cost of mass incarceration. Three long-form articles provided deeper context: one on the history and present of political imprisonment in El Salvador, one chronicling Senator Kaine's record of engagement on Latin America, and one on the largely invisible struggle of family members of people arbitrarily detained across the region. On social media, WOLA released branded Instagram timeline graphics, tracing the stories of both honorees while extending the reach of the awards to new audiences.

FIRST ANNUAL LECTURE

Human Rights Awards Month concluded with WOLA's inaugural annual lecture, bringing together WOLA President Carolina Jiménez Sandoval and Dr. Steven Levitsky, Professor of Government at Harvard University and co-author of "How Democracies Die," to honor our awardees and discuss the mounting threats to democratic institutions and the urgent need to defend them. The conversation examined how authoritarianism is taking root around the world, including in the Americas, drawing directly on the work of our honorees — MOVIR's resistance against authoritarian abuses in El Salvador and Senator Kaine's leadership in defending democratic accountability. The lecture established a new annual tradition for WOLA: convening leading thinkers and advocates to connect the work of our honorees to the broader global struggle for democracy. Over 70 supporters joined the lecture live, and many more have watched since the recording was published.

LAUNCHING DEMOCRACY&



In 2025, WOLA launched a new podcast series: Democracy&: Inside perspectives from those who lead. The series brings together prominent decision-makers from across the Americas — current and former political figures who have been at the heart of democratic governance — to share personal reflections on the meaning, challenges, and future of democracy in the region. Each episode pairs democracy with a new dimension: transition, justice, leadership, and beyond, offering a distinct lens through which to explore what democracy means today and why it remains essential.

The inaugural episode, Democracy & Transition, featured Guatemala's President Bernardo Arévalo in conversation with WOLA President Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, Director for Defense Oversight Adam Isacson, and Director for Central America Ana María Méndez Dardon, exploring his experience leading his country through a fragile democratic transition, defending institutions under attack, delivering on a reform mandate with minimal congressional support, and remaining committed to peaceful governance in the face of relentless resistance from entrenched corruption networks.



Each episode is also recorded as a video, extending the reach of the conversations beyond traditional podcast audiences. With more interviews with prominent leaders from across the region lined up for the coming year, Democracy& is an important year-long initiative for honest, high-level conversation about the state of democracy in the Americas.



WOLA STAFF

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
President

Maureen Meyer
Vice President for Programs

Lauren Kimball
Vice President for External Relations

Melissa Golladay
Vice President for Finance and Operations

Zaida Márquez
Vice President for Communications

Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli
Director for the Andes

Adam Isacson
Director for Defense Oversight

John Walsh
Director for Drug Policy and the Andes

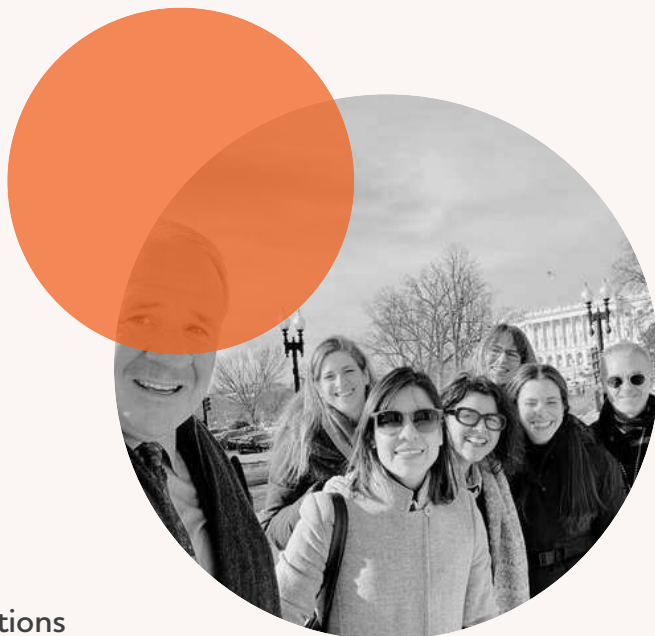
Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico

Ana María Méndez Dardón
Director for Central America

Laura Cristina Dib Ayesta
Director for Venezuela

Carolyn Engel
Director for Partnerships

Corie Welch
Assistant Director for Communications



Bessie Rivera
Finance and Operations Coordinator

Alex Bare
Program Associate

Ana Lucia Verduzco
Program Associate

Lily Sweeting
Communications and Development Assistant

SENIOR FELLOWS

Joe Eldridge

Kathleen Gille

Jo-Marie Burt

Coletta Youngers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Jane Belden

Chair of the Board
Retired, Belden Russonello
Strategists LLC
Washington, D.C.

Mauricio Silva

Vice Chair of the Board
Former Director for Central America
InterAmerican Development Bank
Washington, D.C.

Louise Simone

Secretary of the Board

Luis Botello

President, Media for Democracy
Foundation
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Phillip Brenner

Emeritus Professor of International
Relations and History
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mario Bronfman

Former Representative for Central
America, Ford Foundation
Mexico City, Mexico

Juan Carlos Capello

Founder of Women's International
Study Center
Sante Fe, NM

Susana Cárdenas

Former Development Practitioner,
InterAmerican Development Bank
Washington, DC

Lucy Conger

Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Mary Ellsberg

Founding Director, Global Women's
Institute at George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

Patricia Fagen

Senior Fellow, Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

Edgar James

Retired Partner, James and Hoffman PC
Washington, D.C.

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval

President, WOLA
Washington, D.C.

Marlene Johnson

CEO Emerita, NAFSA: Association of
International Educators
Washington, D.C.

Kristel Muciño

Narrative Change Director, Luminate
Washington, D.C.

Ray Offenheiser

Director, McKenna Center for Human
Development and Global Business
University of Notre Dame

Luz Mely Reyes

Journalist and Founder of Efecto Cocuyo
Washington, D.C.

Macarena Sáez

Executive Director of the Women's
Rights Division
Washington, D.C.

Sally O'Neill

Former Regional Manager in Latin
America, Trocaire
In memoriam

HONORARY COUNCIL

WOLA's Honorary Council is composed of experts, artists, and thought leaders from the region. This non-governing honorary body lends their name to WOLA, as an ambassador for the organization, as we continue to lead the fight for human rights throughout the Americas.

Alberto Barrera Tyszka

Venezuelan Novelist, Screenwriter, and Journalist

Bill Shipsey

Irish Human Rights Activist, Philanthropist, and Founder of Arts for Human Rights

Claudia Paz y Paz

Former Guatemalan Attorney General, Director for Central America and Mexico Program at CEJIL

Diego Luna

Mexican Actor, Director, Producer, and Social Activist

Francisco Goldman

Writer, Journalist, and Allan K. Smith Professor of English Language and Literature at Trinity College

Giocanda Belli

Nicaraguan Poet, Novelist, and Political Activist

Sergio Aguayo

Mexican Scholar, Human Rights Advocate, and Political Analyst

Mercedes Doretti

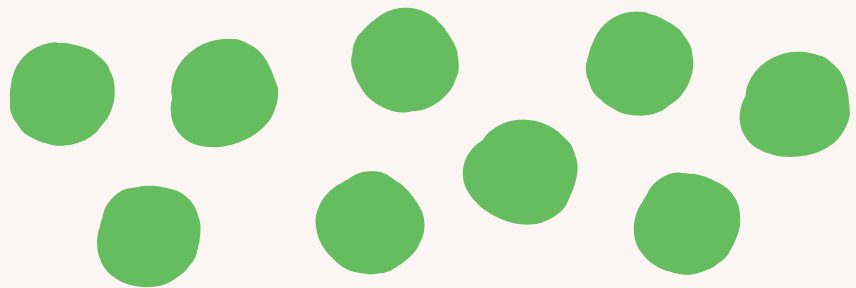
Argentine Forensic Anthropologist

Tom Harkin

Former U.S. Senator

Gina Chávez

Latinx Singer-Songwriter, and Social Activist



“The Washington Office on Latin America, WOLA, has been doing incredible work for human rights and democracy throughout Latin America, and I genuinely support its mission. In times like these, their work is more important than ever.”

Angelo Colina, Venezuelan comedian and host of WOLA's 2024 Human Rights Awards and Benefit Gala

SALLY YUDELMAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Named in honor of a late chair of WOLA's Board of Directors who dedicated herself to cultivating the next generation of human rights advocates, our internship program reflects a longstanding commitment to investing in young people working toward a more just Latin America. With donor support, WOLA provides internships that give emerging advocates hands-on experience alongside our team — and a foundation for careers in human rights.



Christian Baca,
Fall 2025 Intern
with the Central
America Program

"I had the privilege of learning under one of the most knowledgeable practitioners in Central American affairs, whose mentorship profoundly shaped my professional trajectory. Beyond this, the opportunity to engage directly with grassroots leaders, scholars, and policymakers across the region—including figures such as former Guatemalan Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz—made the experience especially meaningful. It not only deepened my understanding of the region's complexities but also reaffirmed my commitment to advancing Latin American democracy and human rights."

"During my time as the External Relations intern at the Washington Office on Latin America, I was immersed in the world of foreign policy communications, frequently attended professional development meetings with staff members, and learned about expert fundraising strategies in an unprecedented non-profit funding landscape. As a result, I enriched my skills as a professional and am better equipped to support public interest communications work across the industry."



Kyung Ju Lee, Fall
2025 Intern with
the External
Relations Program

WOLA'S PARTNERS' COUNCIL

As a community that plays a vital role in championing human rights and democracy in our hemisphere, WOLA's Partners' Council strengthens our mission through financial contributions and strong engagement with our research and advocacy work. Members are invited to exclusive webinars featuring WOLA experts — last year's sessions covered topics including the curtailing of civic space, boat strikes in the Caribbean, and other key developments across the region.



WOLA'S LEGACY SOCIETY



WOLA's Legacy Society offers our generous donors a chance to make a gift through a will or a trust or a beneficiary donation to ensure the work of human rights for future generations. Find out more about how you can make a lasting gift.

[LEARN MORE](#)





Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

**1666 CONNECTICUT
AVE NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009**

**☎ 202-797-2171
✉ INFO@WOLA.ORG
🌐 WWW.WOLA.ORG**