



Prison Divestment Campaign Impacts

Blocking Prison Growth

associations

The Dept. of Justice announced in 2016 the Bureau of Prisons will stop contracting with private prisons, and Dept. of Homeland Security is investigating its own use. In 2012, Podesta Group dropped GEO as a lobbying client.

industry plans

Since 2013, private prison companies have stated in their shareholder reports that they do not lobby for increased sentencing or immigration enforcement, and list increased public opposition to private prisons as a business risk.

facilities

In 2012, the Campaign and local organizing stopped proposed CCA immigrant detention facilities in Southwest Ranches, FL, and Crete, IL. In 2016, local organizing stopped GEO Group from opening a re-entry facility in South Los Angeles, CA.

Growing Public Support

policy

In 2015, Sen. Sanders introduced the Justice is Not for Sale Act. In 2016, Clinton and the Democrats adopted a platform to end private prisons; and CA Sen. Lara introduced California's Dignity not Detention Act to ban for-profit immigrant detention in the state.

investing

Prison divestment was on the agenda for the first time at Socially Responsible Investing conferences in 2015. Research firm MSCI is implementing a prison screen on its research agenda because of investor interest. California Endowment and Hazen Foundation implemented prison screens.

media

According to Google News, there have been 235 news stories on prison divestment. Prison divestment has been covered by the AP, LA Times, Mother Jones, ColorLines, Truth-Out, Marketplace, USA Today, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Fusion, Washington Post, TPM, The Nation, and others.

eras

Since its launch in May 2011, the Prison Divestment Campaign has strategically shifted targets and tactics to maximize our impact and build the power of those most impacted by criminalization to fight for their own self-determination.

Corporate Targets

2011-Present

The Campaign first targeted Pershing Square Capital Management—within days of the campaign launch, they had fully divested \$196 million worth of CCA shares.

We began targeting the Million Shares Club in 2013, recognizing that all major investors with over 1 million shares combined of CCA and GEO have a perverse interest in criminalization.

Million Shares members Scopia, Hamlin Capital, and Makaira have fully divested from prisons.

\$1 billion+ divested

Local Institutions

2013-Present

After the United Methodist Church Pension Board divested its private prison holdings in 2012, the Campaign began targeting cities, pension funds, and universities for divestment. Columbia University and University of California endowments divested \$35 million from CCA, GEO and G4S in 2015, inspiring other campuses to follow suit. The Cities of Portland, OR and Berkeley, CA are considering divestment in 2016. At least 6 labor councils and unions have passed divestment resolutions. In 2015, CA Endowment became the first philanthropic foundation to divest.

\$42 million+ divested

REIT Legislation

2016-Present

Our research revealed that CCA and GEO received \$113 million in tax breaks in 2015, due to their classification by the IRS as a REIT, or Real Estate Investment Trust. To strike a blow at their profits and lobbying power, the Campaign launched its first legislative campaign demanding Congress end prison tax breaks.

Responding to 3 months of national and local Campaign organizing, Sen. Wyden introduced a bill to revoke prison REITs.

Ending Tax Breaks for Private Prisons Act of 2016 (S. 3247, Wyden) introduced July 2016

The Prison Divestment Campaign, launched in 2011 by a coalition of human rights organizations, is on track to match the success of the massive South Africa divestment movement of the mid-1980s, and success cannot come too soon. — Glenn E. Martin, Founder & President, JustLeadershipUSA