

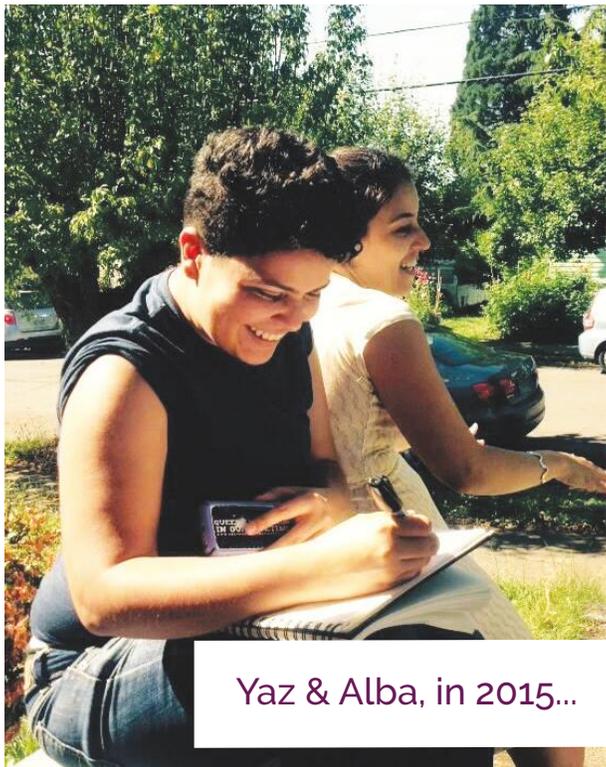
Soulforce

Sabotage Christian Supremacy

Forging tools for our political and spiritual
liberation from religion-based violence.



2018-2019



Executive Summary

For over 20 years, Soulforce has been forging tools to strengthen the moral courage of LGBTQI activists in hostile contexts to push back against ideological violence from the Religious Right that manifests itself physically and spiritually.

Time and time again, we have seen that many of our social justice movements face the same reality: Violence and discrimination against marginalized people is moralized, justified, and normalized by weaponized religion. This political moment and its explicit collusion of Christianity and systemic power has many activist communities seeking research, strategy, education, and spiritual support to fortify their activism against legislative, judicial, and cultural upheaval. **That's where we come in!**



We are as focused on our mission in 2019 as we have been from our beginning. Our goal is to end spiritual violence and oppression against marginalized people. While we center our work on issues of sexuality and gender, our role in this moment is to collaborate with activists and organizations across many geographies and social justice movements to fortify all our communities' resistance of religion-based violence.

In solidarity,

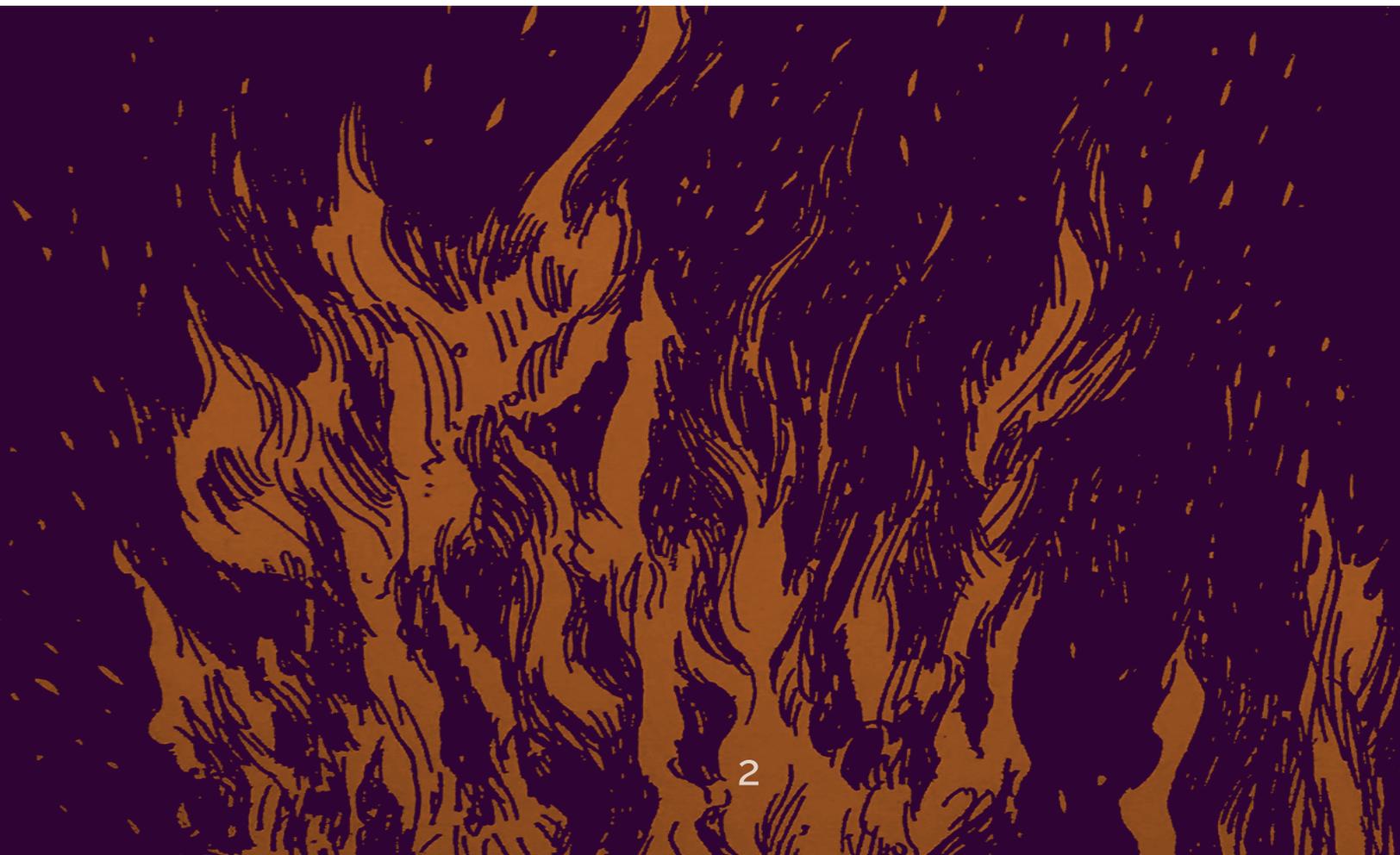
*Rev. Alba Onofrio,
Co-Director*

*Yaz Mendez Nuñez,
Co-Director*

Capacity Building for Our Movements

With your fortifying support, we made bold moves this year to move Soulforce into our next phase of serving as a capacity-building organization to outfit LGBTQI justice organizers, Youth, Southern activists, and other heart-centered activists around the globe with fire-tested tactics and resources to challenge Christian Supremacy everywhere and across multiple issues.

What we have to offer is our experience as a national organization that for the last two decades has prioritized understanding and undermining the ideologies, rhetoric, and strategies of the Religious Right. We use that expertise to train human rights defenders and support the work of activists challenging religion-based violence in their denominations, on their Christian college campuses, and in their local communities. We pair this legacy with and the ability to translate concepts and messages between people of faith and secular activists in order to serve as a strategic partner to organizations and individuals that need support on combating spiritual and religion-based violence to advance their own areas of social justice work. By steadying our focus on capacity building in our programming, we are able to intervene in the machinations of the Religious Right at all levels – from the individual to the global – thereby exponentially expanding our work.

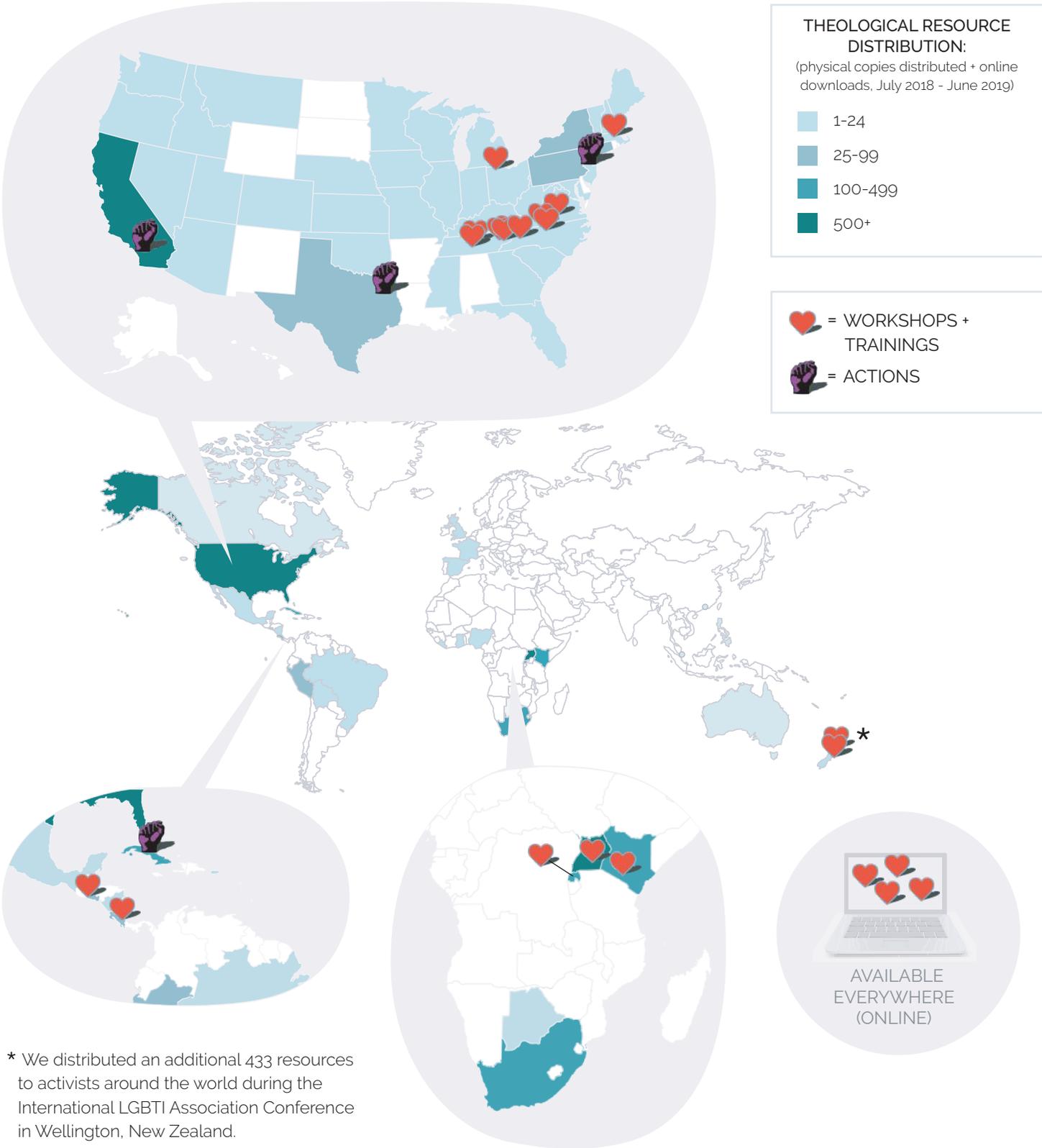


By the Numbers

- **1,180 people trained** via **24 in-person workshops** and **8 online webinars**
- **2,707 political and theological print resources** distributed
- **13 partnerships with organizations** across social justice movements
- **13 seed grants** totalling **\$3,217**, who distributed **2,630 Soulforce resources** in their local communities
- **452** digital political and theological resource **downloads** from **40** states and **24** countries
- **61 participants** in **online spiritual strategy sessions**
- **7 events for LGBTQI students** in hostile contexts
- **5 direct action & campaign partnerships**
- **5 news articles**
- **55 new donors**

Soulforce's Worldwide Impact This Year

Soulforce is a national LGBTQI organization with a political commitment to supporting activism in hostile contexts. Our workshops, political & theological resources, and direct action support are created and shared out through trust-centered relationships with activists and organizations in these key contexts, especially in the US Southeast and the Global South.



Political and Theological Resources for Solidarity and Liberation

Soulforce has been looked to for **relevant theological content that examines the intersections of religion and LGBTQI identity** since its beginning. “What the Bible Says About Homosexuality”, written by founder Mel White 14 years ago, is still a theological resource older activists from around the globe remember fondly.

The educational materials we develop today are shaped by the political moment in which we find ourselves. **Our current body of theological resources meets unique needs in activist communities around the world with resources that are designed to be:**

- **Grounded in Queer & Trans affirming theology and Biblical scholarship** (each resource is authored by our resident Queer theologian)
- **Intersectional in their examination of scripture** as it impacts many social justice issues like homophobia, xenophobia, patriarchy, transphobia, and sexual violence
- **Expansive, offering tools for the reader to critically analyze scripture** and spiritually violent rhetoric
- **Accessible and easy to translate** into many different languages and contexts
- **Affirming and fortifying for the spirits of LGBTQI activists** who are constantly pushing back against spiritual abuse
- **Relevant to activists in hostile contexts** in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa

Resource Development Process



4. Scatter the Seed

We disperse our theological resources by...

- ...providing free or at-cost print copies at Soulforce events and workshops
- ...offering free downloads online
- ...facilitating workshops for LGBTQI activists based on resource content
- ...hosting online webinars to go more in-depth on resource content
- ...supporting LGBTQI activists in the Global South through seed grants to bolster their work by making our print resources available to their communities
- ...building organizational partnerships to train activists and communities in hostile contexts, in the US and around the world

3. Tend the Seed

We make ready resources by...

- ...prioritizing accessibility of reading level, language access, and a glossary of terminology
- ...including Bible translations and discussion questions for inclusive, all-in-one small group study
- ...translating booklets into Spanish (and other languages as requested by Global South partners)
- ...printing booklets and preparing workshop material on content
- ...optimizing content for easy and free digital download
- ...launching resources for our domestic and global partners and their networks



2. Plant the Seed

We create each resource in community with...

- ...our Global South Advisory Board, who reviews resource outlines and drafts, offering edits and feedback for relevance and accessibility across contexts
- ...our US-based Volunteer Strategy Team, who offers feedback based on the needs of their communities and helps expand our US distribution channels

1. Catch the Seed

We conceive the concepts for new resources as we gather in...

- ...conversations with LGBTQI communities on their experience of Christian Supremacy and weaponized scripture
- ...requests from activists around the world
- ...assessments of the strategies of the Religious Right and their influence in culture, politics, and media
- ...academic research on liberatory theologies by our trained theologian
- ...funding support for production costs



Solidarity in Action: Creating our Newest Gender Justice Resource

In response to the most recent wave of political attacks on Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming people, we have been formulating responses to the theological premises and rhetorical strategies that the Right uses to target our Transgender justice movements. These same scriptural references and arguments are also used to repress women's rights in the US and around the world, so we have expanded the scope of our resources to address this reality.

Our newest print resource, *Breaking Open Genesis 1: The Gender of God & Creation*, is our first written theological work that specifically **challenges the pervasive myth of male supremacy in Creation and the scripture most often deployed by the Religious Right against both Transgender civil rights and the equality of women.** Like all of our current political and theological resources, *Breaking Open Genesis 1* is designed to be an accessible text for a variety of contexts: church-affiliated Bible studies, LGBTQI centers, and anywhere the material is resonant and relevant. Each resource is written at the reading level of a middle-school textbook, and digital copies are available for download free online.

We launched the digital version of this resource in February 2019, and we have been overwhelmed by the initial response. In its first six months, the resource has been downloaded by **95 users in 8 countries and 30 states:** Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the United States. More than numbers, our primary goal at launch was the breadth of diversity in users, which is an indication of broad relevance and trust in our content.

Shortly after publishing this resource, we **distributed 110 copies**



of this resource to activists from more than **20 countries** at the International LGBTI World Conference (ILGA World) in New Zealand in March 2019. By prioritizing an in-person presence at key global activist spaces, we sustain relationships with current partners and plant the seeds for potential relationships with other activists in the Global South. Producing this resource has kickstarted specific, actionable conversations with several organizations and activists across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands, and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa to bring our offerings and theological resources into their organizing strategies for their own local contexts.

Justice-Centered Theology for Building Global Solidarity

We know that the US Religious Right is a leading exporter of homophobia and transphobia to many places around the world, and our ethics as a US-based organization combating the ideologies of the weaponized Christianity lead us to address anti-LGBTQI rhetoric that is packaged locally in bad theology and shipped globally.

The creation of Breaking Open Genesis 1 was greatly enhanced by the support of our Theological Resource Advisory Council with 11 members from South Africa, Samoa, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Uganda, France, and Israel. This council, alongside a 19-member team of US-based Soulforce activists, helped shape the content of this booklet (and two other forthcoming gender-focused resources) and offered more than 100 pages of written comments and context examples from their own communities. We have disseminated resources in **6 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 4 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Alongside our Global Advisory Council, we collaborated with 6 activists and social justice organizations who distribute resources in 5 countries: Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, South Africa, and Peru. Our partners use our theological resources to organize workshops on gender, sexuality, religion, and the Bible. We also offer spiritual accompaniment and small grants to cover the cost of translating and printing the resource in their languages and communities. During this grant period, **Global South partners have personally printed and distributed 2,630 Soulforce resources in 4 languages, and held 46 workshops to train 1,228 attendees.** This community-level work changes hearts and minds and shifts political landscapes in the US and across the world.

“It will go down in the history of our organization that you were the first organization to look at us with passion, encourage us to seek without respite and work tooth and nail to deliver our LGBTI brothers and sisters in Eastern Africa from a permanent psychological damage while educating the general population especially faith communities about the Human rights of the LGBTI people. Collectively, we have been able to reach out to over 600 people within the LGBTI and faith communities, youths and women benefiting over 2,000 secondary beneficiaries, all through the use of Breaking Open: Sodom & Gomorrah, and its translated version in Luganda.”

- Community organizer training faith-based groups in Uganda

“We train social workers, 5th year medical students, nurses, police officers, magistrates along with sectors of the criminal justice cluster and teachers. In a country with a population that are deeply rooted in fundamentalist faith, one cannot avoid speaking to and challenging prejudice based on beliefs...”

As a secular organisation and an organisation that does not have the capacity to produce information resources, it has been especially helpful and added another level to the work we currently do... to be gifted with the resources sent to us by Soulforce.”

- Public healthcare activist in South Africa

Our Principles for Capacity Building:

Our collaborations with individuals and groups seek to demonstrate our values as an organization dedicated to serving global social justice movements by building capacity to combat Christian Supremacy:

- **We build enduring, sustainable relationships with organizations and activists** where we work cooperatively, rather than competitively, through aligned values and missions.
- **We specialize in what we offer to our partnerships so that we can serve as value-added to a collaborative project** – in this case, political and theological education on Christian Supremacy, and scripture resources to further LGBTQI and gender justice.
- **Rather than parachuting in as a national or foreign organization with our own plan for how programming should go, we offer programming to local communities specifically when those communities ask for our support.** This is especially important when acting in solidarity with communities in the Global South as a US-based organization, because of the legacies of Christian Supremacy that have undergirded colonization and Christian missionization of these regions.
- **We commit financial and programmatic resources to act in solidarity with LGBTQI people in the Global South** by acknowledging and combating the US Religious Right's exportation of toxic theologies and violent political ideologies.

In Focus: Building Capacity for Our Movements with Theological Resources in East Africa

In 2018, we connected with the leadership of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM), a multi-denominational group of primarily African-American Christian leaders in the United States, Africa, and Mexico who support other religious leaders in moving toward a theology of radical inclusivity for all marginalized groups. Even though their staff is made up of seminary-trained pastors, they found Soulforce's theological resources to be relevant and accessible, especially for their trainings on weaponized scripture against LGBTQI people. They were interested in our methodologies for developing resources in relationship with Global South activists. It was clear that we could back up the work of affirming churches and activist communities in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya where activists – specifically LGBTQ women, feminists, and sex workers – are combating homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny in their communities and legislatures. These are contexts in which scriptural resources could be an essential tool.

After developing a shared vision between organizations, our Spiritual Strategist was invited to offer on-the-ground theological support to TFAM's Wawa Aba Womanist Conferences in April 2019 in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya. In each country, our Spiritual Strategist facilitated trainings for activists on how to do an analysis of power and oppression based in religion, how to read the Creation story of Genesis 1 through a gender-liberatory lens, and which Bible stories challenge a fundamentalist, patriarchal interpretation of scripture. By the end of the conferences,



Soulforce had distributed 590 political and theological resources to 157 participants and 6 local activist groups across Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya.

We look forward to collaborating further with TFAM in the coming years. Our next hopeful collaboration is in offering theological resources to support the training of women and LGBTQI pastors in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda in affirming, liberatory Queer theologies through their Women's Theological and Leadership Institute for African women ministers-in-training.





Digital Strategies for Wider Impact

We developed our Bible Self-Defense video course in 2018 to meet expressed needs from our base for a deeper theological and political dive into each of the clobber passages. Our aims in developing this resource were not only to meet our community's needs around addressing weaponized scripture, but to also address the ways that homophobia, transphobia, and sexism overlap in experiences of religion-based violence. Between March and October of 2018, we live-streamed 7 hour-long sessions with our resident theologian, each session acting as a digital training that focused on unpacking and defanging many of the scriptural passages most widely weaponized against LGBTQI people and Women. We invited community members to join the webinars to ask questions and engage in digital community, and all registrants received digital recordings of each webinar.

One of our most popular sessions was on the "Evil of Eve," in which we took on the issue of women's "sinfulness" and debunked the notion that women's subjugation is valid based on the culpability of women for the first "sin" of Eve by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Also popular was the session about eunuchs in the Bible, during which we discussed gender diverse people in the Bible, and the key roles of eunuchs in many of Christianity's core narratives. From there we explored how we can understand the plurality of God's gender in the text, and where we can find Bible stories that offer an empowering, expansive view of gender beyond male and female.

We have continued to instrumentalize this body of work in positive ways: for example, when the negative ruling against LGBTQI communities in the United Methodist Church occurred in March 2019, we were ready with our edited, captioned, and coordinated Bible Self Defense series as a response strategy. We offered it for free to anyone around the world in need of spiritual care, conversation strategies, and inspiration.

Our Bible Self-Defense series brought **231** registrants, and our content raised **\$1,882** in sliding-scale ticket sales – all used to offset the cost of production and ensure these resources can be free for the communities that need them most. In March 2019, we made the recorded series available online for sliding-scale purchase; in total, the webinar recordings have been viewed over **800** times by viewers from **13** countries.

"In most of the arguments I've gotten sucked into from the Right, the other party is coming from a place of fear.

That fear makes them emotional and the argument often gets angry and lacks sense. so it's important to stay calm and not become emotional or angry and always know that God is with us when we speak!"

- Bible Self-Defense series attendee from the US

Growing our Spanish Language Programming

Considering that 38% of all global documented murders of Trans People occurred in Spanish-speaking Latin American countries, one of our priority areas is working on meeting the express needs of Latin American LGBTQI activists for resources to counter this violence.

In 2019, we introduced a Spanish resource page to our website, and developed our first Spanish-language online distribution process where Spanish speakers can connect with a Spanish-speaking staff member to access theological resources digitally or in print – making our theological resources **our first English/Spanish bilingual program area**. We were able to have 3 of our English resources translated into Spanish by a culturally-sensitive translator. During the grant period, our Spanish-speaking staff members have visited 4 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean – Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, and Costa Rica – and **distributed over 175 Spanish language resources to 15 Spanish-language social service providers, governmental agencies, and activist organizations.**



Rev. Alba Onofrio joins a delegation of US faith leaders with the Asistencia Legal para la Diversidad Sexual de El Salvador (Legal Assistance for Sexual Diversity of El Salvador, or ALDES) delegation of US faith leaders to El Salvador for the first ever media training on LGBTQI coverage in positive or neutral ways. Faith leaders from around the US visited with 5 LGBTQI agencies, including the newly formed Trans men's organization in El Salvador, to learn about current conditions and offer theological resources.

Capacity Building for Campaigns & Direct Actions

Soulforce serves our movements as effective capacity builders because we are a smaller, agile organization that can respond quickly to urgent issues as they arise and to the needs of community groups and organizations under attack in distinct political moments. Our flexibility makes us ideal partners for groups who have identified an urgent opportunity where our expertise would strengthen their work.

This year we've focused on supporting directly-affected people carrying out Christian Supremacy-targeted campaigns and direct actions by offering spiritual accompaniment, giving strategic analysis and insight, and using the small but powerful resources we have to sustain this resistance work.

Spiritual Strategy Sessions

Developing community support spaces online to discuss and respond to current issues and their connection to Christian Supremacy is a high priority for Soulforce. In response to the expressed needs of our base, particularly our LGBTQI Youth and activists in hostile contexts, we developed our Spiritual Strategy Session. It is an experimental model of creating rapid-response digital community space to activists, clergy, students, and anyone seeking a stronger analysis on the ways Christian Supremacy operates in any given political situation. In 2018 we responded to two political moments: the November 2018 federal memo to craft legal definitions of sex that discriminate against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming people, and the ongoing Southern border crisis after a number of immigrant children died in US detention.

We offer background and analysis that contextualizes the political moment in the history of religion-based violence and power, and then help participants detangle the moral arguments being forwarded by the Right. Then we workshop ethics-based messaging and counter-narratives with activists in the call. In total, 61 participants registered for these two sessions. Because these kinds of spaces are generally inaccessible for people in the closet, hostile contexts, rural contexts, etc, our goal with this program is to make relevant, safe community space available for all LGBTQI people who need it in times of public crisis.

“Thank you for this. I am an activist in Oregon, and I want more tools to show up vulnerably with my family so as to not get into a “fact”-based back-and-forth on issues of immigration and the government shutdown.”

- Christian Supremacy @ the Border Spiritual Strategy
Session attendee

Supporting Student Power: Azusa Pacific University

In October 2018, mounting student activism pushed the administration at Azusa Pacific University (APU) in La Mirada, CA, to **quietly drop language banning same-sex relationships from their code of conduct**. When news spread to board members of APU, the Religious Right placed immense pressure on the school with articles, petitions, and talk of revoking major gifts to the institution – in turn, the administration quickly reinstated the ban.

Roughly 200 students protested at APU in early October in opposition to the school reinstating its policy banning same-sex relationships. Students lined up in nonviolent protest, and sang and prayed in joyful resistance with their arms locked together. Soulforce provided a small seed grant to sponsor the materials for the protest, in addition to our continuous staff support and know-how for students and community members involved in the action. Our most important role was to buttress the student groups to let them know they were not alone: they were standing on the side of justice. This action secured a new generation of students' relationship with Soulforce that has spanned over nearly a decade of student organizing.

Student pressure continued to build around Azusa Pacific, and students continued negotiating with faculty and staff to drop the ban. In mid-March, Azusa Pacific at last dropped the ban once more. Their student code of conduct around relationships names their “commitment to uniform standards of behavior for all students, applied equally and in a nondiscriminatory fashion” – **a student win!**



“Today, they put faces to their demonstration, spending time in worship and prayer, and showing what unified faith looks like. There is a holy rumbling happening, and we anticipate the Spirit’s work in Christian student communities across the country. APU: Your students are leading; we implore you to follow.”

- Erin Green, Director, Brave Commons

BOMBASTIC



Applying Theological Resources to Legislative Campaigns in Uganda

In November 2018, we received a request from a community activist, a Soulforce Global Advisory Council member who runs Bombastic – the only LGBTQI affirming magazine in Uganda. Their activists were organizing against a piece of legislation in Uganda that would have **outlawed LGBTQI advocacy** in the country alongside a pre-standing ban on homosexuality.

Our partners requested a small grant to print a new round of their magazine, which would run the full text of “Breaking Open: Sodom & Gomorrah” in English and Luganda. They wanted to hand-deliver that resource to “key stakeholders and bill movers” to start dialogue with members of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament and defend their communities against this political attack. Upon receiving the seed grant, they were able to mobilize LGBTQI community leaders to meet with members of Parliament, and after introducing Soulforce’s theological

resources and engaging Parliament members on the issue of religion-based violence, the use of religion to justify homophobia never came up again and **the bill did not pass** – a win for LGBTQI activists and communities in Uganda!

“We carried out advocacy activity with the support of the seed grant on the 21st of December 2018. It was a tough conversation at the start, and having the magazines with Soulforce resources on Sodom and Gomorrah in Luganda was the great hit with the policy makers. Speaking to them from a biblical take on our being gave us the opening into a deeper conversation we really needed to have but had no inlet. Our meetings went well, as did our follow up engagement. We just have to keep pushing now.”

- Ruth, Ugandan activist

Catalyzing Resistance to Right Wing Rhetoric in Cuba

In June 2018, Christian fundamentalists from 5 major denominations joined forces and resources to organize a campaign to strike language on non-discrimination and marriage equality from a draft of the new Cuban constitution. On a visit to Cuba soon after, Rev. Onofrio connected with LGBTQI activists in search of resources to support their work with the Abriendo Brechas de Colores (ABC) Project. This Cuban activist coalition seeks to create dialogue between religious and social discourses on the respect and human rights of Women and LGBTQI people.

Their campaign was the Mi Familia es Muy Original (“My Family is Very Original”) initiative, designed to promote the pro-LGBTQI constitutional amendments and counteract the Christian fundamentalist rhetoric of “original

design” of the heterosexual nuclear family. Because of the support of many organizations, including Soulforce’s seed grant, the ABC Project was able to offer a workshop entitled “Religious Fundamentalisms, Constitutional Reform, and LGBTIQ Activism”, develop a series of videos highlighting Queer families across Cuba, and create a number of art pieces to instigate culture shift in their context. These videos have received over 30,000 views on Facebook.

In February 2019, the new Cuban constitution was ratified. While the draft LGBTIQ-affirming amendments were removed from the constitution, activists were able to keep marriage equality from being outlawed in the constitution – a concession that will create opportunity for future legal campaigns to succeed in Cuba.



A campaign poster that reads in English: “My family is very original” and “Every right for every family.” Right, top: A screen capture of a video interviewing a Queer family. Right, bottom: organizers from the ABC Project.

Bearing Witness at the Department of Education

In September 2019, a legal proponent for LGBTQI students on Christian campuses advised us that there was an opportunity to Soulforce to advocate for students to have their experiences on campus heard by the Department of Education. The DOE would be entering into a “negotiated rulemaking” process over the coming months, where government representatives and interest groups would meet to debate the terms for new departmental rules that could take away the power of accrediting organizations to regulate religious colleges’ discriminatory practices toward LGBTQ students. Soulforce is regularly called on to speak to the realities of LGBTQI students at Christian campuses because of our long-standing relationships with students, seeded in the Equality Rides and tended through continued acts of solidarity.

Four students and student advocates quickly nominated us to attend this set of three meetings as **the sole national student interest representative**. As one of 12 public interest groups in attendance, the goals we were vested in as the student interest representative were to:

- Give testimony on the experiences of LGBTQI students experiencing discrimination and spiritual violence at Christian colleges,
- Research the strategies and tactics of the Religious Right in the Department of Education, and
- Ensure that any policy decisions that may give undue political power or control to the Right Wing or harm LGBTQI communities on campuses are named as violent on the official record kept by the Department of Education.

Attending these meetings not only allowed us to lend our voice on behalf of the students who experience harm in hostile contexts, but also to do critical research on current rhetoric that will inform our strategies on religious freedom and higher education.

As of June 2019, the Department of Education (DoE) has adjourned committee for negotiated rulemaking and moved to public comment. We collaborated with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, a legal advocacy group, to identify the most harmful proposed rules for LGBTQI students at Christian colleges. Then we submitted a public comment to ensure that

the best interests of our students are recorded as a public concern. The final rules on Religious Mission at the Department of Education will be drafted in November.

Building Our Organizational Infrastructure

This year is a milestone moment for us as Haven Herrin, our former Executive Director, transitioned out of leadership at Soulforce after 15 years on staff. Our new Co-Directors, Rev. Alba Onofrio and Yaz Mendez Nuñez, have both served the organization for five years as the Spiritual Strategist & CFO (Rev. Alba) and the Director of Programs & Communications (Yaz). Together they bring a diversity of skills and experience to our leadership – Rev. Alba as our resident theologian, Yaz having joined the organization as youth programs staff.

Over the past year we have developed and published our Soulforce Strategy Report; its completion marks the beginning of our Co-Directors' leadership. This 24-page report articulates in detail our theory of change, our decision-making structures, and the commitments and values to which our members and supporters can hold us accountable in this new era of leadership.



We know that continued development of our infrastructure keeps our programs relevant, responsive, and sustainable. In Fall 2018, we contracted with a communications specialist in order to create a Digital Assessment Report to describe the current state of our digital platforms and build a growth plan for the organization. We strive to build out our digital infrastructure in 2019 in order to amplify our messaging, broaden our distribution channels for programming and content through search engine optimization and utilization of Google Ads (demonstrated with our theological resource ad campaign), and initiate/maintain new donor relationships. We are also currently working with a pro-bono evaluation consultant team to help us establish metrics that help us measure the efficacy of our digital infrastructure moving forward.

Building Power, Year After Year

GOALS For 2019-2020:

- Continue writing the **Christian-sensitive Left response to the global Right Wing agenda** as outlined by the Association for Women in Development in their Rights at Risk Report, with consultation from human rights defenders from around the world
- Write and disseminate the second resource in our gender justice scriptural resource series, **Breaking Open Genesis 2: Adam & Eve**, to combat scripture-based arguments for gender inequality and the gender binary
- Continue building our **English-Spanish bilingual capacity** with translation of forthcoming resources and developing creative distribution networks with Latin American activists
- Continue growing distribution networks for political and theological resources with our partners in the US and the Global South
- Hire an associate director for relationship management to engage our membership, coordinate our regular fundraising campaigns
- Expand our board of directors to grow capacity in support of our new Co-Director team
- Continue building digital strategy in accordance with the Digital Assessment Report, with an eye on dissemination strategies for our political and theological resources

Timeline of Major Events

2018

July to
September

Workshops on Christian Supremacy and panel with faith leaders from around the US at Wild Goose Festival – Hot Springs, NC

Workshop: "Bible Self-Defense – The Gender Binary & the Indiscretion of Cross Dressing" – online

Workshop and spiritual support for Floyd Pride Festival – Rural Floyd, VA

Strategy Session with Tzedek Lab Jewish Activist Gathering at Highlander Center – New Market, TN

Workshop: "A Conversation on Religion and Morality in the South" at Highlander Center – New Market, TN

Workshops and sermon for divinity school students at Vanderbilt Divinity School – Nashville, TN

Action: Student resistance to discrimination at Azusa Pacific University – Azusa, CA

Workshops: at Soulforce 20th Anniversary celebration and workshops – Lynchburg, VA

Attended first-ever LGBTI media training in El Salvador with religious leaders from across U.S., and met with 5 LGBTIQ organizations in San Salvador – El Salvador

October to
December

Action: Solidarity letter-writing action with Give Back IX Campaign at Drew University – PA

Spiritual Strategy Session on Transgender Legislation & Title IX – online

Spiritual Strategy Session on Christian Supremacy at the Border – online

Action: Cuban LGBTI activists campaign against Christian fundamentalists for constitutional rights – Cuba

2019

January
to March

Action: Ugandan LGBTI activists use theological resources against the criminalization of homosexuality in their legislature – Uganda

Co-sponsored Creating Change International Institute – Detroit, MI

Advocated for the rights of LGBTIQ students at the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee meetings at the Department of Education – Washington DC

Workshop: "Queer Spiritual Care & Fightback in Late Capitalism" Panel at Harvard – Cambridge, MA

Workshop with students from around the US studying human rights with Highlander Center – New Market, TN

Co-sponsor of the ILGA Global Interfaith Pre-Conference – Wellington, New Zealand

Release of newest theological resource, *Breaking Open Genesis 1: The Gender of God & Creation* – online

Workshop: "Sabotaging Empire: The Gender Transgressor's Guide to the Bible" at the ILGA World Conference – Wellington, New Zealand

April
to June

Action: Texas PFLAG chapter responds to conversion therapy conference with our support and resources – Tyler, TX

Workshop: 50+ hours of Queer theological education and spiritual accompaniment in East Africa for Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans Women, HIV+ Women, and sex workers with the Wawa Aba Womanist Theological Conferences – Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya

Workshop: "The Bible and Gender Diversity: Challenges in Coexistence" at the National University of Costa Rica's Ecumenical School – San Jose, Costa Rica

Workshop: "Remembering Pulse, Surviving the Present, and Honoring Them With Action" Panel with the Religious Institute – online

Expense Report

Income

Individual Giving	\$171,524
Foundation Giving	\$172,500
Earned Income	\$1,135
In-Kind	\$542
Total	\$345,701

Expenses

Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	\$238,219
<i>(\$8,443 for research and writing labor for Genesis 1 and Bible Self-Defense resources)</i>	
Contracted Personnel	\$15,530
<i>(\$1,537 for Spanish translation of resources)</i>	
Operations + Overhead	\$15,795
Fundraising	\$12,917
Direct Programming	\$52,419
<i>(\$4,883 for printing and distribution of theological resources around the world)</i>	
<i>(\$5,470 for direct support to activists on-the-ground)</i>	
<i>(\$8,004 hard costs associated with writing, designing and publishing Genesis 1 resource)</i>	
Total	\$333,880

About Soulforce

We work to end the political and religious oppression of LGBTQI people. Our activism at the intersections of religion, race, gender, and sexuality pursues healing, catalytic nonviolent change, and liberation for all our people.

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Registered 501(c)3 Tax ID 33-0782888

