

# Our Philosophy on Advocacy

We believe that the U.S. government and corporate actors hold overwhelming influence over Latin American nations and their leaders. Law makers, corporate executives and shareholders need to be made aware that large numbers of individuals and well-formed groups are knowledgeable and concerned about foreign policy and business practices in the hemisphere. These practices ultimately reflect our societal values and goals. Political and corporate misconduct leading to adverse effects against the protection of human rights, economic and social justice, and lasting peace throughout the region, are neither ethical nor acceptable.



Our approach to advocacy is encouragement of and engagement in nonviolent activism. We provide our members with tools to lobby Congress and the Administration on issues of importance to DJPC's mission. We strive to create productive professional working relationships with the Colorado delegation and consistently offer our analysis on the relevant legislation they will vote on. We educate the general public on issues of importance to us. We engage in non-violent protest as a means of voicing our opposition to exploitive and violent practices.

## GET INVOLVED!

- Volunteer with the Advocacy Steering Committee and DJPC (e.g. events, outreach, mailings, fundraising, program development).
- Join DJPC's Urgent Action Network and make your voice heard through lobbying, writing letters and nonviolent actions.
- Write articles on issues you care about for our quarterly newsletter *The Mustard Seed* and our website.
- Become a member of DJPC.
- Attend events sponsored by DJPC.
- Represent DJPC at related community events.

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# Advocacy & Nonviolent Activism



Actively protecting and promoting human rights, justice and lasting peace in Latin America.



An initiative of the  
Denver Justice & Peace Committee



## A History of Advocacy

For over a quarter of a century, DJPC has worked in solidarity with the people of Latin America. Founded in 1976, DJPC began addressing global injustice. One of the organization's first projects was participation in the international boycott of the Nestle Corporation for its unethical marketing of infant formula in the Third World. This worldwide protest ultimately led the World Health Organization (WHO) to draft an international code to monitor the marketing of such products.

In 1984, DJPC supported a successful regional campaign against Western Airlines for its cooperation in the deportation of Salvadoran refugees during the country's civil war. The organization also promoted a campaign to declare Denver a sanctuary for Central American refugees.

Members have participated in the long-running campaign to close the School of the Americas, the U.S. Army training facility responsible for instructing Latin American officers guilty of committing horrendous atrocities in their own countries. DJPC has sponsored participants traveling to the annual vigil in Ft. Benning, Georgia, to protest the school's existence.

DJPC's current goals include putting a human face on poverty, human rights abuses and conflict in Latin America; increasing awareness of the ever-widening social and economic injustices in both the South and the North; promoting sustainable communities and nonviolence; and encouraging people to become proponents of social change.

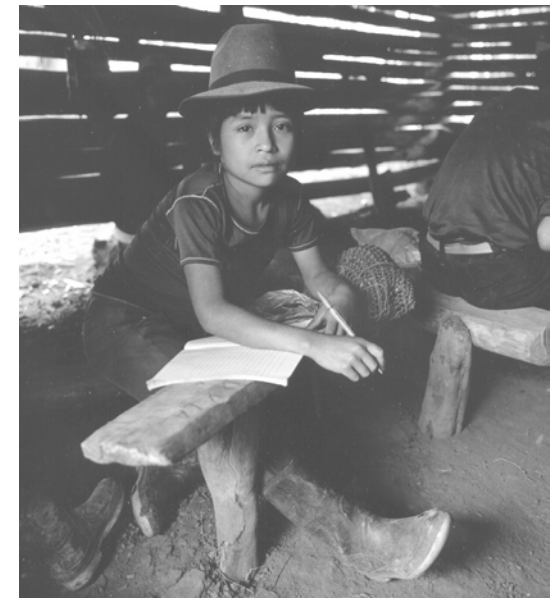
## Recent Advocacy Initiatives

### **Protesting U.S. involvement in the militarization of Latin America**

DJPC recognizes the correlation of U.S. military aid and presence in the region with egregious human rights violations. DJPC organizes members to work against U.S. funding of countries with corrupt and violent militaries. For example Guatemala, which continues to violate key provisions of the 1996 Peace Accords; and Colombia, which channels significant amounts of military aid to groups and individuals proven to have committed massacres against peace communities and civilian victims of the country's civil war. DJPC advocates for peaceful alternatives and changes to U.S. legislation and aid that would protect human rights.

### **Monitoring U.S. Trade Agreements with Latin American countries**

Trade agreements have the potential to significantly affect matters of socio-economic standards and human development. DJPC views the current free trade model as a failure in promoting improved standards of living, sustainable development, increased economic equity and ensuring human rights protections of U.S. trading partners as illustrated through NAFTA. DJPC monitors Administration and Congressional action on proposed free trade agreements and lobbies against their passage while promoting fair trade alternatives.



## How to be an Advocate

- **Utilize your rights: Contact your Congressional members, state, and local representatives and the President. Let them know how you feel about specific issues. Don't forget to vote!**
- **Educate yourself and others: Write a letter to the editor to generate public awareness of the issue. Write an article for your religious organization's newsletter.**
- **Vote with your pocketbook: Support boycotts and buycotts.**
- **Mobilize: Participate in non-violent protest, vigils and commemoration ceremonies.**