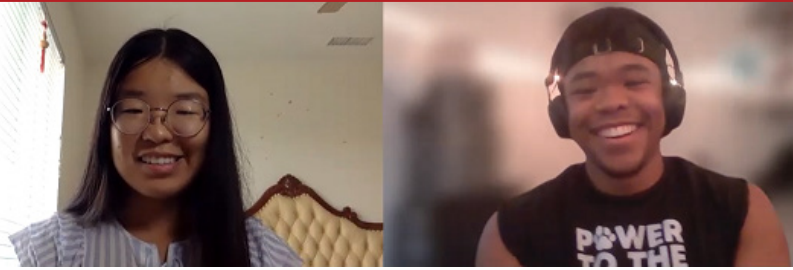


A Year in the Life of STF: “Vote for the Planet” and “Human Rights on the Southern Border”



SEPTEMBER

STFers kicked off their “Vote for the Planet” Campaign with climate activist Sim Bilal. Sim motivated students to “Disrupt the System” by demanding change during a week of collective action to recognize National Voter Registration Day and the 2022 Global Climate Strike.



NOVEMBER

STF held mock elections, interactive tent events and class presentations to get out the vote before the 2022 midterm elections. STF members educated their peers on candidates running for local and federal positions, as well as on ballot measures to help them make informed decisions.

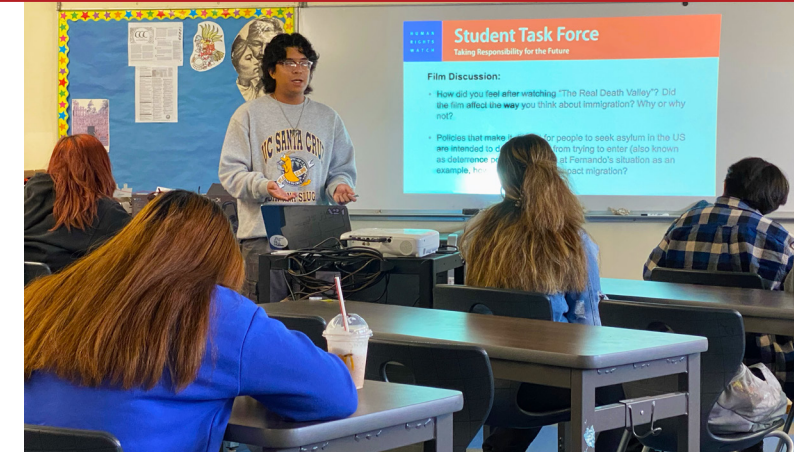
DECEMBER

STF chapters created visual displays, organized Kahoot games, conducted school-wide surveys to evaluate their campus' human rights climate and filmed original PSAs to educate their peers on the importance of human rights. STF members made sure human rights remained front and center on campus.



JANUARY

At the first-ever hybrid STF Winter Leadership Workshop, Vicki Gaubeca and Ari Sawyer from HRW's U.S. Program introduced STF members to the humanitarian crisis facing asylum seekers along the U.S.-Mexico border. In breakout groups, attendees discussed human rights violated by U.S. border policies and identified ways to educate and engage their school communities in advocacy against deadly deterrence policies in the U.S. immigration system.



APRIL

STFers continued to immerse their classmates in the fight to protect the human right to seek asylum through interactive classroom presentations and on-campus events.



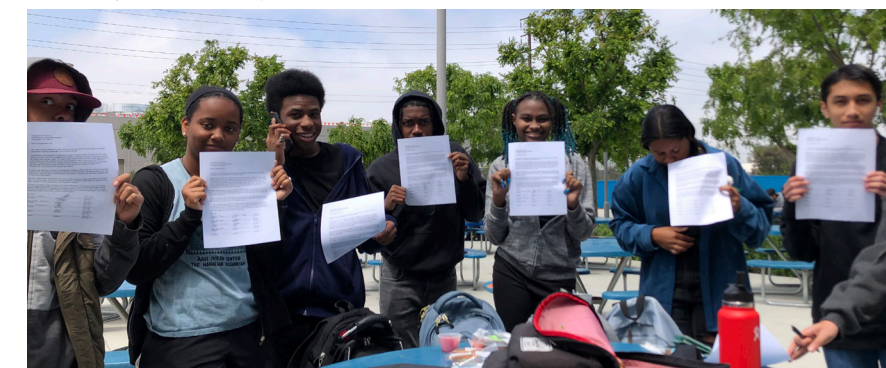
MARCH

STF members screened the documentary “The Real Death Valley” and classmates signed petitions urging their Congressional representatives to condemn deadly deterrence policies. The film follows the 40-mile trek through the sweltering brush that has taken the lives of hundreds of migrants attempting to evade border patrol checkpoints in Brooks County, Texas.



MAY

Experiential tent events simulated the journey asylum seekers make from South America to the U.S.-Mexico border. The exhibit demonstrated the challenges asylum seekers face when they flee their countries of origin, make the journey to the U.S. and apply for asylum at the southern border. Participants signed petitions demanding their congressmembers stop the use of deadly deterrence policies.



STF Alumni: Reflections and Where Are They Now?



Maria Armienta Ojeda
Academy of the Canyons '20
Cal Lutheran Univ. '23
Ph.D. Univ. of Cincinnati '27

I graduated from Cal Lutheran with degrees in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Psychology a year early! This fall, I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. My research interests were inspired by STF's 2016 advocacy on California Proposition 57, which was one of the first times I learned about the repercussions of juvenile incarceration on human rights.



Keanu Heydari
Wildwood '13
UCLA '17
Ph.D. Univ. of Michigan '24

My time in STF was instrumental in cultivating an interest in human rights, which has persisted to the present day in my research. I'm starting my sixth year at the University of Michigan's Ph.D. history program, where I've published an article that investigates Iranian students' political activities in France as a case study of migrant political exile.



Alisa Zhang
Los Osos '23
Univ. of Cambridge '27

STF taught me about activism and empowered me to make a difference in the world. STF gave me the knowledge to connect people's suffering to the lack of human rights enforcement, the language to convey my wish for a better world to those in power, and the skills to mobilize others to do the same.



Deepti Immaraju Reim
Intern '11
UCLA '11
SSCP Cal State Northridge '16

It's been a joy to be part of and a cheerleader for STF for the past 13 years! We just moved to Washington and I am now Tacoma Public Schools' CTE and Innovative Learning Team to support career technical education teachers providing high-quality learning experiences for all students that will connect them to the future that they want.



Logan Evans
Da Vinci '21
Duke Univ. '25

STF was one of my favorite experiences in high school and I have continued to advocate for human rights at Duke. I'm majoring in Social Sciences and Innovative Solutions to environmental issues, and got involved in the Environmental Alliance Club, which is trying to divest Duke from the fossil fuels industry. I also participate in a student-run podcast about climate education and activism for young people called Operation Climate.



Rodrigo Hernandez
Palisades Charter '22

Before joining STF, I would never have considered myself an activist of any sorts. During my three years in STF, I found the importance of being vocal, talking with others, and to never stop when a roadblock appears. It's been great working with so many people who are as passionate as I am about helping people around the world.



Ripsime Biyazyaz
Intern '16
Occidental College '16
M.A. Columbia Univ. '18

After learning about nonprofit fundraising as an STF intern, I am now a Development Associate at Women's World Banking. We promote women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment by partnering with local financial institutions to ensure that women, particularly in the Global South, have access to financial instruments to increase their income, financial safety and bargaining power.



Carolyn Stein
New Roads '19
Stanford Univ. '24

STF gave me a platform to voice concerns about issues I cared about. As a metro reporter with Mercury News, I wrote a story for the one year anniversary of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision, and I am now working on a story about AB 1266, a bill that requires CA to place incarcerated parents in facilities close to their children.

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

STF Year in Review 2022-23

Visit STF online at www.hrwstf.org



Disrupting The System

"The most critical thing youth can do right now is to call out BS where you see it. Educate yourself so when the time comes for you to advocate on an issue, you can knock these people flat down," Sim Bilal, 20-year-old climate activist from South L.A., said to participants at the launch of the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force (STF) "Vote for the Planet" campaign. The theme of disruption ran throughout the academic year as students pre-registered voters, met with school board representatives and began demanding Congress create a more humane asylum system in the spring "Human Rights on the Southern Border" campaign. Advocacy highlights include:

Vote for the Planet:

- Santa Monica HS STFers successfully petitioned the SMMUSD School Board to commit to transition its school to 100% renewable energy sources through the Clean Power Alliance.
- STFers at Wayne Hills HS in New Jersey presented plans to their Board of Education's Facilities division to transition their district to 100% renewable energy.
- Registered and preregistered hundreds of voters.
- More than 1,000 students participated in mock elections ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.

Human Rights on the Southern Border:

- Engaged thousands of students in interactive tent exhibits, film screenings and tabling events.
- Collected over 1,200 petition signatures in an ongoing effort to urge their local congressional representatives to condemn deadly deterrence policies that endanger the lives of vulnerable asylum seekers at the U.S. southern border.
- Drafted and posted public comments on Biden's expanded asylum transit ban explaining the human rights violating consequences of the new policy.

The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, launched in 1999, is a youth leadership-training program that brings together high school students and educators and empowers them to advocate for human rights issues, especially the rights of children.

HRW Student Task Force Staff:

Pam Bruns, Executive Director Emeritus
Kristin Ghazarians, Senior Project Liaison
Jordan Todd, Liaison



Human Rights Watch Student Task Force

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