



Harvard Graduate Council

Twelve Graduate and Professional Schools. One Harvard.

HGC in Support of Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign:

The Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign (HPDC) is a reparatory justice committee, run by several students from multiple Harvard schools, which seeks transparency from Harvard University's investment of public charity of prisons, jails, police and related economic activity.

Roughly 2 million people are serving time in prison or jail each year.¹ Many of those who are detained in local jails are done so simply because they cannot afford bail, which can cost an upward of \$10,000.² Others who are sentenced to jail or prison are facing drug related misdemeanors or low-offense crimes. With the lack of sufficient rehabilitation resources incarceration rates will continue to soar.

Many universities, such as Columbia University, have agreed to divest endowments or not financially fund private for-profit prisons.³ Research conducted by the HPDC has revealed that among fifty of the largest companies comprising the prison-industrial complex, Harvard is invested in each of them for a total more than \$2 million dollars. The members of the Harvard community and the public deserve the assurance that the university's endowment is being invested ethically.

We, the Harvard Graduate Council, on behalf of Harvard graduate students, Harvard affiliates and the general public, support HPDC in requesting the details of all funding investments of said such public charity.

1. "Correctional Populations in the United States, 2016", *U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics*, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus16.pdf>

2. "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020" *Prison Policy Initiative, Wendy Sawyer, Peter Wanger*, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html>

3. "An uphill battle: Harvard students urge school to pull investments that support prisons, *NBC News, Haimy Assefa, Erick Ortiz*, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/uphill-battle-harvard-students-urge-school-pull-investments-support-prisons-n1038686>

