

colibrícenter



F O R H U M A N R I G H T S

PRESS KIT

Description

The Colibrí Center for Human Rights is a family advocacy nonprofit based in Tucson, Arizona. Our mission is to end migrant death and related suffering on the U.S.-Mexico border. We approach the crisis on our border from a human rights perspective, focusing on Family Advocacy, Arts + Storytelling, and Policy Reform.

The Meaning of Colibrí

Colibrí is the Spanish word for hummingbird. In 2009, the remains of a man who had died crossing the border were recovered from the desert outside of Tucson, Arizona. In his pocket he carried a small dead hummingbird. In many indigenous cultures of Latin America, the hummingbird is seen as a symbol of hope and a messenger between the living and the dead. The Colibrí Center for Human Rights was named in the spirit of the hummingbird and in honor of this man and the thousands of others who have died or disappeared on our border.



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Early History

Colibrí's Executive Director, Robin Reineke and Forensic Anthropologist, Dr. Bruce Anderson, first began this work in 2006 as the Missing Migrant Project at the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner. In 2013, Robin Reineke and William Masson co-founded the Colibrí Center for Human Rights to expand the Missing Migrant Project and create a more comprehensive effort for the entire U.S.-Mexico border.

Recent Successes

The Colibrí Center for Human Rights has partnered with the humanitarian and forensic communities to develop the first comprehensive database system for missing and unidentified migrant cases. This tool allows Colibrí and our partners to facilitate further identifications of migrant remains, allowing more families to properly mourn their loved ones.

In 2013, Colibrí partnered with the team behind the award-winning documentary *Who Is Dayani Cristal?*, a film that has galvanized leaders across the nation. In 2014, Colibrí was awarded the 38th Annual Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award from the Institute for Policy Studies. In 2015, Colibrí joined the Citizen Engagement Lab's Power Communities Program. We are hopeful that these successes will help us and our partners bring more attention to the human rights crisis unfolding along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Select Team Bios

ROBIN REINEKE - Co-Founder and Executive Director



Robin Reineke co-founded Colibrí building on nearly a decade of work to support migrants' human rights through forensic science, anthropology, and advocacy. From Seattle, Washington, Reineke received a BA in anthropology from Bryn Mawr College, and an MA in anthropology from the University of Arizona, where she is currently a doctoral candidate in the School of Anthropology, completing her dissertation titled, "Naming the Dead: Identification and Ambiguity along the U.S.-Mexico Border." Her work has been featured in the BBC, the New York Times, TIME Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, The Economist, The Nation, and the documentary film, *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* In 2014, she was awarded the Institute for Policy Studies' Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award, and was honored as one of Tucson's "40 Under 40" by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is an Echoing Green Global Fellow.

For complete team bios, please visit www.colibricenter.org



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Facts

There is a human rights crisis unfolding on the U.S.-Mexico border. Since 1998, more than 6,000 men, women and children have lost their lives attempting to cross through this remote and treacherous terrain. In Arizona alone, at least 2,202 migrants died between the years 2001 and 2013. Hundreds of recovered remains are still unidentified and thousands more have simply never been found in the vast desert. There is currently no uniform procedure to investigate the deaths of migrants, and practices vary from county to county. Many remains have not yet had their DNA sampled, and there is no comprehensive DNA database to match the DNA of unidentified migrant remains with family members searching for missing loved ones. Colibri currently has more than 2,500 cases of migrants reported missing by their families. Families suffer each day a loved one is missing. For many, the lack of answers is tormenting and painful.

For the full fact sheet, please visit <http://www.colibricenter.org/fact-sheet/>



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Select Press

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Logos and Images



Videos

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2dieOzxkeE>

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