



MISSION

To heal the wounds of torture on individuals, their families and their communities and to stop torture worldwide.

PROFILE

- Founded in 1985 in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) has grown into an international nonprofit organization dedicated to healing the wounds of torture and advocating for human rights and an end to torture globally.
- CVT was the first comprehensive torture survivor rehabilitation center in the U.S., and the third in the world.
- CVT has offices in Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, United States and additional project sites around the world.
- \$36 million operating budget (Fiscal Year 2025) and 395 staff around the world.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP *(photos available upon request)*

- Simon Adams, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer
- James Behnke, vice president and chief financial officer
- Fawn Bernhardt-Norvell, vice president of advancement
- Emily Hutchinson, vice president of global programs

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

CVT works in three interrelated areas – providing clinical care to survivors of torture and conflict-related trauma; capacity building and resilience; public policy and human rights advocacy.

Clinical care and healing

- In the United States, CVT extends interdisciplinary rehabilitative care at our healing centers in St. Cloud and St. Paul, Minnesota and Atlanta, Georgia. In 2021 CVT also established a destination case management initiative in Tucson, Arizona, working with asylum seekers. Internationally, CVT extends rehabilitative care to survivors in Nairobi, Kenya; Amman, Jordan; the Amhara, Tigray and Gambella regions of Ethiopia; and the Gulu and Isingiro regions of Uganda.

Capacity development and resilience

- To help ensure survivors' need are met as widely as possible, CVT works to develop capacity, sustainability and resilience for people in fields complementary to the direct rehabilitative care of survivors of torture, such as providers of legal support, case advocacy or psychosocial support; human rights defenders and activists; and the organizations, networks and local systems where they operate.
- CVT conducts training for local mental health paraprofessionals so they can contribute to long-term mental health needs in their country and act as advocates for human rights.
- CVT provides technical assistance and training to torture survivor rehabilitation centers around the world to strengthen each center's mental health services, organizational management and financial stability.
- CVT specializes in research and evaluation of rehabilitative care for survivors to determine the effects of torture and the most successful treatments.



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

CVT Fact Sheet

Public policy and human rights advocacy

- CVT engages in advocacy to increase government support for torture rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and internationally.
- CVT advocates on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, and seeks to create humane and trauma-informed systems to welcome these individuals and their families to the United States.
- CVT works for humane prisoner treatment at the intersection of national security and human rights, including efforts to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.
- CVT's New Tactics in Human Rights program promotes tactical innovation and enhanced strategic thinking within the international human rights community.