



Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Anti-Death Penalty Resolutions

In 2016, IJPC will work during the extended moratorium of executions in Ohio, to build and strengthen a base of opposition that will not allow executions to resume in 2017 and contributes to abolishing the death penalty.



6 new people exonerated in 2015, bringing total exonerations to 156 people

Source: DPIC Year End Report

According to Death Penalty Information Center's (DPIC) Year End Report, death penalty use declined sharply in 2015, in both executions and new death sentences.

Public opinion is also shifting as well; opposition to capital punishment polled higher than any time since 1972. IJPC will build upon nationwide momentum to shed to light on flaws beyond repair within the death penalty system

IJPC will look for positive movement of SB: 162 (Excluding the seriously mentally ill from eligibility for death sentence) out of committee, support in the Senate, and then in the House. We

will promote new legislation around murder victim family rights and wrongful convictions. This is the year to get to know your legislator and their aides on a first name basis so they are continually hearing from their constituents.

Actions You Can Take

- Attend Anti-Death Penalty committee meetings, 2nd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm at IJPC. (Next one is Feb 16th)
- Attend educational programs offered throughout the region
- Join on 4/7 for Lobby Day with Ohioans to Stop Executions. Email info@IJPCcincinnati.org if interested in a rideshare from Cincinnati to Columbus.

Peace and Nonviolence Resolutions

In 2016, IJPC will promote and advocate for nonviolence and dialogue with a focus on racial equity, global conflicts, and alternatives to war. It is imperative to be a voice for peace as political figures use violence and hate speech to capitalize on fear and win elections.

IJPC staff are honing skills in the dialogue process with facilitators and are engaged with community members to bring people together to explore challenging topics. We will offer training to individuals and groups who want to learn to become facilitators, thereby spreading the use of respectful communication and strategies of nonviolence throughout the city. IJPC is currently involved

in several local movements in the areas of racial equity, human rights violations and aggression, and alternatives to war. In collaboration with the Cincinnati Human



Christina Brown of CHRC introduces Rethinking Racism

Relations Commission (CHRC), we have started a Rethinking Racism initiative to look at and find solutions to institutional racism within Cincinnati and need everyone's voices and action in this conversation.

We will celebrate different cultures and the need for peace through events like the World Peace Festival. *Continued on page 4*

Inside this Issue...

Anti-Death Penalty	1
Peace and Nonviolence	1
A Letter from Allison	2
Legislation & Events	2
Immigration	3
Anti-Human Trafficking	3
Flying Pig Invite	4

A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

There are many big ideas we have here at IJPC. Our vision “a just and peaceful world” will not be arrived at easily. The times I can remember to take a deep breath when I am frustrated and listen with a clear heart to someone I find myself in opposition to, helps us create spaces where people are valued and respect is given. We can all think of small actions that make a big difference as we build toward many resolutions set before us for the 2016 year at IJPC.

Your generous donation, combined with the gifts of many others, funds programming bringing peace education to a new generation and advocacy skills to someone finding their voice. Thank you.

A call to your legislator helps pass legislation to limit the use of the death penalty. Your phone call saves lives. Your request to learn more about immigration and human trafficking helps a young immigrant sharing their story to know they matter. Participating in new initiatives like Rethinking Racism make racial equity a priority for our city and shows we aren't going to tolerate continued discrimination and oppression.

In 2016, we hope you continue to show up, make calls, give, and take a small action or many small actions that all add up to creating a difference in creating peace and justice locally and internationally.



Legislative Corner

These legislative priorities still need your attention. Call your elected officials and let them know you are advocating for:

- **Death Penalty: SB 154** would abolish Ohio's death penalty. House version also introduced, with bi-partisan support.
- **Death Penalty: SB 162** would make ineligible for the death penalty individuals who have serious mental illness.
- **Human Trafficking: HB 268** would clear criminal records if offenses were committed due to being a victim of trafficking, increase penalties for promoting or coercing an individual into prostitution, and allow intervention programs instead of criminal conviction for people charged with committing crimes due to being trafficked.

Upcoming Events

Lobby Day 4/7
In conjunction with Ohioans to Stop Executions, a chance to go to the statehouse to meet with legislators regarding current and proposed death penalty laws.
Email info@IJPCcincinnati.org if interested in a rideshare from Cincinnati to Columbus.

More events to come! Visit IJPCcincinnati.org/events/ for the most up-to-date information.

If you are a death row inmate who would like a penpal or you would like to be a penpal for an inmate, please email info@IJPCcincinnati.org

Founding Sponsors:

Sisters of Charity
Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg

Sponsors:

Anawim Community
Bellarmine Chapel
Cincinnati Friends Meeting
Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship
Comboni Missionaries
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
Franciscans, St. John the Baptist Province
Glenmary Home Missioners
Institute of Secular Missionaries
Sisters of Divine Providence
Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington
New Jerusalem Community
St John Unitarian Universalist Church
Ursulines of Brown County
Ursulines of Cincinnati

Staff:

José Cabrera
Immigration Program Organizer

Kathleen Hebbeler, OP
Volunteer Bookkeeper

Mary Ellen Huss
Operations Manager

Andrea Koverman, SC
Program Manager

Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW
Executive Director

Board of Directors:

Margie Efke, OSU
Irene Encarnacion
Wes Ernst, *Treasurer*
Kathleen Hebbeler, OP
Carren Herring, RSM
Shannon Hughes
Louise Lears, SC, *Chair*
Cassie Niemann, *Secretary*
Amy Silver
Marie Smith, SNDdeN
Marge Wissman, OSF
Tim Zofkie, *Vice Chair*

Email: info@IJPCcincinnati.org

Immigration Program Resolutions

In 2016, the IJPC immigration program will focus on four different areas; the Youth Educating Society (YES) program, immigration reform in the presidential race, education around Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

(DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), and Mayor Cranley's Immigration Task Force.

The YES program is up and running for the 2016 year. The YES Advisory Board has received training

on the skills they need to lead future YES members. The IJPC immigration program and YES are focused on making sure pres-



YES Advisory Board after Fall Training
L to R Back: Ana, Sandra, Nancy, Ryan, Sarah, Enrique. L to R Front: Alma, Esther, Heyra, Laura

idential candidates tell the public about their plans for immigration. We will show up at the candidate's rallies in Cincinnati to ask more about their plans for immigration reform and how to fix our broken immigration system. Their stances will be shared on social media and the IJPC website.

Decisions on DACA and DAPA remain held up in a Supreme Court ruling set for the spring.

There have been many ways the Mayor's Task Force recommen-

dations have shown support of immigrants, most notably through the recommendation for a regional photo identification

card. IJPC and YES plan to promote and support the idea as it becomes a reality through a city council vote and with programming through Catholic Charities and the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC).

Actions You Can Take

- Recruit young immigrants and their allies to join YES
- Make calls to the White House at 202.456.1111 to voice your support for immigrant rights.
- Look for updates from IJPC regarding the benefits of DACA and DAPA and the ruling of the Supreme Court.

Our 2014–2015 Annual Report has just been released!

Please visit IJPCcincinnati.org/newsletters/annual-report-14-15/ to read!

Anti-Human Trafficking Resolutions

In 2016, IJPC will strive to create an informed and responsive community committed to recognizing the various forms of human trafficking, understanding and advocating for legislation aimed at reducing demand and protecting vulnerable populations, and to continue and broaden our educational efforts.

Members of IJPC's Committee Against Human Trafficking will continue to honor requests for presentations and promote its high school curriculum. In addition to the curriculum already available, we are reviewing additional materials for use with other audiences. Our partnership

with End Slavery Cincinnati is of utmost importance in exploring opportunities to connect volunteers with service projects as well as training for becoming a mentor. In 2016, we are actively reaching out to learn from victims of trafficking about what their needs are and about how we can all be part of the solution. We will advocate for victims through legislative initiatives that increase penalties for perpetrators in hopes to reduce demand of trafficking.

Actions You Can Take

- Join IJPC's Committee Against Human Trafficking which meets

the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur motherhouse at 701 E. Columbia Ave.

- Attend End Slavery Cincinnati's Annual Human Trafficking Conference on Friday, February 5th
- Do you work in a school or have an opportunity to invite IJPC in to learn more about human trafficking, and what to do if you are concerned you're witnessing trafficking? Call us!

Sign up for issue specific email updates!

Visit IJPCcincinnati.org/newsletter-signup/



IJPC INTERCOMMUNITY
JUSTICE AND
PEACE CENTER

215 E 14th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Cincinnati, OH
#4959

Help us to reduce our paper consumption.

Contact: info@IJPCcincinnati.org to join our e-mail list to receive this newsletter online instead.

Peace and Nonviolence Program — Cont. from Page 1

Actions You Can Take

- Attend Peace Committee meetings, 3rd Wednesday of the month 7:00-8:30pm at IJPC.
- Join our lobbying team that visits with local legislators to discuss relevant issues
- Get involved in Rethinking Racism
- Participate in monthly vigil at World Peace Bell in Newport, KY 3rd Fridays 4:30-6:30pm.
- Request to host a dialogue or become trained as a dialogue facilitator



Bellarmino Chapel Joins As New Sponsor

IJPC is proud to announce a new sponsor community! Bellarmine Chapel is an inclusive Jesuit parish within the Archdiocese located on Xavier University's campus. Bellarmine joins as the 21st sponsor community in the tri-state area that provide financial support and partnership opportunities regarding events.

Flying Pig 2016 — Run for Peace and Justice!



IJPC is looking for runners, walkers, cheerers and volunteers to join the IJPC Flying Pig Team and make this event a success. On the weekend of April 30th & May 1st, there are 5K, 10K, relay, half and full marathons to participate in.

Email mel@IJPCcincinnati.org or call 513.579.8547 for a discount code pre-registration. Visit ijpccincinnati.org/flying-pig/ for more info!