



Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Death Penalty Lobby Day at the State Capitol

On Tuesday, April 12, a busload of anti-death penalty advocates traveled from Cincinnati to participate in the death penalty lobby day led by Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) and supported by more than twenty co-conveners. The day was hugely successful in delivering a clear message to our legislators that support for the death penalty in Ohio is not only waning but active opposition to the practice is growing.

The morning program provided space for legislators sponsoring reform and abolition bills to give their support for those who would, hours later, be attending meetings with their state senators and representatives.

IJPC, along with the Archdio-

cese of Cincinnati, were instrumental in making this culminating event of the Faith Leader Initiative a success. An open letter with nearly 400 signatures from faith leaders of a variety of faith traditions was included in packet information, urging support of legislation implementing reforms recommended by the Ohio Supreme Court Joint Task Force to improve equity and fairness in the administration of Ohio's death penalty.

Hundreds of postcards from constituents were delivered in person to each representative, as well as packets of information and statistics. IJPC's Families That Matter (FTM) book entitled *Not Behind Bars, but Sentenced For Life* was given to all legisla-



Members of Families That Matter (FTM) Gloria Stewart, Lisa Davis, and Pat Jenkins deliver a FTM book to Sen. Cecil Thomas

tors. In the book, family members describe how they have been affected by the incarceration of a loved one on death row or their execution. During the program preceding individual lobby visits, one member of FTM, Lisa Davis, had the opportunity to share some of what that experience was like when her uncle Jerome Campbell was convicted and sentenced to die of lethal injection.

Military Spending Action on Fountain Square

The IJPC Peace Committee coordinated an action on Fountain Square on April 6 during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, an international cam-

paign. Eight people passed out 200 fliers regarding our military budget to a lunchtime crowd.

With military spending at \$1800 billion per year, 1% could meet

the urgent unmet needs in the humanitarian sector. A single F-35 costs \$100 million to build and that same money could build 8 hospitals in Africa. [Currently, 53% of discretionary spending is dedicated to the military.](#)

To become involved with similar actions, attend the Peace Committee Meetings—typically the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 PM at IJPC.

Inside this Issue...

Death Penalty Lobby Day	1
Military Spending Action	1
A Letter from Allison	2
Legislative Corner	2
Rally for Hope & YES	3
Flying Pig Update	3
Labor Trafficking 101	4



Activists displayed information regarding the US Budget and the disproportionate amount dedicated to military spending.

A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

Those of you who have visited IJPC over the years will remember our closet doors covered with social justice buttons, bumper stickers, and posters – all sharing the story of movements IJPC has been part of or been inspired by. I look at these doors often and am struck by the different things that catch my eye. One bumper sticker that has been standing out to me recently is a red one (now faded pink from the sun) that says, “What is popular is not always right; what is right is not always popular.” During this long presidential election season, this quote rings especially true to me. Our politicians are often swayed by what decisions will get them elected, and it’s our duty to raise up the issues we care most about, regardless of their popularity. Similarly, as voters, we need to take into consideration the decisions our elected officials plan to make and how they will affect us, our communities, and the most vulnerable. This summer, IJPC staff and interns will be working on an informed voters’ guide to highlight our four core issues and how the presidential candidates have or haven’t supported the issues.



Over the last few months we’ve seen many of you at our Rethinking Racism gatherings, on the streets of Price Hill at the immigration Rally for Hope, at the statehouse meeting with legislators for lobby day against the death penalty, and at countless meetings discussing, educating, and collaborating. As we move closer to November, we will need many voices for peace. We hope you’ll continue to join us in advocating for what’s right, even if it’s not always popular.

Legislative Corner

Immigration

The Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments related to extended **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)** on April 18th. Their decision will be announced at a later date but before the end of June. Check the IJPC website for updates.

Death Penalty

Senate Bill 139 (Post Conviction Relief) Introduced by Senators Bill Seitz and Sandra Williams, the bill requires that documents that could be potentially helpful in challenging a conviction be saved and other restrictions of the repeal processes lifted so that wrongful convictions might be more easily overturned.

Senate Bill 67 (Racial Justice Act)

Introduced by Senator Charleta Tavares, this bill would enact a Racial Justice Act, which would work to eliminate the inequities in the administration of the death penalty when it comes to ethnic and racial minorities in Ohio.

For information about IJPC events & committee meetings, visit IJPCcincinnati.org/events/

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José Cabrera
Immigration Program Organizer

Kathleen Hebbeler, OP
Volunteer Bookkeeper

Mary Ellen Huss
Operations Manager

Andrea Koverman, SC
Program Manager

Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW
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Vigil and Rally Bring Message of Solidarity

In January, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted immigration raids in North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas. The 121 people they picked up for deportation are women and children who came to the U.S. fleeing violence in Central America. Pro bono lawyers were able to stop 33 of the deportations because of due process concerns. However, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has said that these ICE deportation actions will continue, targeting those who entered the U.S. since 1/1/14.



Staff, board members, and friends stand in solidarity at the Rally for Hope

In response to these raids and with concern for immigrants in the Greater Cincinnati area, IJPC gathered together with many individuals and organizations to discuss how to support immigrants locally. For individuals, there have been Know Your Rights trainings occur-

ring through other organizations over the last few months and additional resources on the IJPC website about what to do if you are stopped by ICE.

To stand in solidarity with the immigrant community, a vigil took place on Ash Wednesday at the Federal Building in downtown Cincinnati. Additionally, a Rally for Hope was held at Holy Family Parish in Price Hill on March 12 supported by 20 more groups and organizations. More than 350 people gathered as we marched through the Price Hill community welcomed by honks and waves as the group chanted, "No papers, no fear! Immigrants are marching here!" Two immigrant women, Reyna and Miriam, shared their stories and how deporting each of them and their families would force them back into conditions of violence in their home countries. Our local immigrant families live in fear that raids will happen here.

Members of Youth Educating Society (YES) took the message and goal of the rally with great importance because many of them have had the experience of their own families being separated and



Laura Mendez, José Cabrera and Heyra Avila (L to R) share during the first YES meeting

their rights being taken away.

YES celebrated its 5 year anniversary in 2016 with its first meeting including a panel of YES's longest members. During YES's March member meeting, a portion of the meeting was focused on members sharing why they joined YES or why they wanted to continue being part of YES. It was a powerful witness of the need for a space where youth can gather together as leaders and activists.

The YES Advisory Board is currently working to prepare their stories to share with the community highlighting the need for comprehensive immigration reform. For more information about getting involved with YES or to invite YES members to share their stories and give a training to your group, contact Immigration Program Organizer, José (jose@IJPCcincinnati.org).

IJPC is Flying High with the Flying Pig

The Flying Pig Marathon is a Cincinnati tradition and has become an IJPC tradition of a great spring fundraiser.

Thanks to the 55+ runners and walkers who have reached out to friends and family for donations. Runners have listed their main reason for participating in their bios located on our website.

We are grateful to American

Legacy Tours, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Social Action Office, Coffee Emporium, Congregation of Divine Providence, Dominican Sisters of Hope, Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice at XU, DubWex, English Language Learning Foundation, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, Iris BookCafe, Know Theatre of Cincinnati, Macaron Bar, Northern Kentucky University,


Park + Vine, SC Ministry Foundation, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of the Precious Blood, St. John's Unitarian Universalist, Taft Museum of Art, Ursulines of Brown County and Ursulines of Cincinnati for their sponsorship to the IJPC Team to keep IJPC's programs sustainable all year long.

For a full recap of the race day festivities and to see the grand total of money raised, check the [IJPC blog](#) the first week of May.



215 E 14th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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Labor Trafficking 101 – Be a Part of the Solution

Often times, when human trafficking is discussed, sex trafficking is the most highlighted. However, there are many different forms of human trafficking.

Labor trafficking is a hidden but very prevalent form of human trafficking. Workers perform services against their will as a result of force, fraud, or coercion. The workers are often treated inhumanely or are in an environment that is dangerous. They are also not compensated for their work in a legal or constitutional manner. The most common example is low-paying domestic, factory, or farm work with hours exceeding overtime. Labor trafficking is also present in restaurants and beauty shops/salons.

This is happening all around us: globally, nationally, and even locally. Within the past few years, there was a family in the Cincinnati area who was forced to work 15 hour work days, 7 days a week, for 19 months without pay. The trafficker convinced the family to come here from India, took all their money and future earnings. They also were not allowed their own home or food, they were completely isolated, trapped, and under control of the trafficker.

You can further educate yourself on these issues in several ways. Take the human slavery quiz at: slaveryfootprint.org to answer the question “How many slaves work for you?”. This quiz uncovers the hidden forced and exploited labor

chains utilized to produce many of the goods and services we purchase. Following the results, research some of the companies and resources they provide you with. Keep an eye out for our upcoming blog post that will be an ethical buyers guide for upcoming spring events like Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and graduation.

Polaris Project is a national resource providing educational resources (polarisproject.org). Volunteer or get involved with various organizations to put an end to human trafficking. A local resource is End Slavery Cincinnati (endslaverycincinnati.org).

You can also visit our website for resources and information regarding human trafficking.