



Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Tied SCOTUS Vote — A Community Responds

In November 2014, President Obama announced an executive order that created Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA), and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This new program would have allowed more people to qualify for DACA and gave a 3 year work permit to undocumented parents of US born citizens. Following the executive order the state of Texas and 26 other states, including Ohio, filed a

lawsuit against the Obama administration in opposition to the order.

The lawsuit escalated to the Supreme Court and on June 23, 2016 the decision was a 4-4 tie, leaving the lower court’s ruling to stand and blocking extended DACA and DAPA. This [program would have affected](#) 5 million undocumented people; 3.6 million would have been eligible for DAPA and 275,000 eligible for expanded DACA .

(cont. on page 3)



Families gathered at St. Carlos Borromeo on June 23—the day of the Supreme Court ruling on DAPA/DACA+

Something to Talk About

IJPC recently held a dialogue on a sensitive topic: sex trafficking. Unlike traditional dialogue structures that bring to light two differing viewpoints, the focus was on allowing a panel to provide information for the audience to better answer the question, “What can I do to help?” It is important that people who are trying to provide direct services to those who have been trafficked, either as volun-

teers or service agency employees, know what is truly helpful and effective and what is not. The trauma of being exploited and intimidated means many are extremely distrustful and emotionally fragile. The last thing survivors need is a well-meaning but uninformed person causing them more harm.

The panel included professionals and associates from [End Slavery Cincinnati](#), [Off The Streets](#), and [Tamar’s Place](#), as well as some courageous women sharing their personal stories. After their presentation, the attendees broke into small groups and participated in a facilitated discussion, furthering the deep conversations.

IJPC is grateful for the volunteer facilitators and panelists, and hopes to do additional dialogues on the topic of human trafficking. Takeaways included:

- set aside personal agendas or that victims need “rescuing” — simply be a loving, concerned, non-judgmental presence in your interactions.
- Be honest and follow through on promises or commitments made.

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Staff, interns, facilitators, and panelists made this a successful dialogue experience

A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

Counting is often one of the first things that we learn as young people. 5 doesn't mean much until we talk about 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed. It seems like a fun game, a repetitive activity, but those numbers have so much more weight when we connect stories to them. Starting from the largest to the smallest, there are many numbers and stories we've been paying attention to here at IJPC.

5 million is the number of undocumented immigrants who could have received deferred action if the Supreme Court decision on DACA+/DAPA hadn't resulted in a 4-4 tie as we talk more about on page 1. 225 unique individuals have attended one of the 4 Rethinking Racism events we've held since January. 186 is the number of individual donors and team sponsors who supported IJPC in the Flying Pig and helped raise a total of \$18,500. Thank you to those who ran, walked, and gave to IJPC! 4 summer interns have increased our capacity to research, interview, organize, and plan for future programming. 3 survivors of human trafficking shared their personal stories during a peace dialogue IJPC held in June as those gathered discussed the perceived vs. actual needs of survivors of sex trafficking.

That leaves us with 1. One, at least, is how many things I hope you'll feel moved to do after you finish reading this newsletter – save the date for our annual meeting, call your elected officials, make a gift, tell a friend about IJPC, and make sure you and your neighbors are registered to vote!



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Voter's Guide & Registration

This fall, IJPC will release an IJPC Voter's Guide. Currently interns are researching candidates on the local, state and national level on their stances on key social justice issues. We hope you find this tool helpful when discerning which candidates align best with your personal values.

You must register to vote by October 11 (Ohio and Kentucky). Voting takes place on November 6th. You cannot register to vote online in OH, you can in KY. Regarding registering in OH, the [Cincinnati League of Women Voters](#) provides resources on their website (www.lwvcincinnati.org/) or phone (513.281.8683).

Events

- 8.2— Rethinking Racism
- 8.25— YES Meeting
- 9.8— Rethinking Racism
- 9.10 & 9.11 — Hispanic Festival (visit the YES table!)
- 9.15— YES Meeting
- 10.1— 3rd Annual World Peace Festival
- 10.20—YES Meeting
- 11.15— Annual Meeting—**SAVE THE DATE**

To be involved in committee meetings in each of the core issue areas and for more info about each event, visit IJPCcincinnati.org/events. New events added regularly.

(continued from page 1)

The original DACA created by President Obama's 2012 executive order is not affected by the ruling

The evening of the announcement of the decision, IJPC, along with other community leaders and organizations, held a vigil at St. Carlos Borromeo Church. Parishioners from St. Carlos attending Mass gathered with many others outside to stand together in sadness and confusion as they grappled with the reality of lost dreams. Prayers, songs, and words of hope were shared.

Maria Cabrera, who would have qualified for DAPA, spoke of how her life would have changed if the case would have passed. Maria said, "I had many hopes that expanded DACA and DAPA would be approved not just for my family

and I, but for many families that experience the same struggle as I do...With DAPA, I would have been able to visit my mother who is 88 and is sick from her heart. I would have also been able to drive without the fear of being deported, and the fear of being separated from my three children."

The vigil ended with inspiration



About 75 people attended the June 23rd vigil in Cincinnati

as those gathered recognized that though mourning occurred that night, the ruling is not the end of the road, and work toward comprehensive immigration reform will continue on.

For all of us seeking for comprehensive immigration reform, we only need to look to the next calendar year. Politico [reported](#) that Lindsay Graham (R-SC) intends to bring back the "Gang of Eight" bill in 2017. The Gang of Eight was a bipartisan group that shepherded a sweeping reform bill through the Senate 3 years ago.

To become involved in IJPC's work for comprehensive immigration reform, attend the next immigration committee meeting on August 23 or if you are in high school or college come to the first YES meeting of the school year on August 25. Both meetings at IJPC.

Solitary Confinement is an Inhumane Aspect of our Justice System

Imagine living 22 to 24 hours of every day in a small room with just a sliver of a window, if any, to look out from. Your cell would be approximately 80 sq ft, which is smaller than the typical horse stable. You'd be allowed 1 hour of exercise, which would take place in a cage outside.

It is estimated that 80,000 to 100,000 persons are held in solitary confinement in state prisons. This number does not include those persons housed in local jails, juvenile, military and immigration facilities. The American Bar Association's Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners states "Administrative segregation or solitary confinement should only be used for brief periods for reasons related to discipline, security, or

crime." Many individuals are placed in isolation for their own protection. That would include juveniles held in adult prisons, LGBTQ inmates, and other at-risk individuals. Prisoners are routinely placed in isolation for violating prison rules, but many haven't done anything severe enough to warrant their isolation.

Solitary confinement as it relates to the death penalty is of special concern to IJPC because as [ACLU reports](#) that 93% of states lock up their death row prisoners for 22 hours a day. Death row inmates describe constant solitary confinement for life a death before dying.

Within the past year, solitary confinement has been discussed more broadly. In early 2016, the


Obama administration looked to enact policy to reduce solitary confinement. The Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections has recognized the problems with solitary confinement and is making corrections. The ACLU commends them on their efforts and is calling on Ohioans to demand expansive reforms to solitary confinement.

IJPC will be bringing a virtual solitary confinement experience to local colleges this fall for students to understand what solitary confinement conditions are like, specifically in connection to death row inmates. If you are connected to a local university and would like to bring this experience to your university, please contact Andrea at andrea@ijpcincinnati.org.



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Voter Purging Necessitates Outreach

Stemming from a Reuters investigation last month as well as a [lawsuit filed in March](#) by the ACLU of Ohio and by Demos, a voting rights organization, Ohio's voter purging practices have been called into question.

All states do some amount of voter roll cleanup. A 2012 Pew report found that one in eight voter registrations are no longer valid or significantly inaccurate. However, a current Ohio procedure called Supplemental Process cancels the registration of people who don't vote in three successive federal elections, or any of the intervening local elections. For this upcoming election, that

would be since 2008. [Reuters reports](#) that "in the state's three largest counties that include Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus, voters have been struck from the rolls in Democratic-leaning neighborhoods at roughly twice the rate as in Republican neighborhoods." Reuters



ascribes this differential to the fact that historical turnouts have shown that Republicans are more likely to vote in both congressional elections and presidential elections while Democrats are less likely to vote in mid-term elections and thus are more at risk of falling off the rolls.

Regardless of political affilia-

tion, Ohio is one of a handful of states that removes voters simply because they don't vote on a regular basis and this procedure has real impact—in just the three counties mentioned previously, Reuters reports 144,000 votes have been removed. As Ohio's position as a swing state comes into play, voters could go to the polls in November and find their names have been removed.

AMOS Project and the Contact Center are local organizations who have focused on voter outreach. A canvasser from AMOS suggested that if people cannot remember the last time they cast a ballot to register again. Registration deadlines for both Ohio and Kentucky are October 11 for the November 6 election. For info about how to register, see page 2 of the newsletter.