

Quaker Action

**From resistance
to rebuilding**

**Time to end
life prison
sentences**

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**Protecting
immigrants from
deportation**

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Poor People's
Campaign**

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**American Friends
Service Committee**

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WHO WE ARE

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

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We must all support each other.

Every day, AFSC stands with individuals who are courageously speaking up and working for a better world.

Please help support and inspire our global network of peacemakers by making a gift today, before our fiscal year ends on September 30:

afsc.org/donate2018



It's a great privilege to work at the American Friends Service Committee in this historic moment. Right now, our organization's purpose feels more necessary than at any time in recent memory.

Over decades, our extended network of activists, allies, partners, and supporters—our AFSC family—has steadfastly made progress on reducing war, overcoming oppression, unmasking racism and discrimination, and respecting human rights. Now, we see attempts to roll back all the progress we have made.

As I travel to communities where

AFSC works—from Harare, Zimbabwe to San Diego, California to Myanmar and many points in between—I see the challenges of our time in people's faces, and I also see hopefulness. There is a hopefulness generated by standing together in principled partnership and working for positive social change.

We are right now proposing ideas that will help shape the future of our societies—seeking alternatives to mass incarceration, advocating immigration policies that affirm human dignity, investing in human potential here in the U.S. and in places like Somalia, engaging in healing and

reconciliation, and abandoning the wasteful way of warmongering.

These ideas have the potential to take shape—and help move us to a more just and peaceful world—because of your support. Standing together, we create hope for a better future. Thank you for being part of the AFSC family!



In peace,

Joyce Ajlouny
General Secretary

Readers respond to our last issue

Understanding why people migrate

People who exile themselves from their country do so out of desperation ... not merely because they are poor.

Thank you, Kathryn Johnson, for keeping alive the voice of truth about our nation's habit of dislodging legitimate governments in Central America and derailing their economies—all for the benefit of corporate America.

The tragic consequences of such actions are, of course, waves of desperate migrants to “el norte,” seeking asylum and a better life in the United States.

And isn't it surprising that so many Americans who claim that they live under the spiritual guidance of Judeo-Christian scriptures, either don't know (or conveniently forget) Leviticus 19:33-34? “And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself, for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.”

David Quintero
Monrovia, California

Yes, AFSC supports BDS

Editor's note: We received several letters in response to our statement on AFSC's support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement and AFSC's inclusion on a list of international organizations banned from entering Israel, and we're hoping to continue the conversation with our readers. Here are a few excerpts as well as a response from Michael Merryman-Lotze, AFSC Palestine-Israel program director.

“I am deeply saddened and disappointed by AFSC's wrongheaded and continued endorsement of the BDS boycott.”

Larry Fishman
Waban, Massachusetts

“The AFSC's version of this boycott is clear, principled, and well-targeted. It is foolish of Israel to impose a ban.”

Jym Dyer
via afsc.org

“While I certainly support your initiatives in social justice and human rights, I do object to your position on BDS. ... The AFSC should consider the position of J Street.”

Steven Abramson
via email

Michael Merryman-Lotze, AFSC's Palestine-Israel program director, responds:

The goals of the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) are specific:

- An end to Israel's occupation, including dismantling the wall.
- Recognition of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.
- Respect, protection, and promotion of Palestinian refugees' right of return.

These goals are consistent with AFSC's “Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel,” which are part of what guide AFSC's work related to Israel and Palestine.

AFSC does not take a position regarding whether one state, two states, or another structure should result from a peace process. Rather, we hold that any solution must respect the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis.

We use economic activism tactics as an appeal to conscience, seeking to raise awareness in those complicit in harmful practices about the impact of their actions. Economic activism is about accountability and ending violations of the law and human rights abuses.

We continue to work with our Palestinian and Israeli partners as they push for change, understanding that peace means building a future where every person's rights are respected equally.



Spring 2018 issue, “What's new in peace building? An inside look at AFSC's work to promote shared security around the world.”

“We all belong together” poster

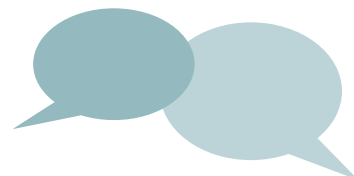
I am a supporter of the American Friends Service Committee, and have been a member of Wilton Peace Action for 20 years. I saw in the Spring issue of Quaker Action, a poster on the back page that said “We All Belong Here, We Will Defend Each Other.” Is it possible for me to get two of these posters? My husband and I run the local 4-town food pantry and feel it would be good to place one there. Also, I would like one to use at our Wilton Peace Action visibilities, protests, etc.

Linda LaDouceur
Wilton, New Hampshire

Editor's reply: You can download the poster for free from our website, which can be printed: afsc.org/we-all-belong

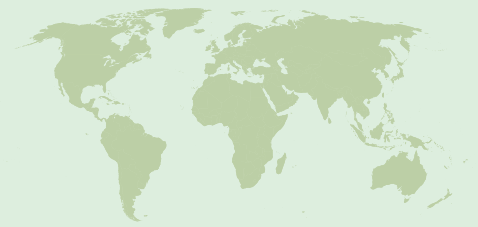
The page also includes information to purchase a print directly from the artist, Micah Bazant.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Tell us what you think about this issue by contacting Ronna Bolante, managing editor, at quakeraction@afsc.org or AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

News from around AFSC



Community members at an Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting. Photo: Stop Urban Shield Coalition

A victory over militarization in California

In March, elected officials in Alameda County, California voted to end a massive SWAT training known as Urban Shield, thanks to years of advocacy by a coalition of activists and organizations, including AFSC. The decision marked a victory in the struggle against racist, militarized policing in the Bay Area.

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Urban Shield was billed as an emergency preparedness exercise. But it was essentially a war games training and weapons expo that involved local police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and law enforcement from countries such as Israel and Mexico.

Members of the Stop Urban Shield Coalition organized and advocated against the training—staging rallies, pressuring elected officials, taking their messages to the media, and showing up by the hundreds to testify at public meetings. At every opportunity, community groups argued that racist, militarized exercises were not needed to protect residents—and succeeded.

County supervisors will now decide how DHS funds for Urban Shield will be used in 2019. And community groups are working to build our own capacities for community-led emergency response and create proposals to fund. It's a new phase in transforming what emergency preparedness and community safety mean for Alameda County.

—JOHN LINDSAY-POLAND, HEALING JUSTICE ASSOCIATE

By the numbers

Across the United States, AFSC offers trainings and other resources to people resisting oppression and working to build more just, inclusive communities. In 2017, we:

- Trained **700 people** to understand and confront Islamophobia in communities in Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.
- Helped AFSC supporters send more than **123,000 messages** to Congress and the Trump administration on critical issues, from speaking out against the Muslim ban to stopping the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Held “Know Your Rights” trainings for **16,000 immigrants** and allies in Oregon, Washington, California, Iowa, Florida, and New Jersey.
- Offered **trainings and webinars** to hundreds of individuals through our Sanctuary Everywhere initiative, which helps everyday people learn how to counter hate and fear—from responding to racist acts of public harassment to advocating for school and city policies that improve safety for all.
- Brought more than **half a million people** to AFSC’s website, connecting them with news, blog posts, and other resources for social change.

Thank you for making it all possible!



Youth participants in the No Cop Academy campaign. Photo: No Cop Academy

Pushing back against policing in Chicago

Since August, AFSC has helped coordinate a high-profile campaign against a new \$95 million police academy in Chicago, a city whose police department has a long history of racist violence. As part of the #NoCopAcademy campaign, we're working with young people to demand that the city redirect those taxpayer dollars to schools, mental health centers, and other community needs.

Over spring break, Black youth led a powerful week of action that generated national headlines after they held a "die-in" at City Hall. More than 70 community organizations have joined the #NoCopAcademy campaign, including labor groups, Democratic Socialists, Black liberation organizations, and senior citizen advocates—all coalescing around the idea that policing does not make our communities safe.

The mayor's plan could have been a routine expansion of police training and recruitment. Instead, it has become a flashpoint in local and national discussions on alternatives to policing and divesting from law enforcement. For AFSC, #NoCopAcademy builds on our decades of organizing against military spending—and challenging policymakers and the public to rethink our budget priorities.

Youth and other campaign members will continue to push back against the project at every phase, including a vote by the city council this fall on whether to approve the contractor selected to build the facility. And we will continue to demand that our city invest in young people and our communities instead.

—DEBBIE SOUTHRN, PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, CHICAGO PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM



LEARN MORE: nocopacademy.com

AFSC in the media

AFSC staff are working hard to make change on the ground—and in the news. Here are some of the highlights:

On intervening when we see racist violence or aggression

"The danger is if we don't speak up for each other, the number of people being targeted is going to be expanding. And you may be one of them, too."

—LUCY DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS RELATIONS, ON CNN

On defeating prison privatization in Tucson

"A city near the Mexican border in a state that's home to some of the country's harshest sentencing guidelines and the fourth-highest rate of incarceration in the U.S.—with privately-run prisons and immigrant detention centers from one corner of the state to the other—is telling companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic that they're not welcome around here."

—JOE WATSON, RESEARCHER FOR AFSC IN ARIZONA, IN TRUTHOUT

On sanctuary

"We need to embody what sanctuary looks like, not just by taking record numbers of people like Rosa into churches, but pushing sanctuary outside of the church walls."

—LAURA GARDUÑO GARCIA, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FELLOW, IN THE NEWS & OBSERVER, NORTH CAROLINA

On North Korea

"We do ask people [in North Korea] about sanctions. We ask about the impact of them. The answer that we usually get from people is: 'We've never experienced a life without sanctions, so how would we know?'"

—LINDA LEWIS, DPRK/NORTH KOREA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

Q+A

Joshua Saleem

Director, St. Louis Peace Building Program

Young people in St. Louis are taking the lead in working for racial justice in their schools and community.

Q: Tell us about the goals of AFSC's work in St. Louis.

A: Our goal is to help young people access their own power to change themselves, their communities, and society. We do that by supporting youth-led efforts in several ways. We work with Northwest Academy, a school that understands the importance of developing students as change agents. We have a peer mediation program that trains students to help their peers resolve conflicts peacefully. It's a practical way to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by providing alternatives to suspension or expulsion.

We also provide support to Northwest's restorative student court. When a student commits an infraction, their peers serve as judge and jury, working with them to discuss the impact of the harm, who was hurt by the harm, and what the student can do to repair that harm.

Q: What kind of results have you seen?

A: We know it's changing the school climate. Since the peer mediation program began during the 2013–2014 school year,

the number of student suspensions has decreased significantly. This year alone, peer mediation helped prevent 15 to 20 suspensions. Beyond the numbers, students play a lead role in shifting the school from a punitive to a restorative discipline model. In our peer mediation workshops, students deepen their experience with empathy, caring for and understanding where others are coming from, and feeling connected to the larger community.

When students first take part in training for student court, they're given mock cases to deliberate on, and some students initially want to give out harsh punishments like suspension—exhibiting the kind of inclinations of our larger society. But then they see why we need to get away from that punitive mindset—and how restorative justice could help end policies and practices that have disproportionately criminalized Black, brown, and poor people.

Q: What work is happening with young people outside of schools?

A: Over the past year, around 60 young people have taken part in our Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) group and AFSC Freedom Schools, which help young people build their analysis of how poverty and violence in St. Louis relate to a history of structural and institutional racism. YUIR participants also implement projects that challenge racism nonviolently.

A few years ago, they created a community garden in an area where there

wasn't a grocery store within five miles. The garden is run by community members and helps them grow their own food and teach kids where their food comes from—an example of young people building systems that come from and are accountable to the communities they serve.

Recently YUIR produced a documentary called "Pipe Dreams," which focuses on the school-to-prison pipeline. Through interviews with students, teachers, and administrators, the film examines implicit bias, the effects of internalized racial oppression, and how racism plays out in schools.

Q: What's next for this work?

A: YUIR plans to use "Pipe Dreams" in public presentations to pressure the school district to change policies that feed the school-to-prison pipeline. This summer, we're holding a town hall meeting where the public will hear from students directly affected by these policies.

At some point, we want to see the restorative tools we use at Northwest expanded to other schools in St. Louis. Every school should have resources and staff providing a vision for restorative discipline.

In the long run, my hope is that the young people who come through our program become adults in positions of power in these institutions and, with the understanding of how their decisions can affect a whole community, do what's needed to make change. ■



Ending perpetual punishment

The movement to end mass incarceration must focus on giving all people the chance to come home.

BY NATALIE HOLBROOK

Prisons in America are expressions of state violence and control; they're antithetical to the healing and peace we seek in our work at AFSC. And still, many people who are locked behind bars for decades—even for most of their lives—find ways to work toward healing and redemption. Imagine what could happen if we created more paths to personal transformation for people trapped in the

criminal justice system.

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country. More than two million individuals are now behind bars. More than 50,000 are serving life without parole—an all-time high, according to the Sentencing Project. An additional 150,000 are serving life sentences, and many more are serving “virtual life,” a sentence they are unlikely to survive. Here in Michigan, more than 5,100 people are serving life sentences, and another 6,000

are serving 20 years or more.

In recent years, more and more people across the political spectrum have joined the call to end mass incarceration. Many are recognizing the role systemic racism plays in disproportionately criminalizing and imprisoning Black, brown, and poor people. Some states are moving away from the “tough on crime” policies that have led to draconian sentences, particularly for those convicted of nonviolent drug-related offenses. These are important steps in the

right direction.

But the reality is that to end mass incarceration in the U.S., we need to push ourselves much further. We need to stop sentencing people to life or virtual life sentences. Instead, we must give all people in prison the chance to transform and come home, including people convicted of the most serious of harms.

Many people are recognizing the role systemic racism plays in disproportionately criminalizing and imprisoning Black, brown, and poor people.

Many consider this a radical idea. It can be challenging to show compassion for someone who has committed violence against another person, let alone taken a life. But as someone who has spent 15 years working with people who have spent decades in prison after making the worst decision of their lives, I can attest that perpetual punishment is not the answer—and that transformation and healing are possible.

Pursuing change inside and out

In Michigan, AFSC works with people in and out of prison to share stories of personal transformation. Recently, we produced “Changing the Narrative: The Case for Commutations in Michigan,” a video project about people who have served long sentences who are now free, working, and contributing to their community.

The project includes the stories of people like Ron Webb, who grew up with an abusive father and, at the age of 19, killed his father and his father’s girlfriend. Ron spent 26 years in prison. While

incarcerated, he took responsibility for his actions, came to understand and address the roots of his behavior, took college classes, and participated in and facilitated programs on resolving conflicts peacefully. Today, he works for an organization that helps formerly incarcerated individuals find housing and jobs, and he’s also developing skills to work as a tradesperson.

When my colleagues and I meet with elected officials and parole board members or give public presentations, we share stories like Ron’s. Slowly, people begin to see that our communities are better off when people like him have a second chance.

Studies show that people serving life sentences who are given second chances are unlikely to recidivate with a new offense. And despite perceptions, a recent report from the Alliance for Safety and Justice shows that survivors of crime widely support shorter prison sentences and more resources for prevention and rehabilitation.

Amid the harshest of obstacles in prison—vile living conditions, violence, abuse of power, systems rooted in control, massive idleness—many people like Ron find ways to grow and even thrive. But many more people—with so much to offer society—will waste away behind bars if we don’t create alternatives.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT EFFORTS TO END LIFE PRISON SENTENCES?

- Get involved in AFSC’s Good Neighbor Project to participate in a “co-mentoring” relationship with people in prison in Michigan. Visit prisoneradvocacy.org.
- Watch the video stories of people who have served long sentences, and share them on social media. Visit afsc.org/no-perpetual-punishment.
- Find organizations in your state that are working to ensure that policymakers, prosecutors, and judges are willing to adopt sentencing policies and practices rooted in transformation and second chances.
- If you are working for racial and social justice in your state, make sure to include the problem of prison and perpetual punishment in your studies, organizing, and actions.
- Learn more by visiting AFSC’s Michigan Criminal Justice Program’s website: prisoneradvocacy.org.



After spending 26 years in prison, Ron Webb now helps formerly incarcerated people find housing and jobs.
Photo: AFSC

Danny Jones

The story of one “juvenile lifer”

I came to know Danny Jones while working with people serving long sentences at Kinross Correctional Facility in Michigan. Danny had become involved with violence and drugs at an early age. When he was 16, he murdered a young man during a robbery and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Through the past 20-plus years of his incarceration, Danny has worked to become his better self. “Accepting responsibility for my wrongdoings helped me develop a sense of how I impacted [the victim’s] family and their sense of loss and grief,” he says. “I imagine how my family might look at me for doing what I have done. I do not want to cause that type of pain to other people. Now, I am able to see myself in others and want for others what I want for myself.”

While in prison, Danny earned his GED, completed vocational training, and advocated for more programs for people in prison. He joined the National Lifers Association, a group supported by AFSC, serving as a mentor and facilitating a program for people serving life or long sentences. I’ve sat in on several of the sessions he has facilitated, and I’ve seen how he helps guide men to demonstrate empathy, introspection, and reflection. He shares of himself and does so with a kind of generosity of spirit not often experienced in this life.

Due to a 2012 Supreme Court decision that ruled that mandatory life sentences without parole are unconstitutional for juveniles, Danny was recently resentenced to a 25-year minimum. That means that in less than a year, he will be eligible for parole.

Working with Danny for the past four years, I can say that he is ready for his return to the free world as a nearly 40-year-old man. When he comes home, we will be fortunate to have him among us—to help us all learn how to be more kind and compassionate.

—NATALIE HOLBROOK



The author, Natalie Holbrook (far left), meets with AFSC staff and formerly incarcerated individuals as part of the “Changing the Narrative” project. Photo: AFSC

There are some signs that people are beginning to understand the real costs of perpetual punishment—and are taking steps to end it.

In recent years, Michigan’s parole board has granted more and more paroles, helping to reduce the prison population from an all-time high of 51,000 in 2007 to 39,000 in 2018—the result of years of advocacy by people in and out of prisons, their families, and community groups, including AFSC. And there are glimmers of hope in other states, too. In California, Gov. Jerry Brown has taken the courageous step of granting parole to thousands of people serving life sentences. In Pennsylvania, legislation was introduced to end mandatory life without parole sentences, allowing people in prison to seek parole after 15 years. On the federal level, there’s bipartisan support in Congress for legislation to enact sentencing reform, including revising outdated mandatory minimum sentences. And, throughout the country, individuals and organizations pursuing social change are mounting campaigns to elect prosecutors and judges more focused on redemption and restorative justice.

But there is still work to be done.

As Michigan approaches a competitive gubernatorial election this November, we will be urging candidates to support more humane policies in our criminal justice system. At the same time, we will continue to help people serving long sentences improve their chances for parole.

Two years ago, AFSC supported the development of a curriculum created by and for people serving long sentences in

Let’s begin by reimagining the criminal justice system to focus on healing and transformation for everyone it confines.

Michigan. The curriculum is used in two prisons and encourages introspection, reflection, and education. We also facilitate the Good Neighbor Project, which pairs people in prison with people out of prison to exchange letters and other correspondence in what we call a “co-mentorship.” Both programs help long-termers prepare for parole interviews and public hearings. The Good Neighbor Project also uses the curriculum as a tool for co-mentors to use in their transformative work.

Someday, I hope the billions of dollars the U.S. spends locking people up will be invested in schools, health care, and other programs that would genuinely make our communities safer. That would mean that we found our way to ending mass incarceration. Let’s begin by reimagining the criminal justice system to focus on healing and transformation—for everyone it confines. ■

Natalie Holbrook is the director of AFSC’s Michigan Criminal Justice Program.

Juana, a TPS holder from Honduras, and her daughter, Liane. Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC



ORGANIZING TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

The Trump administration is ending protections for hundreds of thousands of immigrants—here's how immigrants are pushing back.

BY RONNA BOLANTE

Moving from Honduras to the U.S. nearly 20 years ago was one of the most difficult decisions Juana* ever had to make. But she felt she had no choice. Coming from a family of farmers in a small village, Juana found herself struggling to provide for her son, who was three years old at the time.

“It was very difficult to leave him behind as I embarked in my journey to the

United States, but I wanted him to have a better life,” says Juana, who left her son in the care of her mother.

The same year that Juana came to the U.S., Hurricane Mitch struck Honduras—killing thousands of people, displacing over a million residents, and destroying homes, roads, and other critical infrastructure.

Because of the hurricane's destruction, it was unsafe for Juana to return to Honduras, and she obtained the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) that is granted to

people from certain countries devastated by natural disasters, war, or other dangerous conditions. TPS protects people from deportation and provides legal work authorization, but does not create a path to citizenship for its holders – no matter how long they have made lives here. Juana settled in Newark, New Jersey, where she had a second child—a daughter named Liane.

Having TPS allowed Juana to get a driver's license and earn a steady paycheck cleaning houses. For 20 years, she worked tirelessly to provide for Liane and send

money to her family in Honduras every week. Juana's financial support helped her son, now 22 years old, start a small coffee farm and earn income for the family. And this year, Liane graduated from high school in New Jersey and will start college this fall.

But today, everything Juana has worked for is in jeopardy.

That's because the Trump administration has announced the end of TPS for Honduras—just as it has for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Sudan, Guinea, Nepal, and Sierra Leone. These decisions have put Juana and more than 300,000 TPS holders in the United States at risk for deportation, even though they have spent decades establishing lives here.

A life-saving program for immigrants

In the 1980s, immigrants and their allies organized to pressure Congress to allow immigrants fleeing conflict and other disasters to stay legally in the United States. In a bipartisan act, Congress created TPS in 1990, which allows the Department of Homeland Security to designate affected countries when disasters strike. Since then, TPS holders have made lives for themselves in the U.S.—starting families, holding jobs, and shouldering responsibilities in schools, churches, and civic organizations. Recipients from the three countries with the largest TPS populations alone have nearly 273,000 children who were born in the U.S.

"TPS recipients are vital parts of our communities," says Kristin Kumpf, director of AFSC's Human Migration and Mobility network. "The Trump administration's decision to end TPS for hundreds of thousands of people is one of a series of cruel attacks on immigrants in the U.S. that rip apart families and hurt our communities."

Without TPS or any other form of relief, TPS holders will no longer be able to work legally in the United States and could be forced to return to their countries of origin.

"People are scared," says Sandra Sanchez, organizing and advocacy director of



AFSC has joined TPS holders and partner organizations for actions in Washington, D.C.
Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC

AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in Iowa. "Many TPS holders are in an impossible situation. They've lived here for decades, they have children who were born in the U.S., and now they're at risk of losing their jobs and having to return to a country where they have nothing or could face violence or other dangerous conditions."

Communities organize to save TPS

In places like New Jersey, Florida, and Iowa, AFSC is supporting TPS holders who are organizing and advocating to protect this life-saving program. We've helped create opportunities for TPS holders and their families to share their stories at press conferences, legislative visits, and demonstrations in their communities as well as in Washington, D.C.

AFSC also offers legal services to TPS holders and their families, helping them understand their rights and options. In Newark alone, AFSC represents 500 long-standing TPS clients from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti.

"We recognize how important it is for affected community members to speak out," says Chia-Chia Wang, AFSC

"People are scared. Many TPS holders are in an impossible situation. They've lived here for decades, they have children who were born in the U.S., and now they're at risk of losing their jobs and having to return to a country where they have nothing or could face violence."

—SANDRA SANCHEZ

advocacy and organizing director in Newark. “We talk to clients about how sharing their stories can influence legislators and raise public awareness, and we support them in their advocacy efforts.”

Over the past year, Juana and Liane have traveled with AFSC to Washington, D.C. three times to take part in national actions and urge their elected officials to support TPS. “It gives me a lot of hope to see people support TPS,” Juana says. “I feel empowered knowing that I am taking part in something that may impact thousands of lives, and knowing that my daughter is by my side supporting me is even better.”

In Newark, Juana and dozens of other TPS holders and their families have formed a committee to discuss new developments and plan monthly actions. In addition to advocating for TPS, committee members also join actions planned by other groups affected by the Trump administration’s anti-immigrant policies. These include monthly protests outside of the local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office.

“TPS holders are advocating for themselves, but they are also part of a nationwide call led by immigrants—and supported by allies—for more humane, compassionate policies that provide a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants,” says Chia-Chia.

The Trump administration has given most affected TPS holders 12 to 18 months to seek other forms of immigration relief or leave the United States. That means Juana, Liane, and many other TPS holders and their families will continue their struggle to defend this life-saving program.


“I have spent about 20 years in this country, contributing to American society and the economy, and it’s time that President Trump gives TPS holders permanent residency,” Juana says. “To rip us apart from our families and the culture we have assimilated to is inhumane. I do not want to be thrown back to Honduras, because the United States has become my country now.” ■

**Juana asked us to only use her first name.*

GET INVOLVED TO SAVE TPS!

Visit us online to:

- Email Congress to save TPS and create a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants.
- Get social media graphics to share and raise awareness.
- Read more stories of TPS holders.

 **VISIT: afsc.org/tps**

“TPS holders are advocating for themselves, but they are also part of a nationwide call led by immigrants—and supported by allies—for more humane, compassionate policies that provide a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants.”

—CHIA-CHIA WANG



Juana and Liane have lobbied to protect TPS in D.C. Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC



AFSC staff and TPS holders in Washington, D.C. Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC

Students in Somalia
learn tailoring skills.
Photo: AFSC/Somalia



Young people transforming Somalia

Youth demonstrate what can happen when we invest in human potential in even the most challenging environments.

BY PATRICK GORMLEY

Like many young people in Somalia, Shamso Jamaa Warsame and Ibrahim Mujan Abdi once struggled to find work.

Shamso had recently returned to Somalia after living for six years in Kenya, where she'd hoped to find better economic opportunities to support her parents and siblings. But she was forced to come home when her father was killed in a clan dispute, leaving her mother a widow. Shamso had a hard time finding employment after being away so long.

Ibrahim had recently returned to Somalia after living for seven years in Dadaab refugee camp, where he had fled because of the civil war. When he returned to Somalia, he worked as a porter at a nearby bus park. Every day, he would head to the bus park with

his wheelbarrow very early in the morning and wait for work opportunities.

Although Shamso and Ibrahim once had few options, today they are now creating new possibilities for their lives. They are among hundreds of young people in Somalia who have taken part in an AFSC program that helps youth build economic security for themselves and work for peace in their communities.

Somalia has suffered through more than two decades of severe armed conflict, compounded by drought, diseases, other natural disasters, and unstable access to food, health care, and clean water. An estimated 1.5 million Somalis are displaced within the country, and nearly 900,000 are refugees in Kenya, Yemen, and Ethiopia, according to UNHCR, the U.N. Refugee Agency.

Young people under the age of 30—who make up nearly 70 percent of the country’s population—are hit especially hard. Nearly three-quarters of working-age youth are unemployed, largely due to lack of education, skills, and access to employment opportunities. Their economic situations leave them vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups that perpetuate violence. Others feel compelled to move to other countries to find work.

These factors prevent young people from pursuing social change and becoming active members of their communities.

“The lack of meaningful youth participation in the economy and in civic life is preventing Somalia from moving beyond conflict,” says Zaina Kisongo, AFSC’s Somalia country representative. “Achieving peace in the country depends largely on a youth population that is part of the workforce and has means to provide for themselves and their families.”

AFSC works with local partners in Somalia to teach young people vocational skills—including carpentry, electrical work, and tailoring—as well as conflict resolution so they can move beyond the daily struggle for survival and thrive. We also help participants learn to identify issues facing their communities and develop strategies to address them.

Over the past three years alone, more than 2,800 young people have graduated from the program. Nearly 1,400 are now employed or self-employed, and many more are prepared to join the workforce and use their knowledge of peace building and conflict resolution to act as agents of change among their peers.

“Today, we can see an emerging group of young leaders who are finding a voice for youth and taking control of their futures by becoming decision makers and business leaders in their communities,” Zaina says.

Shamso enrolled in beautician training classes at Wardi Relief and Development Initiative (WARDI), AFSC’s partner in Mogadishu, inspired by the beauty salons she had seen in Kenya. She graduated first in her class of 90 students and now owns her own salon, works as an instructor in the beautician class, and is pursuing a degree in business administration. She’s also a committee member of the Mogadishu Peace ambassadors, a group that helps her community recognize nonviolent solutions to disputes.

Ibrahim enrolled in a carpentry class. After graduating in 2015, he opened his own workshop, which employs three other people, and teaches carpentry at the WARDI center. Ibrahim was recently elected Youth Leader in Dalhis IDP settlement where he helps other young people in his community embrace peace.

As Somalia continues to face violence and instability, people like Shamso and Ibrahim demonstrate how youth can be leaders and positive forces in their communities.

Says Zaina, “Providing youth with opportunities to support themselves and their families is one way that we can support their efforts to build peace and work toward the communities they want to see.” ■

Patrick Gormley served as intern for AFSC International Programs.

“Achieving peace in the country depends largely on a youth population that is part of the workforce and has means to provide for themselves and their families.”

— ZAINA KISONGO, SOMALIA
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Learning vocational skills and peace building through AFSC-sponsored programs helped Shamso Jamaa Warsame (top photo) and Ibrahim Mujan Abdi (bottom photo, far right) start new careers and help their communities. Photos: AFSC/Somalia

REIGNITING THE POOR

BY MELISSA LEE

In 1968, AFSC answered the call from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to endorse and support the Poor People's Campaign, which mobilized people across the country to demand economic justice. Barbara Moffett, director of AFSC's National Community Relations Division, worked directly with Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to create the campaign's platform and strategy. Following Dr. King's assassination, AFSC urged other religious organizations to sign on to the campaign and come to Washington, D.C. for two weeks of protest, including setting up an encampment known as "Resurrection City."

Today—50 years later—AFSC has endorsed the new Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, a mass mobilization led by poor and working-class people to challenge poverty, racism, militarism, and ecological devastation. This spring, AFSC staff and supporters engaged in 40 days of nonviolent direct action—facing arrest—at state capitol buildings and in Washington, D.C. Together, we demonstrated against military spending—and called for investing in human needs. We pushed back against criminalizing the poor and communities of color.

The Poor People's Campaign is one example of AFSC's long commitment to social change movements in critical times.

Here's a look back at the Poor People's Campaign then and today. ■

For more on the campaign:

 **VISIT:** afsc.org/poorpeoplescampaign

1968
↓
2018



On Mother's Day, thousands of demonstrators led by Coretta Scott King demanded an Economic Bill of Rights. Throughout the month of May, caravans of people from across the country—including California, Washington, Alabama, and Mississippi—converged on Washington, D.C. for the campaign. Photo: U.S. News & World Report



In Washington, D.C. and around the country, AFSC staff and supporters took part in weekly protests and acts of civil disobedience. Several AFSC staff and supporters were arrested, including Arnie Alpert, Laura Boyce, Lucy Duncan, Jacob Flowers, Joseph Gerson, and Brant Rosen. Photo: Carl Roose/AFSC

PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN



Protesters gather in Lafayette Park, across from the White House. During planning for the campaign in 1967, Dr. King said: "Our government does not move to correct a problem involving race until it is confronted directly and dramatically. ...What we need is a new kind of Selma or Birmingham to dramatize the economic plight of the Negro, and compel the government to act." *Photo: Bill Wingell*



An estimated 3,000 people lived at "Resurrection City," a protest camp on the Washington Mall that lasted for six weeks. Dr. King wrote: "A pilgrimage of the poor will gather in Washington from the slums and rural starvation regions of the nation. We will go there, will demand to be heard, and we will stay until America responds." *Photo: Bill Wingell*



A brochure from the Poor People's Campaign reads: "Why are people poor? Poor people are kept in poverty because they are kept from power. We must create poor people's power." *Credit: AFSC archives*



Hundreds of people rallied at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, hearing from people directly affected by systemic racism and poverty. After the rally, people occupied the office of Gov. Kim Reynolds, demanding the state's leaders listen to the people. *Photo: Jon Krieg/AFSC*



AFSC staff and supporters took part in weekly actions in Concord, New Hampshire. "The point of the Poor People's Campaign is to recast our nation's politics in a moral framework," says Arnie Alpert, co-director of AFSC's New Hampshire program. "Fifty years after the first Poor People's Campaign, it is well past time to tend to our spiritual health by changing our nation's priorities." *Photo: Becky Field/FieldWork Photos*



Keith Harvey, AFSC Northeast regional director, spoke at an action on Boston Common on Memorial Day weekend. The event drew attention to veteran homelessness and the devastating effects of the U.S. war economy. *Photo: Philip Czachowski*

7 tips to change the conversation on immigration



BY CARLY GOODMAN

Do you ever find yourself in a difficult conversation with someone who has negative views about immigration? It can be a challenge.

As communications analyst at AFSC, I try to understand how to talk about issues to shift opinions and move people to action. I help activists and advocates craft messages that work.

Here are some evidence-based tips you can use to talk about immigration to build support for more inclusive communities and policies.

1. Don't repeat negative stereotypes, even to counter them.

With so many hateful, false ideas out there, it's important to counter these messages with the truth. But choose your words carefully. Studies show that repeating misinformation actually makes people more likely to believe it is true, doing more harm than good. So don't myth-bust—always highlight the truth.

2. Emphasize our shared humanity—immigrants are part of us.

Immigrants are our friends, colleagues, family members, and neighbors—but anti-immigration ideas depend on the fiction that foreign-born people are threatening. When we recognize and affirm that immigrants are members of our communities, it becomes more difficult to support policies that deny people's humanity. No matter where we were born, all of us deserve to feel safe from hatred.

3. Most people move.

Keep this in mind when talking to people who say they support immigration but are concerned about legal status. Migration is propelled by human desires to be with family, for economic improvement, and to seek safety. Seventy percent of Americans have moved from the county they were born in, so many can relate to moving, or having the freedom to move for a better life. Remember this phrase: "Immigrants are people who move to make life better for themselves and their families."

4. Don't say the system is "broken"—call for a humane immigration process.

Calling to reform a "broken" immigration system can make people feel helpless and even fatalistic—like there's nothing that can fix it. Instead of focusing on problems with the current system, talk about what we need in an updated system. Today, there are very few ways for many long-term members of our communities to gain permanent resident status or citizenship—there is no "line" to get into. We need an immigration process that creates a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants.

5. All people have rights.

Many of us have used the phrase "No human being is illegal." But research has shown that this language doesn't persuade people who don't already agree with the idea. It's better not to use the word "illegal" at all, because it has been used to dehumanize people and is now strongly

associated with unauthorized immigration. Instead, say "All people have rights."

6. Chains don't migrate—people do, families do.

The Trump administration has castigated family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents as so-called "chain migrants." The phrase seeks to erase the humanity of immigrants and suggests that the system is out of control, so I recommend not repeating it. Calling this process "family immigration" will remind people that family unification is the bedrock of the immigration system. Most people believe that the system should keep families together, not tear them apart.

7. Be truthful and critical about our complex history.

Our country has often welcomed immigrants and benefited from cultural diversity. We often say that we are a "nation of immigrants"—however, this isn't the whole story. We must remember our country's long history of excluding and punishing newcomers and people of color, and see how today's attacks on immigrants are deeply rooted. Confronting the painful parts of our history, as well as lifting up stories about communities' resilience and resistance to racism and exclusion, can help us build support for more humane and inclusive policies going forward. ■



SNAPSHOT

A look at AFSC around the world

A groundbreaking ceremony at Hopley Farm, Zimbabwe, for a new building where community members will learn vocational skills.
Photo: Kingston Musanhu/Media Zone



Left to right, top to bottom:

1. Action at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters; Washington, D.C.
2. Migrant caravan arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border
3. Social Justice Leadership Institute; Philadelphia
4. Dialogue and Exchange Program; Zimbabwe
5. Migrant caravan arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border
6. Social Justice Leadership Institute; Philadelphia
7. Gaza Unlocked: Hearing in the Heartland; Indianapolis
8. May Day action; San Diego, California
9. Poor People's Campaign, Washington, D.C.
10. Vigil for Gaza, Des Moines, Iowa
11. Action at ICE office; Newark, New Jersey
12. U.S.-Mexico border; San Diego, California

Photos: Bilal Askaryar, Church World Service; Omar Martínez/Cuartoscuro.com; AFSC/Philadelphia; Kingston Musanhu/Media Zone; Omar Martínez/Cuartoscuro.com; Lanica Angpak/AFSC; Jon Krieg/AFSC; Pedro Rios/AFSC; Bryan Vana/AFSC; AFSC/Jon Krieg/AFSC; Serges Demefack/AFSC; Karen Romero/AFSC



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Poor People's Campaign
rally in New Hampshire.
Photo: Becky Field/
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