

# Quaker Action

## Overcoming racism and inequality

How communities are  
putting Quaker values  
into action

**Second chances after prison**  
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**American Friends  
Service Committee**

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# Quaker Action

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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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Martina, a young activist with WeCount! In Florida, takes part in a march as part of our campaign to shut down Homestead child detention center.  
*Photo: Adam Barkan*

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Photo: Jon Krieg/AFSC

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### LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY



In Colorado, AFSC and partners are providing shelter, food, and other assistance to asylum seekers.  
*Photo: Sisel Lan*

Anger and resentment plague our politics these days. Every day, we see it in the news and the toll it takes on our communities. But the relentless and courageous efforts of peace and social justice activists and community leaders give me hope of a better world.

Leaders in government and the media blame whole groups for their society's economic and social problems. It's something I have experienced myself. As a Palestinian-American, I lived for decades under military occupation in Palestine as part of a people dispossessed and collectively dehumanized and defined—every single one of us—as a threat to Israel's security. I've seen there, as I see in the U.S., powerful people labeling whole groups “animals,” “terrorists,” and “criminals”—asserting they are not as good as “us,” not as worthy of the respect and dignity that “we” enjoy. Too many people in the U.S.—and many

other countries—blame immigrants, Muslims, and entire communities of color as threats to “our” well-being. This culture of anger and dehumanization leads us to commit self-destructive acts, like squander our prosperity on weapons, prisons, and walls with the false claim that they protect us—instead of investing in education, health, sustainability, and peacebuilding. And when inequality and insecurity rise, there are dangerous ramifications for our collective human security. Fortunately, there are courageous people in communities worldwide who are working to overcome fear, hate, militarism, racism, and inequality. In this issue of Quaker Action, you'll see just a few examples of what happens when people put Quaker values such as equality, integrity, and peace into action. Individuals, communities, and, over time, whole societies, can transform for the better. Diseased

and angry elements of our culture can be cured. Thank you for being part of the cure and for supporting AFSC's efforts for lasting, sustainable change so we can all live in peace and security. I hope the stories and resources in this issue give you ideas for engaging with your community and inspiration to continue to work for positive change.



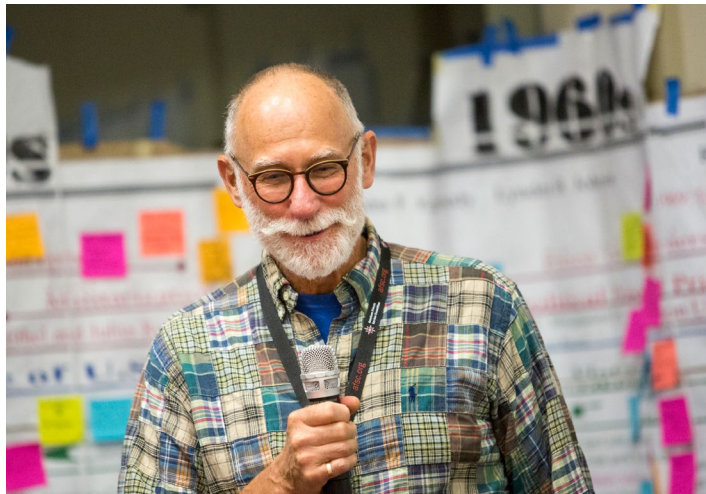
In peace,

Joyce Ajlouny  
General Secretary

# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Get Alumni Network updates  
and join our Facebook group!

[afsc.org/alumni](https://afsc.org/alumni)



John Deikis, Midwest Region Executive Committee member, at an AFSC Alumni Network gathering in Philadelphia. Photo: James Wasserman

**David Goodman** produced and directed the new film “Elder Voices: Stories for These Times,” which presents the stories of Japanese-Americans, European Jews, and objectors to war who grew up in perilous times and the lessons they learned that are relevant today.

**Jean Fairfax** worked for AFSC for 19 years—in post-World War II Austria and in the school desegregation movement in the South. She died on Feb. 12.

**Bernard Lafayette**, a longtime civil rights activist and organizer of the Selma Voting Rights Movement of the 1960s, was honored with a Coretta Scott King Center Justice Award. AFSC recruited Bernard in the summer of 1963 to bring his work north to Chicago.

**Greg Williams**, former staff of the New England Regional Office and longtime committee member, passed away on Feb. 14.

As the daughter of two AFSC employees, **Aishah Shahidah Simmons** grew up at AFSC and later served on program committees and worked in the Philadelphia office in the 1990s. She recently edited the anthology “Love WITH Accountability: Digging Up the Roots of Child Sexual Abuse,” which is now available online.

**Desmond Meade**, a member of AFSC's South Region Executive Committee, was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people! As head of a Florida coalition, he led the charge to restore voting rights to more than a million people with felony convictions.

AFSC board member and volunteer **Bill Jenkins** died on Feb. 17. Bill was a government epidemiologist who tried to expose the unethical Tuskegee syphilis study in the 1960s and devoted the rest of his career to fighting racism in health care.



At our recent Alumni Network gathering, AFSC alums posed with archival photos of themselves. (Clockwise from top left): Joyce Miller, Richard Morse, David Goodman, Ann Mullin Stromquist. Photo: James Wasserman

Do you have news to share? Email us at [alumni@afsc.org](mailto:alumni@afsc.org)!

## IN BRIEF

# News from around AFSC



AFSC's Arnie Alpert, Grace Cushing, and state Rep. Renny Cushing on May 30, as the New Hampshire Senate took action to repeal the death penalty. Photo: Paula Tracy/InDepthNH.org

## New Hampshire abolishes the death penalty

In May, New Hampshire's state legislature voted to end capital punishment—a victory decades in the making.

AFSC's New Hampshire Program has worked with a host of courageous individuals and organizations to abolish the death penalty since 1985, when local Quakers urged legislators to eliminate executions as a form of punishment. In a letter to then-Gov. John Sununu, Quakers wrote that when the state kills someone, it fosters “a general disrespect for life and sets a poor example for others who may be tempted to kill ... for revenge or punishment.”

Over the years, many people—across party lines—spoke out for death penalty repeal. In 1998, Rep. Renny Cushing recounted how his father had been killed at home a decade earlier, but told fellow legislators, “if we let those who murder turn us to murder, it gives over more power to those who do evil.” Bess Klassen-Landis, a Quaker, several times told legislators about the murder of her mom, noting, “the last thing my mother would have wanted would be for an act of violence to be committed in her name.”

Their stories were supplemented by those of people wrongfully convicted and sent to death row as well as former judges and retired police who helped legislators understand that execution doesn't make us safer. Our collective effort led New Hampshire to where we are today—a state that left the death penalty behind and moved closer toward a more just, and less violent, world.

—ARNIE ALPERT,

CO-DIRECTOR, AFSC NEW HAMPSHIRE PROGRAM

## Communities in the U.S. stand with Gaza


Today, 2.2 million Palestinians live under an Israeli-imposed military blockade in Gaza, with harsh restrictions on their movement and limited access to water, electricity, and health care.

In March, AFSC arranged for Ahmed Abu Artema—the visionary Palestinian writer who inspired the nonviolent protest Great March of Return—to tour cities across the U.S. He was accompanied by AFSC staffer and Gaza scholar Jihad Abusalim. Ahmed's message, and his vision for a just and lasting peace, was amplified through media coverage by Democracy Now! and the Washington Post. The tour was part of AFSC's ongoing effort to engage more people in advocacy to end the blockade.

During the tour, we launched a fundraising campaign to provide seniors in Gaza with medicine, hygiene items, and other products to help them maintain their dignity. More than 80% of Palestinians in Gaza now depend on international aid to survive—and the elderly are especially vulnerable. Between the tour and our online fundraising efforts, we have raised more than \$30,000 so far for our work in Gaza.

“Thanks to AFSC supporters, we're helping people in Gaza meet their basic needs today as we continue to push for political change to end the blockade and the occupation,” says Mike Merryman-Lotze, Middle East program director.

—RONNA BOLANTE

 **More:** [gazaunlocked.org](https://gazaunlocked.org)



TPS holders, their families, and allies continue to organize nationwide and advocate in Washington, D.C. Photo: Carl Roose/AFSC

## Gaining ground in the struggle to save Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for immigrants


Hundreds of thousands of people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) are struggling for their right to stay in the U.S.—pushing back against the Trump administration’s cruel decision to end these vital programs. Since the 1990s, TPS and DED have allowed people to remain in the U.S. when war, natural disaster, or other catastrophes prevented their safe return to their countries of origin, such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Sudan.

With support from AFSC and partner organizations, TPS and DED holders are calling on Congress to protect these programs and create a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants. This year alone, they planned legislative visits and marches in Washington, D.C., organized a nationwide bus tour to raise awareness in cities across the country, shared their stories with the media, and mobilized allies to join them. They’ve also partnered with immigrants who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)—another program under attack by the Trump administration.

“Thanks to the extraordinary grassroots organizing and tireless advocacy across the country by TPS, DED, and DACA beneficiaries, their families, and allies, Congress has taken action,” says Peniel Ibe, AFSC’s policy associate in Washington, D.C.

In June, the House passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for people with TPS, DED, and DACA—and the Senate is now considering similar legislation.

—RONNA BOLANTE

 **MORE: [afsc.org/TPS](https://afsc.org/TPS)**

## 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 defunding Customs and Border Protection

“I live and work in San Diego, near one of the busiest border crossings in the world. For more than 25 years, I’ve worked on immigration issues, on helping border communities thrive, and on protecting human rights. And it feels abundantly clear to me that CBP is not alleviating a humanitarian crisis; it is exacerbating one.”

—Pedro Rios, director, U.S.-Mexico Border Program, in *Newsweek*

### On the bombing of Gaza

“My message to the U.S. Congress is very clear and simple: Palestinians deserve to live in dignity. Palestinians deserve to have life like any ordinary people in the world. And it’s unfair that the world continues to watch as Palestinians in the Gaza Strip suffer under this illegal form of collective punishment that is the Israeli blockade, and Palestinians in the West Bank continue to suffer.”

—Jehad Abusalim, program associate, Palestine-Israel Program, on *Democracy Now!*

### On sustainable agriculture

“There’s so many levels to farming: tradition, culture, health of communities, and providing income to people. Living in New Mexico, living in a desert, water is our most precious resource. And so that’s why people are concerned about how it is being used.”

—Sayrah Namaste, director, New Mexico Program, in *Dissent Magazine*

## Jiway Tung

### Country representative, Indonesia

Photo: Don Davis/AFSC

Indonesia is one of the most diverse countries in the world, with a long history of religious pluralism. But the rise of extremist groups threatens its tradition of tolerance. Jiway Tung shares three examples of communities making gains for peace and inclusion despite the challenges, with support from AFSC.

**Q:** *How are communities successfully organizing against intolerance in Indonesia?*

**A:** In this climate, it’s hard to make change on the national and provincial level. We’ve recognized that working with partners on the local level is where we can have the most impact.

One example is happening in villages outside the capital of Aceh, a province where a narrow interpretation of Sharia law has resulted in increasing restrictions on women and minority groups. Right now, we’re providing support to a group that organizes women to address some of the major issues they’re facing. That includes religiously justified limitations on freedom of movement (including going out unaccompanied at night) as well as domestic violence, child marriage, and unofficial marriage (which is religious but not civically recognized, so women don’t have legal rights, such as to divorce). These women developed their own appeal—from the community to the community—that women in these villages need to be protected and granted equal rights.

After one year of organizing and advocacy, they convinced two villages to pass ordinances prohibiting child marriage

and unofficial marriage, issuing sanctions against domestic violence, and allocating budgetary resources for victims. This will help thousands of people, including women and girls, who could have been at risk for violence or other issues. They’re sharing their success with other villages to replicate what they’ve done—and they’re creating a space for women to lead in local politics, including becoming village officials.

**Q:** *Two years ago, we wrote about another success in the Yogyakarta region. Extremist groups were trying to shut down congregations using a federal decree that placed stricter requirements on houses of worship built before 2006. What’s happening now?*

**A:** AFSC’s partner, National Unity and Diversity Alliance (ANBTI), had coordinated a community-led campaign that led to government recognition—and the protection—of these congregations in 2016. They organized congregations and engaged in quiet diplomacy to develop relationships with key legislators, helping them see the importance of granting amnesty to all houses of worship built before 2006, regardless of their background. Because of their efforts, the region passed a decree that protected more than 3,000 houses of worship.

The decree has stood up to legal challenges by extremist groups, and we’re also now seeing fewer instances of intimidation. ANBTI is helping groups in other regions, and similar decrees have passed in two more districts.

**Q:** *Tell us about AFSC’s work supporting disability rights activists in Indonesia.*

**A:** Also in Aceh, partners have organized to pass a citywide ordinance that requires public-sector and private-sector companies to hire a certain number of people with disabilities (equivalent to 2% and 1% of their workforces, respectively).

Their message was that rather than only being the object of charity for religious groups, they wanted the opportunity to work in meaningful jobs with others. The effort came about after long-term organizing that brought together people from different religious backgrounds and different levels of disability—as well as people without disabilities—to lobby city government and talk with state- and privately owned enterprises. Now they’re working together to implement this new ordinance.

**Q:** *These examples seem to provide some hope that positive change can happen even in this challenging environment.*

**A:** Yes. These examples of work at the village or district level feel even more significant in places where you don’t often see “victories” for diversity and inclusion and freedom of religion. These stories are hopeful, and they provide an organizing model focused on advocacy, using a cultural approach that emphasizes relationship-building and diplomacy. It’s a model we can share with others through case studies so others can replicate these successes. ■

# Creating more chances for life after incarceration

In West Virginia, formerly incarcerated people and allies are eliminating barriers to food assistance and employment.

**BY LIDA SHEPHERD**

Program Director, AFSC West Virginia Economic Justice Project

After serving nearly a year in jail for a felony drug conviction, Summer Meade was determined to get her life back on track. The 29-year-old mother has struggled with drug addiction for nearly a decade in West Virginia, a state where the opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities and led to the highest drug overdose death rate in the country.

Summer completed an intensive residential program focused on long-term recovery—and proudly became a peer mentor for other women dealing with similar struggles.

But despite these accomplishments, Summer worried about whether she could earn enough money to pay for food and other needs. She knew she couldn't get food assistance. As part of the welfare "reform" program enacted in 1996, people with felony drug convictions were barred from getting food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"When I first got out of jail, I couldn't feed myself because I couldn't get a job—nobody would hire me," Summer says. "At one point, I went back to stealing just to be able to eat. It was a huge struggle for me."

The lack of access to stable employment or to public benefits—or both—are two of the biggest obstacles for people trying to get back on their feet after serving time in jail or prison.

"Serving time" is generally used in reference to time spent behind the walls of a prison. But the reality is that people continue to serve time after their release, as well—through denial of food benefits, jobs, and housing and the stigma of a criminal conviction. Each of these can hurt the long-term health and well-being of their children and families, as well.

## Breaking down barriers to assistance

The good news is that West Virginia has taken major steps to end these unfair, discriminatory policies. This year, the state legislature made sweeping changes to eliminate barriers to food assistance and employment, thanks to organizing and advocacy by a coalition of formerly incarcerated people, their families, and organizations like AFSC. Here are some of the new laws that will take effect this year:



### EASING RE-ENTRY AFTER PRISON

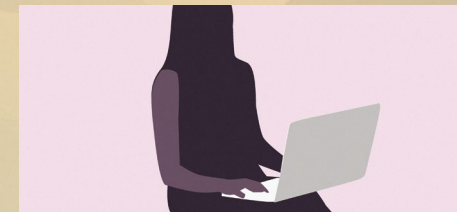
Having a driver's license is especially important in a rural state like West Virginia, where it is often needed to get to work on time, take children to school, and make doctors' appointments. Eliminating the counterproductive practice of revoking a person's license for non-driving related offenses is an issue AFSC has worked on for years.

Another bill passed this year also makes it easier for people to obtain a state ID after being released from prison.



### INCREASING FOOD SECURITY

Tens of thousands of West Virginians with felony drug convictions, like Summer, will now be eligible for SNAP, helping them afford the food they need. West Virginia now joins 48 other states that have already modified or eliminated the ban (South Carolina is now the only state that has yet to do so).



### IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employers often reject job applications from people who have criminal convictions. The unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people is nearly five times higher than that of the general population. A new law helps to address that by allowing West Virginians with nonviolent felony convictions to petition to expunge their criminal record after five years of completing their sentence.

Another obstacle to better-paying jobs are laws that limit those with criminal convictions from obtaining professional licenses. A new law will ease the restrictions on dozens of licenses—including social work, real estate, and occupational therapy.

## The time is now

As our state's opioid epidemic continues to take an unfathomable toll on our communities, a growing number of elected officials—on both sides of the aisle—are recognizing that we cannot incarcerate our way out of this crisis. One reason for the shift in thinking is that the issue has become personal for many legislators. They have watched someone they know—a child, a nephew, a close friend—develop an addiction, go to prison, and struggle to restart their lives.

Formerly incarcerated people and their families are also making a difference with their leadership. When I first met Summer, she had never engaged in a campaign. But over three months, she met with legislators, spoke to the media, and—in front of a crowd of 300 people at the state capitol—shared her story, showing lawmakers and the public what can happen when

we invest in people instead of continuing to punish them after incarceration.

"I shared my experience because I wanted people to know that I was trying to make a major come-around and wanted to help others," Summer says. "When the bill to end the ban on SNAP passed, I was overwhelmed with joy—to know that I would get help to take care of myself and my kids and to be part of something that made me feel like I was doing something with my life."

Thanks to people like Summer and a strong network of allies, the movement to improve lives for West Virginians who have been incarcerated is growing. Together, we will continue working for a system that is fair, safe, and humane for everyone—and a state that invests in healing more than punishment. ■

*It's time to*

# SHUT DOWN

## HOMESTEAD DETENTION CENTER

Here's how community members  
and allies are working to close the  
nation's largest detention center  
for migrant children.

BY RONNA BOLANTE



Rally and march at the Homestead detention center, calling for an end to child detention and the closure of this and other detention centers across the U.S. Photo: Adam Barkan

On Mother's Day, hundreds of people took part in a protest organized by AFSC and partners outside of the detention center for migrant children in Homestead, Florida. For hours, the crowd chanted and held signs, showing solidarity with the nearly 3,000 migrant children being held in the facility.

***"Los vemos. Los queremos.  
Estamos con ustedes,"***

the protesters cried out across the fence.

***We see you. We love you. We  
are on your side.***

The children, some of whom were outside in the detention center courtyard, called back—until they were ushered back inside the facility by guards.

The Mother's Day protest was just one piece of AFSC's ongoing work to shut down Homestead detention center—and push for an end to child detention.

"Children belong in schools and homes, not in prison camps," says Kristin Kumpf, director of Human Migration and Mobility for AFSC. "But today, the Trump administration is manufacturing the need to detain children as part of its anti-immigrant agenda. It's time to close down Homestead detention center for good and unite these children with their family members and sponsors."

## What's happening in Homestead

Homestead detention center is the largest detention site for migrant children in the U.S. The facility is a jail for kids—surrounded by high walls and sitting on property that's part of the Air Reserve Base. Children sleep in numbered bunk beds in large military-like rooms that can hold up to 250 people. They're prohibited from leaving the compound, closely monitored by guards, told when to eat and sleep, and aren't allowed to hug anyone—even their own siblings.

Most of these detained children have fled violence and poverty in Central America and are seeking asylum in the United States. Many were separated from their family members or relatives after crossing into the U.S.

But instead of being released to family members or other

sponsors as they await hearings on their cases, many of these children will spend weeks or months at Homestead detention center—which is overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

“Detention has lasting traumatic effects and harms both children and adults,” says Mariana Martinez, an organizer with AFSC and a resident of Homestead. “The costs are incalculable to children, families, and our communities.”

Because Homestead is “an emergency influx center,” these children are not protected by federal agreements that regulate the length of time and conditions under which the U.S. can detain children. And since Homestead detention center has no state supervision, it’s unclear whether children are receiving adequate education or mental health services.

What’s more, it’s estimated that Homestead costs taxpayers \$500,000 a day to operate—and companies are benefiting. The detention center is managed by Caliburn International, which drew widespread criticism when former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly joined its board in May.

## Organizing against child detention

Since the start of this year, AFSC and other national partners have provided support to Homestead community members and local organizations working to shut down the detention center.

Together, we’re calling on ORR and HHS to close the detention center and stop using emergency influx facilities—and work as quickly as possible to unite children with their sponsors. We’re also demanding these agencies stop collaborating with the Department of Homeland Security, because coordination between agencies has led to the criminalization and intimidation of family members and other sponsors of these children, resulting in longer detention times.

The campaign to shut down Homestead detention center has made national headlines and garnered support from several Florida members of Congress, who’ve introduced legislation that would meet these demands.

In just the past six months, AFSC and campaign partners have:

- Generated more than 115,000 signatures for a petition to ORR and HHS.
- Organized a national Week of Action to End Child Detention that culminated on Father’s Day, when hundreds of people from Florida and across the country converged in a mass protest in Homestead.
- Engaged children and young people from around the U.S. to write letters to their members of Congress.

“Our coalition has organized press conferences and multiple actions at Homestead detention center to keep this issue front and center—to let everyone know that our community members will

not stand idly by as this atrocity continues,” Mariana says.

Shutting down the detention center is deeply personal for Mariana, who grew up in Homestead—an agricultural town just 30 miles south of Miami with long stretches of corn and tomato fields. The area is home to a large African-American population and a growing number of immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. Mariana’s father, Herman, was an organizer with AFSC over a decade ago, working with immigrant right groups in Homestead at a time when immigration reform protests were taking place across the country.

“Detaining immigrants—especially children—should not be happening in Homestead or in any community,” Mariana says. “Detention funnels money to private corporations and tears apart families and communities. The people of Homestead don’t want an economy based in the abuse of children. We want investment in jobs that bring sustainability and resources.”

## How you can help

“It’s important to remember that the campaign to shut down Homestead detention center is part of a larger movement to end the detention and deportation of all immigrants—children and adults—and demand policies that respect the rights and humanity of all people,” says Lis-Marie Alvarado, AFSC organizing coordinator in Florida.

In Florida, allies and faith organizations like the Miami Friends Meeting have stood with immigrants to raise awareness in their state and beyond and to pressure policymakers to end child detention.

Here’s how you can support their efforts.  
Visit [afsc.org/migrantjustice](https://afsc.org/migrantjustice) to:

### 1 Contact Congress today

Urge them to do everything in their power to shut down Homestead detention center and work to end child detention, including passing legislation like the Shut Down Child Prison Camps Act and Families Not Facilities Act.

### 2 Raise awareness about immigrant detention

Get social media graphics, posters, and other resources to educate family and friends and engage them in work to end immigrant detention.

### 3 Support AFSC’s efforts

Make a donation to support AFSC’s work to protect human rights and overcome injustice—in Homestead and beyond.



Stop CVE workshop in Chicago  
Photo: Zareen Kamal/AFSC

# Stopping Islamophobia

AFSC is helping communities put a stop to a federal program that profiles and surveils Muslims.

BY MARY ZERKEL

Have you ever been angered by U.S. foreign policy? Grown facial hair? Worshiped at a mosque? If you said “yes” to any of these questions—you might be considered a potential violent extremist by the U.S. government under its racist Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program.

CVE is an Obama-era initiative within the Department of Homeland Security that purports to prevent people from becoming “terrorists.” The program recruits trusted community members—including teachers, mental health practitioners, and imams—to be informants by asking them to identify people taking part in what CVE considers suspicious activity and report them to law enforcement.

But the reality is: “It is simply not possible to identify ‘markers’ of radicalization that allow early identification of would-be terrorists,” says Faiza Patel, co-director of the Brennan Center for Justice in her report “Rethinking Radicalization.”

In fact, CVE is based on flawed studies on the “radicalization” process. It uses indicators that disproportionately target Muslim

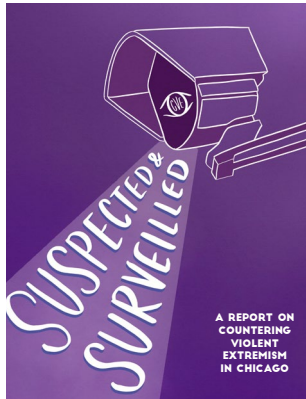
and Arab communities, effectively criminalizing everyday behavior, especially among young people.

Imagine your child needs emotional support in school and visits the school counselor. If the school was receiving CVE funding, that counselor may be trained to watch for signs that your child might have “social alienation and anxiety, a sense of being treated unjustly or outrage about U.S. foreign policy,” which, according to CVE guidelines, indicates the potential for radicalization. Of course, many young people would go to a counselor exactly because they have those feelings. But these vague indicators—along with more racialized ones, like “wearing traditional Muslim attire”—demonstrate the dangerous, discriminatory nature of CVE.

AFSC’s Communities Against Islamophobia project supports Muslim and Arab-led organizing to stop CVE in communities around the U.S. Because CVE programs are essentially surveillance programs, recent iterations of the program have rebranded, using progressive-sounding language to obscure their

true intent. In Illinois, for instance, CVE is called the “Targeted Violence Prevention Program,” which conducts “bystander-gatekeeper trainings” and “hate crime focus groups.”

Over the past two years, AFSC has trained more than 1,800 people on CVE in Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina—and how they can work to identify and stop it.



 **READ THE REPORT**  
[afsc.org/stopCVEreport](http://afsc.org/stopCVEreport)

AFSC and partners are beginning to see the impact of our efforts. In May, Chicago’s StopCVE coalition won a major victory when media attention generated by our report forced the director of Illinois’ CVE program to step down. As of this writing, there were no plans to replace him.

We also helped convince a local university to change its research protocol so that any study on the Muslim and Arab community would require consultation with members of the community before moving forward.

And our coalition in Chicago continues to grow, with a membership that includes 11 Muslim and Arab community partner organizations—despite fears of being retaliated against by law enforcement for speaking out against CVE. We’re also seeing more groups that work to stop racism and violence in policing taking on CVE as an issue as part of intersectional organizing efforts.

AFSC’s Communities Against Islamophobia Project will continue to stand with Muslims and Arabs across the country to stop CVE—and build communities where all people can live in safety and peace.

To learn more about our efforts, visit: [afsc.org/noislamophobia](http://afsc.org/noislamophobia). ■

*Mary Zerkel is coordinator of AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project.*




## Responding to Islamophobia in schools

Since President Trump’s election, reports of bullying and harassment of Muslim students have been on the rise. In response to growing concern among families, educators, and administrators, AFSC’s Communities Against Islamophobia project launched “Countering Anti-Muslim Racism in Schools,” a school curriculum developed with the University of Illinois-Chicago Department of Education.

The curriculum, created for grades six to 12, leads students through six lessons examining individual and institutional forms of racism, the impacts of Islamophobia, and the dangers of stereotypes. Students also learn critical media analysis and how to respond to both individual and institutional racism.

The curriculum, which is aligned with the Common Core standards, will be used in at least two states this upcoming school year. In Chicago, AFSC trains teachers on the curriculum with UIC-Chicago offering professional development credits. And in Cambridge, Massachusetts, we’re working with the Muslim Justice League and the Massachusetts Teachers Association to train teachers on the curriculum.

 **MORE**  
[creatingculturalcompetencies.com/curriculum.html](http://creatingculturalcompetencies.com/curriculum.html)



**SNAPSHOT**

## A look at AFSC around the world

Ahmed Abu Artema (right), the visionary activist who inspired Gaza’s Great March of Return, came to the U.S. as part of an AFSC-sponsored speaking tour. He is pictured with Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman. Photo: Adam A. Schuett



Pedro Rios/AFSC, Jon Krieg/AFSC, AFSC/Gaza, Sterling Spence/AFSC, Gabriela Flora/AFSC, Kelly Shabani/AFSC, Lorena Alvarez, Richard Morse, Berta María Guevara/AFSC, Mario Carmona/International Organization for Migration, Zareen Kamal /AFSC, Lis-Marie Alvarado/AFSC

Left to right, top to bottom:

1. May Day rally; San Diego, California
2. Erica Johnson, director of the AFSC Iowa Immigrant Rights Program; Iowa
3. Husena Husien Nadif (left), a senior assisted by AFSC; Gaza
4. 67 Suenos UndocuRun; Oakland, California
5. Latino advocacy days lobbying; Denver
6. Staff team-building day; Burundi
7. Roots for Peace; Los Angeles
8. Social Justice Leadership Institute; Philadelphia
9. First Psychological Aid Workshop; El Salvador
10. Food delivery; Tijuana, Mexico
11. Stop CVE report release; Chicago
12. Homestead detention center; Homestead, Florida



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## Quaker Action

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AFSC's Roots for Peace  
program in Los Angeles.  
Photo: Lorena Alvarez

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