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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

AUGUST 2016

CITLALY MORA



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

Area Office of the Carolinas

## VICTORY! VOTER ID LAW OVERTURNED!

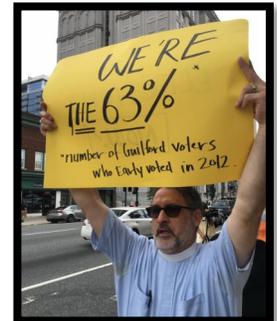
On July 29th, the U. S. Appeals court struck down North Carolina's voter identification law. The United States Court of Appeals stated in the 83 page decision that the provisions deliberately "targeted African-Americans with almost surgical precision" in order to restrict the turnout for the minority population, displaying a blatant discriminatory intent.

The unanimous decision overturned the infamous voter identification requirement while also restoring same day registration, out of precinct voting, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, and 17 days of early voting. This was a major victory for voting rights activists and voters in North Carolina. After many Moral Mondays focusing on voter rights and similar voter restriction laws being struck down nationwide, the Court of Appeals sided with those who viewed the law as an infringement on the Voting Rights Act and those who saw it as purposely aiming to reduce the number of minority voters, many of whom tend to vote democratic.

Some politicians, however, were not pleased with the ruling. Governor McCrory has asked the Supreme Court to reinstate the Voter ID law for the general election. McCrory asked Justice John Roberts to stay the ruling while they work on appealing the ruling made by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in order to avoid confusion and, once again reduce early voting days, preregistration and required ID.

Locally, in light of the judicial decision, the Board of Elections for Guilford County held an emergency meeting to discuss the voting plan for Guilford County, many fearing the reduction of voting polling places and early voting days that some board members had expressed an interest in passing. The meeting brought protesters to express their opposition during the meeting that occurred in the beginning of August at the Guilford County Courthouse. They ultimately extended early voting from 10 to 17 days as mandated by law and compromised on the early voting plan, making it yet another victory for voters.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern



Pictures taken by Democracy NC

## August Quote:

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

~Angela Davis

# AFSC NC YOUTH FEATURED IN “HUMANIZE NOT MILITARIZE” FILM FESTIVAL

Humanize Not Militarize: what exactly does this mean?

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) staff has produced an annual national youth film festival for many years running.

This year, under the program direction of Mary Zerkel of AFSC Chicago (and Program Associate, Debbie Southorn), the theme was Humanize Not Militarize (HNM).

The intention of the event is to present an opportunity for youth collaboration within AFSC’S four regions, Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. During the film festival and surrounding days of workshops, facilitators work to develop a creative space for young people from different cultures and experiences to come together linked by social issues. Some of those issues may connect nationally or internationally.

The HNM Film Festival utilizes video as a platform to help identify common threads across our nation’s social landscape on unjust, unfair and unlawful practices. Topics include policing, mass incarceration or inhumane immigration. Young people are able to make the connection and amplify a united message—Humanize Not Militarize our society.

The youth participants from Greensboro visited AFSC’S Washington, D.C. and the Baltimore office. In Baltimore, the group received an educational tour about Freddie Gray, a Black man who died in police custody. We walked through his community and viewed his public mural. (For more on Freddy Gray, read a New York Times article [here](#).)

AFSC’S Peace and Economic Justice program participants Fernando Jimenez and Allison Stalberg both contributed short videos to the HNM film festival. You can view

Fernando’s video submission [here](http://tinyurl.com/HNM10fernando) (tinyurl.com/HNM10fernando).

As for our U.S. Justice system, transparency and transformation are desperately needed. To many of our young people, it appears that the system does not support a humanitarian philosophy in ethics or the welfare of people.

This is especially true in revealed court cases like in Baltimore, where evidence identified instances of explicit racial bias that continues to threaten the livelihood of people of color.

The U.S. Department of Justice has a number of cases that document the alarming rate at which young Black men are targeted as they walk, drive or earn a living in their communities.

Some of the recorded data showed a disproportionate number of police-youth interactions. There are too many incidents in which incarceration -or even loss of life- has been the unfortunate outcome after an encounter.

AFSC’S Peace and Economic Justice program in Greensboro is focused on relationship building with our local Greensboro Police Department-Office of Engagement. This season, AFSC Youth Justice Group will begin to move forward to engage in active dialogue about community policing and ask police training questions. The hope is our efforts will encourage better interactions and reduce unfortunate outcomes.

You can view all the HNM film festival submissions at [www.tinyurl.com/HNMplaylist](http://www.tinyurl.com/HNMplaylist).

— AFSC Staff Toni Etheridge



Pictures courtesy of AFSC South Region

## BLACK LIVES MATTER RELEASES POLICY PLATFORM

The Movement For Black Lives (M4BL), a national coalition which includes Black Lives Matter (BLM), released a policy platform and six core demands this month, presenting them as “key solutions” that include demilitarization of law enforcement and an end to deportations. These policy recommendations and platform developments were released in an effort to add structure to their movement, that prior to this resembled the Occupy Wall Street Movement in some ways. However, as BLM moves to the next stage, it has expanded to show concrete ideas and objectives. These The six point platform focuses on reparations, ending the war on black people, invest-divest, economic justice, political power, and community control.

See the full policy platform here: <https://policy.m4bl.org/>

In their vision to end criminalization of black youth, the national groups tied deportation to include the experiences of those black immigrants targeted by deportation. Black Lives

Matter, a civil rights movement since 2013 is now supporting an end to immigration raids and the right to an attorney for immigration hearings, among other issues.

Carl Lipscombe, who was involved in drafting the platform stated that there was a connection that immigrants and the black community share, that often gets ignored. By advocating for immigrant rights, including that of undocumented folks they are able to shed light on the impacts both communities face and more importantly, they are able strengthen the link between both movements.



Freddie Gray Mural in Baltimore. Taken by AFSC South Region.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

## ELIMU SUMMER CAMP

AFSC NC again supported the Elimu Summer Day Camp, a program serving primarily African refugee children. Elimu did something exciting this year. For the first time, the enrichment program extended its traditional one-week summer day camp to three weeks! The Elimu Summer Day Camp program was held on North Carolina A&T University campus. The day camp program focused on exploring arts, crafts, science and cultural educational in a way that would excite the youth participants. This year, the camp focused more on STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

The cultural education aspect intentionally created sensitive dialogue regarding African American and Latinx communities and sought to create constructive discussions on stereotypes, struggles and similarities between both communities. AFSC’s AALBBA (African American - Latinx Bridge Building & Awareness) curriculum provided an opportunity where high school youth participants felt encouraged to speak about personal experiences and reflections when it comes to race.

The AALBBA workshop was developed by cultural educator Kali Ferguson in collaboration with AFSC’S Greensboro staff (Lori Khamala, Toni Etheridge and Leticia Benitez). One of the activities the youth participated in was called “Fill My Cup,” where the facilitator reads statements about access to different privileges. Then, each participant holds a tall, clear plastic tumbler and it only gets filled if the participants relates to the statement. Hence, filled cups symbolize privilege. After

the exercise, the facilitator asked one of the participants whose cup had more beads nearing the top, representing greater access and more privilege, to switch cups with another who had less beads. Both camper’s facial expression drastically changed from either a smile to frown or just the opposite.

Afterwards, both campers talked about their experience and feelings. The exercise challenged young people to be emotionally vulnerable and analyze the experience if only for a few minutes.

The campers also took a road trip and visited Beloved Community Center where they learned about the on-going struggle in Black communities in local policing issues, contemporary and historical– including about the Greensboro massacre of 1979.

Toni Etheridge, AFSC Staff

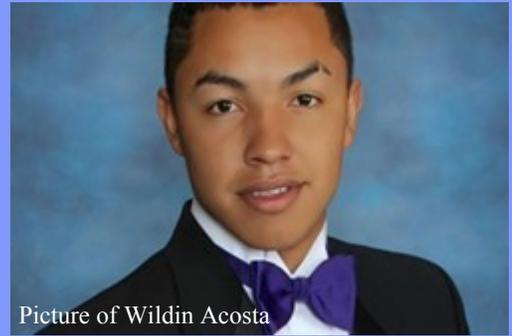


## UPDATE: WILDIN ACOSTA RELEASED

During mid-August, Wildin Acosta, a Durham high school student, was released from the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia and allowed to come home.

Acosta was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on his way to school six months ago due to a deportation order after coming from Honduras. Acosta was finishing high school and scheduled to graduate in June but unfortunately he was held in detention.

Thanks to his supporters and advocates, especially Alerta Migratoria, they were able to raise more than \$11,000 dollars for this \$10,000-dollar bond. With his deportation halted, Wildin now has an opportunity to make his case for asylum in court. After months of advocacy from teachers, peers, and immigrant rights organizations, Wildin will now have the opportunity to finish school and graduate as he awaits a decision on his asylum. We are hopeful it will be granted.

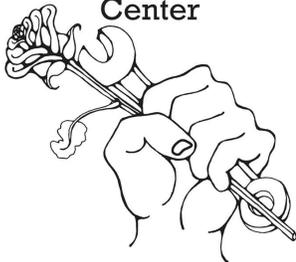


Picture of Wildin Acosta

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

# Save the Date!

Central Carolina  
Worker Justice  
Center



Worker Justice Assembly!  
Asamblea Para La Justicia Obrera

(Seguido por Traducción en Espanol)

Calling all workers to assemble: black, Latinx, white, queer, immigrant, young, students!

If you are looking for work, you have problems at work or want to know more about your rights, join us! The CCWJC Worker Justice Assembly is an event to organize with other workers to build worker power and connect to the fight for living wages and healthy workplaces! Come, fight and organize for a collective voice in your workplace in Greensboro and North Carolina!

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Llamando a todos los trabajadores a unirse: Afro-Americanxs, Latinxs, Blancxs, LGTBO, Inmigrantes, Jóvenes, Estudiantes!

Si usted está buscando trabajo, usted tiene problemas en el trabajo o quiere saber más sobre sus derechos, únase a nosotros! La Asamblea Justicia Trabajador CCWJC es un evento para organizar con otros trabajadores para construir el poder de los trabajadores y conectarse a la lucha por salarios dignos y lugares de trabajo saludables! Ven, luchar y organizarse para una voz colectiva en su lugar de trabajo en Greensboro y Carolina del Norte!

August 20th, 10am-2pm  
407 E. Washington St.

more information contact [info@carolinaworkers.org](mailto:info@carolinaworkers.org)

Black and Latinx youth are invited to a

# GREENSBORO COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

EXPLORING STEREOTYPES, STRUGGLES AND  
SIMILARITIES BETWEEN  
AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LATINOS  
IN A SAFE SPACE.

WHEN: TUES. SEPT 6, 2016

WHERE:  
MC GRIT-HORTON BRANCH LIBRARY  
2501 PHILLIPS AVE, GREENSBORO,  
NC 27405

TIME: 6:00PM- 8:00PM

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED\*\* MUST  
RSVP BY AUG 30TH.

CONTACT: LETICIA BENITEZ  
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[Kaliferguson.com](http://Kaliferguson.com)