

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
CITLALY MORA

JANUARY 2017



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

Area Office of the Carolinas

## CONTACT AFSC:

529-D GUILFORD COLLEGE RD. GREENSBORO, NC 27410  
OFFICE: 336.854.0633

LKHAMALA@AFSC.ORG AFSC.ORG/GREENSBORO  
FACEBOOK.COM/AFSCNC YOUTUBE.COM/AFSCNC



Photo/AFSC

*We who  
believe in  
freedom  
cannot  
rest until  
it comes.*

*-Ella Baker*

## AFSC LAUNCHES #SANCTUARYEVERYWHERE

*This article was written before the announcements of Trump's executive orders regarding immigration. With the announcement of policies that target immigrants, refugees, and Muslims we must now, more than ever, stand together and protect our communities.*

What does it mean to keep someone safe?  
What does it mean for targeted communities to keep themselves safe?

Communities of color, religious minorities and LGBTQ individuals have already been targeted for years, and in North Carolina, protections have been significantly weakened in the last five years. The deportation machine that Donald Trump seems so ready to vigorously employ was created by President Obama. Yet, it seems clear that undocumented immigrants, refugees, Muslims, LGBTQ, and Black communities will be increasingly under attack during a Trump administration.

For as long as there has been oppression, there have been movements of resistance and protection of targeted communities, like the Underground Railroad during slavery, Kindertransport during the Holocaust, and the protection of conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. The Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s, led by faith communities, offered safe havens to refugees fleeing war in Central America but who were unable to get asylum in the US. More recently, the New Sanctuary Movement and #Not1More campaigns have worked with individuals and families to protect them from deportation.

In the month following the election, the Southern Poverty Law Center documented 1,094 hateful incidents, the majority of

which were anti-immigrant, anti-black incidents, anti-Muslim, and anti-gay.

In an environment in which the attacks may look different, what does Sanctuary look like? How do we create a community that protects many different targeted groups?

*Find resources for creating safer and more inclusive communities.*

**www.afsc.org/  
SanctuaryEverywhere**

The American Friends Service Committee is starting a new initiative called #SanctuaryEverywhere to explore and identify ways to create safe/ safer spaces wherever we are and at whatever level people are ready to engage. We know there are a lot of fantastic resources that already exist and we want to lift those up, like *Sanctuary Not Deportation* for congregations and *Sanctuary Campus and Every Campus a Refuge* for colleges. We recognize that we must take the lead from directly impacted communities, and find ways for allies to engage on many different levels.

We will start out by creating a "one-stop-shop" website with lots of resources for whatever level of action you are ready to engage in ([afsc.org/SanctuaryEverywhere](http://afsc.org/SanctuaryEverywhere)). Eventually, we hope to equip thousands of people across the country with tools and training to interrupt hateful acts and government actions that put our communities at risk, and to encourage the adoption of concrete policies & practices that create greater safety and a welcoming environment for all.

#SanctuaryEverywhere is inherently intersectional, or "your struggle is my struggle." We believe that we are all in this together and that we must ensure that all residents of our community are safe, welcomed and included by:

- Welcoming immigrants & refugees
- Working to halt deportations to keep families together, and interrupting police and local collaboration with ICE
- Standing with Muslims and Jews
- Protecting all targeted religious groups
- Interrupting anti-Black violence and supporting the Movement for Black Lives
- Protecting LGBTQ North Carolinians

Sometimes I hear people say, "If I was around during the civil rights movement, I would have been marching with Dr. King!" This is our moment now. What will you do?

*-Lori Khamala, AFSC Staff*



## AFSC SUPPORTS FAMILY IN IMMIGRATION HEARING

In early January, members of AFSC attended the federal court sentencing hearing of “Carlos” (not his real name), a man whose family we have been supporting. He immigrated to the United States with his family after escaping attempted murder in El Salvador. This particular hearing was part of his criminal case of an “illegal re-entry” into the country.

Carlos received “time served” and was then transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Although this was the best possible outcome for the hearing, it was an intensely emotional day for his wife and son, as well as the team supporting him. The support team includes community members, staff from the Latino Family Center, AFSC, pastors, and his immigration lawyers. They have all taken a special interest because of the exceptional nature of the case and the trauma that the family has experienced.

Filling the benches in the courtroom, supporters stood in front of the judge and testified in his defense, stressing Carlos’ valor and love for his family. His wife also testified, stating that her husband is the love of her life and made the ultimate sacrifice for her. Because of her husband’s compelling testimony in her own case months earlier, she and their son were granted asylum. However, that same testimony alerted ICE agents to

his presence and following his wife’s hearing, Carlos was arrested by ICE agents and separated from his family again.

At the January hearing, Carlos was not allowed to speak or touch his family, making the situation even more heart wrenching. He entered the courtroom in a white uniform, cleanly shaved. The handcuffs rendered him unable to even wave to his family. In those few moments as he walked in, the room was silent as his chains dragged on floor of the courtroom. His eyes were red and puffy. His look, as he gazed to where his family sat, quietly sobbing, was of utter devastation.

As the hearing continued, in a very unusual move, even the judge and federal prosecutor recognized Carlos’ exceptional case, and they expressed sympathy for his situation as they immediately granted him “time served.”

Carlos has been transferred to an immigration detention center and now faces the most difficult portion yet of his case. We hope to have good news and AFSC will continue to support him and his family.



-Valeria Sosa, AFSC Intern

## GREENSBORO GROUP CARRIES OUT DOCUMENT SEARCH

On Wednesday, January 18th, about 50 community members marched into police offices at the Melvin Municipal Building demanding the release of the investigative files of the Cole-Yourse investigation. This “People’s Document Search” was organized by the GSO Operation Transparency, a “multiracial, multigenerational group of Greensboro residents concerned about the lack of transparency and accountability in recent incidents that have transpired with police officials, City Council members and other city staff.” This follows an ultimatum given in December to City Council requesting they release the personnel files of former Officer Cole who assaulted Dejuan Yourse this past Summer. City Council voted to not release the files during a City Council meeting in late December.

Holding prop boxes labeled “Cole-Yourse Investigative Files,”



Protesters walking to City Hall to demand documents. Valeria Sosa

seven members of the GSO Operation Transparency led the way into the building. After marching through the reception areas of City Council’s

offices, the city manager agreed to meet with ten people, away from the larger crowd. Community members watched through the glass walls as the city manager talked with the small group. After it became apparent that he would not release the files, the people inside began chanting, prompting those watching to resume their chants as well. Seven of the people inside the room were arrested and charged with second-degree trespassing. They were released that same evening.

After the action, Dejuan Yourse spoke to the crowd, thanking them and in support of the People’s Document Search and continued action to ensure that “a situation like this never happens again.” Isabell Moore, a liaison for GSO Operation Transparency, said, “We now know the City Council would rather have their employees, including the City Manager and Chief of Police, arrest their own constituents, rather than release information that could put to rest serious questions of trust and transparency that have been raised by this incident. We tried to go through official channels – even news organizations have asked for release of the files – but sometimes those channels fail us, and it’s up to us to act rather than continue waiting on our elected representatives.”

-Valeria Sosa, AFSC Intern

## FIRST WEEK OF TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY

A lot has happened since Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States on January 20th. During his inauguration, hundreds of protesters stood in Washington D.C. for the majority of the day taking a stand against the incoming administration. As early as 7am dozens of organizations arrived for the inauguration parade, and the night ended with protests still occurring in the city. The following day millions marched across the globe, and marches have continued to happen in the country as soon as his executive orders were announced.

On Monday, January 23rd, President Trump began announcing executive orders for the continuation of controversial pipelines, the process to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act, but that was not all. Later during his first week he announced a series of measures that would begin to construct his infamous border wall with Mexico, dramatically expand the deportation dragnet, cut funding for sanctuary cities, and create more detention centers to hold immigrants. In Greensboro, people reacted by holding an emergency rally to stand with immigrants and Muslims on Thursday night. Over 500 people showed up in downtown Greensboro to march and show support for those most affected by the immigration executive actions. Community agencies, organizers and leaders held a press conference on Friday afternoon in the Triad and the Triangle to denounce the executive actions. It did not end there.

By Friday, the newly elected President had announced yet more severe immigration measures, targeting Muslims. He banned Syrian refugees from coming in and resettling, suspended the visas from seven Muslim majority countries, amounting to a targeted Muslim ban. This executive action went into affect immediately, causing chaos and confusion in

airports as refugees and people from the seven Muslim majority countries that had been banned were detained and were not allowed to leave the airport. As news came in of many people arriving and being detained, lawyers gathered to get information on their clients and hundreds gathered at airports to protest the detainment of individuals. On Saturday night a federal judge temporarily halted the executive order for those that are arriving to the United States and find themselves in limbo. After one week many are already feeling the results of Islamophobia through our national policies and fear more is coming. The American Friends Service Committee will continue to support movements that support the targeted communities and denounce any further racist policies and detrimental actions taken by the Trump administration. Now is the time to act, now is the time to support those who fear for what is to come in the next days, weeks, months, and years.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern



Press Conference in Durham/ Lori Khamala

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP EMPOWERS IMMIGRANTS

AFSC's partner in High Point, the Latino Family Center, recently teamed up with the NC Justice Center to offer a "Know Your Rights Workshop" for the Guilford County community on January 14th. The workshop was presented by immigration attorney, Raul Pinto, staff at the NC Justice Center in Raleigh.

The workshop's purpose was to inform and educate the Latino community on what their legal rights are as contributing members of this country, regardless of their legal status. With the anti-

immigrant climate rising even post-election, the Latino Family Center's new senior director, Maria Harkins, decided it would be beneficial for the immigrant and non-immigrant community to be informed on what their rights are, despite the rhetoric and fears.

A full room of community members attended to learn more and had an opportunity to ask questions about different immigration topics: DACA, driver's licenses, citizenship and student rights. The YWCA High Point is

planning another Know Your Rights Workshop for Refugees as part of their Front Porch Conversations. More information to follow.

-Maria Mayorga, Latino Family Center



Check out AFSC's updated Know Your Rights resources at: [www.afsc.org/KnowYourRights](http://www.afsc.org/KnowYourRights).



## "EXPLORING ISLAM" BRINGS OUT HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

On the same day that many people were grappling with the ramifications of Trump's immigration executive orders, AFSC and the YWCA Social Justice Committee hosted a *Front Porch Conversation* focused on learning more about Islam and the Muslim community. "Exploring Islam" as it was called, featured three local community members who shared their perspectives on Islam and on being a Muslim in the US.



Over sixty attendees sat in a room listening to the guest speakers. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions to the panelists and learn more about the community that resides within Guilford County and has seen an intensification of discrimination and

Islamophobia since the election. Recent national rhetoric has labeled all Muslims as threats, and these safe spaces allow for community members to clarify misconceptions and humanize one another.

The workshop started with a video, and each speaker spoke about their perspective. The afternoon of fellowship ended with an opportunity for people to respectfully observe the Muslim time of prayer. Attendees wanted to know how they could support their fellow Muslim neighbors in this time of need and how to be a good ally. Speakers were happy to have support and ended on a good note, stating they hope to be a part of spaces like these where they are able to share and be more so people can get to know them and know that there is nothing to fear.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

## MILLIONS MARCH: WHAT NOW?

The day after the inauguration of Donald Trump, nearly 3 million people marched in the United States. In fact, marches took place all over the globe in solidarity with the Women's March happening in DC. This was the single largest day of protest in US history, and it was led by women who advocated for intersectional feminism and protection of rights for all, despite hateful campaign rhetoric and promises.

In North Carolina, thousands of people marched: more than 10,000 in Raleigh, 6,000 in Greensboro and 25,000 in Charlotte, all marching for women's rights and many other social justice issues.

Now, how will we keep up the momentum and continue to stand up for one another's rights? What can we do to go beyond this action and resist any stripping of rights? How will we protect our community and resist discriminatory policies? The questions are many, but if we learned anything from the Women's March is that we, the people can stand in unity and be a bigger force than hate and make our voices heard if we only stand together and support an intersectional movement that values every human being.

We hope to continue the movement, nationally and in our state. AFSC will support those movements for social justice. We will march when there are rights under attack and we will march to assert our rights in the Moral March in February with the NAACP and do what we can in North Carolina. We hope you will join us.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

Visit [www.HKonJ.com](http://www.HKonJ.com) for details!

Marches in Washington D.C. and in Greensboro, NC. on January 21st. / WFDD



### Forward Together Moral Movement

**STANDING TO RESIST  
THE REPEAL OF HEALTH CARE  
AND THE ROLL BACK  
OF CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS**

**Saturday,  
Feb. 11, 2017**  
MASS MOBILIZATION  
FOR LOVE & JUSTICE

11TH ANNUAL MORAL MARCH ON RALEIGH & HKONJ PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

**8:30 a.m. - Begin Gathering • 9:00 a.m. - Pre Rally/People's Assembly**  
Corner of Wilmington and South Streets near Shaw University

**10:00 a.m. - March Begins followed by Rally/People's Assembly**



All justice-loving people are urged to **STAND WITH US** against political coups, political secret societies, power grabs, and unconstitutional legislation -- all which seek to violate the rights and undermine the voices of **"We the People."**  
**STAND and REAFFIRM** the Forward Together Moral Movement and HKonJ People's Assembly's 11-year-old **"People's Agenda!"**

- **The Expansion and Protection of Voting Rights** - Fully restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965; repeal and eliminate earlier redistricting maps; end voter suppression and restrictive voting exams; ensure fair state and local boards of election.
- **Education Equality** - Fully fund public schools; fully support HBCLs; make college affordable for all; and provide affordable, accessible, and quality early childhood education.
- **Economic Sustainability** - Increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour; protect workers' rights and collective bargaining; end unfair pay disparities and job discrimination.
- **Equal Protection under the Law** without regard to race, immigration status, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation; end police excessive and unnecessary deadly force and prosecute law enforcement perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law; increase police transparency; end sentencing disparities; provide "justice of innocence" for the wrongfully incarcerated and end mass incarceration.
- **Health Care for All** - Medicaid Expansion; affordable and free health care for all; Equal Access for Women; and we demand environmental justice.

For more information call 919 682-4700. Visit our website at [naacpc.org](http://naacpc.org) or [hkonj.com](http://hkonj.com)  
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II • NC NAACP President & Forward Together Moral Movement Convener

**Forward Together. Not One Step Back!**

**THIS IS A  
MOVEMENT,  
NOT A MOMENT!**