

AFSC Midwest Digest

Some Highlights of Work from Around the Region — January 13, 2018

Become a Good Neighbor

The Progressive Magazine recently [wrote](#) about Michigan's "Good Neighbor Project," a co-mentorship program that pairs free-world participants and incarcerated people serving long time in Michigan prisons. This co-mentorship is vital to shifting public perceptions about crime and our criminal justice system, which directly influences policy.

"What has putting people in prison changed?" asks free-world participant Earl Lundy. "Let's look at why they're there. Let's look at root causes." For more information about the program, please contact [Demetrius Titus](#) of AFSC.

Israel blacklists AFSC and 19 other groups over BDS

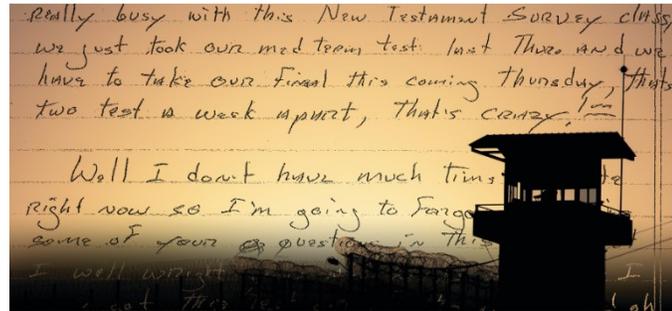
"Ironic" is one word to describe Israel's recent announcement that it was blacklisting [AFSC](#) and 19 other groups because of their support of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions ([BDS](#)). As Rabbi [Brant Rosen](#) explains, AFSC has a long history of working for human rights for all people in the Middle East. Jennifer Bing joins Brant on this QuakerSpeak [video](#) and this [WBEZ](#) interview.

Jennifer shares her thoughts about the first intifada in this [podcast](#) and writes [here](#) about a budding intifada in Congress. On January 16, AFSC will mark the 10th anniversary of the 2008 Israeli offensive against Gaza with this [event](#) in Chicago featuring Gazan writer Jihad Abusalim and AFSC staff. If you're interested in joining AFSC's work, consider applying for this job [opening](#) by January 31.

Hoosiers confront Islamophobia, Muslim Ban

One look at the packed calendar of AFSC in Indiana will give you a good sense of that program's work confronting Islamophobia. On January 13 and 20, AFSC interns are hosting Communities Against Islamophobia [trainings](#) for Muslim youth. On January 22, AFSC's [book club](#) will be looking at how charges of anti-Semitism are used to silence proponents of human rights.

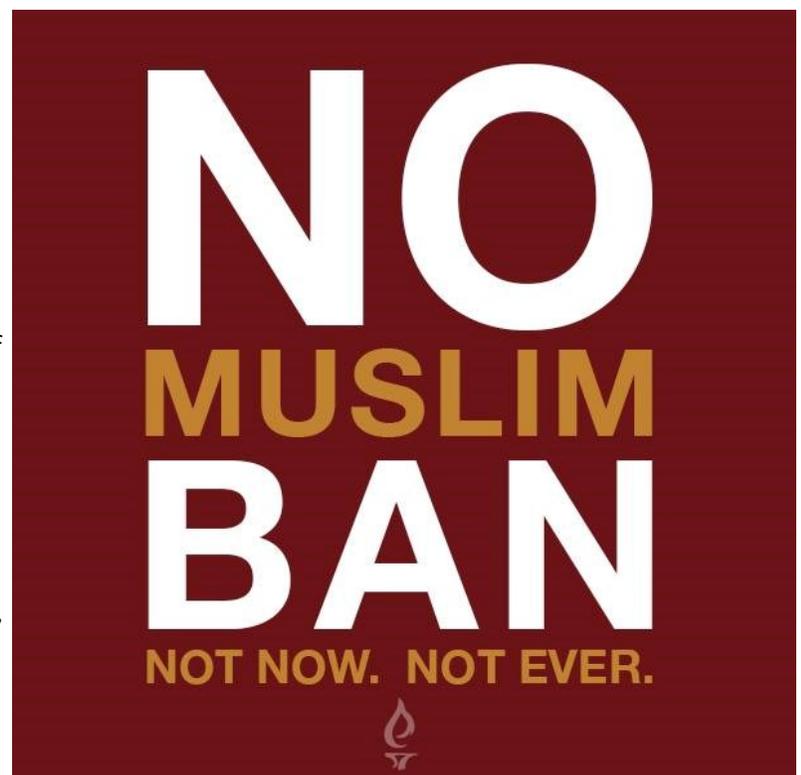
To mark the one-year anniversary of President Trump's first [Muslim Ban](#), AFSC will hold a [press conference](#) on January 26 and a [teach-in](#) on January 27. For more information and to get involved, please contact [Erin Polley](#).



The Progressive Magazine [describes](#) AFSC Michigan's Good Neighbor Project.



An AFSC staff member in Gaza with Palestinian refugees in 1949



A reason for hope, and a welcome to new staff in St. Louis

In the latest [newsletter](#) from AFSC in St. Louis, program director Joshua Saleem writes: “With each new headline that makes it known how systems of oppression are at work in St. Louis and elsewhere, the knowledge that everything must change gives us hope. It is a reminder that the time for those who would use their power to take advantage of the most vulnerable is limited. Indeed, everything must change, and in this season that is a reason for hope.”

Joshua is pleased to announce the hiring of [Jonathan Pulphus](#) as AFSC’s new program associate in St. Louis. “Whatever space I’m in, whether it’s at Saint Louis University or in Ferguson, I want to be a change agent,” Jonathan told the *St. Louis American*. “Young people must assume the responsibility of leadership in this movement moment.”

Calls to Congress needed on TPS

Earlier this week, President Trump ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadorans living in the US. Read AFSC’s [statement](#) on this decision and [tell](#) your members of Congress to support the American Promise Act and Legal Permanent Residency for all TPS holders. This [piece](#) describes why we should care about DACA, TPS and all of our immigrant neighbors at risk of [detention](#) and deportation. Join AFSC’s live [webinar](#) on creating Sanctuary Everywhere on January 18.

Iowans ramp up work for immigrant rights

Bitterly cold weather hasn’t slowed AFSC’s work in Iowa in support of immigrant rights. Over the holidays, AFSC staff and volunteers accompanied people to their ICE check-in at the Federal Building. Sandra Sanchez coordinated the sending of greeting cards to ICE detainees in county jails and spoke on [TPS](#). Jody Mashek gave an overview of immigration legal matters for the [Iowa Peace Network’s](#) Open House.

Heading into the new year, plans include a [Democracia en Acción](#) workshop at the State Capitol on January 13 and an [Immigrant Advocacy Day](#) on January 25. While prospects for progressive change are slim this session, AFSC is working with partners to propose an immigrant-friendly legislative agenda, moving away from being on the defensive and instead working to change the narrative in support of immigrants in Iowa.

If that sounds overly ambitious, you haven’t met program director Erica Johnson yet. [Contact her](#) to join in the struggle.



Jonathan Pulphus, Jr., (second from left) was the 2014 recipient of the Jamala Rogers Young Visionary Award. Shown here with previous honorees, Jonathan is the new AFSC program associate in St. Louis.



This Iowa sign says it well.



SÁBADO 13 DE ENERO, 2018

12PM - 4PM • PARA MAS INFO. LLAMA 515-274-4851

 /AFSCDESINOES

UN ENTRENAMIENTO CÍVICO PARA LÍDERES E INMIGRANTES:
COMO HABLAR CON LEGISLADORES, EL PROCESO
LEGISLATIVO, QUIENES SON MIS OFICIALES ELECTOS Y MAS

