

# Quaker Action

## A TIME FOR CHANGE

**The movement  
to abolish ICE**  
p. 8

**Meet AFSC  
Change Makers**  
p. 12

**Unlocking  
Gaza**  
p. 14



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

[afsc.org](http://afsc.org)

# Quaker Action

Published by the American Friends Service Committee

afsc.org

## 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.

## MANAGING EDITOR

Ronna Bolante

## EDITORS

Carly Goodman  
Mark Graham  
Theresa Kirby  
Melissa Lee  
Ralph Medley  
Layne Mullett  
Jos Truitt

## DESIGN

Emily Cohane-Mann  
Carl Roose

## COVER PHOTO

A rally in San Diego calling for more just and humane immigration policies. Photo: Pedro Rios/AFSC

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

quakeraction@afsc.org

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Tel: 215-241-7000  
Toll-free: 888-588-2372



## Contents

### FEATURES

- 8 Why it's time to abolish ICE**  
Even before this year, the agency had a history of tearing apart families and hurting our communities.
- 12 AFSC Change Makers**  
Meet six women working to end violence and make the world a better place, one community at a time.
- 14 Gaza Unlocked**  
AFSC is helping Palestinians in Gaza share stories about life under military blockade—and advocate for change.

### DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Letter from our general secretary**
- 4 Conversation**
- 5 News from around AFSC**
- 7 Q+A: Dalit Baum**, director of Economic Activism
- 17 Where I stand:** Ending election violence will take leadership
- 19 Snapshot**

# Thank you

for being part of our community!

Everyone deserves to live, work, and pray in safety and peace. Thank you for being a part of our global network of volunteers, partners, congregations, and steadfast supporters, working to make our communities more welcoming, safe, and just.

**Your support is making the world a better place, community by community.**

## LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY



A participant in AFSC's Liberation Summer camp, where youth learn the art of filmmaking for change. Photo: AFSC/New York

I hope this issue of Quaker Action magazine finds you well. The stories in this issue demonstrate how AFSC is at work, transforming Quaker values into courageous action.

Over the past century, AFSC has played key roles in social change movements, carrying out work that many considered experimental and sometimes taking unpopular stands on controversial issues. Today, as I travel around the U.S. and to other countries where we work, I often hear the same thing from our partners and community members: "AFSC supports what others don't dare support."

It's humbling to be part of such a respected and bold endeavor. And I'm reminded every day that we would not have such a history of remarkable achievements

in uprooting hate, racism, inequality, and the other seeds of violence without your partnership and support. Thank you.

In the following pages, you'll see the stories of Change Makers, six individuals who demonstrate the courage of AFSC's global community at work – with inspiring results. You'll also read about our work to abolish ICE, bring to light the traumas in Gaza, and share innovative research on how corporations are profiting from human rights abuses. These are just a few examples of how AFSC is amplifying the voices of people impacted by those in power and building up their technical capacities for activism to succeed.

This is how we succeed, together. By combining deeply rooted community work around the globe with the connections

and resources to amplify voices to policymakers and corporate leaders, our community is creating the conditions for a more peaceful and just future.

I hope you take heart from the stories in this magazine. Let us know how you are taking action by sending us a note in the enclosed envelope, sharing with us on Facebook, or by emailing us at quakeraction@afsc.org.



In peace,

Joyce Ajlouny  
General Secretary

## Readers respond to our last issue

### Ending perpetual punishment

Thank you, Natalie Holbrook, for your thoughtful article.

Since the Age of Enlightenment, every country with pretensions of abandoning barbarism has concluded that justice is best served by rehabilitating criminals, rather than by punishing them.

Why then, does our nation continue to nurture the concept that justice can only be served by taking vengeance on criminals?

If we are ever to become enlightened, we too should release on parole those prisoners who are no longer a threat to society and who, after all, are not the same persons who twenty or thirty years ago committed their crimes.

I commend you, AFSC, for casting your light of justice upon our nation's path.

David Quintero  
Monrovia, California

an essay titled "A Love Letter to Your Congressman" that can help us.

I think about appealing to the goodness in those who disagree with me. When I make a phone call or write a letter to my senators or representative, I can always say that I am holding a vision of them making a particular decision and talk about what that might mean. This kind of language plants a seed of possibility where demanding language fosters push-back and rejection.

I want to change my language—to clear out the battle metaphors and make way for language that can heal us. So as I hold the question "Where do we go from here?" I keep hearing "Let's figure out how to make noise that can be heard!"

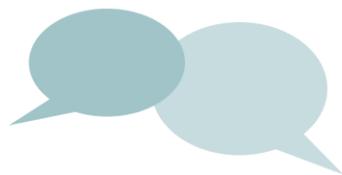
You are showing us how to make a noise that can be heard. Thank you.

Julie Powell-Mohr  
Des Moines, Iowa



Summer 2018 issue, "From resistance to rebuilding."

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

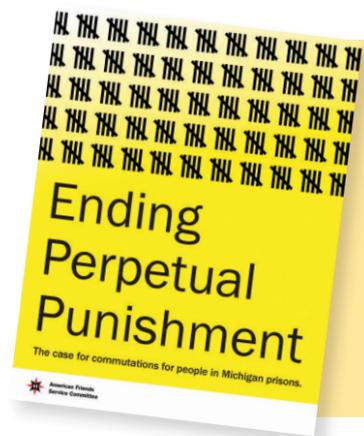


Tell us what you think about this issue by contacting **Ronna Bolante**, managing editor, at [quakeraction@afsc.org](mailto:quakeraction@afsc.org) or AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

### 7 tips to change the conversation on immigration

I love the "7 tips." They are tips that apply really to all conversations around issues where we want to build more inclusive communities and policies. We are coming to understand how our thoughts and words create our reality. Thank you for your wisdom.

In his book "Peace Is Every Step," the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh writes



#### ► NEW REPORT

#### Ending Perpetual Punishment: The case for commutations in Michigan prisons

Read stories of transformation from people who've served long sentences. Learn why we're calling for policy changes to give more people the chance to return home.

VISIT: [afsc.org/mi-commutation](http://afsc.org/mi-commutation)

### CONTRIBUTORS



**Kennedy Akolo**, AFSC Africa regional director, explores what it will take to end election violence in Africa (page 17). Kennedy is a development practitioner with over 20 years of experience in the sector. As regional director, he provides strategic and creative leadership to help lay the groundwork for long-term peace with justice with an approach that involves healing from trauma of violence and rebuilding a sense of community in African countries.



**Melissa Lee** writes about a recent victory against private prisons (page 5) and AFSC's anti-racist trainings for congregations (page 6). As AFSC communications associate, Melissa supports a range of efforts to engage donors, program constituents, and Friends in AFSC's work. She enjoys highlighting the success of AFSC's many programs and offices across the world through our online and print communications.

## News from around AFSC



AFSC's Joe Watson (far left) and Caroline Issacs (second from right) with members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Photo: AFSC/Arizona

## Victory against private prisons in Arizona

This spring, the city of Tucson passed a historic resolution that bans the privatization of its jails and detention centers. It's our latest victory against for-profit prison corporations, which have long demonstrated patterns of mismanagement, abuse, and neglect in Arizona and across the country.

As opposition to private prisons has grown in recent years, corporations such as Core Civic and GEO Group have focused on other streams of revenue, including jails and detention centers. Unlike prisons, these are places that house people awaiting trial who have not been convicted of a crime.

"While preventing private prison companies from getting jail contracts is only a small piece in ending mass incarceration, it does prevent these corporations from running dangerous facilities that result in crueler treatment of people they detain," says Caroline Isaacs, AFSC Arizona program director.

The Tucson resolution, which AFSC helped to draft, follows another victory in Pima, Arizona last year, where the county board barred corporations from operating county jails. These wins add to the growing number of local jurisdictions that have banned the privatization of jails and detention centers, including King County in Washington and Indianapolis.

"Corporations should never profit from incarceration," Caroline says. "We hope victories like this will continue to spur dialogue—and action—in Arizona and across the U.S."

—MELISSA LEE

MORE: [afscarizona.org](http://afscarizona.org)



## Join AFSC's Alumni Network!

Have you worked with the American Friends Service Committee as a staff member, volunteer, intern, or fellow?

Stay connected with the AFSC family by joining our Alumni Network at [afsc.org/alumni](http://afsc.org/alumni).

Visit [afsc.org/alumni](http://afsc.org/alumni):

- Join AFSC's Alumni Network.
- Reconnect with former colleagues.
- Stay up to date on alumni events, news, and more.
- Share your news and life updates.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Photo: James Wasserman



Clockwise from top left: Webinar panelists Kierstin Homblette Allen and Jennifer Homblette Allen (Unitarian Universalist Association), Hannah Hafter (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee), Myrna Orozco (Church World Service), and Lucy Duncan (AFSC).

## Anti-racist trainings for congregations

In May, AFSC launched the “Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves” e-course, in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Church World Service, and Freedom for Immigrants. The course was designed for congregations and small groups that support immigrants and other communities affected by racism and oppression.

“Reflection and learning are necessary for people with more privilege to follow the leadership of people of color and others impacted by injustice,” says AFSC Friends Relations Director Lucy Duncan. “This e-course builds their anti-racism and accompaniment skills so that people of faith and conscience can take deeper action.”

Through webinars and assignments over 14 weeks, participants examined racism in the U.S. immigration system and learned the theory and practice of accompaniment. Participants learned how to apply what they learned by offering congregational sanctuary, supporting individuals at immigration hearings and check-ins, and visiting people in detention centers.

More than 1,200 people from 58 groups—from Hawaii to Maine—registered for the e-course and committed to continuing to accompany immigrant communities.

One participant told us, “I’ve learned how to be a better companion and have also been able to experience some of the freedom of letting go of white supremacy in regard to my own worth, work, and place in the world.”

The e-course will be offered again in 2019.

—MELISSA LEE

**MORE:** [afsc.org/csco](http://afsc.org/csco)

## 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 Temporary Protected Status

“It’s critical that the Trump administration not only extend but also redesignate TPS for Yemen, which continues to struggle with extreme violence and poverty. A redesignation of TPS would allow more recently arrived Yemeni nationals to apply for protection through TPS—people who are fleeing from a U.S.-backed war in Yemen.”

—PENIEL IBE, POLICY FELLOW, IN THE HILL

### On helping immigrants affected by Hurricane Florence

“In the moment when we’re looking at devastation caused by the hurricane, immigrant families are not able to trust in federal agencies looking out for their well-being and are not able to seek support from FEMA because of their undocumented status. [They] ... are facing fear, facing distrust of federal agencies, and are in immediate need of support and resources.”

—LAURA GARDUÑO GARCIA, AN ORGANIZER WITH AFSC’S GREENSBORO OFFICE, ON DEMOCRACY NOW!

### On Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

“[My husband] Ravi is my family—loved and respected by so many. But according to ICE—the same agency that faces accusations of abuse, racial profiling and violations of civil rights—he must be removed. Removed from his community and removed from the people he loves.”

—AMY GOTTLIEB, ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NORTHEAST REGION, IN THE WASHINGTON POST

## Dalit Baum

Director of Economic Activism



Photo: Don Davis/AFSC

**Q:** What is economic activism?

**A:** Economic activism is about identifying points of leverage for influencing corporate behavior in the context of a social movement. It is also about holding corporations accountable to the public in times when government rarely plays that role.

**Q:** Why engage in economic activism?

**A:** Corporations are not people. They don’t have a conscience. In some ways they are like machines, programmed to operate on profit interests. Although people inside them can be influenced, corporations are generally set up to make decisions that benefit their own bottom line.

At the same time, corporations have a profound impact on public policy. Large corporations, with their vast wealth, can exert more influence than elected representatives! That means advocating for change with government officials is not enough to effect change. We need to learn to influence corporate policy as well.

**Q:** What is AFSC’s role in supporting economic activism?

**A:** For two decades starting in 1969, a group of AFSC researchers staffed a program known as NARMIC – National Action/Research on the Military Industrial Complex. Their purpose was to research companies profiting from the Vietnam War and publish material that antiwar activists could use to put pressure on various aspects of U.S. society.

Today AFSC is building on that legacy

by conducting and sharing independent research on human rights violations that is largely unavailable anywhere else. We look at companies complicit in human rights violations in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. We look at the prison industrial complex—not just the companies managing prisons, but also those providing services related to incarceration. And we look at companies that profit from immigrant detention and are complicit in human rights violations at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Our research and advocacy support responsible investors in adopting investment screens. For example, we shared testimony ahead of the Episcopal Church’s vote in July to divest from companies involved in human rights violations in Israel and Palestine.

**Q:** Does economic activism work?

**A:** Yes! But grassroots movements are currently underutilizing opportunities for influencing corporations. Some assume they cannot be successful. Others vilify corporations, naming and shaming them or holding symbolic protests. Few go beyond that to build a campaign that aims to change corporate policies or behavior.

But that is a missed opportunity. Corporations can respond to public pressure even when the issue at hand is extremely controversial, when advocates cannot get buy-in from politicians, and when those running corporations do not share our movements’ values or concerns. Concern about future risk can be enough to prompt

a policy change. And the tools of economic activism can help create that risk.

**Q:** Can you share an example?

**A:** Take G4S, which manages transportation of immigrants for U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) among other things. In 2008, G4S faced a public outcry in the United Kingdom after stories came to light of prisoner abuse and deaths. Around the same time, AFSC and others began pressuring G4S to stop providing technologies for Israeli prisons and checkpoints.

Last year G4S sold both their Israeli subsidiary and their entire juvenile detention business in the U.K. and the U.S. They had started losing university contracts, and they clearly made a calculation that they were better off getting out of these controversial operations.

**Q:** What might stand in the way of continued economic activism?

**A:** Corporations don’t particularly want to be held accountable – and their concerns have been heard. Congress is considering penalties for consumer boycotts, and President Trump’s Economic Council has proposed that only very large shareholders be allowed to file resolutions for other shareholders to vote on. But at least for now, consumer boycotts and investment choices remain effective mainstream tools for people to use in influencing corporate policies and behavior. ■

**MORE:** [afsc.org/investigate](http://afsc.org/investigate)

# WHY IT'S TIME TO ABOLISH ICE

BY RONNA BOLANTE

**Y**ou probably saw the pictures: Children crying in cages. Parents deported without their kids. Families ripped apart. When the Trump administration started separating families at the U.S.-Mexico border earlier this year, people were rightfully outraged. As images flooded the media, people across the country took to the streets in mass protests and

pressured elected officials to end the cruel treatment of immigrant families. Abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)—an idea that once seemed radical—was now recognized by many as necessary. The call to abolish ICE took hold, gaining support from numerous individuals, organizations, and even elected officials willing to take a stand against the country's

deportation machine.

“Abolishing ICE resonates with a lot of people today because they are affected by the stories about family separation,” says Pedro Rios, director of AFSC’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program in San Diego. “But it’s important to remember the agency has a long history of tearing apart families and hurting our communities.”

## Separating families since 2003

Pedro has witnessed firsthand the terror and trauma the agency has caused since its creation in 2003. That year, ICE agents raided the home of a volunteer he worked with—a grandfather looking after his two grandchildren at the time.

“Agents arrived at the break of dawn, and they placed all the family members—including the children—on the couch, being extremely abrasive toward them, before taking the grandfather away,” Pedro says. “The case cemented for me that we had entered a new era in how immigration enforcement was carried out in our country’s interior.”

Since then, Pedro and volunteers from local human rights committees have responded to many more ICE raids. Just a few months ago, they documented a home raid where ICE agents shut off the electricity, barged in the door, pointed their guns at children, and didn’t provide a warrant until after they had extracted the father.

“I was with several community members documenting the raid outside,” Pedro says. “I thought, if ICE is this egregious when people are watching them, how bad are they when people aren’t watching?”

**IF ICE IS THIS  
EGREGIOUS WHEN  
PEOPLE ARE  
WATCHING THEM,  
HOW BAD ARE THEY  
WHEN PEOPLE  
AREN'T WATCHING?**

—PEDRO RIOS

## Violating human rights

There is no shortage of stories of how ICE terrorizes immigrant communities—raiding businesses to round up workers, arresting people near schools and courthouses, and showing no mercy for people who have known no other home but the U.S. for decades. And it gets worse.

The agency has a long history of

violating human rights. ICE agents and police officers colluding with ICE have engaged in racial profiling and warrantless searches, detained people without probable cause, and fabricated evidence. The agency has been the subject of more than 1,200 complaints of sexual and physical abuse. ICE also provides deadly substandard medical care to those in detention. In 2017, 12 people died in ICE custody.

Unfortunately, some businesses are also profiting handsomely from ICE’s activities. In fiscal year 2017, ICE deported an estimated 226,000 people, and the agency now detains an average of 45,000 people every day. ICE’s cruelty toward immigrants is fueling the mass incarceration industry—including detention centers run by for-profit prison corporations that benefit from human suffering.

“The very mission of ICE is at odds with values we hold dear, like treating all people with dignity and respect,” says Kathryn Johnson, AFSC policy advocacy coordinator in Washington, D.C. “An agency that was created to tear apart communities and was founded on the belief that mass deportations make our country safer cannot be reformed.”



Protesters call for the abolition of ICE in California. Photo: Pedro Rios/AFSC

## Abolishing ICE is possible and necessary

As of this writing, more than 180 elected officials—members of Congress, state legislators, mayors, and more—have expressed their support for abolishing ICE.

And despite rhetoric to the contrary, the idea of abolishing a government agency is nothing new. Various administrations have created and dissolved agencies to respond to changing needs and politics.

ICE was established in 2003 as part of the U.S. government's response to 9/11, which also included mass surveillance, racial profiling, and increased militarism. Before ICE was created, immigration enforcement was handled by Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was established, with an "anti-terrorism" focus, INS was added to DHS and divided into three agencies: ICE, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Although INS had serious problems, the agency didn't have as broad a mandate as ICE or CBP—nor nearly the same level of brutality.

One contributing factor is that since its very inception, ICE has treated immigrants as a security threat—seemingly forgetting that immigrants have long been valued members of our communities.

"We don't need an abusive police force to arrest people for their immigration status and deport them from our communities," Kathryn says. "The question shouldn't be whether ICE can be abolished, but rather, how can we generate the political will to make that happen?"

Lucy Duncan, AFSC Friends Relations director, says that abolishing ICE



Rally calling for immigrant rights in Des Moines, Iowa. Photo: Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

should also be a rallying cry for Quakers, who have played critical roles in movements to end state violence rooted in racism and xenophobia.

"Quaker abolitionists like Benjamin Lay, John Woolman, and Lucretia Mott didn't call for the reform of slavery, they were clear the institution had to end," Lucy says. "As a Quaker who believes none of us is free until we all are, and that I have a moral prerogative to stand against agencies that abuse fellow humans, I believe we must do more than stand with immigrants as witnesses to their suffering. Abolishing ICE is a first step on that path."

### Communities are seeing some wins

While working to abolish ICE, communities across the country are simultaneously organizing locally to protect people from the agency's abuses.

Numerous reports have documented the negative impacts when local law enforcement collaborates with ICE, which leads to widespread racial profiling, denies immigrants their due process rights, and stokes distrust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. In several states across the country, AFSC is working with communities to stop local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE to round up and detain immigrants.

This March, after years of public pressure, New Jersey's Hudson County ended its controversial partnerships between local law enforcement and ICE. Cities like Newark and Jersey City—where many

residents are foreign-born—have also adopted strong and meaningful policies to not collaborate with ICE.

"I've seen the destruction caused when ICE is allowed to operate unchecked, and I'm proud of the work we've done to protect the rights and lives of all New Jersey residents," says Chia-Chia Wang, advocacy and organizing director of AFSC's Newark Immigrant Rights Program. "Until the federal government stops its relentless persecution of immigrants, it's up to us to provide refuge in whatever ways we can."

On the West Coast, AFSC has played a critical role in the ICE Out of California Coalition, an alliance of more than 150 local, regional, and statewide immigrant rights groups and social justice organizations. The coalition scored a major victory last year with the passage of SB 54, known as the "sanctuary state" bill, which clearly limits how local enforcement collaborates with ICE. Today, AFSC is advising local police departments on policies and practices to ensure they comply with the new law.

"The passage of this bill has been the most concrete work our coalition has done to limit ICE presence in California," Pedro says. "It will help to protect immigrant community members and takes a strong stand against the abhorrent human rights violations taking place in our communities."

### More work to do

Some communities are moving in the opposite direction, passing anti-immigrant bills into law that prohibit municipalities

from limiting collaboration with ICE. AFSC is working with communities in Iowa to mitigate the impact of one such state law.

"It's a badly written law, and it's racist to its core," says Erica Johnson, director of AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in Iowa. "When the bill became law, we heard from people who moved out of the state and went to places they perceived as more welcoming."

AFSC is working to limit the harm of the new law while also continuing to partner with others in pushing for a repeal of the law.

But even in Iowa's current political

**"UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT STOPS ITS RELENTLESS PERSECUTION OF IMMIGRANTS, IT'S UP TO US TO PROVIDE REFUGE IN WHATEVER WAYS WE CAN."**

—CHIA-CHIA WANG



## HOW YOU CAN WORK TO ABOLISH ICE

Visit [afsc.org/abolish-ice](https://afsc.org/abolish-ice) for resources to:

- 1 Urge your members of Congress to defund and dismantle ICE.** Congress holds the purse-strings and can simply stop funding ICE. Or, they could pass legislation to abolish the agency. Learn more about this campaign and sign our petition.
- 2 Help stop ICE wherever we can.** ICE relies on cooperation from local law enforcement to round up and detain immigrants. We can pressure cities, counties, states, and schools to stop helping ICE.
- 3 Support immigrants in our communities.** Some faith communities are offering sanctuary to immigrants in places of worship. By giving to AFSC, you can also support our efforts to provide legal services and know your rights trainings to people who need them.
- 4 Take part in Abolish ICE actions and protests in your community.** Check out our toolkit to download Abolish ICE posters and graphics to share on social media.

climate, Erica has seen how public opinion is shifting and why now is the time call for a deep change, such as abolishing ICE. And she has seen what can happen when people who have no experience with ICE learn about its surveillance and racial profiling and the harms it has inflicted on the immigrant community.

In 2017, immigration enforcement increased by 67 percent in Iowa. And in May of this year, ICE raided a worksite in Erica's hometown of Mount Pleasant.

"People are forced to move from the theoretical, ideological talk-radio

conversations about immigration laws to the reality of what enforcement looks like, because it's happening in our backyards," Erica says. "They see what has happened to local families, schools, economies, and they recognize the injustice. And we can begin to have a conversation."

Like any movement for social change, bringing an end to ICE requires time, hard work, and struggle, notes Kathryn.

Although it's unlikely to advance this election year, legislation has been introduced in Washington, D.C., to abolish ICE. In the meantime, AFSC, partner organizations, and many others will continue to urge Congress to stop abuses by ICE by defunding the agency as well as CBP.

"Even if abolishing ICE isn't possible this year or next, it's important to change the discussion about immigrants and help people push the boundaries of what kind of world we could live in," Kathryn says. "We want to live in a world where members of our communities aren't torn from us and instead all people are treated humanely. Abolishing ICE is one step toward creating that world." ■

AFSC is part of the ICE Out of California Coalition, an alliance of more than 150 groups. Photo: Pedro Rios/AFSC



# MEET AFSC CHANGE MAKERS

AFSC supports many people around the globe who are courageously standing up to injustice. Every year, we recognize just some of these individuals in our “AFSC Change Makers” series. This year, we highlight six women who are working to end violence and make the world a better place, one community at a time. Here are their stories.

 **MORE:** [afsc.org/changemakers](http://afsc.org/changemakers)

It's cruel and inhumane to separate families. I want to see a future where there are no more family separations, where immigrants are welcome and valued, and where everyone has the opportunity to live without fear.



## Pabiola Aguilar

After immigrating to the U.S. in 1999, Pabiola spent most of her days working to support her son and send money to her mother in Mexico. But Pabiola's life changed when one of her relatives was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

As Pabiola searched for ways to free her relative, she met other families in Denver struggling to keep their loved ones from being deported—and she wanted to do more to stop this injustice. She got involved with Not1More, an immigrant-led community group coordinated and supported by AFSC where immigrant families learn about their rights, share strategies to stop deportation, and support each other.

“I joined Not1More because I wanted to make sure people had this information,” Pabiola says. “I don't want anyone else to go through the heartache my family went through for the sole reason of not knowing their rights fully.”

Today, Pabiola works with AFSC staff, volunteers, and partners to plan Not1More meetings, help families develop emergency plans in case someone is detained, and document ICE abuses. “People find some peace knowing they're not alone,” she says.

The Trump administration uses rhetoric to justify surveillance of the Muslim community and racist policies. To end violence against Muslims, we need to change that narrative. Instead of people looking at us as targets out of fear or hatred, we should try to understand each other, celebrate our differences, and build together.



## Ayah Khalifa

As an American Muslim woman and the child of Sudanese immigrants, Ayah was deeply affected by the hateful rhetoric of the last presidential election and the rise in violence against Muslims in the U.S. And when the Trump administration first announced its Muslim ban, Ayah and her family worried they would never see their relatives in Sudan again.

Today Ayah draws on her experiences to facilitate trainings with AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project in North Carolina.

Ayah helps allies understand Islamophobia, how the media perpetuates stereotypes, and how individuals can address misconceptions among family and friends. And she helps create a safe space for Muslims to share their experiences “and become stronger so we can unite on ways to move our community forward.”

Ayah also helped create a discussion series for young Muslims in Greensboro. “It's important to me to get youth involved and to ensure that everybody knows they have a part to play in changing our community,” she says.

As youth, we want to spread the message that we are working to solve conflict and build peace. We are not the problem—we are part of the solution.



## Gregoria Leonor Acevedo Huevo

Every day, Leonor is confronted by the challenges that youth face in El Salvador—violence, harassment by law enforcement, and limited educational and job opportunities. But she also sees the life-saving impact of giving young people a chance to create positive change.

Leonor is a young leader with a micro peace network in Tonacatepeque. Supported by AFSC and partners, the network helps youth hone their leadership and peacebuilding skills, promote understanding among community members, and plan projects to nonviolently address local problems. She has helped organize neighborhood clean-ups and mural paintings, meetings with government officials, and events where community members express themselves through art.

“The network gives youth a space to come up with creative ways to prevent violence,” Leonor says. “They share the skills they learn with parents, friends, and others in their community.”

By working with young people to counter hate, we have an opportunity to stop another genocide from happening, to stop another 2007 election violence from happening. We're talking about generational change.



## Carine Umutoniwase

Carine understands the deadly consequences of prejudice and discrimination. Her parents fled Rwanda in 1994 during the genocide, and they considered Kenya a safe haven until its 2007 election, when hundreds of people were killed in the violence that followed.

When Carine began teaching at a primary school in Mathare-Nairobi, an argument broke out between two students, mainly because they were from different tribes. The incident moved her to consider how she could prevent violence in her community. “It struck me that a 10-year-old kid was already developing a negative mindset against another child simply because of what had been told to him,” she says.

That led Carine to found Footprints for Change, which partners with AFSC and helps young people in Kenya become more civically engaged and develop peacebuilding skills.

Carine is also part of Youth in Action, a global network of youth leaders supported by AFSC, and the Africa Youth Peace Network, which helps youth across Africa strategize on preventing election violence.

Women have been victims of violence for years. It's important for us to show those who haven't found their strength to speak up that it's in all of us.

I want to see a future where women speak what's on their hearts and minds, where prison is designed to help the lost who walk through its doors, and where people see that although we made mistakes, we are not lost causes.



## Tuesday Brauer and Adrienne Kitcheyan

Arizona's Department of Corrections will give women in prison better access to feminine hygiene—thanks to weeks of public pressure that included a viral social media campaign. Adrienne and Tuesday, who've cumulatively spent more than a decade in prison, were leaders in that effort.

Arizona will now provide at least 36 free pads or tampons to incarcerated women every month. The department had previously insisted that 12 pads were enough, putting women in degrading situations. “I remember how hard it was to focus on improving myself when I was thinking about basic needs,” Tuesday says.

Adrienne and Tuesday testified to officials, penned op-eds, and made media appearances, with support from AFSC—putting a human face on an issue that had been ignored for years.

“We all have the power to stand up to the system for what's right,” Adrienne says, “and hopefully empower others, no matter what situation they're in.”



Child in Gaza, where AFSC has worked since 1948. Photo: Mike Merryman-Lotze/AFSC

Earlier this year, the U.S. news media reported on escalating violence in Gaza as tens of thousands of Palestinians began participating in a sustained nonviolent protest known as the Great Return March. Protests continued throughout the summer, and as of this writing, more than 175 Palestinians have been killed and 18,000 more injured by Israeli soldiers.

But while the brutality of the violence has made the news, the conditions in Gaza that compel so many to protest remain largely invisible. And so have people's demands.

These deficits in portrayals of people in Gaza aren't new. When you read news stories about Gaza, you rarely hear about everyday life for the two million Palestinians living under an Israeli-imposed military blockade.

For over a decade, the blockade has restricted essential access to nearly every facet of life in Gaza—health care, travel, employment and education opportunities, and water, electricity, and other basic services.

Last year, AFSC launched its Gaza Unlocked campaign to provide a platform for Palestinians in Gaza to share their stories with the world. Since then, thousands of people have visited our Gaza Unlocked website to read their accounts and find resources to advocate against the blockade.

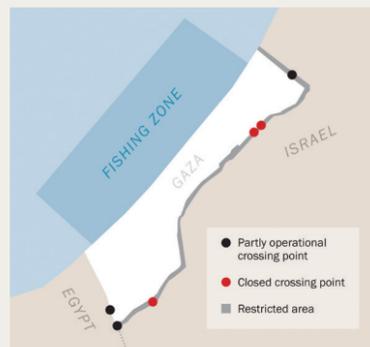
We've also brought our Gaza Unlocked campaign to cities across the U.S. Hundreds of people have attended AFSC speaking tours featuring journalists who cover Gaza, briefings, and other public education events. We've helped thousands of people contact their representatives in Congress, urging them to take steps to help end the blockade. And we've created opportunities for people to share messages of solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza on social media.

Here you'll find a sample of the resources on our Gaza Unlocked website—firsthand stories from Palestinians in Gaza, news about the impacts of the blockade, and opportunities to make a difference.

### WHAT IS THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA?

Israel first imposed the blockade on Gaza in 2006, after Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections. The blockade was tightened the following year, when Hamas took control of Gaza and split from the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Today, the blockade severely limits travel, trade, and everyday life for the nearly two million Palestinians in Gaza. It effectively bans nearly all exports, limits imports, and severely restricts passage in and out of the region.



The results of the blockade have been devastating—so much so that the United Nations has said that Gaza could become uninhabitable by 2020. Today, Palestinians in Gaza don't have reliable access

to clean water, electricity, and many other services. Many hospitals have closed, school hours are limited, and the economy has been destroyed.

The United States bears direct responsibility for the horrific reality in Gaza. U.S. policy officially supports Israel's continued blockade on Gaza, and the U.S. continues to use taxpayer dollars to fund the Israeli military through \$3.8 billion in aid annually.

AFSC joins with many organizations to demand that Congress call for changes in U.S. policy toward Gaza and take steps to end the blockade.

## STORIES FROM GAZA

### ON HEALTH CARE IN GAZA



**Shorouq Hajjar**, Volunteer medic

In 2009, I lost one of my relatives, my aunt. We lost her because we didn't know how to give her first aid after she was injured by an Israeli rocket. This incident did something to my soul. I couldn't help her when she was passing away.

During my first year at the university, I went to the first aid emergency unit at the Red Crescent Society. I told them that I would do volunteer work there to know more about how to help people in emergency situations.

My life in Gaza imposed something on me. I live in very difficult and dangerous situations. I need to be able to deal with all these situations. My humanity means that I need to treat other people who are suffering from injury or other things but don't have a chance to be treated.

One of the things that we learned at the Red Crescent was that you need to be able to treat people from nothing. You have to use your mind. You have to be able to use the little equipment you have. Often during attacks or other situations, you don't have a lot of things that can be used.

### ON ELECTRICITY IN GAZA



**Firas Ramlawi**, AFSC staff member

We have a good relationship with batteries in Gaza. At home we have batteries for our lights. We have a battery for our fridge. We have batteries for hand lights to use in the stairs when the power is out. I bought an extra battery for my computer, and we have spare batteries and chargers for our phones. We spend around \$1,000 per year just on batteries. We can afford this, but how else do you live with only four hours of electricity?

When we sleep, we plug everything in in case the electricity comes on. Then everything will charge. Yesterday the power came on in the middle of the night. My wife got up and started ironing, cooking, doing the wash, and more. She was doing four things at once. It was crazy, but she finished everything. You do what you can when the power is on.

### ON SANITATION IN GAZA



**Osama Khalili**, Head of the Nutrition Department, Palestinian Ministry of Health

This lab analyzes the food and water available in the Gaza market. We also analyze nutrients and contaminants in the soil, mud, and waste water.

Since 2006, the lab and analysis have deteriorated. We have approximately 10 machines in the Israeli ports that are prohibited from entering Gaza for "security reasons." We also have advanced equipment in the Ministry of Health's warehouses in Gaza that we cannot use because the experts who can train us to use them are prohibited from entering Gaza.

Another major hindrance is the prohibition of the chemicals that are needed for our analysis from entering Gaza. This problem puts us at risk for diseases and illnesses that we cannot detect.

The market in Gaza contains many foods that enter through the Egyptian tunnels with no supervision or control. There is general negligence in food factories due to poor control and monitoring. This leads to the use of many carcinogenic items in food. This is shown in the large number of cancer patients in Gaza.

The rockets that were dropped on Gaza during the three last wars also adversely affect the soil and the underground water. During the next few years, they will be the source of cancer and many other diseases in Gaza.

### ON MOVEMENT IN GAZA



**Ezz Al Zanoon**, Photographer

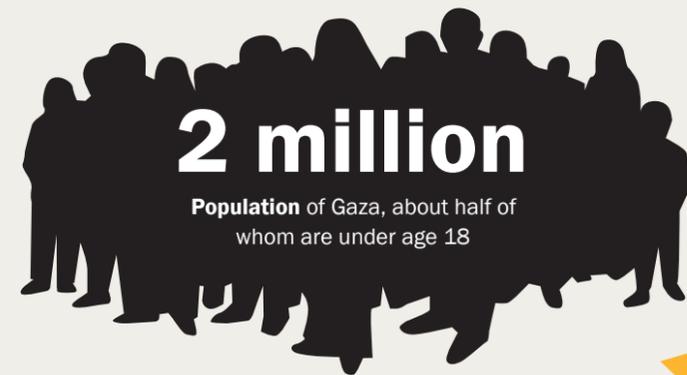
The place we live in is small, extending only 40 kilometers in length. If you try to move beyond the horizon, you run into a wall, a tank, a plane, or a military ship that belongs to the occupation. You can drive from the top of Gaza to its bottom in one hour.

Each person deals with the situation in their own way. Me, I refuse to accept the blockade.

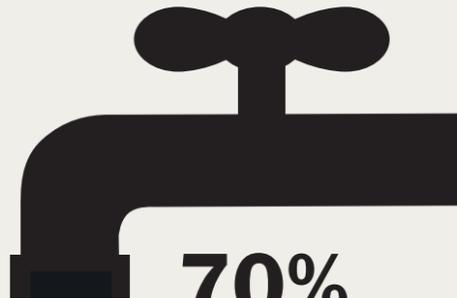
We reject the images of us that are being shown to the world. We are humans. We are proud of our achievements despite the difficult circumstances. We continue to live and fight for a dignified life.

I will photograph life and publish these photos and give the chance to whoever wants to see to learn about life in Gaza. I will publish the reality that exists far from the media spotlight. I will use social media campaigns to reach out to people. I will break the blockade, and I will live.

## GAZA BY THE NUMBERS



**80%**  
Households receiving some form of **food assistance**



**70%**

Households with access to **running water**.  
Water is available for only six to eight hours once every three to five days.



**108 million**

Liters of untreated or partially treated **sewage**, equivalent to 43 Olympic swimming pools, dumped into the sea off Gaza daily.

Source: United Nations



Last year, AFSC helped convene people from across Africa to discuss ways to prevent election violence. Photo: George Mimano

### WHERE I STAND

# Ending election violence will take leadership

BY KENNEDY AKOLO

As one of the world's longest continuing democracies, the United States is a global symbol of democratic principles and processes. In my home country of Kenya and many other places in Africa, people look to the U.S. for indicators of what a democracy should aspire to—and what political behavior is acceptable.

So when Donald Trump, acting as president and chief spokesperson for the United States, dismisses Africa with an expletive, and when he calls journalists “fake news” and shows little concern for free, fair, and accurate elections, that ripples around the world.

I'll give you an example. We had elections last year in Kenya. The initial results were nullified by the Supreme Court, and a second round of elections were held a couple of months later. During that upheaval, the Kenyan government shut down three mainstream media outlets. When the opposition leader swore himself in as the people's president, the media were not there to report on

it. When disproportionate force was used against people protesting in the streets, and people died as a result, no journalists were present. In fact, the media was shut down precisely to avoid coverage of those events.

In the past, the U.S. would have immediately called on Kenya to lift its media ban. This time, it took two weeks. Clearly, people in positions of power made a calculation that a president who is obsessed with “fake news” would not call them out for interfering with press freedoms—at least not with speed or credibility.

And that makes AFSC's ongoing work to prevent electoral

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### ► Educate yourself.

At [gazaunlocked.org](http://gazaunlocked.org), you can learn about the issues facing Palestinians in Gaza and read their firsthand accounts, check out our blog, and listen to our new podcast focused on Palestinian culture, history, and politics.

### ► Engage others.

Find tools to support your activism, including social media graphics and messaging tips to have conversations about Gaza at [gazaunlocked.org/resources](http://gazaunlocked.org/resources).

### ► Contact Congress.

Email your representatives and urge them to take action to end the blockade at [afsc.org/endtheblockade](http://afsc.org/endtheblockade).



Young people are key leaders in working to end election violence in Africa. Photo: George Mimano

violence in countries like Kenya, Zimbabwe, Burundi, and Somalia all the more important. Like a lot of our international programs, these programs stand up for principles of nonviolence, equality, and the common good—and offer a practical way forward for improving conditions with community involvement.

Of course, every country has its own unique culture and circumstances. As AFSC's regional director in Africa, I help ensure that our programs are shaped appropriately for different contexts and needs. But I also see some common threads—for example that when enough underlying issues are swept under the carpet, it only takes a small spark to ignite a conflict, even in relatively peaceful countries.

That's why AFSC commissioned a study, released in July, called "Shared security, shared elections: Best practices for the prevention of electoral violence." Through a review of existing research and interviews with peace practitioners, we set out to identify what makes violence more likely in some electoral processes—and what facilitates peaceful elections.

We found that people are more willing to perpetrate violence in support of their preferred candidates when resources are distributed as a reward for political

## AFSC supports programs that stand up for principles of nonviolence, equality, and the common good—and offer a practical way forward for improving conditions with community involvement.

loyalty instead of through nonpartisan institutions. Weak electoral management bodies can prime people to question the credibility of elections. And unresolved societal issues contribute, too—especially when politicians exploit divisions by framing those issues along ethnic lines.

But we also discovered ways to make elections safer. Organizations like ours can do more by working in strong coalitions—something AFSC excels at. Those

coalitions do well to share information, such as where violence is erupting and which successful interventions could be replicated. Engaging politicians and state agencies in maintaining peace is important, too, including asking them to train police forces to de-escalate—and not respond with force to—tensions among protestors or rival parties.

Most importantly, we can tie our efforts to long-term peacebuilding strategies that address underlying tensions and needs, including programming specifically designed for youth and others most at risk when elections become violent.

AFSC works to set the stage for peaceful elections when we offer ongoing vocational training to more than 3,000 unemployed youth in Somalia and Zimbabwe, as we did last year. We contribute further with shorter term peacebuilding activities that reach more than 4,000 young people annually—some of whom followed up by helping warring parties nonviolently resolve a boundary dispute in one small town in Somalia a couple of years ago.

We support post-conflict healing and reconciliation among refugees in camps where whole generations have grown up without knowing their country from which their parents came. We work with people displaced by past election violence learning to live together for the first time. We have even helped ex-combatants reintegrate into communities.

Beyond all of that, we routinely host international Dialogue and Exchange Programs that bring people together to share perspectives and develop their capacities to strengthen institutions and mitigate conflict. President Trump might be interested to know that we even held one last year for members of the media, to help them consider best practices for reporting truthfully without contributing to conflict escalation.

The AFSC community, by supporting our programs in Africa, is doing its part to uphold democratic principles, support nonviolent conflict resolution, and work for free and fair elections. It's time for more politicians to do the same. ■



SNAPSHOT

## A look at AFSC around the world

Beto Ortiz-Silva and Douglas Juárez, two AFSC staff members who work for migrant rights in the U.S. and Latin America. Photo: Pedro Rios/AFSC



Left to right, top to bottom:

1. Iowa immigrant rights protest; Des Moines, Iowa
2. Liberation Summer; New York City
3. Ever After event with Common Justice; Arizona
4. AFSC's Adrianna Jasso at the border wall; San Diego
5. March for immigrant justice; New Hampshire
6. Fundraiser for AFSC, Palestine Legal, and Jewish Voice for Peace; Chicago
7. AFSC's Jennifer Bing and Dalit Baum; Austin, Texas
8. Peace by Piece program; New Orleans
9. Hopley Farm project; Zimbabwe
10. Poor People's Campaign; Des Moines, Iowa
11. Social Justice Leadership Institute; Philadelphia
12. Liberation Summer camp; New York City

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, AFSC/New York, Becca Fealk and Joe Watson/AFSC Arizona, Pedro Rios/AFSC, Arnie Alpert/AFSC, Jon Krieg/AFSC, AFSC, Nathaniel Doubleday/AFSC, Kingston Musanhu / Media Zone, Jon Krieg/AFSC, AFSC/Philadelphia, AFSC/New York



American Friends  
Service Committee

# Quaker Action

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403  
afsc.org

FALL 2018  
VOLUME 99, NUMBER 3

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
American Friends  
Service Committee

Rally for immigrant rights.  
Photo: Jon Krieg/AFSC



# Do you need reliable retirement income?

## AFSC Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

AGE	RATE*
60	4.7%
70	5.6
80	7.3
90+	9.5

As you may have heard, charitable gift annuity rates have recently gone up! Request your personalized illustration today to see how you can receive fixed income for life while supporting AFSC's work for peace and justice.

To learn more, call Alyssa Chatten at **888-588-2372**, email **GiftPlanning@afsc.org**, or visit us at **afsc.org/lifeincome**.

*\*Rates are for an individual. Contact us to discuss rates for a joint annuity.*