



AFSC West Region News – June 2021

Highlights of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. We look forward to connecting with you regarding our shared work for peace and justice. Thanks for your interest and support; please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.



Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Momentum builds to end police militarization

On a recent [AFSC Facebook Live](#), Ristad Fellow Nathaniel Phillips (above, left) and CA Healing Justice program co-director John Lindsay-Poland said that new legislation and the tireless work by AFSC and partners have the potential to curb the militarized policing of low-income and communities of color. Watch this [press conference](#) in advance of the Oakland Public Safety Committee's unanimous approval of a local ordinance on militarized equipment used by police, and this AFSC Community Safety Beyond Policing [webinar](#) on stopping police militarization.

Founded in 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is an international Quaker organization that works on many social justice issues, including immigration, mass incarceration, youth civic engagement, and human rights in Palestine/Israel. With programs in 24 states and 15 countries, AFSC engages communities experiencing marginalization in the pursuit of shared security, based not on arms or coercion, but rather on creative nonviolence, sustainable economics and respect for all peoples.



VISION ACT

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

California Assembly votes to end ICE transfers, keep families intact

Adriana Jasso of AFSC shares the good news of the California Assembly's [passage](#) of the Vision Act. AFSC and over 90 partner organizations said the bill would end the “double-punishment” of immigrant Californians and set a national model for addressing racial inequities at the intersection of mass incarceration and deportation. The bill now heads to the State Senate for consideration. Learn [more](#).

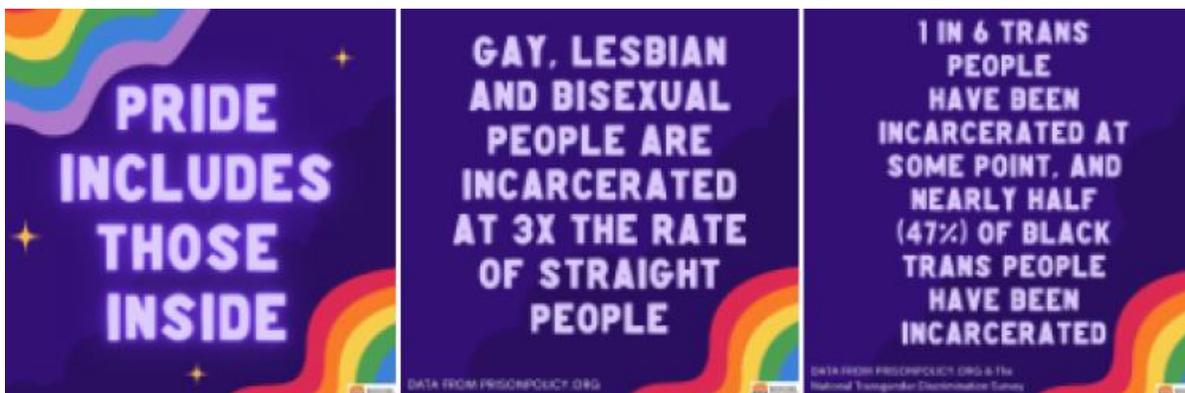


art by [@town_jackieg](#)

67 Sueños, Oakland

Young warriors rule the world!

From [Instagram](#): “With so many issues that create division, children are able to speak wisdom, resilience and unity across borders. Sin fronteras y más poder para la unidad. The artist is our very own, 67-grown [@town_jackieg](#). Go follow, support, and give some love to their art page [@town_creations](#).”



Arizona Program, Tucson

During Pride Month, lifting up LGBTQ issues of incarceration

AFSC Arizona encourages people to check out the Prison Policy Initiative's [research](#) on the unequal treatment of LGBTQ in the criminal punishment system. In other news: Becca Fealk of AFSC is quoted on the [high costs of private prisons](#) and Arizona's plans to bring back the [gas chamber](#) for upcoming executions: "State leaders and the department of corrections really need to be asking, 'Should we go to such extreme measures to kill someone?' Is this actually justice, and is this keeping us safe?"



Economic Activism Program, Oakland

A new Human Rights Investment Screen for AFSC

The AFSC Board recently adopted a groundbreaking new human rights screen for its revised [investment policy](#). As far as we know, AFSC is now the first institution with a comprehensive immigrant justice investment policy; with a decision to divest from the prison industrial complex as a whole, not just from private prison companies; and with a policy that addresses Israeli apartheid. You can check your own investment portfolio using [Investigate](#). As part of our work to support Palestinian rights using Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS), we continue [calling on General Mills](#) to stop production of Pillsbury products in an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory. Pillsbury family members have [joined the boycott](#) of the brand that bears their name. What can you do to support the Palestinian call for BDS? Here are [some suggestions](#).

Unions Yes!! | Exploitation No!



photo: David Bacon

Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Opposing the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA)

AFSC and nine other California organizations with a long history of working with farmworkers recently met with staff of U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla to urge him to vote “no” on the FWMA. Myrna Martinez Nateras of AFSC [writes](#) that the bill, among other things, would expand the H2-A program, which has a long history of exploiting farmworkers and reinforcing low wages. In addition, the bill does not afford farmworkers the right to organize.



Young people in New Mexico “Give Peas a Chance.” (Photo: AFSC NM)

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Give Peas a Chance

“Currently it’s sweet pea season in New Mexico, so AFSC created ‘Give Peas a Chance,’ our fourth healthy food campaign,” [writes](#) Sayrah Namaste. “AFSC brings free, organic peas to Head Start and other preschools serving low-income children, along with activity guides that focus on vegetables, growing food and healthy eating.” According to one teacher, “The children loved eating the peas, and staff enjoyed the connection with local growers.”



Fast for Freedom launch at the Colorado Statehouse

Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

Fast for Freedom promotes Citizenship for All

Jennifer Piper of AFSC has been working with leaders of the Not1More Deportation Table to launch the [Fast for Freedom](#), a national campaign to demonstrate that immigrants are essential and that we need Citizenship for All. Learn more from this [AFSC Facebook Live](#) with Piper and Maria Rojas of Together Colorado, and check out this [video](#) from the launch rally in Denver.



Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington

Lifting up the story of a survivor of torture in Guatemala

On [Facebook](#), Pedro Sosa of AFSC recommends Don Emeterio Toj's narration of his torture at the hands of the Guatemala army and government in the 70s and 80s. Don Emeterio was among thousands who were kidnapped, disappeared, tortured and killed by the government of Guatemala. "It's important to read this work that narrates a part of the atrocities of the 36 years of war in Guatemala," Pedro says.



From LA Roots for Peace on [Instagram](#)

Roots for Peace (R4P) Program, Los Angeles

Community care first: Following Measure J through implementation

Crystal Gonzalez of AFSC writes that last November, LA County voters approved Measure J, which allocates at least 10% of the County's locally generated, unrestricted funding to address racial injustice through decarceration and community care. The victory is a testament to the work of generations of abolitionists who have long called for shutting down jails and increasing investment in their communities.

For over a year, AFSC staff and youth have been involved in the [Reimagine LA Coalition](#) and the measure J community advising process. In May, they supported the submittal of budget recommendations and participated in public comment for Year One (FY 22) implementation of Measure J. Staff and youth are calling for funds to go towards youth services, youth organizing programs, and the creation of economic opportunities through urban farming.

Short takes

AFSC has joined more than 150 other organizations in [calling](#) upon the Biden Administration to end solitary confinement....Stay tuned for these upcoming AFSC events: [Community Safety Beyond Policing](#) (CSBP) webinar on July 8 and [Gaza Fights for Freedom](#) film screening and conversation on July 11. Stay active by visiting AFSC's [Get Involved page](#) for action alerts and upcoming events.

Your support matters

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