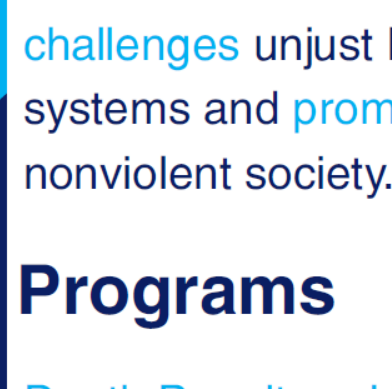




Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

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513.579.8547
IJPCcincinnati.org

Mission

IJPC educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national, and global systems and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society.

Programs

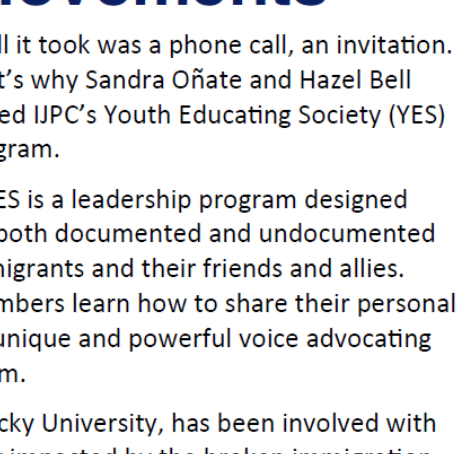
- Death Penalty
- Human Trafficking
- Immigration
- Peace & Nonviolence

Our Team

*With gratitude for our former staff, volunteers, and board leaders

Staff

- Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW
Executive Director
- Ed Aug, *Accountant*
- Jessie Frank, *Program Manager*
- Hayley Huge, *Operations Manager*
- Sandra Ramirez, *Immigration Program Organizer*
- Samantha Searls, MSW, *Program Manager*
- *Mary Ellen Huss, *Operations Manager*
- *Andrea Koverman, SC, *Program Manager*



L to R: Samantha, Hayley, Sandra, Jessie, and Allison

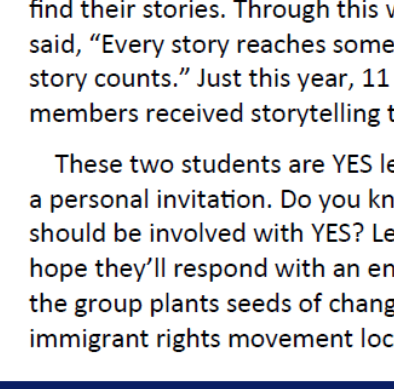
Board of Directors

- Nick Caprino, *Chair*
- Kay Brogle, *Vice Chair*
- Wes Ernst, *Treasurer*
- Linda Davis, *Secretary*
- Esther Claros Berlioz
- Lucienne Driehaus
- Shannon Hughes
- Jeff Hutchinson-Smyth
- Marge Wissman, RSM
- *Carren Herring, OSF
- *Louise Lears, SC
- *Cassie Niemann
- *Tim Zofkie

Volunteers & Interns

- *Lauren Bailey, Xavier University
- *Kendra Cashman, Xavier University
- *Will Compton
- *Gabe Cripe
- *Donald Foley, Xavier University
- *Sami Hausserman, Miami University
- *Josh Jerabeck, Xavier University
- *Kendra Niese, Indiana University
- *Preet Patel, Miami University
- *Madison Ramba, Miami University
- *Jennifer Sens, Mercy Volunteer Corps

Building Movements



Sandra facilitates an activity outside Peaslee at a YES meeting

All it took was a phone call, an invitation. That's why Sandra Oñate and Hazel Bell joined IJPC's Youth Educating Society (YES) Program.

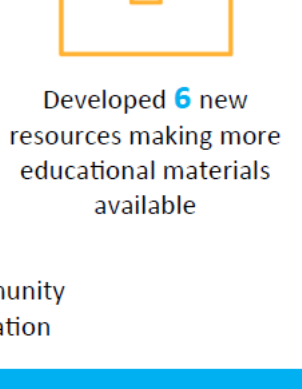
YES is a leadership program designed for both documented and undocumented immigrants and their friends and allies. Members learn how to share their personal immigration experiences to create a unique and powerful voice advocating for comprehensive immigration reform.

Sandra, a senior at Northern Kentucky University, has been involved with YES since 2015 because she is directly impacted by the broken immigration system. "My health was the reason why I immigrated to the U.S....It has become part of my identity to give purpose to the issue through advocacy work by sharing my own story." When DACA was rescinded by the Trump Administration in 2017, Sandra and other DACA recipients rallied to advocate for a long term solution to a temporary fix. In sharing their stories, YES members help the issue come alive for people in Greater Cincinnati who don't understand the plight of the immigrant community. With graduation on the horizon, Sandra considers the future of YES and the need to continue working for reform in this movement. She believes, "We are capable of changing the fate of the system."

Hazel joined after hearing the story of a YES member who spoke in their high school class. YES sounded interesting, especially for someone who was already "passionate about immigration." Hazel is now a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati and as an ally in the immigration rights movement, Hazel works to illustrate personal impact:

"I wouldn't be here if it weren't for my great-grandparents immigrating to the United States. Europe has always been a dangerous place for Jews, but in the early 1900s the danger started growing, and eventually they were forced to leave...I see [my story] reflected in the stories of migrants at the southern border - many people flee their home countries in Central and South America because they face death otherwise. I was blessed with the privilege of a long history in this country, and I'm proud of my ancestors who made it happen; I want others to have that same privilege."

Sandra and Hazel are both part of the YES advisory board. Sandra is a Campaign Coordinator as YES takes on the systemic change. Hazel works on Personal Narratives, helping other YES members find their stories. Through this work, Hazel has said, "Every story reaches someone, and every story counts." Just this year, 11 more YES members received storytelling training.



Hazel shares updates with members at a YES meeting

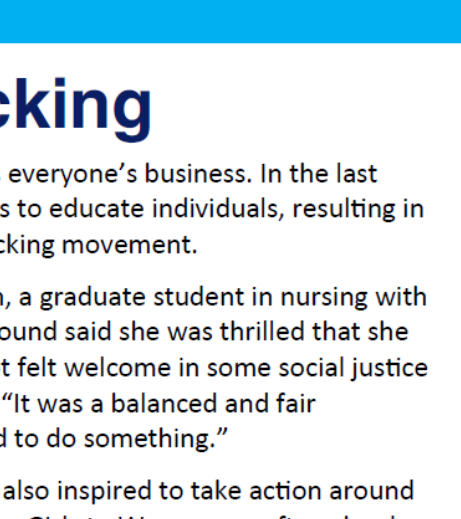
These two students are YES leaders because of their involvement. Do you know someone who should be involved with YES? Let us know! We hope they'll respond with an enthusiastic 'YES' as the group plants seeds of change to grow the immigrant rights movement locally and nationally.

Financials

IJPC thanks the many individuals, organizations, and faith communities whose support makes it possible to continue our work for justice through systemic change.

Income: \$267,107

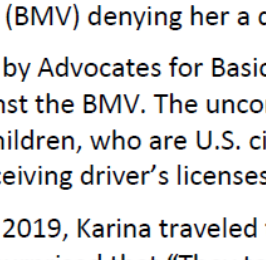
Expense: \$257,468



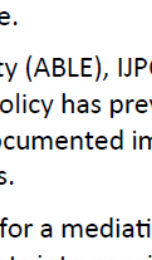
With gratitude for grants provided from: Congregation of St. Joseph's Generous Heritage Fund, CPPS Heritage Mission Fund, Dominican Sisters of Hope Ministry Fund, The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr/ U.S. Bank Foundation, and the SC Ministry Foundation

IJPC Funding Sponsors: Congregation of St. Joseph, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg
IJPC Sponsors: Anawim Community, Bellarmine Chapel, Cincinnati Friends Meeting, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Comboni Missionaries, Congregation of Divine Providence, Dominican Sisters of Hope, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Franciscans - St. John the Baptist Province, Glenmary Home Missionaries, Institute of Secular Missionaries, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church, New Jerusalem Community, Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington, Ursulines of Brown County, Ursulines of Cincinnati, and St. John Unitarian Universalist Church

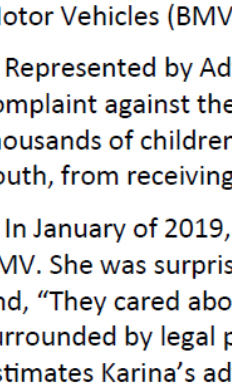
By the Numbers



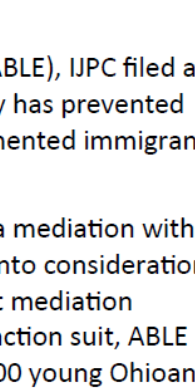
Interns, volunteers, and board leaders gave **1,745** hours of their time



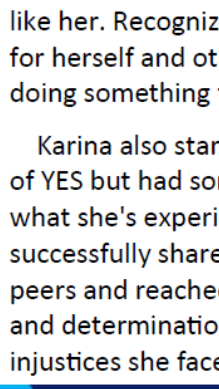
575 individuals gave to IJPC, supporting **40%** of IJPC's annual budget



Collected **134** comments to oppose the harmful anti-immigrant public charge policy



Developed **6** new educational materials available



Across our 4 programs, **2,104** community members attended an IJPC presentation

Death Penalty

Ohio executes people with serious mental illnesses. IJPC is working to end that.

Within the last five years, three versions of legislation have been introduced to prohibit those with a serious mental health illness (SMI) at the time of an offense from being sentenced to death. Instead, such offenders would be sentenced to life in prison. The bill also would allow individuals already on death row, who can prove they had a serious mental illness at the time of committing the original offense, to be re-sentenced.

Systemic change is a long process, and it hinges on the dedication of advocates who are persistent and outspoken. Much of our energy is rooted in one another, and over the past year, IJPC is grateful for collaboration with statewide organizations, local community members, and college students who come to realize, "The criminal justice system is messed up."



L to R: Allison Reynolds-Berry, Sr. Louise Lears, SC, Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, Lauren Bailey, Jessie Frank

It took almost two years for the SMI bill to receive any serious attention in the House during the last General Assembly. But, during this session, it passed the House within the first 6 months. Though it's a small victory, we must celebrate these strides and stay hopeful that our society will stop killing the most vulnerable among us.

Human Trafficking

Working to end human trafficking is everyone's business. In the last year, IJPC entered some unique spaces to educate individuals, resulting in many new advocates in the anti-trafficking movement.

After attending an IJPC presentation, a graduate student in nursing with a more politically conservative background said she was thrilled that she found the event she hosted, having not felt welcome in some social justice presentations previously. She shared, "It was a balanced and fair explanation of the issue. I feel inspired to do something."

Similarly, a group of teen girls were also inspired to take action around the issue. IJPC worked with their group, Girls to Women, an afterschool leadership program, to organize a rally on Fountain Square to raise awareness about sex trafficking.

Additionally, an architecture firm asked for a presentation on labor trafficking within the construction industry. The owner of the firm was shocked to know his architect could have witnessed trafficking without knowing it. They now have the tools to identify and report labor trafficking.

Samantha Searls with members of Girls to Women on Fountain Square

Immigration

Karina is a member of Youth Educating Society (YES) and one of the people directly affected by a discriminatory policy of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) denying her a driver's license.

Represented by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), IJPC filed a complaint against the BMV. The unconstitutional policy has prevented thousands of children, who are U.S. citizens and documented immigrant youth, from receiving driver's licenses and state IDs.

In January of 2019, Karina traveled to Columbus for a mediation with the BMV. She was surprised that "They took my thoughts into consideration," and, "They cared about what I was saying," throughout mediation surrounded by legal professionals. Since this is a class action suit, ABLE estimates Karina's advocacy could help as many as 3,000 young Ohioans like her. Recognizing her own power in advocating for herself and others, Karina said, "I'm 17 and I'm doing something that impacts other people!"

Karina shares about the challenges of not having a driver's license

Karina also started sharing her story on behalf of YES but had some trouble putting words to what she's experienced. In March, she successfully shared her story with her high school peers and reached a breakthrough in confidence and determination to let everyone know of the injustices she faced.

Peace & Nonviolence

When the NonViolence Alliance of Greater Cincinnati (NVA) formed in the fall of 2017, its aim was to imagine, practice, and promote a nonviolent community by working toward solidarity with individuals and organizations to dismantle structures of violence. In order to attain such a lofty vision, we knew we'd need to build a broad coalition of peace partners from a wide range of backgrounds and skills.

With the advent of our Peace Builders' Potlucks, NVA has begun that building process by bringing together a diverse group of people to learn, discuss, and share a meal. Held in partnership with SOS Art, the quarterly potlucks connect issues to people, and people to each other. After attending the April potluck, one guest said, "It was good to go around and hear about each person in the whole group. [It] shows compassion, people talking together about what they are doing."

Acknowledging that so many of us strive for peace-- within ourselves or regarding specific structural violence-- potlucks provide space to share struggles and victories with strangers and friends. Whether the conversations last only a few minutes or carry on for years to come, the Peace Builders Potlucks facilitate the foundation building work that is key to growing any movement.

April's Peace Builders' Potluck featured a guest speaker on climate change

Join the conversation!

Go online to sign up for issue specific email lists and be part of the discussions and advocacy for peace and justice this year.

