



# Summer 2021 Issues

## A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Published Aug 17, 2021

### Faith Communities United in Death Penalty Abolition

By - Bekky Baker, Program Manager

The #NoDeathPenaltyOH coalition has been building momentum. Through team building efforts, a week of action was planned, called Death Penalty Abolition Week for Ohio Faith Communities. From October 8th to October 17th, faith communities across Ohio are invited to join their voices in a week of action to support abolishing the death penalty. Actions include public displays of support, bulletin inserts, writing letters to your legislators, and inclusion in a sermon, to name a few. The goal is to have one action in each of Ohio's 88 counties, showing unity in ending state vengeance.



No death penalty statute has been overturned without the backing of the faith community. It has been inspiring and rewarding to meet with faith leaders biweekly to watch connections grow in this ecumenical campaign. Faith leaders and faith community members have an important voice in this campaign. As teachers of forgiveness, people of faith are called to see the human first and to share in our interconnectedness. With bipartisan support, Ohio has never been this close to death penalty abolition. Stand with us as we refuse to be part of sentencing our fellow neighbors to death.

To register and learn more visit [bit.ly/DPAbolitionFaithWeek](https://bit.ly/DPAbolitionFaithWeek).

### Turning Up the Heat for Citizenship

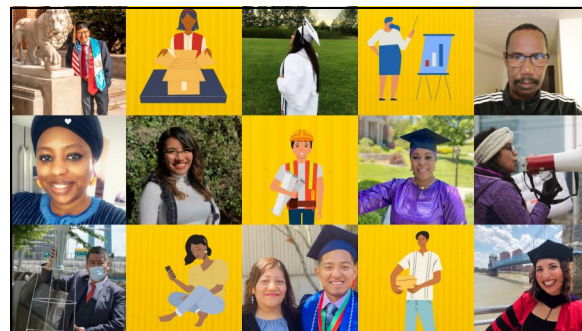
By - Samantha Searls, Program Manager

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Immigrant Dignity Coalition has been working to put pressure on our Senators to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented families. Each week, leaders from the Coalition have curated an action alert email complete with talking points, call scripts, and local stories tailored to the theme of the week.

We've lifted up the 5 million essential workers, like Alejandra, who put themselves at risk to keep us safe, even though they didn't have access to citizenship. We shared Amadou, Awa, and Sally's stories to talk about the unique challenges facing the undocumented African community. We talked about undocumented business owners like Horacio who provide jobs for U.S. citizens.

Over the first 11 weeks of this campaign, there have been nearly 40 volunteers from 17 different organizations who've donated their time to get this campaign off the ground. Of those volunteers, 73% were leaders from the immigrant community. So far we've shared 15 stories representing 6 different countries, all living in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area.

The Summer Campaign of Citizenship for All illustrates how impactful it is to make campaign meetings bilingual, so those directly affected by



*Thank you to the community members who shared their stories for our Summer Campaign of Citizenship for All.*

immigration issues can freely speak in their native language and help shape the campaign. There's been Zoom meetings on weekends, late night text messages, and even living room conversations to make sure everyone could be involved in the campaign.

Congress has solutions within their reach. Participating in campaigns like these will put us on the path to victory, together.

## A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

There are a lot of new faces at IJPC as we welcome new staff and board leaders to join us in our mission. This summer, Bekky Baker began as our new Program Manager for death penalty and peace & nonviolence. She has hit the ground running with the #NoDeathPenaltyOH campaign organizing folks in Southern Ohio and faith leaders across the state in support of death penalty repeal bills SB 103 and HB 183. She has been working to connect 1:1 with many of the members of our peace and nonviolence programming including Rethinking Racism. We look forward to releasing Race and Racism in Cincinnati: A 3-Part Docuseries this fall.



Karina Cabrera joins IJPC as the new YES Coordinator and brings with her a wealth of experience and passion for immigrant justice having been a member of the YES Advisory Board and using her voice as part of the lawsuit against the Ohio BMV.

This fall, we also welcome our inaugural IJPC S. Louise Akers Fellow through the Mercy Volunteer Corps! Naomi Gonzalez will be working to create a Certificate in Peace Promotion for those of us in Greater Cincinnati to be trained in a variety of nonviolence skills.

Finally, we were thrilled to welcome four new board leaders - Meredith Bruno, Roseann Hassey, Krishna Mahadevan, and Inma Sumaita as we bring new skills, insights, and networks to the organization. Welcome, all!

As we strive to find ways to stay connected, we look forward to joining together for IJPC's 2021 Annual Gathering, The Art of Justice: Creative Visions for Peace, on Thursday, November 11. We will also honor the work of local peace builders through the IJPC Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award and the commitment of a young adult through our inaugural IJPC Youth Justice Award. Visit <https://ijpccincinnati.org/artofjustice/> to nominate someone by 9/3, and for all event details moving forward. We hope you'll join us!

Thank you for remaining connected to IJPC as the issues about which we care most deeply continue to face deep systemic challenges and profound needs.

Peace,

## Upcoming Events

For more information and to register visit [www.IJPCcincinnati.org/events](http://www.IJPCcincinnati.org/events)

Aug 25, 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
**Immigrant Dignity Coalition Meeting**  
Online - Registration Required

Aug 25, 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
**#NoDeathPenaltyOH Southern Ohio Organizing Meeting**  
Online - Registration Required

Sept 13, 9:30 - 10:30 AM  
**Human Trafficking Public Education and Awareness Committee Meeting**  
Online - Registration Required

Sept 13, 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
**Anti-Death Penalty Committee Meeting**  
Online - Registration Required

Oct 8-17  
**Death Penalty Abolition Week for Ohio Faith Communities**  
Online - Registration Required

Oct 19, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
**Death Penalty Lobby Day**  
Online - Registration Required

### Founding Sponsors:

Congregation of St. Joseph  
Sisters of Charity  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg

### 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 Missioners  
Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church  
Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church  
Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington  
New Jerusalem Community  
St John Unitarian Universalist Church  
Ursulines of Brown County  
Ursulines of Cincinnati

### Staff:

Bekky Baker, MSW  
*Program Manger*

Karina Cabrera  
*YES Coordinator*

Hayley Huge  
*Operations Manager*

Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW  
*Executive Director*

Samantha Searls, MSW  
*Program Manager*

### Board of Directors:

Kay Brogle  
Meredith Bruno  
Nick Caprino  
Mark (Zeek) Childers, *Treasurer*  
Linda Davis, *Secretary*  
Lucienne Driehaus  
Roseanne Hassey  
Michael Howard II  
Shannon Hughes, *Chair*  
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Brad King  
Marge Kloos, SC  
Krishna Mahadevan  
Robert Sanker  
Inma Sumaita

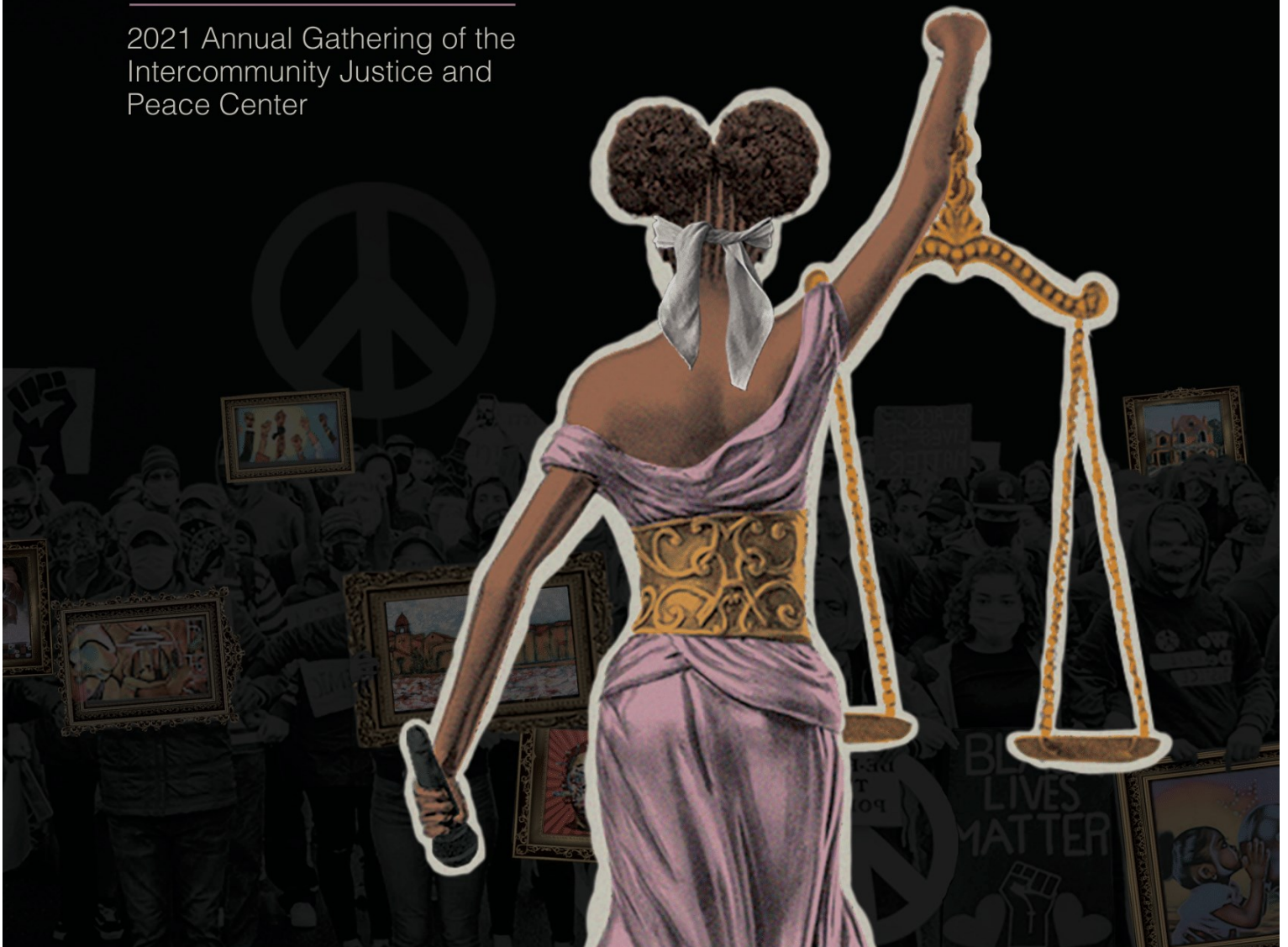


THURSDAY  
**11**  
NOVEMBER

Woodward  
Theater

# THE *Art* OF JUSTICE: Creative Visions for *peace*

2021 Annual Gathering of the  
Intercommunity Justice and  
Peace Center



Tickets coming soon. More details available at [IJPCincinnati.org/ArtOfJustice](https://ijpcincinnati.org/ArtOfJustice)

# Expungement for Labor Trafficking Survivors

By - Tanner Hensley, MSW Intern

This summer IJPC and End Slavery Cincinnati participated in a “Virtual Day at the Statehouse.” Our goal was to educate our Ohio legislators on the issue of labor trafficking and encourage them to take action.

We began by offering a presentation on labor trafficking where all legislators were invited to attend. Then, we met 1-on-1 with legislators including Representatives Ingram (D-32), Denson (D-33), and Gross (R-52), and Senators Fedor (D-11) and Antonio (D-23), to help them gain an understanding of the issue, and discuss how the work they're already doing could intersect with labor

trafficking. For example, for those legislators working on criminal justice reform, we talked about the unique legal issues survivors of trafficking face and how expungement bills, like SB 183, could give them a fresh start.

Expungement is the legal process of destroying, cancelling, or erasing a record of crime, in this case, crimes someone was forced to commit while being trafficked. IJPC has been hard at work examining SB 183: The Enact Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act.

This bill expands upon already existing law that allows survivors of human trafficking to be eligible for expungement.

Currently survivors must have a charge of soliciting, loitering, or prostitution in order to even begin the process of expungement. SB 183 helps to remove those offenses as a means of eligibility, which opens the door for survivors of labor trafficking.

Survivors deserve a clearer and more direct path to access services and enacting easier access to expungement is a step in the right direction. Ohio has started to make landmark moves when it comes to anti-human trafficking law. It is important to continuously meet with, speak to, and send letters to our representatives to ensure we all remain on the same page and move forward in making our society just.

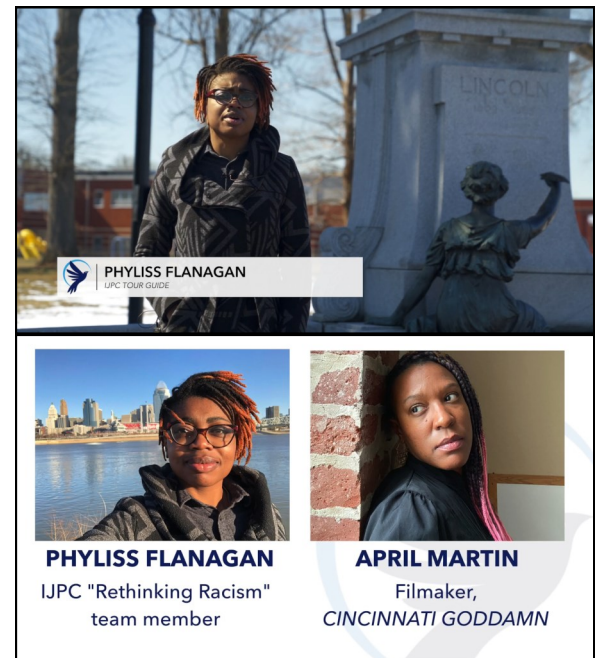
# Race and Racism in Cincinnati: Video Tour Coming Soon

By - Bekky Baker, Program Manager

Since joining IJPC's staff, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with our Rethinking Racism team, a group of unique and insightful people. It is exciting to be part of showcasing some of their great work through our docuseries, Race and Racism in Cincinnati. This culmination of work was driven by the bus tour and resulted in three videos that are thorough, engaging, and eye opening.

Following Ohio's historical timeline, the first video explores Cincinnati's connections to slavery, neighborhood development, and Ohio Black Laws. Education and housing discrimination are centered in the second video with a special spotlight on Lincoln Heights, the first black self-governing community north of the Mason-Dixon line. Lastly, we explore the Civil Rights Movement through modern day Cincinnati social justice movements by examining police brutality and the criminal justice system through the voices of Cincinnati Black leaders.

In conversations I have had with IJPC partners, violence and the ways it seeps into our lives has come up frequently. Racism is an especially durable form of violence that comes in many forms, whether it is lack of access to resources, creating mental health disparities, mass incarceration, or contributing to infant mortality rate. These videos shed light on our community's history of racism so that we may begin to acknowledge and work towards peace. Our nation is on a wheel of repetition when it comes to eradicating racism and the voices in these



videos show our pitfalls and highlight where change can blossom.

For updates on showings, continue to check our events page. To request a viewing for a group or organization, please email Bekky Baker at [bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org).

## Welcome new IJPC Staff!



**Bekky Baker, MSW**  
*Program Manager, Death  
Penalty + Peace and  
Nonviolence*

Bekky joins IJPC after spending time working on issues of food access and childhood education. She graduated from Ohio University with a

bachelors in Journalism and minors in Environmental Studies and Geography and received her Masters in Social Work from the University of South Carolina.

Bekky is passionate about the power of relationships and community building. In her first couple of months, Bekky has been jumping into death penalty abolition work, meeting with peace and nonviolence committees, and getting to know the people that make IJPC special.

Bekky can be reached at [Bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org).



**Karina Cabrera**  
*YES Coordinator*

Karina Cabrera comes from a mixed status family; she was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. In the late 1990's Karina's parents immigrated from Veracruz, Mexico. From the age of six, Karina was attending rallies and watching her mother advocate for workers rights.

She previously attended Roger Bacon High School and will be continuing her education at The University of Cincinnati for Criminal Justice. Karina joined the Advisory Board of Youth Educating Society in 2017.

Karina is very excited to be the YES Coordinator and work on educating the community on issues that affect her life.

Karina can be reached at [Karina@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Karina@IJPCcincinnati.org).

## Request a Presentation from IJPC

IJPC is proud to offer educational presentations, in-person and virtual, on our issues for classrooms, congregations, and other groups seeking to learn more.

To request a presentation, please email our Program Managers:

**Bekky Baker**, Death Penalty + Peace and Nonviolence - [Bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org)  
**Samantha Searls**, Immigration + Human Trafficking - [Samantha@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Samantha@IJPCcincinnati.org)

## Can we get your number?

Text "IJPC" to 1-844-403-2211 to join our text list.

We'll only text you the most important updates and news. You can even customize your subscription by issue area!



## IT Volunteers Needed

IJPC is looking for a small team of volunteers who can help with IT needs when they arise. The team would offer advice and recommendations for new purchases, website support, and how to keep IJPC's technology safe and up to date. If you're interested in helping, please email [Allison@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Allison@IJPCcincinnati.org).



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Contact: [info@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:info@IJPCcincinnati.org) to join our e-mail list to receive this newsletter online instead.

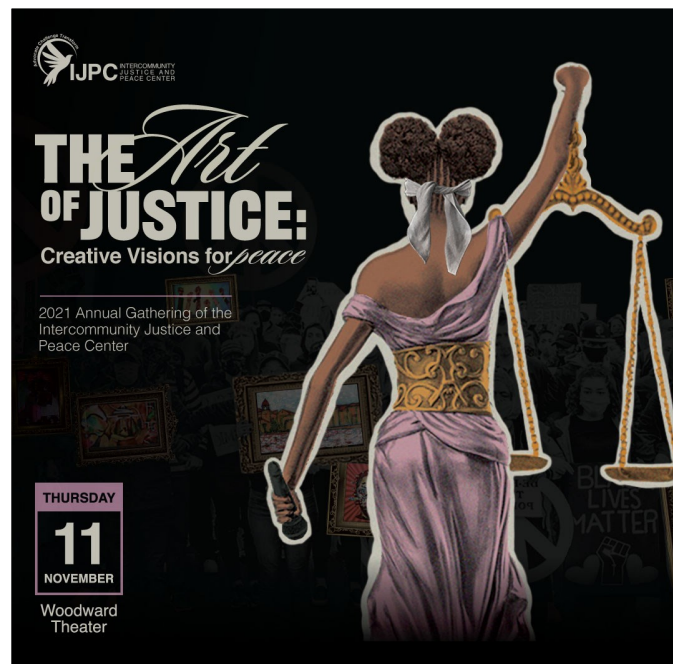
## Award Nominations are Open

Nominations are open until September 3rd for the IJPC Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award and the inaugural IJPC Youth Justice Award.

The **IJPC Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award** was established in 2017 in honor of Robert “Bob” Maxwell who passed away in 2016 and who was a steadfast supporter of the work of IJPC. The Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award recipients are distinguished by giving public witness to justice issues to bring about peace. They have contributed to building understanding, collaboration, and trust in Greater Cincinnati, while holding the belief that peace is possible. The winner will receive the award as part of IJPC’s Annual Gathering on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

The **2021 IJPC Youth Justice Award** will be focused on “Justice Through the Arts.” IJPC is honored to be giving this award to an individual, age 14-18, whose use of artistic expression resonates with justice. The winner will receive the award as part of IJPC’s Annual Gathering on Thursday, November 11, 2021. In addition to the recognition, a \$500 award will be given to the recipient.

Visit [www.IJPCcincinnati.org/ArtOfJustice](http://www.IJPCcincinnati.org/ArtOfJustice) to read the full award descriptions, criteria, and to submit a nomination.



Contact us: [info@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:info@IJPCcincinnati.org) | [IJPCcincinnati.org](http://IJPCcincinnati.org) | 513.579.8547