



# Winter 2023 Issues

## A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Published February 6, 2023

### A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

Our world has changed a lot since the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center was founded in 1985. Technology alone has dramatically shifted the ways we share information, connect with one another, and advocate for social justice. As the world has changed, so has IJPC. We've grown from an organization only for Catholic Sisters to an organization where all people who want to make a difference in peace and justice issues can come together to build relationships, connections, and find information and tools so they can feel hopeful, powerful, valued, and well-informed as we collaboratively create social change. For the first time in my eight years at IJPC, we're creating a strategic plan and looking ahead to determine the impact we want to have and how to best get there.

### *Change is a critical and necessary piece of our realities.*

When the IJPC board and staff gathered together for our first strategic planning meeting in June of 2022, we reflected on IJPC's past to help ground us in our vision for the future. One of our Board Leaders, S. Marge Kloos, SC shared a hope that arose for her, "I hope that IJPC remains adaptable to the current realities of society, politics, and peacemaking so that the work we do together is relevant, raising awareness about the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. As the systems we're working to change shift and change, we remain committed to the work of justice and peace." Change is a critical and necessary piece of our realities.

We are excited to be at a point where we're able to share details about how we're modifying IJPC's internal systems and our work moving forward. In some ways we will be changing a lot - the way we talk about the organization, the way we do our work, and the specific work we do. In many other ways, our work for peace and justice will remain consistent. We are sharing the changes with all of you, our supporters, via newsletter, email, website, social media and more.



### The Strategic Focus Areas for our 3-year plan include:

1. Defining Our Work – Through program evaluation, research, and creating logic models, we will have a more intentional and strategic impact on issues in the future.
2. Building Brand Awareness – We will evaluate current setbacks and develop new communications strategies to have a recognizable organizational brand to promote our efforts.
3. Strengthening Partnerships and Outreach – We will build an outreach and engagement strategy to both deepen and diversify our network of supporters.
4. Attracting New Revenue – We will ensure our new initiatives are sustainable through research for new revenue and development strategies.

### Better Branding for a Bigger Vision

As we set out to create a strategic plan, we identified a concern we didn't initially plan to address. Over the next four months we will be working to change the name of the organization. The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center was founded in 1985 by communities of Catholic Sisters for their members. We remain grateful to the Sisters for their vision and sustaining legacy of peace and justice work. We will continue to work in partnership and simultaneously recognize that our efforts for peace and justice have expanded beyond faith communities. We want our name to be more inclusive of who we are today. "Intercommunity" is a word that is not readily understood and we often get misnamed as "International" or "Interfaith." My personal favorite is the mail we receive for

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the International Journal of Pharmaceutical Compounding which is what comes up first in a google search of IJPC. It's difficult for folks to remember the order of our initials incorrectly saying IPJC or getting confused with the local organization OJPC (Ohio Justice and Policy Center). Additionally, we get calls frequently looking for a justice of the peace to perform a wedding ceremony since we are the first on the list when searching "justice of the peace Cincinnati." *We will work to find a name that clearly describes our work.*

If you want to participate in the process to re-name IJPC, please be in touch with Allison.

Allison@IJPCcincinnati.org  
or 513.864.5784

### Vision, Mission, Values

The IJPC Board and staff have reaffirmed our **vision** of a **just and peaceful world**. We have updated our mission statement and removed "local, national, and global" from the section that describes the unjust systems we will challenge. The difficult reality is that with a staff of four, we cannot be experts in local work while also being experts in global conflict or militarism. While we remain opposed to war and violence, we will not take the lead in issuing statements or planning actions on these issues locally. Our updated **mission** is to **educate and advocate for peace, challenge unjust systems, and promote the creation of a nonviolent society**.

## *We will weave nonviolent strategy and efforts to promote racial equity throughout all our programs.*

On a separate page, you will find our updated organizational values that inform the why, what, and how of the work we do. These **values** are **education, nonviolence, racial equity, solidarity, intersectionality, and radical compassion**. Read more in the statements of what we believe and what we will do regarding each of these values.



Over our 37-year history, IJPC has taken time to periodically reevaluate our issue priorities to ensure we are focusing on the critical social issues of the day. The last time we did this was in 2015 when human trafficking was named a new issue area. The current strategic planning process has resulted in the decision to shift some of our existing programs and projects into two umbrella **issues: criminal justice and immigration justice**.

We will ground all of our work, regardless of the issue, within two frameworks that are fundamental to our organization. We are committed to including nonviolent strategy and efforts to promote racial equity throughout all our programs, making sure that no matter what issue we work on, we acknowledge the intersectionality and approach it with the same principles. The staff have spent time detailing what we mean by this and what we hope to live into through our work. You can read more about our **frameworks** of **nonviolence and anti-racism** on another page.

### Founding Sponsors:

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

### Sponsors:

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Cincinnati Friends Meeting  
Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship  
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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*

Naiomi Gonzalez  
*S. Louise Akers Fellow*

Hayley Huge  
*Operations Manager*

Allison Reynolds-Berry, MSW  
*Executive Director*

Samantha Searls, MSW  
*Program Manager*

### Board of Directors:

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Krishna Mahadevan  
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Robert Sanker

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## So what does this mean for IJPC's current issue areas?

### Death Penalty

Our work to abolish Ohio's death penalty will continue and has grown even stronger over the last two years while working in collaboration with the NoDeathPenaltyOH Coalition. We will continue our pen pal programming with individuals on death row and advocate for review of their sentences post abolition (email Bekky@IJPCcincinnati.org to be connected with a pen pal). This work will fall under the broader umbrella of criminal justice.

### Human Trafficking

Our work on ending human trafficking will look significantly different in the new year. While we've made significant progress in helping to shape the public's understanding of the issue, there's more to be done on a deeper, systemic level. We are going to shift how we address human trafficking by focusing our efforts on criminal justice, a system perpetuating injustices experienced by survivors of trafficking and many other vulnerable people. This means human trafficking will no longer be a separate issue of focus for us. We are proud of the work we've done over the past seven years that grew out of the efforts of the Sisters Against Trafficking. Be sure to check out the website for a more in depth reflection on our accomplishments over the past few years. I am grateful to each of you who have been part of this work for change, and especially for Samantha Searls and her leadership on this issue over the last six years at IJPC.

### Immigration

IJPC's work for immigration reform has taken many shapes over the last two decades. It included a "Love Your Neighbor" faith-based educational campaign, organizing and advocacy by youth through our YES Program on issues like DACA and the DREAM Act, and a lawsuit against the Ohio BMV for discriminating against young people with immigrant parents. Though the YES Program in its previous form has ended, our work seeking justice for immigrants will continue and we look forward to taking time to assess possible campaign priorities keeping the voices of YES alumni and immigrants within the Immigrant Dignity Coalition at the forefront.

### Peace and Nonviolence/Rethinking Racism

Programming, responding to, and advocating for peace and nonviolence has been a catchall for so many critical pieces of work over time. In the last four years, we've acknowledged the need to intentionally include nonviolence not as a separate issue area but one that is interwoven in every issue on which we focus. We will continue to include principles of nonviolence and nonviolent education in our work. The NonViolence Alliance of Greater Cincinnati will come to closure as it's been inactive since the beginning of the pandemic, and we will not play a lead role in addressing anti-war or efforts for global peace. Our Rethinking Racism work will continue, along with the docuseries, and we hope they will be a catalyst for individuals to take action on issues of racial justice through the criminal justice and immigration justice work.

We look forward to sharing additional details on all of these things and more in the months ahead. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please know I am always open to engaging in conversation.

***"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way."  
- Arundhati Roy***

Jeff Hutchinson-Smyth, IJPC Board Chair reflects, "The Indian writer and activist Arundhati Roy once proclaimed that "another world is not only possible, she is on her way" and that "on a quiet day I can hear her breathing." I am immensely proud of the intentionality with which IJPC draws together and empowers people who do, indeed, believe that another world is possible, and who are working to make a more just and peaceful world a reality. I hope and trust that this deep discernment will embolden our voices and deepen our capacities to confront injustice and create a more peace-filled world."

Thank you for being part of our yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

*Alisa Reynolds*



# Our Mission

We educate and advocate for peace,  
challenge unjust systems,  
and promote the creation of a nonviolent society.

# Our Vision

A just and peaceful world

# Our Values

## Education

- We believe: knowledge is key to affecting change and building power. In order for people to take action for change, they must know that a problem exists and understand the possible solutions.
- We will: educate the public about the realities of injustices, learn from those most directly impacted, and empower people to take action for systemic and social change.

## Nonviolence

- We believe: nonviolent action is the greatest way to create systemic change.
- We will: incorporate nonviolent principles into all aspects of our work and build the skills of the broader community to take action towards positive peace.

## Racial Equity

- We believe: racism is deeply ingrained in the foundation of the United States, its culture, and institutions, and must be actively dismantled.
- We will: work to end white supremacy, educate the public about how racism continues to harm people today, and build an anti-racist future.

## Solidarity

- We believe: our liberation is bound together. No one is unaffected by systemic injustice and no one is truly free until we are all free.
- We will: take action to support others leading movements for their own liberation from oppressive systems and work to build power together.

## Intersectionality

- We believe: the way each person experiences the world is unique and not merely a sum of individual identities. The experiences of race, gender, class, ability, etc. are interconnected and cannot be viewed or addressed in isolation.
- We will: take into account the ways various systems of oppression work together to address them more holistically.

## Radical Compassion

- We believe: people have the capacity for growth and change. People are more than their worst decisions.
- We will: show mercy for and advocate for all people.

# Upcoming Events

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

## #NoDeathPenaltyOH Southern Ohio Meeting

Monday, March 6, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Strategic Nonviolence for Peace Advocacy Session 3: Peace in Practice

Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Strategic Nonviolence for Peace Advocacy Session 4: Interpersonal Communication

Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Immigrant Dignity Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

*Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church*

## #NoDeathPenaltyOH Southern Ohio Meeting

Monday, April 3, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Strategic Planning Updates Townhall

Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Strategic Nonviolence for Peace Advocacy

Session 5: Sustaining Ourselves

Tuesday, April 4, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Race and Racism in Cincinnati: A 3-Part Docuseries - Spring 2023 Session

Wednesday, April 5, 12, & 19, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## #NoDeathPenaltyOH Southern Ohio Meeting

Monday, April 17, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Immigrant Dignity Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

*Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church*

## #NoDeathPenaltyOH Southern Ohio Meeting

Monday, May 1, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

*Virtual - Zoom*

## Flying Pig Marathon

Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7

*Email Hayley@IJPCincinnati.org to join or sponsor Team IJPC*



# Join Team IJPC

May 6 & 7, 2023

**Walk or run for peace and justice!**



# 25 YEARS



# Framework of Nonviolence

IJPC's mission is to create a nonviolent society and IJPC embraces nonviolent action as the pathway and strategy to systemic and societal change. Nonviolence is courageous and requires taking action in the face of injustice. Nonviolent practice seeks to understand perspectives, prioritizes restoration, centers accountability, and sees conflict as the opportunity for growth. As practitioners of strategic nonviolence, we recognize the power we hold when bringing people together to organize under shared values. We bring this lens to every level of our work, from shaping our own staff culture, to community building in grassroots settings, to working in coalitions. As an organization we live out nonviolent principles through:

## POSITIVE PEACE

Positive peace is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice. Our mission is not only to eradicate visible and obvious acts of violence, but to address structures and institutions that perpetuate inequality and oppression to secure desirable outcomes for all people. This guides the strategies, solutions, and focus of our work to seek preventative solutions rather than reactive responses.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Working and living nonviolently in a society built around oppression requires continued practice. We strive to continue learning and challenging ourselves while also offering opportunities for the broader community to join us in that journey. We aim to build the knowledge and skills of nonviolent principles and action in our community by offering educational and engagement opportunities.

## DIRECT ACTION

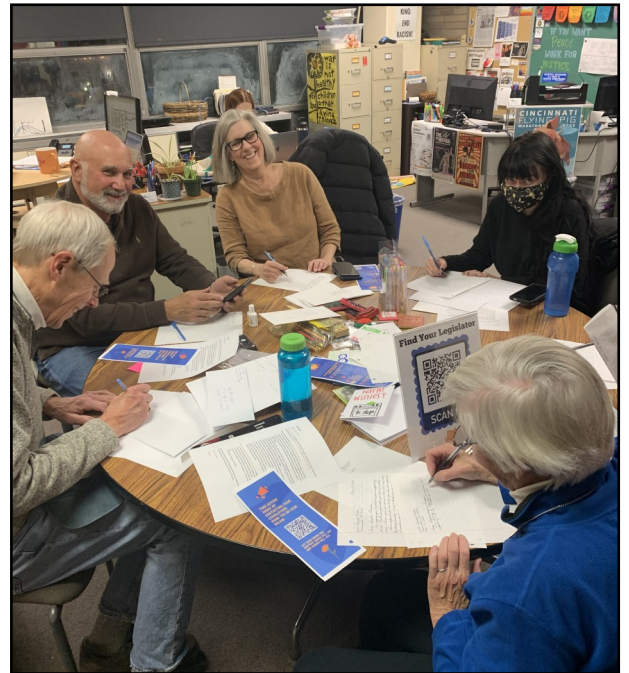
Nonviolent responses to injustice must match the intensity of the harm being caused. We recognize that direct action is a critical tool to movement building and bringing attention to unjust systems. We commit to assessing tactics that align with our goals in our continued resistance against injustice.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

As an organization, our staff and board work to acknowledge and address the internal challenges we face when tension and conflict arise. We strive to be authentic with one another, give both positive and critical feedback, and seek support when we need it. We believe in centering healing, creating accountability when harm is committed, and focusing on restorative practices rather than punitive ones.

## BELOVED COMMUNITY

Systems of violence and oppression are able to maintain power by creating division and antagonism among those they harm. We aim to organize around shared interests and values, maintaining that power resides in the people. Relationships are integral to nonviolent resistance and combating systemic change. We actively lean into curiosity, seek understanding, invite others into our community, and love others even when it is difficult.



# Framework of Anti-Racism

IJPC believes that racism is a system of advantage and disadvantage based on skin color that is both implicit and explicit, and includes race-based prejudice and institutional power. In alignment with our core values, IJPC works through a framework of racial equity, centering the elimination of systemic racism and the creation of equitable opportunities for all humans. We believe these priorities are integral to our mission of promoting the creation of a nonviolent society. We recognize that people of color have and continue to experience oppression and that white people must play a role in dismantling and deconstructing racism. We do this by centering our work in:

## BELONGING

We strive to make IJPC activities and events accessible and welcoming to all people by providing language interpretation if necessary, locating events with easy access, and calling people in, not out. Education and advocacy for social justice requires space to hold tension and accept some discomfort as a sign of growth. We listen, share, and challenge one another with new perspectives, holding the experience of those directly impacted at the center.



## SOLIDARITY

We aim to work collaboratively through intentional outreach and invitation. We support the work done by people of color, faith groups, activists, and other nonprofits working towards racial justice. We focus our social justice work through the voices of those most impacted and work in coalition and community.

## COMMUNITY

Our work is rooted in relationships and meeting people where they are. We hope to move people along the spectrum of engagement by creating strong relationships, building community power, and supporting plans created by community members in Greater Cincinnati. We value representation and diversity and work to expand our networks to reflect the diversity of our Greater Cincinnati community, as well as in our committees, volunteers, board, and staff.



## JOY

Seeking and finding joy is part of resistance. We celebrate wins and prioritize time to sit with one another unburdened by tasks but simply by reveling in the comfort of others.



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

Thank you for supporting IJPC!  
Increase your impact through planned giving!

Become an IJPC Peace Partner:

Help make IJPC more sustainable by becoming a recurring donor - monthly, quarterly, annually, the choice is yours! Your recurring gift allows us to better anticipate individual contributions and gives us a foundation in planning our programming for the year. You can make a recurring giving plan online at [give.classy.org/IJPCPeacePartner](http://give.classy.org/IJPCPeacePartner)

Give an IRA Charitable Contribution:

Make giving easy by rolling over your RMD from your IRA directly to IJPC. This is an easy way for you to support IJPC and save money on taxes. Just talk to your IRA custodian and ask them to issue a check directly from your IRA, payable to IJPC. Then simply ask your custodian to mail the check to IJPC.



**Can we get your number?**

Text "IJPC" to  
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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!

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