



## Conflict and Community

By - Bekky Baker, Program Director

Take a moment to imagine a place where you feel the most safe. What feelings does it generate inside you? Is anyone there? How do you know you are safe? We are often taught that a strong military, police, weapons, gates, walls, and locks will keep us safe from harm but these interventions are often only an illusion of safety and tend to exacerbate threats of violence. As we build community and look to nonviolence for guidance, we learn that we have the power to keep each other safe through violence prevention and nonviolent strategies for protection. One of the tools we can

use to prevent violence and help keep one another safe is de-escalation and bystander intervention skills.

During these chaotic and destructive times where division feels rampant as our social safety nets are eroded, de-escalation tactics are needed more than ever. We teach two different skill sets utilizing the CLARA method and the 5 D's of Bystander Intervention. The CLARA method centers grounding practices and empathetic listening to intervene in crises and tense situations. The 5 D's harness creativity to offer a wide spectrum of tactics to step in when we see someone else is being harmed - Distract, Delay, Delegate, Direct, and Document. Both methods ask us to lead with love and to remember that intervening is not about being right but to stop harm from

*"Violence can never heal the harm that has been done. Violence can never bring about reconciliation. Violence can never create Beloved Community. Only love can do that."*

- Kazu Haga,  
Healing Resistance

happening.

It is important to remember that the crux of de-escalation and bystander intervention skills starts with the self. Being able to stay centered, knowing your own triggers and limitations, and the ability to remain present will allow you to diffuse tense situations and is a major asset in crisis intervention. Additionally, we all bring our own personal lens to conflict based on our

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## Know Your Rights, Know Your Power

By - Samantha Searls, Program Director

Across the country, immigrants and their allies have been educating one another on the constitutional rights protecting all who live within the borders of the United States, regardless of immigration status. The Fifth Amendment offers protection against self-incrimination, allowing us the right to remain silent and to refuse to sign or hand over any documents. The Fourth Amendment protects people from unlawful search and seizures, blocking ICE from entering

private property or searching anyone's belongings without a warrant. The only type of valid warrant that can detain someone must be signed by a judge or magistrate listing a specific person's name and/or a specific address.

Knowing your rights is the first step to knowing your power. We all have the power to push back against ICE's manipulative, unconstitutional tactics. One helpful tool has been Red Cards, published by the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#). A Red Card is a pocket sized card with English on one side and another language on the other that reminds both immigrants and ICE of our constitutional rights. People can hand ICE their Red Card, or

slide it under the door, to assert their rights.

At Ignite Peace, we've handed out nearly 2,000 Red Cards. Our supporters have handed out even more - at food pantries, libraries, grocery stores, churches, thrift stores, and even at construction sites. We've reached over 600 people in our educational programs since November, informing people of their rights, educating the public on our immigration system, and providing updates on changing policies and procedures.

The work doesn't stop there. Local media outlets like [CityBeat](#), [LinkNKY](#),

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# A Letter from Shannon Hughes



Even in these difficult days, we continue building the beloved community. Our power matters.

Recently, I heard Dr. Timothy Snyder, a historian at Yale and author of *On Tyranny*, speak about the rise of fascism in history. He described our current moment as “serious, very serious – but not hopeless.” He also shared, “hope is a fire that many people have to work together to keep going.” No one can keep that fire alive alone, but together, we can sustain it with consistent actions. It reminded me of all the work we do beyond simply *igniting* peace.

Already this year hundreds of people have been involved in our immigration programs and we’ve distributed thousands of Red Cards. Dozens of Cincinnatians have participated in our Engaging Nonviolence series and are building their power with us. Car loads of friends travelled to Columbus to support Elwood Jones at Ohio’s Supreme Court.

Especially now, we cannot wait for permission to live according to our values. Every action toward justice and compassion - spending time with activists you admire, slowing down an injustice through non-cooperation, donating to a cause you care about, or speaking out in writing or at rallies - builds momentum, and also builds the world we want to live in.

Our movement is fueled by people like you—those who recognize that change is possible and that they hold the power to create it. Your gift to Ignite Peace is an action that is multiplied by our work together. Thank you for your hope and your partnership in tending our fire.

In peace,

## Announcements

- Help us celebrate our 40th anniversary! Join our Annual Gathering planning committee and to help shape this event honoring our rich history. Email [Hayley@ignitepeace.org](mailto:Hayley@ignitepeace.org) to volunteer.
- Planning ahead? Consider including Ignite Peace in your will and estate to leave a legacy of social justice. By including Ignite Peace in your will or trust, you extend our shared vision for peace and justice for future generations.
- Are you a part of a community that wants to learn how to live nonviolently? We offer private sessions of our Engaging Nonviolence series for groups, as well as other educational presentations on immigration justice, criminal justice and anti-racism. Visit our website to request a presentation or training.
- Help make Ignite Peace more sustainable by becoming a Peace Partner. Recurring gifts give us a stronger foundation in planning our programming.

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

### Partners:

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Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church  
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own identities and being aware of that equips us to engage with one another more effectively. Understanding conflict styles and feelings and needs allows us to better understand not only how we ourselves engage in conflict but also how to approach problems in different ways.

Never forget that we have power. We have the power within ourselves to take action, to keep one another safe, and we have the power to choose how we respond.

How do you respond or intervene when someone says something derogatory or offensive? Don't ignore it. Trying saying something like, "Tell me more about that" "Would you mind repeating that?" or "What did you mean by that statement?" to start a conversation and call the other person in. We can have a productive dialogue in good faith while being clear that someone's words or actions are harmful.

To learn more about de-escalation skills and nonviolence check out our [Engaging Nonviolence](#) trainings adapted from Pace e Bene.

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and [Fox 19](#) have covered our efforts. Coalition partners from Legal Aid, Catholic Charities, and the Immigrant and Refugee Law Center assembled a [preparedness packet](#) that empowers families to prepare for any situation with ICE. The immigrant communities themselves have been holding gatherings and info sessions to make sure no one is left behind.

And guess what? It's working! [ICE's campaign in Chicago was thwarted](#) by immigrants asserting their rights. ICE's previous Acting Director, Tom Homan, is [furious that people are educated](#) and refusing to cooperate.

Join us! Know some folks who might need Red Cards? Email Hanna, our graduate student intern, and she'll set some aside for you: [intern@ignitepeace.org](mailto:intern@ignitepeace.org).



Last month Greater Anderson Promotes Peace and Ignite Peace hosted an Immigration 101 with over one hundred attendees. Together we had an engaging conversation about our immigration system, policies, and myths. Members of GAPP will be taking what they learned and turning it into action by gathering together to send postcards to their legislators in support of the Protecting Sensitive Locations Acts (S. 455/HR 1061).

## Upcoming Events

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

### Immigration 101

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Virtual - Zoom

### Anti-Death Penalty Statewide Working Group

Monday, April 7

12:00 - 1:00 and 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Virtual - Zoom

### Strategic Nonviolence in Movements for Change

Wednesday, April 16

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Ignite Peace Office

### Way of the Cross for Justice

Friday, April 18

12:00 - 2:00 PM

American Queen Paddle Wheel

### Immigrant Dignity Coalition

Wednesday, April 23

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Virtual - Zoom

### Flying Pig Marathon Weekend

Saturday, May 3 & Sunday, May 4

Downtown Cincinnati

Email [Hayley@ignitepeace.org](mailto:Hayley@ignitepeace.org) to join our team!

### Immigrant Dignity Coalition

Wednesday, May 29

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church  
(in-person only)





Formerly Intercommunity  
Justice and Peace Center  
215 E 14th Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
Paid  
Cincinnati, OH  
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 Help us to reduce our paper consumption.

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



JOIN US

## FLYING PIG 2025 - TEAM IGNITE PEACE

Ignite Peace is proud to be participating in the Flying Pig Marathon for our 14th year in a row! Consider joining our team, becoming a sponsor, or making a gift to one of our team members to help get us across the finish line.

[give.ignitepeace.org/FlyingPig2025](https://give.ignitepeace.org/FlyingPig2025)

