

ICE Violence Against Haitians



By - Samantha Searls, Program Director

Photo credit: Matt Shiffler Photography

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is no stranger to using physical violence against innocent people. We've lost so many lives inside ICE detention centers and outside on the street. Thanks to voices like yours, the public backlash has been effective and strong, forcing ICE to change their tactics.

Yet the violence still persists: this time on the ankles of our Black Haitian neighbors.

Congress created Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to protect people from being deported to countries deemed unsafe due to certain "temporary" conditions like natural disasters or armed conflict. Haiti's TPS was first designated in 2010, after an earthquake hit the capital city. The country has never fully recovered and continues to be subjected to crisis after crisis, including political instability and gang violence.

When the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to officially end TPS for Haiti, a politically

motivated and racist move, Springfielders were devastated but ready.

On July 29, Ignite Peace received a call for help from our partners in Springfield, who we have been working with since 2024. Haitians were receiving letters from ICE demanding they go to in-person check-ins. The move was unprecedented: never have ICE check-ins been required of a group that just lost their immigration status. The move was also targeted; Springfield Haitians received their letters before any other Haitians in the country. Additionally, many were asked to show up at 8:00 AM on a Sunday in Cincinnati, when the ICE office is typically closed.

It was clear the administration wanted to make an example of Haitians from Springfield, but quietly, to avoid backlash. You all made sure that wouldn't happen. You showed up to tell ICE: We see you. Over the course of two weekends, 1,200 people showed up with signs of support and love for our Haitian neighbors as they entered the ICE office in Blue Ash. It was an emotionally charged event, but such an impactful one.

Most Haitians exited the ICE office with bulky monitors strapped to their ankles. We were grateful they weren't detained, but the ongoing humiliation and psychological torture that comes with wearing an ankle monitor is its own kind of violence; a haunting reminder that the people of Haiti were once shackled in their homeland.

Ignite Peace focuses on immigration justice because our immigration system is violent. With talks of ICE purchasing shock gloves and offering liability insurance to its agents, we know the violence will continue. Now is the time to join us. Make a call to your Senators about extending TPS, host a nonviolence or Know-Your-Rights training for your community, volunteer or donate to help those most directly affected. We will fight this, and we will win, just as we have before.

A Letter from Shannon Hughes



I am thinking a lot about preparing for an election season when elections themselves face baseless attacks, and how to recognize our progress even when the harm – scapegoating of immigrants, targeting of nonviolent activists, undermining democratic processes – feels relentless.

Author and trainer Daniel Hunter reminds us to measure progress by our growing numbers, our greater (and sometimes surprising) new alliances, our ability to remain nonviolent and disciplined in the face of brutality, and our work to prepare before a crisis arrives. We can measure it by whether repression makes us smaller—or whether, together, we become bigger.

We saw that recently when hundreds of people gathered to witness the violence imposed on our Haitian neighbors and when you signed petitions and wrote letters in support of Tyrone Noling leading up to a closed-door hearing before Ohio's Parole Board. We gathered to say: We see you. We stand with you. This violence will not happen in the dark.

That same spirit must guide us into this election season. We are not waiting until Election Day to defend our democracy. We are strengthening relationships now, learning how to support voters and election workers, and preparing for different scenarios. When democratic red lines are crossed, we can respond with courage and nonviolent discipline.

That is why I hope you will join us for our Annual Gathering: Resistance Rising. We will reconnect, celebrate the resistance already underway, and prepare for the work ahead. Your support of Ignite Peace fuels this work.

Authoritarianism depends on isolation. Our answer is relationship. Our answer is preparation. Our answer is each other.

Let's keep getting bigger.

In peace,

Founding Partners:

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

Partners:

Anawim Community
Bellarmine Chapel
Beloved Community Church
Cincinnati Friends Meeting
City Peace Church
Comboni Missionaries
Congregation of Divine Providence
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
Franciscans, St. John the Baptist
Province
Glenmary Home Missioners
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, LMSW
Program Director
Shannon Hughes
Executive Director
Samantha Searls, MSW
Program Director
Kelly Sheehy
*Director of Development and
Communications*

Board of Directors:

Shane Dixon, *Treasurer*
Corey Bushle
Sharon Harris
Erica Johnson
Rebecca Kelley
Wendy Maxian, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Megan McClendon
Jeremiah Pennebaker, *Chair*
Michael Rench, *Vice Chair*
Lauren Staley

IGNITE PEACE

ANNUAL GATHERING

RESISTANCE RISING

OCT. 21ST 2026
6-9 PM

**THE WOODWARD
THEATER**
1404 MAIN ST.
CINCI. OH 45202

FEATURING MUSICAL GUESTS

Bassel & The Supernaturals
Syrian Heart | Midwestern Soul

GET TICKETS

[GIVE.IGNITEPEACE.ORG/GATHERING2026](https://give.ignitepeace.org/gathering2026)



Celebrate our 2026 Award Recipients at our Annual Gathering

Jan Seymour

Tending the Flame Legacy Award

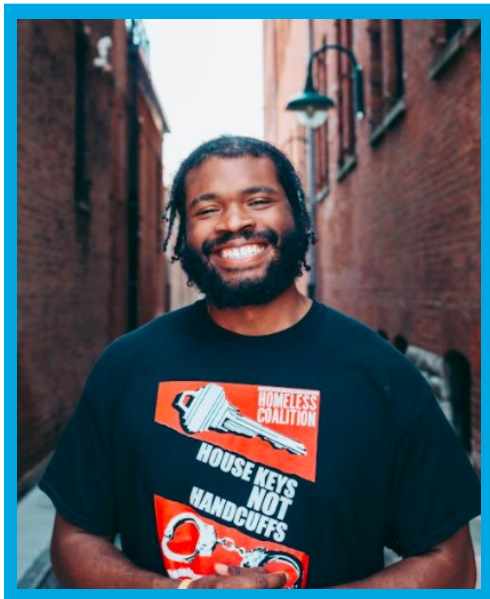
Jan graduated from Emory University in 1965 and worked at the Georgia Department of Labor as a counselor for disadvantaged youth focusing on job training and employment. Moving to Cincinnati in 1968, she went to work for Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, leading a team counseling family aid recipients in job training and placement. In 1985, Jan earned an MBA from the University of Cincinnati and launched a career in executive recruiting that spanned from 1985 to 2014. Through this work, she discovered nonprofit organizations that led to her to volunteer work through her church. By the mid-90s, her focus shifted to advocacy that aligned with Ignite Peace. She remains deeply dedicated to our mission of abolishing the death penalty, promoting global peace, and supporting immigrant justice.



Rico Blackman

Bob Maxwell Peace Builder Award

Rico is self-described as an “unintentionally destructive, easily overwhelmed nerd, introvert, procrastinator, terrible texter, horrible singer, and lover of cold weather.” But he says this makes him good enough to earn this award because he uses these characteristics to make people laugh and motivated to change the system we're in. He also wears many hats: the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, Black Power Initiative, and Cincinnati Sovereign Soil Collective. He can't wait to retire to be in his garden full time, until then, “let's keep organizing for social justice... when there's no justice ... there is no peace.”



Krysti Paul

Margaret Fuller Peace Award

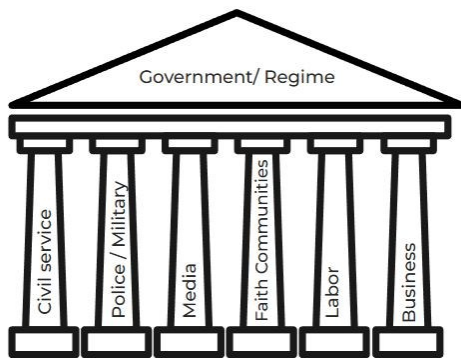
Krysti is a corporate trainer/instructional designer who lives in Mason with her husband Joe and giant silly dog, Anchovy. She has always been a loud proponent of racial, economic and social justice, but was always too scared to do something about it. Over the course of the past two years (after participating in strategic nonviolence training with Ignite Peace), she has dedicated most of her time to teaching as many as people as possible to get involved in nonviolent direct action/noncooperation. To facilitate that work, she formed two groups: 513 for Democracy (advocacy/mobilization) and Cincy Resistance Training (education). She also is one of the organizers with Cincy RISES (formerly 50501 Cincy), and is a primary contact in the northern Cincinnati area for people wanting to get involved and do more.



Cracking Pillars of Support

By - Bekky Baker, Program Director

Gene Sharp, a scholar of nonviolent action, says, "by themselves, rulers cannot collect taxes, enforce repressive laws and regulations, [...] direct traffic, manage ports, print money, repair roads, keep markets supplied with food, [...] or even milk a cow. People provide these services to the ruler through a variety of organizations and institutions. If people would stop providing these skills, the ruler could not rule." This challenges our conception that all power resides at the top. In reframing where power resides, we realize that any regime or person at the top - the perceived wielder of all the power - is actually quite precarious. The true power comes from the people who support the regime through the institutional pillars we take part in.



Pillars of support are the institutions and parts of society that supply the existing regime with what is needed to maintain and expand power. If we look at our government, those pillars include business, faith, civil service, police/ military, and media. Within these pillars, there are different roles. For example,

the business pillar has CEOs, managers, workers, and consumers. When we are building campaigns, we need to discern how each pillar supports the regime that is maintaining oppression. How can we get these pillars to crack?

If we're building a campaign around the business pillar, we need to know what businesses play a role, who falls into what category within the pillar, and power map to understand their influence. We then assess different tactics to influence or disrupt those various layers. For the CEOs, we might attend shareholder meetings; to support workers, we might participate in boycotts or strike support; or we might organize a protest or action with consumers. It is important to note that not all pillars hold the same position in upholding regimes, and so too, they each have distinct disruption power.

But you can start small. This moment of authoritarianism calls us to assess what pillars we participate in. In what ways are we contributing to an oppressive regime? Where can we create cracks? This moment asks us to remove our cooperation. We will not allow federal agents to terrorize our communities; we will not support businesses that uphold oppression; we will not willingly give over our data to contribute to mass surveillance, and we will vote as an act of resistance. Join us on September 16 to get trained on nonviolent noncooperation and get plugged in to a local campaign centered on immigration justice.

Upcoming Events

For more events, information, and to register, visit <https://ignitepeace.org/events/>

Noncooperation Training: Meeting the Moment

Wednesday, September 16
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Peaslee Neighborhood Center
**free parking in lot next door*

Share the Journey Benefit Concert

Saturday, September 19
3:00 - 6:00 PM

House of Joy

Immigrant Dignity Coalition

Wednesday, September 23
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
& Zoom

World Day Against the Death Penalty Walk

Saturday, October 10
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Bicentennial Park and Trinity
Episcopal Church in Columbus

2026 Annual Gathering: Resistance Rising

Wednesday, October 21
6:00 - 9:00 PM

The Woodward Theater

Immigrant Dignity Coalition

Wednesday, October 28
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
ONLY



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

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Cincinnati, OH
#6207

 Help us to reduce our paper consumption.

Contact: info@ignitepeace.org to join our e-mail list to receive this newsletter online instead.



In July, Ignite Peace led a walking tour about Cincinnati's history of race and racism for retreat attendees from all over the country, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Social Action & Mission. ▼



Community members rallied to support their Haitian neighbors from Springfield outside the Blue Ash ICE field office early on two Sunday mornings in August. ▲



Ignite Peace celebrates Sister Alice's 80th birthday at the end of August. In the lead-up to the celebration, our generous community raised more than \$24K so that we can continue her legacy. ►



Ignite Peace joins Butler County for Immigrant Justice in June to mark one year of showing up weekly to the County Commissioner meeting advocating for the end of Butler County jail's contract with ICE. ◀



The Ignite Peace caravan to Springfield, Ohio to stand in solidarity with the Haitian community facing increasing ICE raids at the end of August. ▲

