



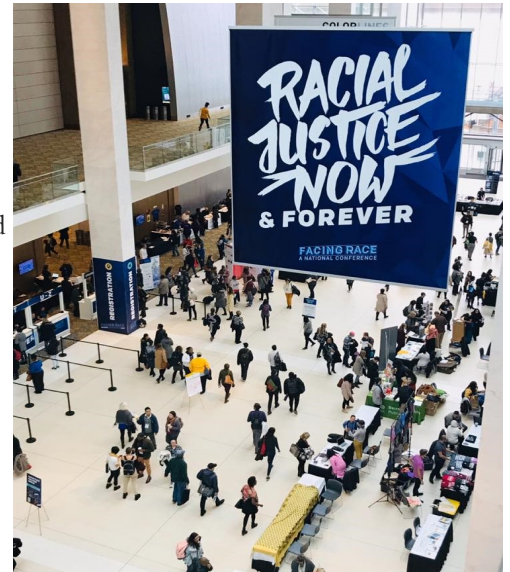
Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

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NARRATING THE CHANGE

By Tiffany Toliver, ICPJ Communications and Marketing Manager

Changing the narrative should mean making real change. On November 8th, thousands of people, including a delegation of Washtenaw County leaders of color, were in attendance for the 2018 Facing Race conference at Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan. All with the goal of to not only face the race issues in the world but to shift the narrative all together. The national conference was presented by Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation. A unique collaborative space for racial justice movement making, Facing Race is the largest multiracial, inter-generational gathering for organizers, educators, creatives and other leaders. Attendees we're granted access to information and resources on racial equity, including over 70 workshops and access to over 180 presenters. Passion poured out the doors of Cobo Hall from the nearly 2,000 attendees from all over the world. Previous Facing Race National Conferences have been held in Atlanta, Baltimore, Berkeley, Chicago, Dallas, Oakland and New York. Detroit, historically and currently, known for its own complex race story, was an adequate location for the 2018 conference.



The conference kicked off with a discussion and panel entitled: The Shift: Narrative and Arts Amid the Culture Wars. "We are living in an era of intensified culture wars, a time of competing narratives: a fearful, exclusive America versus a hopeful, transformative America. Which narrative prevails depends upon how well we organize and strategize to grow our narrative and cultural power."

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YOUR HELP CONTINUOUSLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Despite Mohamed Soumah's need for regular dialysis treatments that he would be unable to get in his home country of Guinea, ICE gave him a deportation order. ICPJ, Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, and local congregations organized to provide him sanctuary.

Did you know that you're continuously making a difference and shaping good change in this world? Mohamed Soumah, a 44-year-old man from the West African former French colony of Guinea-Conakry has taken sanctuary in Ann Arbor Friends Meeting House (Quakers) while he contest his ICE deportation order. Mohamed has been living and working in the United States for 15 years and suffers from a life-threatening disease that requires ongoing medical attention. According to his physician, he is essentially on life support. His home country lacks adequate facilities for this kind of care, so returning there would be a death sentence. His mother, who suffered the same hereditary condition, died there due to inadequate treatment. Thanks to you, Mohammed was able to enter in the Sanctuary.

Want to know ways you can help Mohammed even more?

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NARRATING THE CHANGE

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Attendees from different parts of the world and all walks of lives were then dismissed to attend a variety of break out sessions and workshops that spoke to their personal agendas. The delegation of Washtenaw County leaders of color were able to obtain skills necessary to be more effective in promoting social change. For many of the delegates this can mean training high school students in the in-the-moment skills of bystander intervention in case incidents of harassment, hate speech, or violence arise. Sometimes it's training seasoned activists in the skills of mindfulness and compassion so that they are able to maintain their activism over the long haul. Thank you to our sponsors Lynh and Dug Song, United Way of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and Ashish and Norma Sarkar, as well as our partner: NEW: Solutions for Nonprofits.



YOUR support helped to send a delegation of Washtenaw County leaders of color to the Facing Race 2018 conference. Thank you very much! Donate online at icpj.org/donate

MORAL FUSION SUMMIT CHALLENGING THE RACIAL & ECONOMIC CASTE SYSTEM IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

By listening to each other, we hope to create a common agenda for the Poor People's campaign in our county by identifying and prioritizing strategic actions that can remove the barriers that keep people trapped in systemic poverty. These priorities will come out of our workshop discussions on:

- Housing, Health Care and Disability
- Immigration, Policing, Criminal Justice
- Veterans' Concerns, Employment & Wages
- K-12 Education, Environmental Justice
- LGBTQ Justice

MICHIGAN



Saturday, January 26, 2019: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Brown Chapel AME, 1043 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Co-sponsored by **Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice** and **WeROC**

For more information contact: ppc.washtenaw@gmail.com

Register soon through the ICPJ website!

Summit is **free**; those that can afford it are asked to contribute \$10 towards lunch and our other expenses.

YOUR HELP CONTINUOUSLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

How can you help:

- **Volunteer** to provide support: A volunteer training will take place at the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting House. Please look for dates available on our events page.
- **Donate** to Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary to Mohamed and build a sanctuary network for others facing unjust deportations. Details on how to donate at washtenawcongregationalsanctuary.org
- **Advocate** to the ICE Detroit Field Office to give Mohamed Soumah a stay of removal for medical reasons as the medical facilities in his home country are inadequate to provide him the lifesaving care he needs. Contact Detroit.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov.

In the news:

- "Man who needs dialysis to survive given sanctuary to stay in U.S." Michigan Radio, 11/4/2018
- "Ann Arbor man could die if deported," ClickOnDetroit.com, 11/2/2018
- "Man takes refuge in Ann Arbor church, says he will die if deported," Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2018
- "University employee seeks refuge in Ann Arbor church to avoid deportation," Michigan Daily, 11/4/2018
- "Ann Arbor says deportation of man in sanctuary would be death sentence." Mlive, 11/9/2018

If you donate to the Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary, those funds are designated specifically for the support of Mohamed and others in sanctuary. If you would like to give an unrestricted gift to ICPJ so that it can be used wherever it is most impactful, you can do that at www.icpj.org/donate



CARAVAN OF FAITH TRAVELS TO HELP IMMIGRANT KIDS IN TEXAS



ICPJ joined Rabbi Josh Whinston of Temple Beth Emeth of Ann Arbor as he launched an effort to lead a multi-faith caravan from Michigan and other states to drive to Tornillo, Texas, to protest the growing children detentions. More than 1,000 unaccompanied children are currently at the tent camp in Tornillo, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. The camp was created by the U.S. government to deal with an overflow of children that couldn't be housed in other shelters. The delegation was co-sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor, Temple Sholom in Cincinnati, Faith in Action, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and ICPJ. Rabbi Whinston and dozens of others from Michigan, who stopped in Indiana and Missouri to meet up with other

houses of worship, gathered more than 100 people for their caravan. On Thursday, November 15th, he and other faith leaders from Michigan protested near the tent camp, singing religious songs promoting peace and justice. They also helped distribute clothes and fed immigrants.

"We can't ignore these children," Whinston told the Free Press from Texas. "It's causing trauma to these kids. And it's caused by us, the American people because it's our government doing it. Not on my behalf, please don't cause trauma to these children. They've been traumatized enough."

Rabbi Whinston continues to organize for justice for the children in Texas. To learn how you can help, email: rabiwhinston@templebethemeth.org.

LET'S CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE


From the deadly Campfire wildfire in California to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change findings, the evidence is conclusive that we need bold action to take on climate change. While the response at the state and federal level has been disappointing, it is up to us at the local level to take action and create the momentum.

ICPJ joined with the Sierra Club, Ecology Center, and other organizations, are asking the City of Ann Arbor to fund local climate action programs. Unfortunately a resolution authorizing the full \$313,000 recommended by the Ann Arbor Energy Commission failed with support from only Chip Smith, Zachary Ackerman, Julie Grand and Mayor Taylor. We did, however, score a partial victory with City Council allocating \$250,000 to fund solar installations at affordable housing sites, electric vehicle infrastructure, and research into large-scale solar installation on city property.

With your help we will continue to push for strong climate action at the personal, local, national, and international levels. Please thank your representative if s/he supported full funding and continue to urge your representatives to take climate action very seriously!

You can email all city council at citycouncil@A2gov.org or look up your council members at: www.a2gov.org/departments/city-council

To find out more information or ways to get involved, contact Jan Wright, Chair of the Climate Change and Earth Care Task Force, at janwright@umich.edu.




Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice's Latin America Task Force Presents

Dinner & A Movie

Join ICPJ on select Tuesdays January through May to share a delicious dinner and a film pertaining to Latin America. \$8 dinner starts at 6:30pm, free film at 7:00 pm.

St. Mary Student Parish, 331 Thompson St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 ~ \$8 Dinner from Pilar's Tamales (one tamale with sides (vegetarian option available) ~ RSVP by noon the day of at tiny.cc/LATFdinnermovieseries to reserve meal ~ Contact info@icpj.org



Lourdes

January 22, 7:00 pm

**Special Guest Director*

*Anthony Collings**

Lourdes follows Ann Arbor resident Lourdes Salazar Bautista in her efforts to keep her family together and demonstrates the consequences of her ultimate deportation.



They Are Killing Us

February 12, 7:00 pm

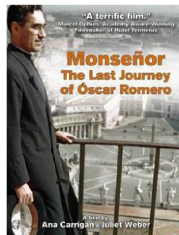
They are Killing Us sheds light on the targeted killing of human rights defenders and social activists in the country of Colombia since the 2016 peace accords.



Monseñor: The Last Journey of Óscar Romero

March 12, 7:00 pm

The Last Journey of Óscar Romero follows the Archbishop's tireless work for El Salvador's people that earned him sainthood in 2018.



Special Circumstances

April 9, 7:00 pm

Special Circumstances follows Hector Salgado as he confronts those who tortured and exiled him during the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile.



Garifuna in Peril

May 14, 7:00 pm

Garifuna in Peril explores the historical and contemporary struggle of the Garifuna Afro-Honduran indigenous community in Honduras and Belize.

