

# Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://ijpccincinnati.org/about/>

### Mission Statement

#### About 1

**Mission:** Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national, and global systems, and promotes the creation of a non-violent society.

**Vision:** A just and peaceful world

We will achieve our vision by:

[Congregation of St. Joseph](#), [Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati](#), [Sisters of Mercy](#), [Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur](#), and [Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg](#).

[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](#), [Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church](#), [New Jerusalem Community](#), [Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington](#), [St. John Unitarian Universalist](#), [Ursulines of Brown County](#), and [Ursulines of Cincinnati](#).

#### About 2

From IJPC's beginnings, as an idea at the swimming pool, to its home at the Peaslee Neighborhood Center, the organization has evolved and grown to reflect current issues of social justice and peace in the local, state, national and international realm.

On a humid Cincinnati summer day, Joyce Hoban, SNDdeN, and Louise Akers, SC, met at the swimming pool of Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse and shared their ideas and dreams as congregations of women religious who would collaborate in justice and peace work.

Joined by other congregations, representatives of the founding sponsors (Sister of Charity, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille) vowed to collaborate and combine their skills and resources to pray, study, and act in areas of extreme social justice needs. These areas have changed and evolved, dependent on community needs, from sanctuary for Central American refugees, to racial equality, to economic justice, to the environment, and more. Louise Akers, SC, served as IJPC's first Coordinator.

In December of 1987 IJPC moved to St. Francis Seraph School and in 1990 to Peaslee Neighborhood Center.

As the issues shaped and shifted, the structure did likewise to provide more capacity. Additional organizational sponsors joined. In 1991, IJPC was incorporated and in 1992 was certified as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt educational organization. IJPC found a home and a sense of permanence. In 1992, Alice Gerdeman, CDP, began as the subsequent IJPC Coordinator.

As a response to executions in Kentucky and Ohio becoming a probability, and then a reality, IJPC began a committee to oppose the death penalty. The committee became a local chapter of Ohioans to Stop Executions and was a presence at every execution. Through the creation of [Families That Matter](#), with representatives of families who have or had members on death row, and [Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation](#), the committee was steadfast in efforts to educate and advocate around the death penalty.

[The Northern Kentucky Justice and Peace Committee](#) found a home within IJPC for those seeking to place more emphasis on Kentucky concerns. This committee has been meeting and planning programs since.

IJPC held its first public [peace dialogue](#) using a process developed by staff and volunteers. Dialogues covered timely and divisive issues such as the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

[YES \(Youth Educating Society\)](#) formed, bringing immigrant young adults and their allies together to develop leadership skills and work toward comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

IJPCs Coordinator, Sr. Alice Gerdeman, and the Families That Matter program were featured in the [November 2011 issue of Cincinnati Magazine](#).

A series of stakeholder studies and advisory forums were held inviting donors, sponsor groups, community members, volunteers, and former staff to look at IJPCs history and determine its future. Allison Reynolds-Berry began as IJPCs Executive Director.

In September of 2015, IJPC celebrated its 30th Anniversary bringing together present and former volunteers, staff, donors and community partners.

Our 30th Anniversary video, created by IJPC interns Brian Igel and Eleanor Gaston, helps tell the story of IJPC.

IJPC convened the [Immigrant Dignity Coalition](#), with 28 organizational members who stand united in opposition to unjust deportations and to anti-immigrant harassment of all kinds.

Launched the [NonViolence Alliance of Greater Cincinnati \(NVA\)](#) to imagine, practice, and promote a Nonviolent Greater Cincinnati by working toward solidarity with individuals and organizations to dismantle structures of violence.

IJPCs Rethinking Racism initiative published a [Race and Racism in Cincinnati](#) Toolkit with a hyperlocal focus on the history, legal aspects, and resilient communities of color. Building our focus on racial equity, IJPC launched Race and Racism in Cincinnati Bus Tour in 2019.

NASW (National Association of Social Workers) recognized IJPC as [Agency of the Year for the state of Ohio](#). And, represented by ABLE, IJPC won a class action lawsuit against the Ohio BMV for discriminating against 16- and 17-year old children of undocumented parents. All eligible teens in Ohio can now apply for a permit, drivers license, or state ID.

Through a framework of nonviolence, IJPC works to end the [death penalty](#) in Ohio, educate about [human trafficking](#), promote [immigrant](#)

[justice](#), and foster[peace](#).

**Over the years, IJPC has responded:**

Sign up for issue-specific emails and important updates from IJPC!

IJPC's non-profit status means that it relies on your contributions to provide essential programming and work for justice. Donate today and see your dollars make a difference. Donations are tax deductible.

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national and global systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. IJPC is supported by faith-based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness. We address local, national and international concerns focusing on the death penalty, immigration, human trafficking and peace and nonviolence.