

# Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://ijpccincinnati.org/newsletters/fall-2016-newsletter/>

### Newsletters

IJPC just published our Fall 2016 newsletter. In it, read about the rally for comprehensive immigration in Northern KY, the follow up from our 3rd Annual World Peace Festival, how our solitary confinement project is going in local universities and about our Annual Gathering on November 15th!

Fall 2016



# Issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

### Virtual Reality is Rough Enough

IJPC's mission is founded upon a belief that education is the key to systemic change. Once people are awakened to the reality of a situation or an issue, they are equipped with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions, rendering them capable of challenging injustice. When masses of people join forces in advocacy efforts, real and systemic change is possible.

This principle is the motivation behind the Critical Issues in the Criminal Justice System project

funded by the SC Ministry Foundation and in collaboration with Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN), a national organization with the objective of abolishing the death penalty in the US. This project reflected months of collaboration between CMN and IJPC and the final result was a "college/university tour".

The exhibit includes a nine minute virtual reality experience of being in a solitary confinement cell, a gallery of personal experiences of individuals who either

were or still are in solitary confinement, information about solitary confinement, the state of the death penalty in Ohio, and principals of restorative justice

(Cont. on page 3)



Students use the virtual reality equipment to learn about solitary confinement.

### Rally Across the River

On September 18, community members joined together at Holy Trinity Junior High School parking lot in Newport, Kentucky. Activists marched for specific reasons – for comprehensive immigration reform, to support immigrants' rights, to hear the stories of immigrants, to protest the separation of families and the detention of mothers and children, and to welcome immigrants. These reasons

provided the reason of the rally as organizers planned for months.

The rally began with a welcoming by Sr. Dorothy Schuette and Sr. Juana Mendez, songs by Cristo Rey Parish choir, and readings. Then, Ana Lopez told her story of coming to the U.S. from Guatemala. Anel Garcia also shared her immigration story from Mexico to the US at age 13.

The 100 attendees then walked to the Peace Bell chanting "¡El

Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido! The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" Once at the Peace Bell, attendees continued singing together and Heyra Avila's, YES Advisory Board member shared her immigration story.

The theme of the march: "Journeying together for Comprehensive and Compassionate Immigration Reform" rang true as community members journeyed together. Thanks to IJPC's [Northern Kentucky Justice and Peace Committee](#) for coordinating this event.

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Approximately 100 people participated in the immigration rally in Northern KY in September

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

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.