Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR’s program airs several times every week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County’s cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV’s current schedule at [**www.tctv.net**](http://www.tctv.net).

You can also watch the program described below (**and more than 160 of our previous monthly interview programs and also many special programs** at the Olympia FOR’s website, [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org). Simply click the **“TV programs”** link, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch. Many of our website’s TV program listings also include links to documents summarizing the program in Word and/or .pdf format.

**May 2017**

**“Protect Immigrant Rights”**

🡪 Watch this interview and/or read this thorough summary
at the “TV Programs” part of [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org)

by Glen Anderson, this TV series’ producer and host

**🡪 See many information sources at the end of this document.**

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation’s May 2017 TV program focuses on protecting the rights of immigrants. The current regime in Washington DC is seriously attacking the human and legal rights of immigrants in a number of ways.

Fortunately, many people nationwide and locally are aware and organizing in good ways.  During this hour we will learn a lot from three guests who know a lot about immigrant rights and are working hard personally to protect those rights in practical hands-on ways.

The news keeps changing continuously, so when you watch this TV program there might have been changes since we taped it on April 18, 2017. Much of what we said during this hour is stable over time.

Three guests will help us explore this topic. **All three are active with the local Olympia effort called “Strengthening Sanctuary,” which protects immigrant rights.** I’m happy to welcome them!

* **Joanna Bryan** is multi-cultural and bi-lingual with one parent from Mexico and the other from European heritage. She works professionally as a translator.
* **Eder Núnez** came to Oregon with his family when he was 10 years old. He and his siblings have excelled in school here. He is also a U.S. military veteran.
* **Steffani Powell** has been an immigration attorney for 25 years and represents persons from all over the world. Since the November 2016 election she has also volunteered much time and professional expertise to protect people’s rights.

The U.S. has always been a nation of immigrants:

It’s good to start this interview about immigrant rights by affirming the traditional American principle that the U.S. has always been proud to be a nation of immigrants. Indeed, the first immigrants arrived 10,000 years ago by walking across the land bridge from Siberia to Alaska, and then southward throughout the Americas.

Inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty is Emma Lazarus’s poem that affirms that **we actively invite and welcome immigrants and refugees**. The Statue of Liberty says: “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

When we work for immigrant rights, we are upholding the very best of America’s tradition. Steffani agreed with this sense and this spirit. She said, “If we are not a country of indigenous people – and the story of indigenous people – and the story of immigrants – what are we?” That is what our country is.

Personal stories from Eder and Joanna:

Our nation needs to hear and appreciate the personal stories of immigrants and refugees. Eder shared his own first-hand experience as an immigrant from the state of Jalisco in Mexico. He came to Oregon as a 10-year-old with the rest of his family. Until then he spoke only Spanish. When he arrived in the U.S. he experienced “a radical culture shift” that changed the course of his life. Being a child immigrant was very challenging. He is grateful for this experience.

Eder said that his father had been a farm worker and his mother a homemaker. His father came and went back and forth from Mexico to the U.S. He had some very good skills as “a handyman who can do a little bit of everything,” so a hazel nut farmer in Oregon wanted him to work for him exclusively on a steady full-time basis, using his skills on that Oregon farm. In order to attract his father to this permanent job, the farmer offered this full-time job and housing so his father could bring his family to settle there. His father recognized this as an opportunity to give his kids a better future, including good educations, which he had never had.

Glen said he wished more Americans would hear first-hand stories like Eder’s so we could develop the warmth and affinity for immigrants’ first-hand experiences.

Eder expressed appreciation for the opportunities his family has enjoyed in the U.S. He is finishing his bachelor’s degree work at The Evergreen State College. One brother and one sister who came her as children are now Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in Oregon. His youngest brother, who was born in the U.S., was the first Hispanic valedictorian of his high school of about 2,000 students, and now he is studying theoretical chemistry at Oberlin College.

Among the various kinds of supports his family has enjoyed, he credits the Upward Bound program, through which The Evergreen State College helps high school students from non-college families to experience the college environment as a summer program and helps them get into college. He expressed appreciation for the Northwest’s welcoming community and opportunities, which have allowed him to grow up here and succeed as a bicultural person.

Joanna shared her own first-hand experience as a bicultural person. She said her father is a white guy from the U.S. Her mother is Mexican with heritage from several ethnic groups, including some European ones. She grew up spending much more time with her mother’s family than with her father’s family. She was raised speaking both Spanish and English. She very much appreciates her bicultural heritage. As a person with blonde hair and blue eyes, people would not guess that she has Mexican heritage. Now she works as an interpreter, especially in medical settings. Many of the people who live and work in this country do not speak English.

She expressed appreciation for the diversity of people’s experiences and concern about the media’s misleading stereotypes about immigrants through one-dimensional stories. In her work as a Spanish-English interpreter she gets to hear people’s own stories and understand the struggles they have been experiencing.

Glen said that the immigrant experience is very much a part of his family’s story. He said that all four of his immigrant grandparents came to the U.S. after 1900, did not speak any English at all, and were poor. But they were white from Northern European nations (Norway and Sweden), so they were able to look like they belonged. Their kids (my parents) were born here but they spoke Norwegian and Swedish at home. When my parents started school they learned English, as did my grandparents, so these families grew into immigrant families that – as white people – could easily blend into our nation’s experience. It is much harder for people who look different and – even generations later – might still look like they don’t belong here. My family deeply values our immigrant roots.

Longstanding realities and problems have made things hard for immigrants:

We spent a few minutes summarizing the background before the current issues about immigration.

Eder summarized a few reasons why people have been coming to the U.S. For example, some of the things that the U.S. government has been doing in Latin America have made it hard for people to continue living there, so they have been unwittingly pushed into emigrating from there to here. The U.S. has interfered with their democracies and opposed and even undermined their governments. Economic policies such as NAFTA have made it hard for Mexicans to earn a living there, so NAFTA has pushed some Mexicans – especially indigenous people from Mexico’s southern areas – into the U.S. More recently conditions in Central America have been so bad that more people have been forced to leave Central America for safety in the U.S. Glen agreed and said that the U.S. government has “beaten the crap out of” Central American people both economically and politically, forcing them to leave their countries as refugees.

Steffani summarized how immigration realities, issues and policies evolved during President Obama’s administration. She said that Obama did not have a Congress that would work with him to pass humane immigration reform legislation, so he did what he could through his executive powers. For example, he allowed spouses of citizens to file for waivers of inadmissibility from within the U.S. rather than forcing them to return to their countries of origin and file from there and wait a very long time for the decisions.

Also, Obama allowed some protection for young people who had arrived as children without documentation. His “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) program provided “a bubble of protection” so they could continue in high school or college for two years to allow time for Congress to pass an immigration reform law fixing the problem. About 752,000 young people (including about 17,000 in the State of Washington) were covered by Obama’s DACA protection. They could get work permits and Social Security numbers. They were somewhat protected from deportation, as long as they did not commit crimes. Also, we were hoping for some protections for parents, but the U.S. Supreme Court prevented that by splitting their decision about lifting an injunction.

Steffani said that Obama prioritized whom to deport, but Trump wants to deport everyone. Prosecutorial discretion protected many people, but they are not protected now. Trump’s executive orders make all 11 million undocumented immigrants high priorities for deportation. Trump is hugely expanding enforcement activities.

We are concerned about the divisiveness and brokenness of our national community – and we are concerned about the fear and reactivity that result:

Glen expressed concern about how Trump has sharply polarized people during his political campaign and since inauguration. Trump has been projecting much fear, animosity, hatred and divisiveness. Those harsh emotions are corrosive for a nation. We must stop that.

Several years ago I produced two one-hour interviews on immigration issues for this TV series. In those programs our guests corrected widespread misconceptions, provided accurate ways to understand the realities, and looked ahead toward federal legislation that would provide a path toward citizenship for people who are living here without documentation. Unfortunately, the likelihood of positive federal legislation has receded now. We must meet urgent needs first, and then organize to recover the previous positive momentum that has been recently lost.

Joanna discussed our nation’s escalating rhetoric of fear and divisiveness. She said that the U.S. as a nation has a long history of fear, hatred, racism and oppression. She also affirmed that at the same time the U.S. has a long history of diverse people joining together to work against those problems. She said that during the 2016 campaign and after Trump’s inauguration the terrible rhetoric of fear, anger, racism and divisiveness is much worse. Worse yet, that rhetoric has become “normalized.”

Joanna said that powerful interests use that kind of rhetoric as a “divide and conquer” strategy to divide different kinds of people who actually share some values and interests in common. They divide and oppress people as a form of social and economic exploitation and control. But immigrants are not our enemies; they are our neighbors and our friends. So we must join different kinds of people together to recognize the values and interests that we actually do share in common, and join together to counter the rhetoric of fear and divisiveness.

Glen agreed and said oppressors use “divide and conquer” strategies to pit oppressed people against each other in order to keep them on the bottom. For example, in the American South, there is a long history of white elites pitting working class whites and blacks against each other in order to keep all of their wages down, and after many decades of this, wages are still very low in the South. White working class people don’t see their own oppression because they are urged to see that black people are still below them. It would have been better for oppressed white workers to fight back against the economic elites, but instead the elites have used racism to distract the whites and make them oppose the blacks.

Joanna agreed and said that there were many examples of white people figuring this out and working as allies with black people during the Civil Rights Movement, working with Black Panthers, etc., but these great examples did not get the publicity that they deserved. She said we need to lift up and continue these cross-cultural connections.

Washington State’s Governor and Attorney General – and the Olympia City Council – have taken significant positive steps:

Steffani expressed great appreciation for Washington State’s Governor Jay Inslee and our state’s Attorney General Bob Ferguson – and Olympia’s City Council – for countering that negative rhetoric with positive actions that explicitly affirm human rights, diversity, and welcoming attitudes for all immigrants.

On February 23, 2017, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order 17-01, which affirmed the benefits that immigrants provide for our state’s economy. Gov. Inslee said that in 2014 immigrants “contributed over $2.4 billion in state and local taxes,” and in 2012 “undocumented immigrants “paid $301.9 million in state and local taxes. If all undocumented immigrants were removed from the state, the state would lose $14.5 billion in economic activity, $6.4 billion in gross revenue, and approximately 71,197 jobs.”

Glen agreed with Steffani. We appreciate the important economic benefits that the Governor highlighted, and we also share humane values.

Debunk some myths about immigrants, including those without documentation:

It’s clear to me that Trump and his appointees have flat-out lied about a number of realities. They have exploited and escalated some Americans’ underlying racism and fears.

Eder agreed with Joanna about the racism that has been expressed lately. He said that overall, he has felt very welcome here, but he expressed concern about “the misuse of language at the macro level – at the level of our government.” He said it is important to “recognize our own use of language and ideas, and how we can confront that” and “do our part by spreading a positive message.”

Glen mentioned that although we don’t have time during this TV interview to debunk Trump’s lies that try to frighten Americans into thinking that immigrants are “murderers and racists,” our website’s printed summary of our interview [which you are reading now] will include factual information that debunks those lies. Actually, immigrants – including undocumented immigrants – commit far fewer crimes per capita than the U.S.-born population. Here is a bit of information:

Actually, immigrant-related violent crimes have mostly been right-wing attacks against immigrants:
[**www.tinyurl.com/kwhqa6**x](http://www.tinyurl.com/kwhqa6x)

An excellent source of accurate information about our nation’s criminal justice system is The Sentencing Project ([**www.sentencingproject.org**](http://www.sentencingproject.org)). Here is some of their recent research about immigrants:

The Sentencing Project is pleased to share a new survey of key research about the impact of immigration on public safety. The report finds immigrants have significantly lower rates of criminality than native-born citizens and may have contributed to the historic crime-drop of the last 20 years. Immigration and Public Safety, authored by Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Ph.D. and Josh Rovner, highlights four key findings:

1. Immigrants—regardless of legal status—commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens.

2. Higher levels of immigration in recent decades may have contributed to the historic drop in crime rates.

3. Police chiefs believe that intensifying immigration enforcement undermines public safety.

4. Immigrants are under-represented in the U.S. prison population; and the majority of those receiving federal sentences were convicted of immigration law violations.

Expose the hypocrisy of refusing to accept refugees while U.S. military violence
is forcing people in other countries to become refugees:

Glen exposed the hypocrisy of refusing to accept refugees from Syria – Syrians who can no longer live in their country because their lives are in danger – when the U.S. government has been adding to the military violence that endangers their lives.

The U.S. keeps bombing Syria and causing millions of Syrians to become refugees. But the U.S. refuses to take responsibility for the refugee crisis that we caused. Glen urged Congress to pass a law prohibiting the U.S. from attacking any nation unless we solemnly pledge to the world in advance that we will receive all of the refugees that our war will cause and fully fund the housing, job training, social services, PTSD counseling, etc., necessary so refugees can live normal lives in the U.S.

U.S. military violence in Syria and elsewhere forces Syrian people to become refugees, just like U.S. military violence and economic injustice in Mexico and Central America has forced people from those countries to become refugees and immigrants.

Parents teach little kids to clean up their messes, but the U.S. government does not take responsibility for the messes it causes. Our nation should stop disrupting other nations – especially when we refuse to accept the refugees that we are causing.

Massive changes in federal policies and actions since Trump’s inauguration:

As soon as Trump took power in January, he started taking reckless actions to change federal policies and issued some anti-Muslim executive orders – a travel ban – that federal judges stopped. Trump’s travel ban provoked many Americans to gather at airports and protest Trump’s unconstitutional travel ban. A news report on March 30, 2017, said a federal judge in Hawaii stopped Trump's travel ban indefinitely because the judge said it is obviously a ban on Muslims. See [**www.tinyurl.com/lzq72x5**](http://www.tinyurl.com/lzq72x5)

Steffani emphasized what she had said a few minutes before. Although Obama had prioritized deporting only those few people who actually had committed serious crimes, Trump wants to deport everyone who lacks documentation. Instead of Obama’s policy of prosecutorial discretion, Trump’s executive orders make all 11 million undocumented immigrants high priorities for deportation. She emphasized that merely being undocumented in the U.S. is not a crime, but Trump has simply declared it to be a crime, declared 11 million people criminals, and made all of them high priority for deportation.

In the U.S. a person is not a criminal unless that person has gone through the system and been convicted. But Trump has simply declared millions of people to be criminals and is treating them as such. Glen agreed with Steffani that this violates the American Constitutional requirement of “due process.”

Steffani also said Trump’s executive order wants to bring back the 287(g) program, in which state and local law enforcement agencies would arrange with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency to give federal ICE enforcement powers to local law enforcement officers by deputizing them to perform ICE’s work.

She also objected to the constitutionally questionable “Secure Communities” policy that would have local law enforcement agencies routinely inform ICE of the immigrant status of people they have arrested or jailed.

The privately owned NW Detention Center in Tacoma abuses human rights:

Joanna summarized a few of the major problems at the Northwest Detention Center, a prison owned and operated by a profit-making business corporation built on a toxic industrial waste area on Tacoma’s tide flats east of downtown. She said that 100 detainees imprisoned there started a hunger strike on April 10 to protest the terrible conditions there. A hunger strike had occurred there in 2014, but now conditions are even worse than they were under Obama. Overcrowding is severe. Food is bad. Health care is grossly inadequate. In the eight days from the April 10 beginning to April 18 when we taped this TV interview, the number of hunger strikers increased from 100 to more than 750, according to information Joanna has received. A work stoppage is also occurring. Detainees who work there are paid only $1 a day. The giant business corporation that runs the NW Detention Center is seriously exploiting these workers. Basic human dignity is being violated in many ways.

Despite our Constitutional right to speedy trials, people are detained there for months or years waiting for their cases to be heard. A Tacoma-based advocacy group, Northwest Detention Center Resistance, has been volunteering much work in support of the detainees’ human rights, and especially now during the hunger strike.

Glen said that mainstream commercially owned media are probably not covering these issues adequately, so people need to seek out alternative progressive media and non-profit organizations in order to find out what the realities are. Joanna enthusiastically agreed.

Olympia’s “Strengthening Sanctuary” group is vigorously doing good work:

In local communities across the nation, all kinds of people – immigrants, students, members of religious faith communities, local government officials, and other people of good will – have risen up and organized themselves to protect the rights of immigrants, including those without documentation.

Glen expressed appreciation for Olympia’s “Strengthening Sanctuary” group. Joanna explained that a small number of people started the group near the end of 2016 and convinced the Olympia City Council to pass a sanctuary resolution. They continued organizing follow-up steps and additional kinds of work to protect the rights of immigrants, including those lacking documentation. The group kept growing and has created several committees to work in different ways to meet the needs.

Eder said that they’re working with a variety of faith communities individually and also through Interfaith Works of Thurston County ([**www.interfaith-works.org**](http://www.interfaith-works.org)). He said, “There is something for everyone to do.”

Glen mentioned that the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (the entity behind this TV series) endorsed a follow-up statement encouraging the City of Olympia to effectively implement the Sanctuary City Resolution they had passed. He said it is one thing for a city to pass a resolution with nice words, and it’s something else to actually follow through and implement those nice words with specific actions “to make sure the good stuff actually happens.”

Steffani said that one City Council member was especially supportive and told our “Strengthening Sanctuary” group to please keep this momentum going and make sure the resolution “has teeth.” Glen expressed appreciation that some City Council members and other people from other sectors are doing good work.

Steffani said that Olympia’s resolution and Governor Inslee’s Executive Order have some similarities. Both say that our state and city employees will not target or apprehend individuals based on their immigration status. They will not perform the enforcement actions of federal immigration authorities.

Also, they will not ask about immigration status when meeting individuals in the course of performing public functions (*e.g*., if an individual calls the fire department), unless explicitly required by state or federal law.

She said this is very important, because immigrants keep hearing so much hateful rhetoric from the federal government and might feel afraid to do things that might be necessary for their safety or health (*e.g*., call the fire department or report a crime). She said that in 2015 and 2016 people were coming forth to seek ways to file for legal protection through the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) procedure, because they were undocumented parents of children who were U.S. citizens because the children had been born in the U.S. About 4 million persons in the U.S. could have been eligible for DAPA, so in 2015 and 2016 they were gathering the necessary documents so they could apply for DAPA, which is somewhat similar to DACA. While DACA would help the children, DAPA would help the parents. However, the U.S. Supreme Court split 4-4 and failed to lift an injunction, so DAPA could not proceed. Trump made things even worse. Steffani said, “All of these people who were coming forward quickly receded.”

She said Olympia’s resolution and the Governor’s Executive Order were important and timely messages that affirmed the immigrants in our community and expressed solidarity with them. She said these official statements affirmed, “We care about you. We will do everything we can to honor and protect you.”

Glen agreed with the importance of these official statements. They provide a sense of safety for people who need to access governmental services (*e.g*., fire or police services) without fear of repercussions. This is important not only for the safety of those individuals but also for the safety of the community as a whole. To be safe, a community needs people to report crimes and step forward as witnesses, so we can reduce crime. But when our nation makes people afraid to do that, our nation is failing to reduce crime, and **in**justice prevails. Glen said, “The Trump administration is promoting **in**justice by making it hard and dangerous for people to interact positively with law enforcement agencies” and other kinds of governmental entities, such as food safety regulations in restaurants – or anything else. “So when you go to a restaurant, under Trump your food is less safe, because an employee might feel afraid to blow the whistle on unsafe food practices that the management is imposing upon them, when the employee wants the food to be safe.” Steffani agreed.

Glen said there are many ripple effects from Trump’s fear-mongering and hatred and oppression. Those are dangerous for the entire society, not just for immigrants.

Eder said the fear and anxiety that have been generated are seriously debilitating. He is in touch with people and he has experienced people’s feelings of fear and anxiety now. Some parents are too afraid to send their children to school. Some are afraid to go grocery shopping. Many immigrants get their news through word of mouth or from national news networks that report on extremes happening in other parts of the country, not our own city and state. Our TV guests have been sharing with local people the good news of Governor Inslee’s Executive Order, so they will feel more safe and be able to live more normally here.

Local law enforcement:

Glen expressed appreciation for the efforts of our local “Strengthening Sanctuary” group in working with local law enforcement agencies to make sure they know that the public wants to protect immigrants’ rights and to clarify local policies to protect those rights and encourage them not to cave in to Trump’s pressure to violate those rights.

“Know Your Rights” training:

Another very useful activity of Olympia’s “Strengthening Sanctuary” group is conducting “Know Your Rights” training. Glen said that if people only hear the rhetoric and extreme actions coming from Washington DC, people would not know that they have rights. Actually, every person in the U.S. – citizens, immigrants with documentation, and immigrants without documented status – has Constitutional rights. Nobody should let the government or anyone else intimidate us or deceive us into failing to protect our Constitutional rights.

All three of our interview guests and other members of our local “Strengthening Sanctuary” group have helped many people understand their basic rights through their “Know Your Rights” training sessions throughout our community in Thurston and Mason Counties. **🡪 See the end of this document for links to websites with relevant information.**

Raids and other emergencies might require “rapid response” to protect people:

Aggressive federal enforcement will create emergencies, so people who care about legal rights will need to respond immediately to these emergencies. Eder talked about this “rapid response” organizing that is starting here and elsewhere throughout the U.S. For example, in Seattle, the Washington State Immigrant Solidarity Network has created a template for these kinds of responses. A hotline will likely ready for use in May 2017. The organizers need volunteers who are proficient in Spanish and other languages and are willing to be “on call” when federal agencies cause raids or other emergencies for immigrants. The network will need volunteers who can show up in person to provide legal support, moral support, health care, or other services. An app for smart phones is being developed to help these efforts.

The issues we have been discussing during this interview pertain to people from anywhere in the world, not only people from Spanish-speaking countries. We need volunteers with every possible language – various Asian languages, French for immigrants from French-speaking African nations, and on and on.

Steffani mentioned that the American Immigration Lawyers Association ([**www.aila.org**](http://www.aila.org)) has trained immigration attorneys to respond to workplace raids. For example, sometimes federal agencies will send detainees to other states, remove them from sources of defense evidence, break up their families, etc. It’s important to keep people as local as possible – protecting their jurisdiction within Washington State – in order to help their legal defense as well as their basic human rights and their support network.

Avoid some pitfalls when talking about immigrants:

Joanna mentioned that the media and politicians sometimes distinguish between “good” and “bad” immigrants – those for whom we should have some sympathy and those for whom we should not (*e.g*., those eligible for DACA vs. those not eligible). She reminded the viewers of Steffani’s explanation about Trump trying to change the definition of what “criminal” means. She objected to the divisiveness of attaching a “criminal” label to some immigrants and dividing them from other immigrants and from family members. She urged our nation to not limit our concern to only the DACA students. She urged us to keep this in mind when we watch or read mainstream media.

Glen agreed with Joanna. He said that we see this kind of media divisiveness when police shoot an unarmed and completely innocent person of color for no valid reason whatsoever. Media often find something negative in the dead victim’s past – perhaps a shoplifting incident from years ago – and say “he was no angel,” as if a shoplifting incident from years ago can justify the police killing him now for no valid reason. Joanna agreed, and added that likewise sometimes the media will object to the police shooting only because the person had some good trait *(e.g*., was a sports hero in high school). She asked what kinds of messages the media are trying to send with this kind of reporting.

Recognize all people’s common humanity. Working for immigrant rights is interrelated with working for other kinds of human rights:

Throughout the 30 years I have been producing and hosting this TV series, many of our program topics have recognized that all people are one human family, regardless of nationality, religion, sexual orientation or other factors. I would like our nation to recognize this basic principle regarding immigration status too. Every person – whether born here, a naturalized citizen, or an immigrant with or without documentation – every person has equal value as a human being. Come on! Let’s recognize our common humanity! We are all in this together!

Eder affirmed this. He said, “Crisis presents opportunity.” Since the November 2016 election, many people have been questioning how to get along with other people and with the world around us. He said we have more opportunities now “to engage more of ourselves” and to do things that “reflect our deeper values.” So now because of this crisis he has the opportunity to work with Joanna and Steffani and many other wonderful people. People have been coming from different background but sharing important values and rallying together to accomplish necessary work, based upon “values of service, values of respect and values of human dignity.” He said that ultimately this is about human dignity – our own and other people’s human dignity.

Glen appreciated the work of Eder and others in working with a very wide range of faith communities for these purposes. Grounding in human values unites different religions. Eder expressed appreciation for members of Olympia’s Jewish congregation showing up at our Islamic mosque in support and solidarity after Trump’s ban on Muslim travel. Glen affirmed the work that these two local congregations have been doing together for mutual understanding and support for a number of years.

Steffani suggested ways people could help with the realities we have been discussing:

Steffani suggested some ways in which people watching this interview help with what we have been discussing. She suggested:

* Volunteer with an organization such as Olympia’s “Strengthening Sanctuary.”
* Reach out to your neighbors who are immigrants. She said some of her immigrant clients have told her how good they have felt when neighbors have brought flowers, food, or other welcoming gifts or gestures.
* Attorneys and other people who understand how the law works – including those who are not experts in immigration law – could volunteer their services in several ways, such as bond hearings so immigrants who are detained will be able to get out on bond. This will be a huge, crucial need. Some people detained in 2017 will not have their hearings until 2021 or 2012, so they could be unnecessarily trapped for years in federal immigration prisons such as the NW Detention Center.
* Urge Congress not to give Trump billions of dollars to fund more privately owned detention centers, because they would detain millions of people.
* People who have cultural ties and language skills related to other countries are needed as volunteers in various ways.
* Volunteer to help with various non-profit organizations that work on the kinds of issues we have been discussing during this hour. We will list some of these resources at the end of this document.

More ways you can help:

* In our daily lives we can help immigrants from anywhere feel welcome in our nation and in our community. We make friends with them and learn about their cultures and religions.
* Volunteer and donate financially for non-profit organizations that protect human rights and legal rights.
* Be a good listener so you can understand opposing views. Learn how to respond effectively with empathy and healing. See [**www.cnvc.org**](http://www.cnvc.org) to learn about Nonviolent Communication.
* Educate elected officials and the news media.
* Publicly oppose and resist mean-spirited tactics, such as Trump’s intention to compile a list of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants. Hitler used this same tactic – compiling a list of crimes committed by Jews – in order to vilify Jews. Don’t let Trump do this now to vilify immigrants. See article at [**www.tinyurl.com/lryvvxx**](http://www.tinyurl.com/lryvvxx)
* Stay committed even if you hit bumps on the way.

Many excellent non-profit organizations and resources for information, advocacy, etc.:

**American Civil Liberties Union (nationwide):** [**www.aclu.org**](http://www.aclu.org)In addition to the work for which they have been famous for nearly a century, they also have a new “People Power” section that helps people create “Freedom Cities” throughout the U.S. “People Power” a grassroots member-mobilization project through which the ACLU engages volunteers nationwide to take action when Trump or his administration attempt to enact unconstitutional policies or trample on people’s constitutional rights. Visit [**https://peoplepower.org/**](https://peoplepower.org/)

**American Civil Liberties Union of Washington State:** [**www.aclu-wa.org**](http://www.aclu-wa.org)

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** is a Quaker-based non-profit organization working for peace, human rights, etc. AFSC offers this information about “Sanctuary Everywhere,” the simple idea that everyday people can work to keep each other safe, wherever we are. [**www.afsc.org/story/what-sanctuary-everywhere**](https://www.afsc.org/story/what-sanctuary-everywhere)Sanctuary can mean taking someone into a congregation to protect them, but even broader than that, sanctuary is about the community coming together to protect those who need it. That means standing up to discrimination, harassment, and violence in our schools, congregations, public spaces, cities, streets, and everywhere it happens. AFSC’s Sanctuary Everywhere program seeks to equip thousands of people with tools and training to interrupt hateful acts and government actions that put our communities at risk, and to encourage concrete policies and practices that create greater safety and a welcoming environment for all.

**AFSC’s 4 helpful ways to talk about the Muslim ban:** [**https://www.afsc.org/blogs/media-uncovered/four-tips-talking-about-trumps-muslim-ban?utm\_source=Mar2017AFSCNow&utm\_medium=email**](https://www.afsc.org/blogs/media-uncovered/four-tips-talking-about-trumps-muslim-ban?utm_source=Mar2017AFSCNow&utm_medium=email)

**American Immigration Lawyers Association**: [**www.aila.org**](http://www.aila.org)

**Center for Constitutional Rights:** [**www.ccrjustice.org**](http://www.ccrjustice.org)

**CIELO Projec**t in the greater Olympia WA area: [**www.cieloproject.org**](http://www.cieloproject.org)

**City of Olympia’s Resolution M-1857 declared the City of Olympia a sanctuary city.** The City Council passed it on December 13, 2016. See [**http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/city-council-and-mayor/resolutions.aspx**](http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/city-council-and-mayor/resolutions.aspx)

**Colectiva Legal del Puebla:** [**www.colectivalegal.org**](http://www.colectivalegal.org)

**Council on American-Islamic Relations:** [**www.CAIR.com**](http://www.CAIR.com)

**Define American:** This is an interesting and savvy organization working for immigrant rights through advocacy, Know Your Rights training, and in other ways. [**www.defineamerican.com**](http://www.defineamerican.com)

**Democracy Now! April 14, 2017, radio interview and transcript about hunger strike at NW Detention Center:** [**https://www.democracynow.org/2017/4/14/700\_immigrants\_on\_hunger\_strike\_at**](https://www.democracynow.org/2017/4/14/700_immigrants_on_hunger_strike_at)

**Faithful America** respects religious people’s support for human rights and respects religious congregations’ right to be sanctuaries: [**www.faithfulamerica.org**](http://www.faithfulamerica.org) and this link you can sign to tell ICE to leave sanctuary congregations alone: [**http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/ice\_alexandria/?t=1&akid=994.432684.1y4KKe**](http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/ice_alexandria/?t=1&akid=994.432684.1y4KKe)

**Mijente:** [**https://mijente.net**](https://mijente.net)

**Muslim Legal Fund of America:** [**www.mlfa.org**](http://www.mlfa.org)

**National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON):** [**www.ndlon.org**](http://www.ndlon.org)offers a collection of 7 “Know Your Rights” pamphlets.

**National Immigration Law Center:** [**www.nilc.org**](http://www.nilc.org)

**Northwest Detention Center Resistance:** [**www.nwdcresistance.org**](http://www.nwdcresistance.org)

**Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**, 615 Second Ave., Suite 400. Seattle WA 98104 (206) 957-8611 [**www.nwirp.org**](http://www.nwirp.org)Their website includes this great resource section: [**https://www.nwirp.org/resources/**](https://www.nwirp.org/resources/)**. They also recommend this** Seattle Know Your Rights Video: [**http://video.seattle.gov:8080/media/community/VOD\_KnowYourRightsV.mp4**](http://video.seattle.gov:8080/media/community/VOD_KnowYourRightsV.mp4)

**Sanctuary Not Deportation** provides emergency response info and other help: [**www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org**](http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org)

**The Sentencing Project** ([**www.sentencingproject.org**](http://www.sentencingproject.org)) is an excellent source of accurate information about our nation’s criminal justice system. Recently they researched and wrote a report about immigrants. It includes this information:

“The Sentencing Project is pleased to share a new survey of key research about the impact of immigration on public safety. The report finds immigrants have significantly lower rates of criminality than native-born citizens and may have contributed to the historic crime-drop of the last 20 years. Immigration and Public Safety, authored by Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Ph.D. and Josh Rovner, highlights four key findings:

1. Immigrants – regardless of legal status – commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens.

2. Higher levels of immigration in recent decades may have contributed to the historic drop in crime rates.

3. Police chiefs believe that intensifying immigration enforcement undermines public safety.

4. Immigrants are under-represented in the U.S. prison population; and the majority of those receiving federal sentences were convicted of immigration law violations.

Other sources provided this information about immigrants’ low rates of committing crimes: [**https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/these-are-the-facts-on-refugees-and-crime/?utm\_source=Iterable&utm\_campaign=iterable\_campaign\_US\_Feb\_24\_2017\_content\_digest\_actives&utm\_medium=email**](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/these-are-the-facts-on-refugees-and-crime/?utm_source=Iterable&utm_campaign=iterable_campaign_US_Feb_24_2017_content_digest_actives&utm_medium=email)

**United We Dream** is nationwide led by immigrant youth: [**www.unitedwedream.org**](http://www.unitedwedream.org)

**Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network:** [**www.waimmigrantsolidaritynetwork.org**](http://www.waimmigrantsolidaritynetwork.org)

**Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order 17-01** on February 23, 2017. It affirmed the benefits that immigrants provide for our state’s economy. He said that in 2014 immigrants “contributed over $2.4 billion in state and local taxes,” and in 2012 “undocumented immigrants “paid $301.9 million in state and local taxes. If all undocumented immigrants were removed from the state, the state would lose $14.5 billion in economic activity, $6.4 billion in gross revenue, and approximately 71,197 jobs.” You can watch his 30-minute press conference at [**http://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2017021189**](http://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2017021189)

Sanctuary congregations:

**Some former ICE employees have had changes of heart.** See these two items:

[**https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/she-helped-deport-hundreds-of-undocumented-immigrants-now-shes-fighting-for-them/2017/03/27/9dc59cc6-04e7-11e7-b9fa-ed727b644a0b\_story.html?utm\_term=.1e6336afaeac**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/she-helped-deport-hundreds-of-undocumented-immigrants-now-shes-fighting-for-them/2017/03/27/9dc59cc6-04e7-11e7-b9fa-ed727b644a0b_story.html?utm_term=.1e6336afaeac)

[**http://kuow.org/post/he-helped-deport-thousands-now-he-shelters-immigrants-his-church**](http://kuow.org/post/he-helped-deport-thousands-now-he-shelters-immigrants-his-church)

**Article on church sanctuary:** [**http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-sanctuary-churches-20170301-story.html**](http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-sanctuary-churches-20170301-story.html)

**Four ways your congregation can prepare to become a sanctuary congregation:** [**https://auburnseminary.org/4-ways-your-faith-community-can-prepare-for-sanctuary/**](https://auburnseminary.org/4-ways-your-faith-community-can-prepare-for-sanctuary/)

“Know Your Rights” training resources and videos:

Many non-profit organizations and other entities conduct trainings in a variety of locations throughout the U.S. **Some of the organizations listed above** provide training and advocacy regarding legal rights.
**Also see the resources listed below.**

**Basic concepts:** (1) You have a right to remain silent, so do not say anything without an attorney to represent you. (2) Do not even open the door unless there is an official warrant signed by a judge. An ICE “warrant” is not enough. (3) Do not sign anything.

**“Know Your Rights” PowerPoint Slide Shows in English and Spanish:**  See the special links at the May 2017 part of the “TV Programs” part of [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org)

**National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON):** [**www.ndlon.org**](http://www.ndlon.org)offers a collection of 7 “Know Your Rights” pamphlets.

**Spanish Know Your Rights Resources** (with warrant examples pages 4-5): [**http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Final-KYR-Immigration-ESPANOL2-2.10.217.pdf**](http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Final-KYR-Immigration-ESPANOL2-2.10.217.pdf)

**What if ICE comes?** [**www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5) provides a series of “Know Your Rights” videos in Spanish and English, including what to do if ICE comes to an agency, workplace, house, etc.

**Video:** Although this video from California [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\_Z\_Z5tSsUs**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_Z_Z5tSsUs)is good, most attorneys in Washington state say don’t even give your name.

**8 Videos (2 minutes each) from Catholic Charities:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsJ4SUDKNfU&index=4&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5> (Workplace)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVTLT5aOOL4&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5&index=5> (Police Stop)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqXh6CB6r8g&index=6&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5> (Know Rights at Home)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N_8SHqWadc&index=7&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xT> (Agency Protocol)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8iCAlYXvDc&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5&index=1> (Agency Protocol)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTUDOLSzh1o&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5&index=2> (Workplace)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NDZH9JmjsE&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5&index=3> (Police Stop)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us2RrCBjM9Q&index=8&list=PLlOioaWjC0YhpikWuQAywI8Ju7R91xTd5> (Front Door)

Closing encouragement:

Glen thanked Joanna, Eder and Steffani for being guests for this interview and for sharing a lot of substantive information and good heart. Glen also thanked the viewers for watching.

We taped this interview on April 18, 2017. The news changes continuously, so things some details might have changed by the time you watch it, although much of the basic information and perspective will remain stable. Consult reliable sources of information for the latest updates.

During the 2016 election season – and especially since January 2017 – many kinds of people have been subjected to serious violations of their human rights and constitutional rights, and other kinds of abuse. People who were already vulnerable because of gender, religion, race, national origin, disability, and other factors have been especially targeted for further abuse – and in some cases outright violence.

That **violates** the spirit of what our nation is supposed to value. It is **not acceptable!**

Decent Americans need to get informed and get active in pushing back nonviolently against the oppressors. Decent Americans need to remind other Americans and all levels of government and media that our nation’s values are better than that.

I appreciate the good work that our guests for this interview are performing. We need more people to rise to the occasion and help bring our nation back from cruelty and injustice.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence by contacting the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation at (360) 491-9093 or **www.olympiafor.org**

We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.

We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.

The world needs you! You can help!

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence
by contacting the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation at (360) 491-9093 [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org)