

## **California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty**

California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty works to educate and mobilize faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in California. CPF is a nonpartisan, statewide, interfaith organization. We reach out to all citizens regardless of faith, race, ethnic group, income, political affiliation, age or ability. Our members include Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and people from other faith traditions. As communities of faith, we join together to take responsibility for the killing of our citizens by the State of California.

We work with faith communities across California, taking on serious questions from the points of view of the community, victims and offenders. We are deeply disturbed by violent crime and by the suffering of its victims and their families. We work closely with Murder Victims Families for Human Rights and Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation. We recognize and remember the victims.

As people of faith, we know that the God/Wisdom of all faiths calls us to something more: a high and often difficult standard of love, forgiveness and justice that is rooted not in retribution but rather in redemption and restoration. The death penalty denies the sacredness of human life. Spiritually, the death penalty diminishes us all.

We believe the death penalty is not and never will be the solution to violence in our society. The death penalty system is inequitable and unfair in its implementation. It is racist, predisposed to executing the poor and destitute among us. It is more costly than life imprisonment. Thus, it drains society's resources that could be used for the promotion of authentic justice and true healing.

As we invest in vengeance in this society, we divest ourselves of compassion. As we support retribution, we neglect restorative justice. We cannot be a community of compassion and unity if we choose to destroy one another. And we should not allow the state to do it for us.

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### **The Quixote Center**

The Quixote Center is a faith-based, social justice center working with people who have few resources for their struggles. We strive to make our world, our nation, and our church more just, peaceful and equitable in their policies and practices.

<http://www.quixote.org/ej/>

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### **Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace**

ICUJP was founded in Los Angeles after 9.11 to support the work of Faith leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Jewish and other spiritual faiths and traditions who say "Religious Communities Must Stop Blessing War and Violence..."

ICUJP's activities promote critical examination of the costs of violence and war at home and in the world from the Faith perspective. We insist on respect for human rights, international law and the use of peaceful means in the resolution of conflicts.

Since September 2001, a committed group has combined with newcomers every Friday morning in a church basement in Los Angeles at 7:00 am. At these meetings one is likely to hear issues presented by ACLU attorneys, Palestinian/Israeli nonviolent activists or Colombian labor organizers, in political/social discussions with a faith-based orientation.

Dialogue at the meetings has been characterized by Rev. James Lawson (a founding member and regular attendee and speaker) as unique in his experience for the courage of Jews and Muslims in particular to face issues that can inflame divisions—and yet these members have found political common ground.

ICUJP's monthly activities have included Interfaith Services and Forums throughout the Los Angeles area. Our Services and Forums have been addressed by distinguished persons such as US Rep Barbara Lee, Global Exchange and Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin, State Senator Richard Polanco, Dr. Hassan Hathout, Rabbi Leonard Beerman, former California State Assemblyman Tom Hayden, School of the Americas Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois and others.

<http://www.icujp.org/>

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