



CRT at the Women's March in Washington

Dear Friends,

The past few months have seen rapid changes in the social and political environment. Like many other non-profits, CRT is increasingly called to take a stand against efforts to institutionalize bigotry and injustice. We are responding by taking our message to the political arena. We are also working to help people develop the skills and supports necessary to work for social justice from a place of inner balance and harmony. Activists need to know how to take a stand without losing respect and compassion for the other side. This requires both “radical empathy” and the capacity to be comfortable with inner contradictions. Now more than ever - to cite an overused quotation from Mahatma Gandhi - we need to “be the change we want to see.”

In Sarasota, we have partnered with the PEACenter to sponsor an ongoing series of discussions and workshops to strengthen the activist community. To date we have facilitated public conversations on de-escalating difficult situations, taking care of yourself and others to build a sustainable movement, and identifying and responding to trauma in your faith community. A number of other events have been scheduled (see sidebar), and we are working with local groups to explore the possibility of dispute resolution training and police-community dialogues.

In the international arena, we are launching a new program using a feminist model of facilitation to build collaboration and support activism among groups of young women (see page 3). “Seeds of Change” will bring girls and young women from successful CRT programs in Israel and Kenya to the United States, where they will meet with American girls and women leaders. Our hope is that the “seeds” will sprout a global change movement.

Now is the time for every caring citizen to stand up and take action. One CRT supporter recently shared her frustration that the hospital nursery where she works does not routinely provide interpreters. As a result, non-English-speaking families don't get adequate training on how to take care of their premature infants. Her response? She went to her unit director and demanded a change.

Whether you choose to get involved politically, take a stand at work, or change the way you approach your daily life, you CAN make a difference. Thanks for all that you do.

In peace,
Andrea Blanch, PhD, Director

Upcoming CRT- PEACenter Events

From Spectators to Spect-Actors:
How to Derail Real Life Tragedies with Imagination. Interactive session exploring techniques that help people be agents of their own lives. Will Luera and Maria Schaedler-Luera. May 2, 2017

Disability Rights and Social Justice. Open dialogue led by a panel of community members with disabilities. June 6, 2017

Introducing Forum Theatre and Image Theatre. Using tools of improvisation to help people experiencing and witnessing oppression to find a voice. Will Luera and Maria Schaedler. Sep 2017

The Muslim Refugee Experience in America. Author and activist Reza Jelali shares his own experience as an Iranian Kurdish refugee and discusses the history of Muslims in America. Nov 2017

Affinity Groups and Their Allies: How to Be an Effective Supporter. Developing skills to support others and to stand in solidarity. La Verne Saunders and local training team. Dec 2017

The Indigenous Hawaiian Rights Movement. Native Hawaiian activist and his wife describe the struggle to restore native Hawaiian sovereignty and how it is guided by traditional spiritual practices. Inette and Iokepa Hanalei 'Imaikalani. Feb 2018



CRT Postcards to Congress

CRT Staff join ALLMEP on Capitol Hill

On March 21, CRT was one of 17 organizations participating in the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) 2017 Advocacy Day. Troy Montes and Betsy Howard (and Betsy's teenaged daughter, Jainey) joined several dozen others advocating for continuation of the USAID Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grant program and for legislation establishing an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

Teams met with dozens of Senate and House staff, and later with the State Department. Betsy and Troy told Congressional staff about CRT's Young Women's Parliament program, which has been funded with a CMM grant. They also joined a chorus of voices extolling grassroots peace work as an effective way to help break the logjam in peace negotiations.

A bill to establish the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, modeled after a similar fund in Northern Ireland, has been introduced in the House. This concept has recently gained attention and support. At a United States Institute of Peace symposium in March, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell (who negotiated the Good Friday Agreement) noted that ending violent conflict requires grassroots efforts as well as committed political leadership. Support for the bill has come from Tony Blair, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation, the Knesset, the Friends Committee, Theresa May, the Quartet, the Holy See Mission to the UN, J Street, and many others.

The take-home message for Troy was that we really can make a difference. He noted: "One can be physically very far removed from conflict yet still have an impact It really all boils down to the kind of investment the U.S. and its citizens want to make in the world. If we sow seeds of building relationships that foster mutual understanding and tolerance, the harvest will be peace." Betsy concurred: "I encourage anyone who has never been part of the political process to reach out and spread your wings! Great things happen when we least expect it."



Betsy and Jainey Howard at Lincoln Memorial



Discussing Peace Fund with Legislative Staff

New Members on the CRT Team



Troy Montes, CRT's new Community Outreach Coordinator, holds degrees in International Studies, Spanish, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Conflict Transformation. He served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador. His goal for CRT is to use his bicultural background and extensive international and intercultural experience to promote tolerance and understanding locally.



Betsy Howard, CRT's new Program Assistant, was born in a small town in Kentucky. Starting her own business provided an opportunity for her to travel to the Middle East and Asia, where she developed lasting friendships. She is passionate about helping girls to recognize their own power, and she wants to use her social media and graphic skills to help end hatred, anger, and intolerance.

Seeds of Change: International Gender Awareness and Activism

You know something important is happening when the same good idea springs up independently on three continents. In Kenya, Israel and the United States, girls and young women are exploring the history of women's rights, discussing the issues that face them today, and forging a new activism. In 2018, CRT will bring representatives from three successful local programs to Washington, DC to launch the Seeds of Change project.

In Israel, the Young Women's Parliament began in 2011 when younger women observed their mothers participating in a CRT-sponsored women's empowerment program and requested a group of their own. The program has expanded over the years, and now operates in 13 Palestinian and Jewish towns in Israel. In rural Kenya, Mpanzi launched two projects in 2011, both with CRT support. The first brought together Maasai and Gusii men and women to address inter-ethnic conflict. The second project focused on ending violence against women. As in Israel, younger Kenyan women requested a group of their own. In less than a year, the young women's program expanded from 15 to over 45 participants.

The programs in Israel and Kenya share an unflagging belief in the ability of women and girls to make their own decisions. They use an explicitly gender-based analysis, and include direct experience with members of different ethnic, racial or religious groups. A third program, Dayton (Ohio) Early College Academy (DECA), is a free public high school offering students from high-risk environments an opportunity to succeed in graduating from college. The Dayton girls, like those in Israel and Kenya, struggle with discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic identity and religion as well as gender. They are actively seeking ways to empower themselves and others in the quest for a just and sustainable future. They jumped at the chance to connect with girls from other countries.

An exploratory Skype call with girls from the three programs revealed that although their personal situations vary widely, they have much in common. They were unanimous in their enthusiasm for the project. Four participants have been selected from each site to connect online, and to plan the face-to-face meeting and follow-up activities. Our hope is that this project will help to create a cross-cultural network of aspiring and empowered young women leaders, and to develop a model that can be replicated in communities across the globe.



Young Mpanzi Woman with her Child

"I've always liked technology, but I thought this was more of a male's interests, not a girl's thing. Then I entered a movement called the Girls Parliament. Without these meetings I would have never become confident the way I am right now. I now believe that each of us should do what she loves and believes she is good at."

- Israeli Young Women's Parliament participant



Dayton, Ohio Girls on Skype Call

Online Purchasing to Support Seeds of Change

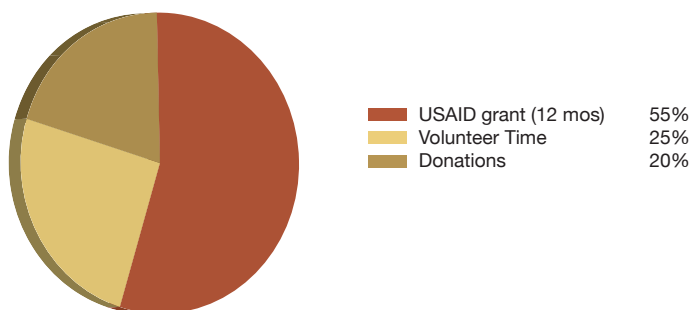
Any time you purchase goods at normal costs through Cause Genesis, 15% of the purchase price goes directly to CRT. If you are thinking about ordering something online, click the CRT-Store button on our home page and help support *Seeds of Change*. Not making a purchase but want to help? Send a tax-deductible donation to CRT with "Seeds" in the memo line or go to the Donate page on our website.

CRT Financial Report

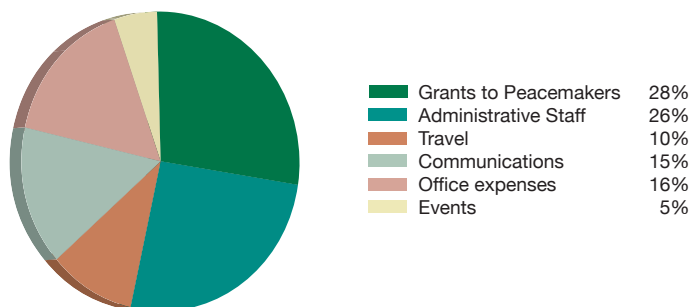
CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers and are funded with a combination of donations and grants. Estimated value of volunteer time in 2016 was \$24,600. Contributions from donors totaled \$30,441.00. A USAID grant of \$100,000, initiated in December 2015 and administered through an Israeli nonprofit, funded the Young Women's Parliament. Total

resources in 2016 (including volunteer labor and 12 months of the USAID grant): \$121,707. Expenses included direct grants to peacemakers, office expenses, administrative staff, travel, communications, and events. Expenses were covered by donor contributions. Total CRT expenses in 2016 (not including Young Women's Parliament): \$23,770.

CRT Resources



CRT Expenses



Thanks to the following individuals who gave freely of their resources, time and creativity

Rene Andersen	Mary Edda Gamson	Jeffery Kessler	Susan Salasin
Walter and Lila Aurich	Paul Gans	Sajida Khudairi	David L. Shern
Mary Auslander	Carol L. Gaskin	Liz Kreher	Kati and John Steinberg
Roger and Shirley Bascom	Heidi and Glenn Gates	Yehezkel Landau	Lynn M. Strauss and
Miriam Bassuk	Doris Goese	C. Shaffia Laue	Alexander A. Albee
Stephen and Eileen Brown	Juliet Goldstein	Mark and Cindy Lawton	Mark L. and Lucy E. Thomas
Louise Brunberg	Betty Greenspan	Mark Leventer and	Toby Towson
Kathleen Burgess	Suleiman Grosslight	Kathleen Anzicek	William and Donna Van Buren
Carol Burman-Jahn	Hasan Hammami	Carolyn Mather	Cheryl Walker
Dorothy Craig	Debra Hansen	Sandra McHenry	Lois Williams
Rebecca Crichton	Lovette Harper	Neal R. Mettler and Leila Kazimi	Eileen Yager
Sally Edwards	David Hildebrand	Hayley Muhtaseb	
Paul Engels	Ann Jennings	Roger Pritchard	
Carole Fleming	Thomas and Nancy Johnson	Kathleen Rhodeen	

Special thanks for exceptional contributions to the CRT effort

Judith Allen	Steve Corrado and	Jewish Community	Martha Stampfer
American Jewish Committee	Robin Saenger	Endowment Fund	Susan Taylor
Andrea Blanch	Bill and Diane Elliot Fund,	Anna Lewis	Philanthropic Fund
Dr. & Mrs. G. Marsden Blanch	Foundation for Roanoke Valley	Howard Nelson	Triskeles Foundation
Casey and Naraiya Blood	Peter and Gail Knight	Arlene Pearlman	