



AFSC West Region News – October 2025

Stories of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. Please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.



From [KPBS TV](#)

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Speaking out for immigrant rights and democracy

Recently, dozens of residents gathered in downtown San Diego to protest ICE agents and National Guard in communities. Organized by local community organizations, the [rally](#) also voiced concerns about threats to First Amendment rights. “For people that are living in fear, it's important for them to hear and to see that people are willing to stick their necks out during a political climate that's extremely dangerous for people to do so,” said Pedro Rios of AFSC. See also Pedro's recent [op-ed](#) on the US Supreme Court's ruling on racial profiling.



67 Sueños, Oakland

La Nueva Era de 67 Sueños

From [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): We just wrapped up orientation and couldn't be more happy to introduce the incredible team behind the work. Each of us brings heart, vision, and fire to serve our community and our HELLA HYPHY youth (HYPHY = Heal Your People Heal Yourself). Gracias en confiar en nosotrxs (Thank you for trusting us). This work is sacred, and we honor it with every step we take. Stay tuned, familia!



graphic from CAIR California

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Californians should tell Gov. Newsom: Veto the school censorship bill

Jennifer Tu and John Lindsay-Poland report that AFSC has signed on against AB715, a school censorship bill that teachers' unions and many other groups oppose. According to CAIR California, the bill would "silence Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, Jewish, and other marginalized voices in our classrooms." [Contact Gov. Newsom today and tell him to veto AB 715](#). Stay tuned for more about AB1071, the Racial Justice Act bill, that AFSC and partners have gotten to the governor's desk.



Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Oregonians urged to tell Gov. Kotek: Protect immigrant communities

Immigrants strengthen our communities. They are neighbors, workers, students, business owners, and friends who are part of our everyday lives. But today, ICE raids are separating families and spreading fear across the U.S. [Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek has the power to act](#). We're calling on governors nationwide to protect all community members, end collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement, and safeguard access to public services.



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Mas Matsumoto to keynote second Salt of the Earth Encuentro Oct. 9-11

Mas Masumoto is an organic peach, nectarine, apricot, and grape farmer. In addition to growing fruits on their family farm, they foster a connection with food, nature and farming through their "Blossom Bathing" event in March and their "Adopt a Tree" gathering every summer for the last 20 years. If you live in or near the Central Valley of California, you won't want to miss the Encuentro. Check out the [program](#) -- and [register](#) today!



Anna Maldonado, left, and Sayrah Namaste

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Climate justice conversation builds community among farmers

This fall, AFSC New Mexico hosted a farmer “platica” on climate justice so that the farmers in our network could get together and talk about the impact climate change is having on their farms. A tradition in New Mexico communities, a “platica” is an informal conversation in which everyone has a story and experience to share. Read [more](#) about how farmers are moving forward.



Jordan Garcia on 9News, Denver

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

AFSC and partners rally against detentions following ICE check-ins

AFSC and community partners are helping immigrants know their rights in the face of surprise check-ins with ICE. In this [story](#), Jordan Garcia of AFSC says, "I think for me being out there it was a really beautiful experience of watching people show up for each other in real time. And to say, this might be a scary experience for you. We are here to support you and here to make it as palatable as possible."



Photo from LA Metro

Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

AFSC celebrates recent victory in transit campaign

Crystal Gonzalez of AFSC reports: The [Green Shirt Ambassadors](#) have been adopted as in-house unionized staff by LA metro, making them permanent employees and securing union contracts. LA Roots For Peace youth members made several public comments around this; ACTLA, the coalition we are a part of, pushed for this for several years. We are happy to see this and want to continue fighting for programs and services that promote safety beyond policing. Stay tuned for more about this win and follow LA RFP on [Instagram](#).

Short takes

Celebrate [World Quaker Day](#) on Sunday, October 5....AFSC [responds to UN genocide findings in Gaza](#) and co-publishes a new book [Displaced in Gaza: Stories from the Gaza Genocide](#)....A [proposed war authorization act](#) could lead to the US targeting more than 60 countries.... Earlier this year, AFSC brought together artists from 19 African countries in Nairobi to explore how [art can promote collective healing](#).

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AFSC Mission Statement: *Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.*