



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC West Region News – March 2026

Stories of work from around the region

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

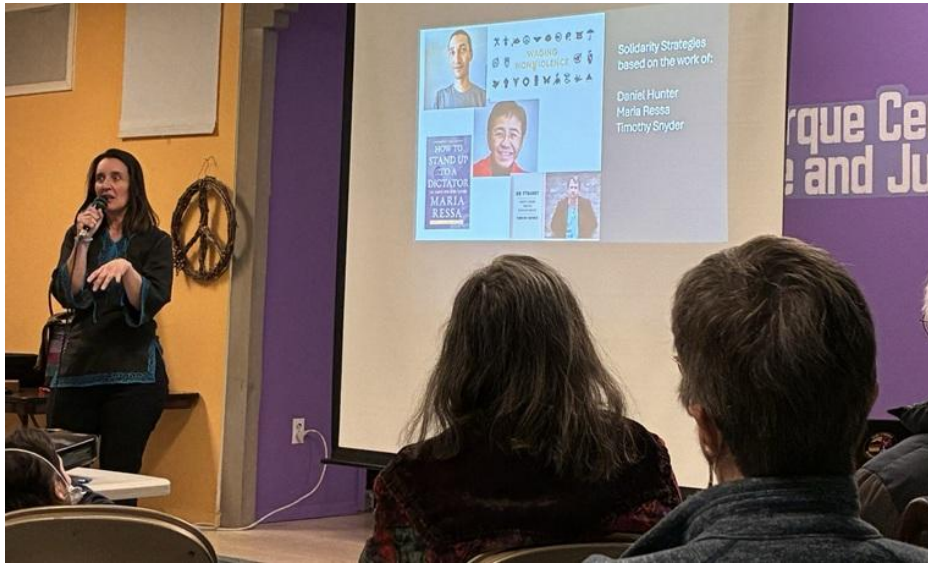


California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Online workshop to focus on contesting police militarization

Please join the California Healing Justice Program for an online workshop, *Demilitarizing Police in California: Intro to AB 481 Advocacy*, on Thursday, March 26, 4:30-6pm PT.

California state law AB 481 was enacted to increase transparency and accountability for police and sheriff's acquisition and use of militarized weaponry, from tanks and rubber bullets to drones and assault rifles. This workshop will empower you to organize and address police narratives and use of this weaponry. You can learn about AB 481 at afsc.org/ab481. Organized by the statewide network on AB 481 and Demilitarizing Police in California. Register [here](#).



Sayrah Namaste speaks on authoritarianism (photo: Enrique Cardiel)

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Talk explores strategies that work against authoritarianism

Recently Sayrah Namaste, AFSC-NM Co-Director, gave a presentation at the [Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice](#) called: "Inspirations from the Frontline: Strategies that Work Against Authoritarianism." It was based on research she collected during her sabbatical from frontline activists in dozens of countries who are sharing strategies and tactics with each other about how to protect democracy and stop authoritarianism. Read [more](#).



The Oregon State Capitol State Park in Salem

Oregon-Washington Project Voice

AFSC and partners push for Immigrant Justice Package

Alonso Oliveros and Pedro Sosa of AFSC attended a lobby day at the State Capitol in February to push for a package of bills to restrict federal agents from wearing masks, guide schools and hospitals in how to respond when agents arrive, make it easier to sue agents, and increase data protections for immigrants. Alonso says the bills have a good chance of passing. Stay tuned for more and follow on [Facebook](#).



Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Love as Action in Los Angeles

Crystal Gonzalez of AFSC reports that over 30 Quaker friends, AFSC staff, and students gathered in the LA area as part of Love as Action, a national event sponsored by AFSC. The crowd stood on the federal steps in Pasadena calling for an end to deportations. It was an hour of mostly shared silent witness as hundreds of cars drove by. Most honked in support and solidarity with the messages carried. It felt important and powerful to have a presence on this day, and every day, to say what we know in our hearts: true peace and true safety for our communities will not be reached until ICE is abolished. The next Love as Action events are set for March 21-22 across the US. Go [here](#) to find an action or organize your own!



Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

New report details injustices faced by people detained at GEO

Since October, the Shut Down Geo Campaign, a coalition composed of more than a dozen organizations across Colorado, has gathered firsthand accounts about the conditions inside ICE's Aurora-based detention facility. The coalition's new report, [Housed in ICE-olation](#), focuses on the intersection of housing and immigrant justice, detailing the devastating human impact of our nation's budget decisions. Read more [here](#).



Youth involved with PVI (photo: Eduardo Stanley)

Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Youth of color gathering set for March 13-15

PVI staff are excited about an upcoming gathering designed to provide an immersive space for youth of color to build relationships, engage in political education, and collaborate on creative strategies for cultural organizing. The gathering will deepen peer connection, increase political and civic awareness, and develop collective visions for community impact. On Sunday, March 22, 11:45 am PT, Myrna Martinez Nateras of PVI will join AFSC Leadership and Planned Gifts Officer Claire Hannapel in presenting at [Sacramento Friends Meeting](#). Join [here](#).



Pedro Rios on [ABC 10News in San Diego](#)

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Standing up for the rights guaranteed to everyone under the constitution

Following President Trump's recent State of the Union address, Pedro Rios of AFSC pushed back. "Under this administration, their focus is not on protecting the constitution, which states that everyone in the United States is afforded the same due process, the same protections, the same protection under the bill of rights," Rios said." Catch more of Pedro's comments [here](#).



67 Sueños, Oakland

Youth explore the beauty of watercolors

From [Facebook](#): 67 Sueños had an amazing watercolor session in February, where our young artists explored this versatile and fun medium for the first time. They experimented with different techniques and textures to create vibrant and unique pieces. It was a joy to see them embrace the fluidity and expressiveness of watercolors. We can't wait to see what they create next time. Stay tuned for some more awesome sessions surrounding Women's History Month!



Short takes

Here's an AFSC [explainer](#) on what you need to know about the US war in Iran – and here's our related [action alert](#)...AFSC and Quaker Peace and Social Witness have [nominated](#) Concordis International for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize...Join AFSC each Friday at 9 am PT for our [Action Hour for Palestine](#)...Join AFSC's Third Tuesday [webinar series](#) – Protect, Resist and Build – at 5 pm PT...Please hold in the Light AFSC alum [Wilson Riles](#), who recently suffered a stroke.

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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.