



This month on September 15th we celebrated the **Salvadoran Independence Day** when the country first achieved independence from Spain in 1821. This year, the holiday ironically also marked the start of [the final hearing](#) between the Salvadoran State and the Australian mining company, Oceana Gold, deciding the legality of the El Salvador's mining moratorium.



Salvadoran LGBTI rights advocate Bessy Rios (far right) will be among many leaders joining in the effort

LGBT Rights in El Salvador: Uniting a Movement

As a result of this year's Global School course on LGBT rights, Cristosal's Community Development program will now facilitate conversations among the various activist groups based in El Salvador to create one unified movement! Workshops will be led by Program Director Walter Orantes using a popular education method, with the aim of uniting efforts of various citizen leaders to build national momentum for the movement.



Salvadoran and N. American participants in the 2014 Public Theology course discuss the day's events

Looking Ahead to 2015: School is in Session!

The wait at last is over! The 2015 Global School Course Catalog is set, with new open courses and dates available including **Migration & Human Trafficking**, **Theater of the Oppressed**, and a special course to commemorate the **35th Anniversary of Romero's Martyrdom**. All age groups are welcome, with no prior Spanish experience needed.

See the full set of dates and course descriptions [online](#) and contact Global School Coordinator Ernesto Zelayandia at trips.cristosal@gmail.com for more information!



Hannah gives a lecture at LeMoyne College on the child migrant crisis

Hannah Perls Completes YASC Year 1!

One year ago Hannah Perls joined Cristosal's staff as a Young Adult Service Corps Volunteer. Since then, she has helped the organization grow into a true international NGO with expanded programs, research volunteers, and a whole new look. She will be returning in October for another year with Cristosal, and will continue to document her experiences [on her blog](#). Please join us in thanking Hannah for all her hard work, and consider supporting her volunteer year by [giving online](#) or mailing a check to Foundation Cristosal with Memo Line: *Hannah Perls YASC*.