May 2017

Become a Cristosal Advocate through our Summer Advocacy Training!

Do you want to work for peace and justice in the world? Want to learn more about human rights and advocacy?

Become a Cristosal Advocate through our Summer Advocacy Training. It is a 9-week, self-paced, online series requiring 15-30 minutes per week.

Cristosal Advocates will Learn
Snare.
Invite.
Give.

Check out this video to learn more about becoming a Cristosal Advocate!

Cristosal is building a team of volunteers to raise awareness about human rights issues and expand its supporters in North America. As a Cristosal Advocate, help us
expand our grassroots network to build understanding of and support for our mission.

Cristosal Advocates will commit to learning about human rights issues, sharing their passion for our work, connecting others to our mission, and raising funds for social change.

As a Cristosal Advocate, you will receive advocacy training and support and be an integral part of our team. Cristosal Advocates will participate in an 9-week summer training program. The Advocacy training will be self-paced and require a commitment of about **15-30 minutes per week**. Each 3-week module will culminate in a conference call with Executive Director, Noah Bullock.

Learn more and sign up [here](#)! The training starts July 1 and culminates August 31.

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**Executive Committee meets in Northern California**

Executive Director Noah Bullock spoke about Cristosal and human rights issues in several northern California cities in early May. Highlights included Noah’s participation in the Dialogue on Immigration Policy and Human Rights at Stanford University, and his messages to several Cristosal Board of Directors members’
churches. Board Vice President Audrey Denney’s home church, Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, California, hosted a human rights seminar. The Bidwell and Chico community was largely responsible for raising money for the new Cristosal website. Noah expressed thanks, and addressed the relevance of human rights work in today’s world.

Cristosal is “inspired by people who are committed to a vision of how things ought to be,” Noah said. He credited people of faith with championing the idea of human rights from the very beginning. He traced that beginning to the Golden Rule, saying both are “fundamentally concerned about how we treat the other.” The idea of basic human rights has always been “a conviction; a faith statement,” said Noah. Even during the logic-based Enlightenment, when human rights theory first emerged, “they never really found a rationale argument for it,” he said. Instead, Noah said, “the issue of fundamental human equality… was actually just something we believe.”

After World War II, Noah said the beliefs around human rights became laws. He said the World War II generation “thought the origin of that terrible conflict was indifference to how people were treated in other countries.” As a result, Noah said, that generation worked to ensure that “the foundations of…peace…be rooted in fundamental respect for human dignity…among people from all nations.”

Noah concluded by explaining that “human rights is not just a charitable thing. It’s not just a moral thing. It’s a security thing.” He said, “I’m fundamentally concerned about how you are treated…because if they're able to violate you, sooner or later, someone could violate my rights and dignity.”

During his time in California, Noah also attended a Board of Directors meeting at board member Amy Denney Zuniga’s Grace Episcopal Church in St. Helena. The people of Grace Church generously hosted the board members during their stay. Noah also visited board member Kathy Veit’s church, All Saints’ Palo Alto, as well as St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Davis, Christ Church Los Altos, the Diocese of El Camino Real, and the Church of the Epiphany.

Everywhere he went, Noah spoke up for the equality and dignity of all human beings. “My concern for the other is what I believe could keep us all safe,” he said.

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Why Human Rights? Why Central America?
Despite the fact that internally displaced persons “outnumber refugees by around two to one,” internal displacement continues to be overlooked globally by policymakers and humanitarian aid budgets, according to the 2017 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID).
The GRID, released this month, **features a spotlight on displacement in El Salvador by Executive Director Noah Bullock (Pages 22-23).** El Salvador is "second in terms of new displacements [in 2016] relative to population size," writes Noah. He notes that a vast majority of those displacements are caused by gang violence, including “murder, torture, forced disappearances, rape, sexual exploitation and threats to exercise control over territories and populations.”

However, Noah points out, there is no “national strategy, legislative or policy framework in place to…address” the problem. To compound the issue, displaced persons rarely report the circumstances that caused them to flee their homes. Victims often fear additional violence from organized criminal groups, or mistrust authorities’ motives and ability to help. This is not surprising, considering Noah’s explanation that government “security forces have allegedly perpetrated extrajudicial executions, physical abuse, sexual harassment and mass arrests” in the name of subduing criminal activity.

On a global scale, the 129-page report takes a big-picture look of the number of people displaced by conflict and disaster in different countries. The report also discusses how “internal displacement has been sidelined in recent global policy processes and is overshadowed by the current focus on refugees and migrants.” The final section of the report points to reliable data as an essential driver toward the future visibility and prioritization of internal displacement.

The GRID is sponsored by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the Norwegian Refugee Council. The full report can be [found here](#).

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**Want to work with us?**

**Know someone who'd be great?**

**Check out our job listings!**

We're currently looking for a Human Rights Education Specialist, a Lawyer, and a Strategic Communications Professional.

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**Our work is made possible through the generosity of**
individuals like you. Will you join us?

Yes, I Want to Make My Online Gift Now!

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