Justice for Women is a grassroots movement for social justice and systemic change, especially for women living in poverty.

Our Justice for Women Program began when the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center gathered women from 14 Northwest organizations and decided to partner with women living on the margins on justice issues impacting their lives. Women’s Justice Circles, which begin with an 8-week process in English or Spanish, bring women together to share their stories and hopes; learn about the power they have as a group; and take action on issues to create healthy, stable lives for themselves and their families. During the process, the Circle gathers information, designs campaigns, recruits collaborators and takes concrete actions that lead to social change.

The Circles have worked for systemic change with

215 Agencies
84 Churches
21 Universities/Schools
300 Actions
9 Interns

Colombia – Fundación El Faro
A peaceful march to El Cisco of Marmato to commemorate International Women’s Day. Circle decorated a mandala, prayed, read poems & paid tribute to Colombian women leaders.
Mattawa – Villa Santa María
Advocacy for rapid response to domestic violence calls led to sheriff, police chief & mayor collaborating with the Circle to give women free cell phones for 911 calls.

Bellevue – St. Margaret Episcopal Church
Educated themselves on needs of women least served in their community; worked with Eastside Refugee & Immigrant Coalition to produce Access Guide to Services.

Olympia – Evergreen Vista
Circle changed transit policy to allow children to remain in strollers while boarding and riding the bus.

Wapato – Marie Rose House
Circle participated in Catholic Advocacy Day in Olympia where María spoke through a translator to over 350 constituents about the need for affordable housing and childcare for immigrants.

Quincy – Quincy Community Health Center
Spanish-speaking teens formed a Circle to reduce teen pregnancy; organized health fair for parents, teens & community designed to empower teens to act responsibly and engage in age-appropriate relationships & activities.

“I have discovered I have a mission in life and I will do everything possible to use my skills for the benefit of my community.”

306 Justice Circles in 72 Cities Worldwide 2000-2020
Clinton IA • Connell WA • Cuscatlán El Salvador • Detroit MI •
Mabton WA • Manizales Colombia • Mattawa WA • Monroe WA
Seattle – Chief Seattle Club
Launched an effective media awareness campaign on Native American homelessness.

Woodland – La Casa de San Juan Diego
Began a childcare co-op in concert with computer training classes.

Bellingham – Sterling Senior Housing
Raised awareness about seniors’ need for dental care & increased number of dentists accepting DSHS dental coupons.

Peru – Centro María Rosa
Organized a fundraiser for tree planting to raise awareness about climate change & great need for green spaces in impoverished urban areas.

“I have discovered I have a mission in life and I will do everything possible to use my skills for the benefit of my community.”
Bothell – St. Brendan Catholic Church
Feeling the pain of children who are bullied, Latina mothers created a brochure & designed first bullying forum for Northshore School District, “Respect and Equality for All!” Replicated in Sunnyside, Cashmere & Walla Walla.

Seattle – Sojourner Place
Action initiated in May 2010 when they testified before Seattle Human Rights Commission requesting that people with past convictions be added to protected class on City’s Housing Discrimination Law; success in June 2013 with passage of Job Assistance Legislation, giving 1000s second chance at building a new life.

Burien – New Futures (Front cover, lower photo)
Latina mothers moved city to ensure safety of school children, with crossing guard, restriping crosswalk with reflective markers, warning signs & flashing beacon. Replicated in Kent.
New Brunswick, NJ – St. Joseph Parish
Raising US-born children who know little of mothers’ journeys, the Circle created Off-Broadway 8-act play, “La Vida de Juanita”, designed to enable children to see through mothers’ eyes & women to rediscover their power.

Tanzania – Women Center for Communication and Development (Front cover, top photo)
Women of Handeni, many illiterate & with limited technology formed 25 Circles in Swahili language, moved local government to provide improved maternal health services.

Gig Harbor – Washington Corrections Center for Women
Circle of mothers who are incarcerated advocated with Seattle City Council and housing providers for fair chance at obtaining housing in order to reunify with their children & avoid homelessness and recidivism.
“I have learned… that together we are unstoppable, we can face any obstacle!”

Cambodia – Royal University of Phnom Penh
Social work university students facilitated a Circle that identified child abuse as most critical issue; in partnership with ChildSafe trained over 300 in 4 villages on ways to make villages safe havens for children.

Aberdeen – St. Mary Catholic Church
After forum on mental health, Circle was invited by Grays Harbor Public Health & Social Services to collaborate on successful grant application for projects to de-stigmatize & support mental health in their Latino community.

Spokane – St. Margaret’s Shelter
Advocated successfully with Spokane Transit Authority for a bus stop closer to the shelter. Learned that a small group of concerned citizens can make a difference even if those citizens are homeless.

Prosser WA • Puyallup WA • Quincy WA • RAAS Nicaragua • Renton WA
Sedro-Woolley WA • Shelton WA • Silverton OR • Snoqualmie WA • Spokane WA
Toppenish WA • Tukwila WA • Vancouver WA • Walla Walla WA • Yakima WA
Conferences | Workshops
Responding to the immigrant community’s need for education and assistance, IPJC organized Know Your Rights and Protect your Family interactive workshops to address fear of deportation, provide skills for navigating ICE encounters and raids, and encourage long range planning for care of families and communities.
“Recipients… have made significant contributions to human development and social change and have offered heroic responses to the needs of the economically disadvantaged.”

Conferences | Workshops

Central WA • 2011 Latinas Connected for Change
Western WA • 2011 Latinas Connected for Change
Western & Central WA • 2012–2013 Development of Women’s Leadership Workshops
Western WA • 2014 Uniting Latino Leaders for Social Change
Western & Central WA • 2015–2016 Latino Equity Network Community Dialogues
Central WA & Bothell • 2015–2017 Leadership Development Cohorts
Seattle • 2016 Toward a Dignified & Healthy House
Seattle • 2016–2017 Conoce tus Derechos | Know Your Rights
Granger, Lower Yakima Valley • 2017 Sowing and Harvesting Wellbeing
Everett, Snohomish County • 2017 DACA Renewal Clinic
Seattle & Lynnwood • 2018 Family Preparedness Workshop & Family Law Legal Clinic
Belfair, Mason County • 2019 Family Preparedness Training & Multilingual Legal Clinic
Yakima • 2020 Leadership Development Workshop for PREPARES volunteers
🌟 Build relationships with others who want change
🌟 Claim personal and collaborative power
🌟 Understand the issues that impact women on the margins
🌟 Learn the skills of grassroots organizing and leadership
🌟 Take action to create change

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
a collaborative venture of
Sponsoring Communities
Adrian Dominican Sisters | Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Jesuits West | Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia | Tacoma Dominicans

Affiliate Communities
Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood, Idaho | Benedictine Sisters of Lacey
Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel | Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael | Sinsinawa Dominicans
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City | Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon | Sisters of the Holy Family
Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco | Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Society of the Sacred Heart | Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

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