

# HEARING THE CRIES FOR JUSTICE 2018 – FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

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**Hearing the Cries** - attending to the pain of our sisters and brothers - and the healing we need in our hearts

- ✓ Attend the *Hearing the Cries for Justice* convocation to equip you and connect with other communities engaged in justice issues
- ✓ Attend an EMO movie night about jail conditions (coming this spring - stay tuned)
- ✓ Coordinate a group to volunteer regularly at a local crisis center or hospitality ministry for human trafficking victims
- ✓ Read a book about the experiences of people in prison
- ✓ Tour a prison or jail
- ✓ Stand in solidarity with supporters outside detention facilities
- ✓ When a friend or loved one shares with you how they have been hurt by violence, listen to their story without judgement
- ✓ When a loved one shares about their time in prison, or a family member's time in prison, listen to their story without judgment
- ✓ If you do not think you know anyone who has been incarcerated or has been a victim of crime, start talking with *everyone* you know about your journey to learn more about criminal justice: someone you already know will probably share new perspectives with you
- ✓ Actively seek mentorship and friendship from persons who share your values and who you admire; form your own circle of support and accountability to help you lead a life of integrity toward your highest goals for changing the world
- ✓ Reach out for help when you need it

**Becoming Healers** - learning and practicing skills to become true change-makers

- ✓ Examine the role of racial injustice in the legal and correctional systems, and attend to the role of white privilege in your own life
- ✓ Pray daily for people in prison
- ✓ Revolutionize the language you use, to be person-centered and avoid dehumanizing labels
- ✓ Make connections between your religious values and justice issues
- ✓ Write letters to local leaders and newspapers to encourage specific reform legislation, such as Justice Reinvestment
- ✓ Send a thank-you card to officials implementing positive policies
- ✓ Get trained as a Home for Good in Oregon mentor through the Department of Corrections and walk with someone through the transition of re-entry from prison
- ✓ Get trained in trauma-informed care and trauma stewardship
- ✓ Attend a training in Restorative Justice, conflict resolution, or nonviolent communication, then practice it in your life
- ✓ Learn about victim-offender dialogue and other alternative approaches to restoring justice after harm
- ✓ Educate yourself about every issue and every person on your ballot, including District Attorneys
- ✓ Host an election party to fill out your ballots with friends, or host a watch party for a televised debate - and then debate the issues with your guests

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**Healing the System** – help change Oregon’s justice system, locally and statewide

- ✓ Join EMO’s lobby days in Salem to advocate for reform as people of faith
- ✓ Donate resources to support individuals and families through the re-entry transition (for example, see the needed item list at Red Lodge Transition Services)
- ✓ When possible, give a job or rent an apartment to someone with a record/on the registry
- ✓ Join Beloved Community actions, like the “Little Boxes” campaign against gun violence
- ✓ Go to law school and bring your reform mindset to your work as a law student, lawyer, and/or judge
- ✓ Change the lives of students by mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering, to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline
- ✓ If you are a teacher, practice Restorative Justice disciplinary practices; if you are a parent, get involved in your child’s school and query ways it might contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline
- ✓ Attend your county’s Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to raise a voice from the *public* about *public safety*
- ✓ Attend Portland’s Community Peace Collaborative (a response to gang violence) or another innovative group in your area
- ✓ Host a book club to read *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander or *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- ✓ Run for office to raise awareness through your campaign, and commit to make real change when you win

**Healing Our Communities** – take action with and within your faith congregation or local group

- ✓ Dedicate a day each year as a **Criminal Justice Sabbath**, to learn and take action (resource guide at [emoregon.org](http://emoregon.org)) - join us this year on July 6-8, 2018.
- ✓ Use stories from the criminal justice system in your preaching
- ✓ Bring in speakers to address your congregation, from EMO’s speakers’ bureau, or local agency or non-profit leaders
- ✓ Host an exhibit of visual artwork by incarcerated artists
- ✓ Donate books/supplies to drives for adult/juvenile prisoners
- ✓ Welcome persons with criminal records into the community, through a mission statement, lobby display, or otherwise showing your commitment - to inform visitors and members
- ✓ Analyze your congregation’s racial and socioeconomic diversity
- ✓ Educate your group about incarceration and racism, such as screening the documentary *Thirteenth* by Ava Duvernay
- ✓ Host a small group for family of those in prison, survivors of violence, or persons on parole
- ✓ Use Restorative Justice practices in youth groups and classes
- ✓ Educate your group about challenges facing people as they reintegrate into society after prison
- ✓ Support programs for children of the incarcerated, such as toy drives or camps
- ✓ Hold a prayer vigil whenever a U.S. state executes a human being
- ✓ Dedicate a portion of your church budget toward ministries supporting criminal justice reform and service