

CFM Peace Social Earth Care Committee Notes
Via Zoom
July 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm

Attending: Faith Sillars, clerk; Richard Kleinschmidt; Charlie Friou; JJ Smith; Wendy Lapham; Kathy Urie; Jeanne Hruska from NH ACLU, guest.

Committee meeting began with silent worship.

Discussion was centered around mass incarceration, which is directly related to police racial bias. In New Hampshire disproportionately more Blacks and people of color are arrested, which means that Blacks and POC are disproportionately incarcerated. (KU read today 7/3 that Blacks are 1.7% of New Hampshire's population, but almost 17% of prison population.)

Jeanne Hruska detailed three bills which have key items related to the above issue. All three NH bills had bipartisan support and passed both houses.

HB 1645

- The bill requires police to report misconduct
- Ban on chokeholds
- Continuance of bail reform

HB 1558

The bill reforms student discipline guidelines, delineating specific disciplines for specific reasons and limit days of suspension. Youth need to be in school. Again, Black students and POC receive suspensions disproportionately, and it has been shown that this discipline tactic is a pipe line to incarceration.

HB 1162

If a youth is taken out of the family home and is placed in foster care, etc the lawyer assigned to the case must stay with the youth even after placement. Also, families will not have to pay court ordered costs.

Jeanne Hruska recommends:

- Contact Governor Sununu to let him know that you want him to sign the three bills into law.
- Contact candidates who are running in your district and ask specifically, “ **Do you think POC and Blacks are incarcerated disproportionately?**” Try to make them answer.
- The county attorneys play an important role in this issue. Ask those who are running for county attorney the same question NH needs more people running for county attorney. It

was suggested that the NH Bar Association and Criminal defenders Association would help promote this.

Discussion points:

- Looking at what police are allowed to do now is key to disproportionate incarceration.
- Funding for police went up during the same period that social work funding went down. There is social work and there is police work.
- Discussion on pretextual stops.
- Jeanne place information in zoom chat room. Wendy agreed to copy and send to committee members

Thank you to Jeanne Hruska.

Meeting was adjourned.

Notes taken by K. Urie