

VOLUME I, ISSUE 9
SEPTEMBER 2019

GraceFUL L



for each step forged
was light beyond
and darkness banished

for each breath ushered
was life inspired
and fear rebuked

for each touch rested
was peace embraced
and pain renounced

what we leave behind

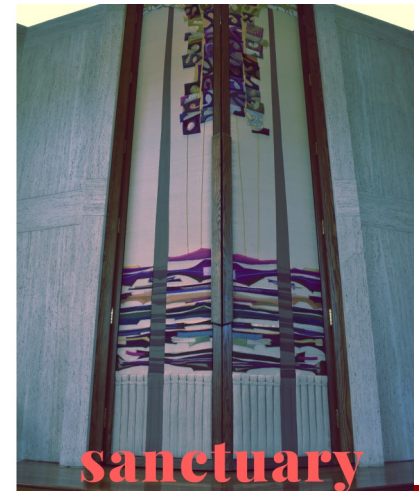
Speak Kindness (2019)

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<i>Cover Photo: Speak Kindness book cover</i>	

SANCTUARY Intersections of Humanity

'H ave we shrunk so far from our own humanity that we can no longer recognize theirs? Or are we simply too comfortable to recognize that much of our own prosperity grows on the ashes of other people's lives, on the swamps of inhumane working conditions, on the blood spilt by conflicts fought with our weapons, on the smoldering remnants of an environment destroyed by our extractive companies? After we have exploited their labor, ransacked their environment, colluded with their dictators and fueled conflict that turned their lands into battlefields—are we really surprised they come knocking on our doors saying they would rather live at our place now?'



DORA MUHAMMAD

the unspoken dimension
of sacred spaces
where humanity is affirmed
dignity is elevated
and divinity is guarded
open and available to all

Professor Nils Melzer, *UN Special Rapporteur on Torture*
"The Worst Cruelty is Our Indifference" op-ed
International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2018



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What blooms from the core of my mind? What fragrance fills the depths of my soul? What colors the canvass of my heart? Like the precious earth passing through the fingers of a careful gardener, my inner sanctuary is cultivated.

With the patient serenity at the passage of time, majestic life emerges. Drops of my story infuses inch by inch until an unspeakable joy covers me in a unique canopy. Take a stroll through the glorious garden of my gifts. Come see love. Exhale peace. Sanctify all the spaces within self.

FOSTERING LOVE A Home Overflowing with Makle Magic

Kim Makle remembers getting a call for help in the middle of the night. Her cousin's family member turned on the gas in her apartment and left her nine children inside to die. Kim and her husband Carlos took in the two youngest children. They received donations of food, clothing and money from church members to help care for the pair. Later, their desire to adopt led to an attempt of the birth father to exhort money from them, they brokenheartedly released the children into foster care.

Today, the married couple of 22 years is temporarily fostering three siblings while awaiting the permanent placement of two siblings in their home who are ready for adoption—who will join their group of 8 children,



four of whom were adopted after foster care. Sean (25), Aaron (23), Evan (19), Jade (11), Ronald (17), Krystal (16), Javaire (7), Harmony (5), Joshua (7) and Elena (9). The oldest children in the clan have matching tattoos with their parents, "Markle Magic — because that's what we create."

"I have always had a heart for children," Kim says, remembering her elementary school days rushing home to her grandmother's daycare, excited to change diapers and rock babies on their porch. That little girl grew up to become a big-hearted nurse who would marry a man affectionately called, "Coach Carlos" since he was always coaching school teams. Born with a cleft lip, he naturally leans to support children who have been bullied or are in need.

In 2010, a car accident left her with splitting headaches and skyrocketing blood pressure. Tests led to the discovery of a dangerous birth defect causing the bottom part of her brain to pull fluid from her spine. The accident saved her life. "That's

why I love my life the way that I do," she declares. "I know that God gave me a second chance."



And this grounds the Makles' immense capacity to foster love. "Whether it's a minute, a day or a year, we've made a difference in their lives. They are going to remember, maybe not our names, but that they were no longer afraid but free to be children. The memories of being left in the home without food, taking care of siblings was replaced by riding bikes outside."

RESPECT FOR LIFE Achieving Birth Justice for Black Women



There is a maternal health crisis in the U.S. While 60% of pregnancy-related deaths

are preventable, U.S. maternal mortality rates are the highest among all other developed countries, and they're rising.

Black and Native American women die at higher rates—with Black women suffering the greatest disparity, dying four to five times more than white and Hispanic women. Even in states with the lowest maternal mortality rates and women with the highest levels of education, this disparity still holds, according to a new CDC report.

Translation: This is not a poor, uneducated woman problem. In fact, Black women with some college education are dying more than women of all other ethnicities with less than a high school diploma.

Empowering women to advocate for themselves when receiving care in a hospital is essential to increasing the autonomy and respect of Black mothers within the health care system. Recognizing, promoting and providing fair compensation to community-based doula services is one policy strategy that advocates are pushing in many states to reverse this alarming trend.

One great example is Ancient Song Doula Services, a full



spectrum organization in New York City. The agency offers trainings, workshops, counseling, peer support and maternal care to women and communities of color throughout preconception, pregnancy, and their childbirth experience. In fiscal year 2014-15, 85% of women who received care at Ancient Song gave birth vaginally, and 97.5% initiated breastfeeding within five days of giving birth. There were zero maternal deaths.

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United States®
Census
2020

Count Your Babies

The most under-counted group in the Census are children ages 5 and under. Infants born on or before April 1st be counted as one person in your household.

The AWARE Project is an official U.S. Census Bureau partner for the 2020 Census.

CENSUS DAY APRIL 1, 2020

When completing the census survey, you'll note the address of where you are living on April 1.

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*fostering
love*





SANCTUARY Putting The Protest Back in Protestant

Hidden Eugenic History in Modern Immigration Policies



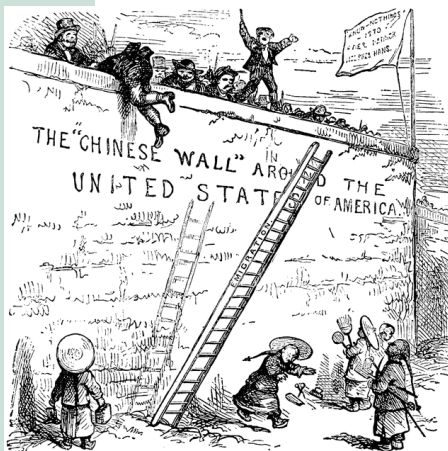
From the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act to the Trump Administration's attempts in 2019 to make people pay for asylum

and pass sweeping changes to the public charge rule equal to a wealth test, immigration policy in the U.S. has been governed by a desire to make and preserve a master race of white people.

When the doors of Ellis Island Hospital opened in 1902, its staff functioned inevitably with the "power to pick out the best specimens of each race" in the words of Harvard University eugenicist Robert C. Ward.

Hence, the eugenic lens can be sharpened on the sterilization programs targeting Black and Latino women that followed, into contemporary U.S. crack-downs of migrant workers from Central and South America rather than the more desirable "high-skilled" employer-sponsored immigrants who comprise vastly more of the undocumented U.S.

population due to overstayed visas. A British scholar may have been the first to coin the phrase in 1883, however immigration policies in the U.S. are increasingly running parallel to the dehumanizing lines of reasoning used by Hitler in 1939 but which began in U.S. centuries ago.



MENTAL HEALTH Addressing Child Trauma in Migrant Detention



A recent report released this month by the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services outlines its assessment of the mental health conditions of migrant children in detention centers. The report is based on visits to 45 shelters operated by the department's Office of Refugee Resettlement in August and September 2018.

Benchmarking new family separation policies enacted by the Trump Administration last year, investigators assessed that caseloads have more than doubled for care providers, which only exist at 4 of the 45 centers. The lack of providers and resources has exacerbated the trauma these children endured in their home countries, experienced during their treacherous journey to the

U.S. and compounded by the unexpected and unexplained separation from their parents. Children are suffering issues of abandonment, fear, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts. Read the [report's summary](#).

This report comes on the heels of a federal appeals court's decision last month that threw out the U.S. Justice Department's claim that they were not required to provide soap, toothbrushes and sleeping mats to children in detention in order to meet the requirement of a "safe and sanitary" facility.

These rules are stipulated among a set of standards of care for children in immigrant detention outlined in the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement in the litigation brought against the government for its inhumane treatment of Central

American child immigrants.

Shirking its mandate for hygienic facilities, the Trump Administration has outright pushed for a full withdrawal from the agreement and put forth a new rule in August to extend indefinitely the length of detention for families, which the agreement currently limits to 20 days.

The original judge, Judge Dolly Gee who ruled in the Flores case will be the first to review the new rule before it can go into effect in October. Immigrant advocates have filed lawsuits and Judge Gee is currently hearing arguments. Her previous rulings have rejected attempts to weaken and eliminate the Agreement.

GET INVOLVED

Advocates are hopeful that this rule will fail in the courts, but its chilling effect has already done damage on immigrant families, as it is just one more brick in the Trump Administration's wall against migrants.

Stay informed with updates, news and developments from the [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) campaign supported by a national coalition of more than 50 organizations led by the National Immigration Law Center and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).



Fear could have crippled her hope for tomorrow, discarded like a crumpled sheet marked with imperfections and scrubbed erasures. Her thoughts stalled, paralyzed, hanging in the air in an unbearable pause in time like a circus acrobat trapped in the crisscrossing wires... or the edges of a butterfly's wings caught in mesh... or a puzzle left unfinished because of that one missing or broken piece. Despite the vast unknown of what will be, rocks troubling her footsteps and winds pummeling her ribs, she lifted her head as a sigh escaped her lips slowly. And took a step forward.

departure



WISDOM NOTE | WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11, 2019



wound

n. a physical injury consisting of the breaking of the skin or mucous membrane often with damage to underlying tissue

origin. Latin *princeps* meaning *first, foremost*

CREATIVE GRACE CONVERSATIONS

The AWARE Project is a non-profit organization that leverages a multi-media art platform to raise awareness, increase civic engagement, and further the advancement of policies impacting women's rights, child welfare and human rights.

By intersecting community and municipality, faith and advocacy, and the arts with policy awareness, it creates a dynamic synergy offered to inspire the humanity in others with an unmatched passion to improve the quality and dignity of life of the vulnerable and marginalized.

Advocacy for Women's
Activism, Rights & Empowerment

THE AWARE PROJECT

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FOR ADVOCACY**

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