

National Education Association | Human and Civil Rights

20 | Conference on Racial  
17 | and Social Justice

# Growing the Education Justice Movement

June 28-29, 2017  
The Boston Convention  
and Exhibition Center  
Boston, MA



**HCR**  
HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

## WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE ON RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE!



It's educators like you working together who will create a wave of change no matter who is in Washington, DC, because so much of the change we seek for our students, our schools and our communities can be won right where we work and live. That is why we are building on the foundations and traditions of the Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women, which has

long been a pillar of the Association's work on behalf of people of color, LGBTQI communities and women, to prepare for a new era of advocacy and activism.

Together you will dig deeper on the issues impacting our students, our public schools and our communities to garner and refine the skills needed to move ideas to action. We will advance our collective advocacy and organizing in ways that are intersectional, community strengthening, and forward looking.

I look forward to sharing in the energy you bring and to hear about the plans you make during our time together.

It's going to take all of us bringing our unique selves and skills to advance education justice for all!

Adelante!

Lily Eskelsen García

## GOALS FOR THE CONFERENCE ON RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### BUILD LOCAL POWER:



Spark dialogue about our successes and challenges to inform our own strategies and tactics to grow the movement for education justice.

### BE FORWARD THINKING:



Make space for new ideas and map the road to the long term change we seek for students, schools and our communities.

### CENTER INTERSECTIONALITY:



Uplift the intersections of social justice, identity, and democracy in the movement for education justice.

### BUILD COMMUNITY:



Be an engaging, fun, and inviting space for new and long standing attendees to come together in community.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

### From The Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women to The Conference on Racial and Social Justice

The antecedents for the Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women date back to the early 1960s, although NEA's commitment to – and involvement in – both arenas goes back much further. In 1962 the Association began holding what would become an annual conference on Human and Civil Rights in Education. In 1979, the NEA Women's Caucus requested and received NEA funding for a pre-RA conference on women's issues to be jointly sponsored by NEA and the NEA Women's Caucus. There were two pre-RA conferences for a few years– one on ethnic minority issues and one on women's issues. These two conferences were merged in 1983 into the Joint Conference, which has been held each year since.

There were a number of reasons underlying the joining of these two meetings. While NEA long had policies and programs relating to both women and ethnic minorities, the Association had been moving toward a more comprehensive and integrated approach in combating sexism and racism, and in protecting and advancing human and civil rights for all. An increasing number of common interests and shared needs were becoming apparent, highlighted by the particular challenges facing women of color. A joint conference provided a unified setting to explore some of these issues and engage NEA members around them while allowing individual trainings, workshops, and other sessions to address specific gender or racial issues as needed.

For the first ten years, the planning and conduct of the Joint Conference was an NEA staff responsibility with valuable input from the relevant NEA Caucuses. While both the Minority Affairs Committee and the Women's Issues Committee were often asked to assist in the planning of the conference – it was not a formal charge for either committee nor was either actually responsible for the planning of the conference until 1993 when both MAC and WIC were formally charged with working cooperatively in planning for the annual Joint Conference on Concerns of Minorities and Women.

The 2002 Report of the NEA Task Force on Sexual Orientation recommended and the Board adopted recommendations that the Joint Conference include Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered issues. Since then, there have been continued focused strategies to fully integrate issues related to LGBTQ into the Conference.

Through continued dialogue and following the passage of NBI B on Institutional Racism at the 2015 Representative Assembly, the Association has become more explicit in its language and work related to racial and social justice. This has included examining existing work, events and language to identify opportunities to be more explicit and improve inclusion. To move us forward on living our values as an organization regarding our work on racial and social justice issues, a proposal was made during the 2016-2017 fiscal year to adopt a new conference name, "The Conference on Racial and Social Justice" It was supported and approved by NEA President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia.

The Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women has long been and will continue to be recognized as a pillar of the Association's work on behalf of people of color and women. In addition to the name change, the purpose has also shifted to be more explicit about its intent. The goal is to provide a unique space for educators, students, parents & families, organizers, community members & leaders to unite for the advancement of Justice in Education. Through interactive workshops, sessions, panels and plenaries, attendees will have the opportunity to access information, resources, plan, strategize and engage on issues that impact educational opportunities for communities of color, LGBTQ and women.

The intent of all the changes made to the conference are to build on the foundations and traditions of the conference while also preparing for a new era of engagement and activism within the context of a rapidly changing educational landscape as well as conditions for our students and members, in and out of the classroom.

<b>7:00 AM - 3:00 PM</b>	<b>ON-SITE CREDENTIAL PICK-UP &amp; TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>	<b>Room 102 A</b>
<b>7:00 AM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>COFFEE &amp; SNACKS</b>	<b>Room 205 A/B/C</b>
<b>7:45 AM</b>	<b>DOORS OPEN - THE GENKI SPARK, TAIKO DRUMMING WITH ATTITUDE</b>	
<b>8:00 AM - 8:45 AM</b>	<b>OPENING SESSION KEYNOTE ADDRESS - LINDA SARSOUR</b>	<b>Room 205 A/B/C</b>
<b>9:00 AM-10:30 AM</b>	<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	
<b>10:45 AM-12:15 PM</b>	<b>WORKSHOPS REPEATED</b>	

**SESSION 1: SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT YOUTH AND FAMILIES: EDUCATORS RISING** **Room 212**

Nana Brantuo, *Black Alliance for Just Immigration*  
 Montserrat Garibay, *Education-Austin, TSTA*

Hear how educators are growing the movement to support immigrant and refugee youth and how this work is building a foundation for education justice in our schools and communities. Leave with tools and ideas to build understanding and make an impact at home.

**SESSION 2: STUDENT ACTIVISM TODAY: THE ROLES OF EDUCATORS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS** **Room 213**

Donte Felder, *Seattle Education Association, WEA*  
 Fakhra Shah, *United Educators of San Francisco, CTA*

Students have been at the epicenter of recent waves of activism – from Black Lives Matter, to Standing Rock, to immigration raids and to addressing hate and bias at school. As student advisors, educators address ways to support student expression and empowerment. Hear from educators about how they are advising and guiding students to become movement leaders.

**SESSION 3: WOMEN, GIRLS, RACE AND CLASS: ON THE MARCH TO EDUCATION JUSTICE** **Room 211**

Rebecca Eun Mi Haslam, *Burlington Education Association, Vermont NEA*  
 Cecily Myart-Cruz, *United Teachers of Los Angeles, CTA*

The majority of educators are female and white while our student population is increasingly diverse. Explore the tensions and opportunities in this dynamic as it relates to women and girls as we build the movement for education justice. The dialogue will allow us to leave with an understanding of our power to make change through our union, in our schools and in the streets.

**SESSION 4: THE MOVEMENT TO BUILD DIVERSE CURRICULUM AND LEARNERS: STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS LEADING THE WAY** **Room 255**

LeRoy Saiz, *Jefferson County Public Schools, CO*

The movement for culturally diverse curriculum, school naming rights, and mascot issues has become a political flashpoint. Learn how and why educators and students are driving change. Leave with the tools needed to elevate the dialogue in your own school and community.

**SESSION 5: GIRLS OF COLOR AND THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE** **Room 253A**

Adaku Onyeka-Crawford, *National Women's Law Center*  
 Nia Evans, *National Women's Law Center*

The need for change is clear. Gender and racial stereotypes, as well as overly harsh discipline practices, play a significant role in girls' dropout rates. Girls of color are disproportionately suspended from school compared to their white peers. These disproportionate discipline rates result in lost class time and increased school pushout. As educators, we can take steps to prevent school pushout and ensure that all girls, but especially girls of color, can succeed in nurturing and supportive school environments. Learn strategies for disrupting the adverse impact of the school to prison pipeline.

“TODAY IN SCHOOL I LEARNED THAT WHEN YOU PUT THE WORDS BLACK AND STUDENT TOGETHER IN A PRISON SENTENCE, IT SOUNDS LIKE A FELONY.”

— DIONDRE “GRIM” JACKSON-HENDERSON

**SESSION 6: STRONGER TOGETHER: LABOR SOLIDARITY AND THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE****Room 207**

Bryan Proffitt, *Durham Association of Educators, NCAE*  
 Erica Smiley, *Jobs With Justice*

Labor unions have a history of involvement in fighting for social justice. As a movement, their history is both one of unity and division. Hear from union organizers about how unions are advancing social justice work in schools and communities.

**SESSION 7: SCHOOL CHOICE: IS IT REALLY A CHOICE FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR?****Room 206B**

Cynthia Kain, *NEA Campaigns & Elections*  
 Amy Mizialko, *Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, Education Minnesota*

Charter schools have come under fire for contributing to increased racial segregation of schools and operating without accountability. Get the facts, follow the money, and hear how communities are organizing to ensure that all students have access to the schools they deserve.

**SESSION 8: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE****Room 254A**

Tiffany Cain, *NEA Teacher Quality*  
 Danielle Costello, *Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, Education Minnesota*  
 Sonia Jasso Yilmaz, *NEA Teacher Quality*  
 Ingrid Walker-Henry, *Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, Education Minnesota*

Community schools respond to unique local needs and include the voices of students, educators, and families. Find out how these innovative efforts improve student outcomes and strengthen communities. And see how community schools address challenges as they work to make powerful change.

**SESSION 9: SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION: LOCAL ACTION AND ORGANIZING CREATE SAFE AND AFFIRMING SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS ON THE GENDER SPECTRUM****Room 206A**

Rebecca Mui, *GLSEN*  
 James Shultis, *GLSEN Massachusetts*

While HB2 style "bathroom bills" have been introduced across the country, educators are standing up for LGBTQ students' rights and retaking the debate. Find out how students and educators are working together to ensure students' civil rights are protected. Learn what you can take back home to shift dialogue and policy.

**SESSION 10: OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY FOR ALL: CAN WE MAKE THIS REAL?****Room 204B**

Donna Harris-Aikens, *NEA Education Policy & Practice*  
 Dan Greenberg, *Sylvania Education Association, OEA*  
 Marianna Islam, *Schott Foundation*

The vision and needs of educators, students, and communities are often the least recognized in the debate on public schools. How do we cut through the fine print and threats to funding and resources to make a real difference for our students? Join a dialogue where we ask the toughest questions about barriers to opportunity and equity and highlight strategies that will leave you inspired and ready to get to work back home.

**SESSION 11: RACIAL JUSTICE: ALL DAY, EVERY DAY.****Room 204A**

Ikechukwu Onyema, *South Orange Education Association, NJEA*  
 Gabe Tanglao, *Bergenfield Education Association, NJEA*  
 Stephanie Tellez, *Santa Ana Educators' Association, CTA*

Racial Justice is every educator's business. Systemic oppression takes an exacting toll—on our students' day to day experience and future outcomes. This session will break down the big obstacles facing youth of color and holding public schools back from meeting the needs of every student.

**SESSION 12: SOCIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER LAB**

Design Studio For Social Intervention

This Lab engages participants in a "Social Emergency Response Center" – with activities ranging from a drum circle to printmaking to a mini-workshop on schools transforming democracy – and then engages them in imagining how they could design a SERC to support their social justice work and students back home.



THE GENKI SPARK

**9:00 AM – 12:15 PM DIGGING A LITTLE DEEPER**

Delve deeper into the issues and organizing ideas that address the education justice campaigns happening around the country. Discussions and hands-on interactions will have us reflecting on how to bring communities together to envision, develop and implement action plans.

**SESSION 25: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES: BUILDING TO IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE Room 203**

Dwanna Nicole, *Advancement Project*

Zellie Thomas, *Paterson Education Association, NJEA*

Learn about the foundations necessary to build healthy relationships between students and school staff, as well as among adults within the school community using the philosophy of restorative justice and the implementation of restorative practices.

**SESSION 26: TOWARD JUSTICE IN EDUCATION: IT'S GONNA TAKE PARTNERSHIPS THAT MATTER Room 254B**

Lucero Alegre, *Rainier UniServ Council / WEA*

Theresa Montaño, *California Teachers Association*

Marie Blistan, *New Jersey Education Association*

Valisia Simpson, *Rainier UniServ Council / WEA*

Thomas Hardy, *New Jersey Education Association*

Janie White, *Rainier UniServ Council / WEA*

Arlene Inouye, *United Teachers Los Angeles, CTA*

Ensuring every student's basic right to a great public school requires evolution in the way we think and operate. No longer can we just be inwardly-focused; we must also be outwardly-connected. Join NEA's Community Advocacy & Partnership Engagement team for a session on creating the connections necessary to delivering the schools our students deserve. Hear how engagement models like community conversations are developing educator leaders, building Association power, and driving change for students, no matter the ZIP code.

**12:30 PM-1:45 PM LUNCH KEYNOTE ADDRESS - CARMEN PEREZ Ballroom 205 A/B/C**

**2:00 PM – 7:00 PM ORGANIZING LOUNGE - WHEN THEY GO LOW, WE GO LOCAL Ballroom 210**

***About the Lounge:***

The Organizing Lounge is a space for participants to strategize and develop plans for change. Bring your ideas and energy to network with your colleagues and presenters.

Here, you will find some pre-scheduled mini skills sessions on topics like digital and creative organizing, using meet ups and popular education for change, having tough conversations, creating a movement culture, and tackling Islamophobia. In addition to these sessions, anyone who wants to initiate a discussion on a topic can claim a time and a space.

Don't see a topic on the agenda you want to discuss? Bring your expertise and your ideas. Participants will drive this agenda and will choose with their feet!

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM SESSION 31: SCHOOL LAB**  
Design Studio for Social Intervention

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM SESSION 32: VISION LAB**  
Design Studio for Social Intervention

**4:15 PM - 5:15 PM ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING Room 253A**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM WOMEN'S ISSUES COMMITTEE HEARING Room 253 B**

**8:00 PM - MIDNIGHT DIVERSITY SOCIAL Renaissance Hotel – Atlantic Ballroom**

**JULY 1**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE HEARING BOSTON CONVENTION CENTER**

“I DREAM OF WALKING ALONE AT NIGHTS, FORGETTING EVERYTHING I LEARNED IN SELF-DEFENSE CLASS AND TO BE AN ALLY IS TO BE HUMAN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK IS NOT TIRING BECAUSE EVERYONE DOES IT.”

— NESHA LONG

<b>7 :00 AM - NOON</b>	<b>ON-SITE CREDENTIAL PICK-UP &amp; TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>	<b>Room 102A</b>
<b>7:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>COFFEE &amp; SNACKS</b>	<b>Ballroom 210</b>
<b>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>	<b>MORNING KEYNOTE - TOSHI REAGON</b>	<b>Ballroom 210</b>
<b>10:15 AM -12:15 PM</b>	<b>ORGANIZING LOUNGE</b>	<b>Ballroom 210</b>

Continue the dialogues, meet-ups, and planning.

**SESSION 27: SCHOOL LAB**

Design Studio for Social Intervention

Beginning with the big ideas that moved us to be educators, exploring the current inequities that we are fighting against this interactive Lab gives participants the opportunity to collectively imagine the schools our students deserve. We will explore the unseen arrangements of school life that often yield the very inequities we are fighting against and then move into ways to create change from the school to the district, state and nation.

**SESSION 28: VISION LAB**

Design Studio for Social Intervention

Locating public schools at both the heart of the community and the heart of our country's public infrastructure, thinking of them as spaces that prepare our students for the future, this Lab challenges educators to see how schools change the future. Participants will explore how our schools can be glimpses into the futures we want for all youth, in terms of public life, freedom, health and work.

**SESSION 29: SOCIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER**

Design Studio for Social Intervention

This Lab engages participants in a "Social Emergency Response Center"—complete with activities ranging from a drum circle to printmaking to a mini-workshop on schools transforming democracy—and then engages them in imagining how they could design a SERC to support their social justice work and students back home.

**SESSION 30: TRACING THE ORIGINS OF THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE: FROM THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES** **Room 213**

Franklin Baxley, *Criminal Justice Policy Coalition*

Marlies Spanjaard, *The Edlaw Project*

Erika Strauss-Chavarria, *Howard County Education Association, MSEA*

The U.S. criminal justice system has been driven by racism from the days of slavery to today's era of mass incarceration. Examine the origins of mass incarceration in the U.S. and connect the dots from the ratification of the 13th Amendment through the war on drugs and the creation of zero tolerance school discipline policies. Deepen your understanding of the ways activists and advocates are working to dismantle the pipeline.

<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>CLOSING LUNCH PROGRAM</b>	<b>Ballroom 210</b>
-----------------	------------------------------	---------------------

**SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION**

The 2017 Social Justice Activist of the Year award will be presented to the exceptional effort that demonstrates the ability to lead organize and engage educators, parents, and the community to advocate on social justice issues that impact the lives of students, fellow edwrs and the communities they serve.

From a field of impressive nominations, the finalists are Chelsie Acosta (Utah), Kalebra Jacobs-Reed (Florida), Scott Launier (Florida), Jessyca Mathews (Michigan), Luke Michener & Terry Jess (Washington), Robt Seda-Schreiber (New Jersey), and Erika Strauss-Chavarria (Maryland)

<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>
----------------	----------------

**LINDA SARSOUR**

Linda Sarsour is an award winning Brooklyn born Palestinian-American-Muslim racial justice and civil rights activist, community organizer, social media maverick, and mother of three. Linda has been at the forefront of major social justice campaigns both locally in New York City and nationally. She is the Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York, co-founder of Muslims for Ferguson, and a member of the NY Justice League. Linda is most notably recognized for her focus on intersectional movement building. Most recently, Linda served as one of the national co-chairs of the Women's March -which sparked similar marches around the country.



**CARMEN PEREZ**

Carmen Perez has been fighting for the liberation of people of color throughout the world for over 20 years. She is well respected nationally and abroad for her ability to organize and her commitment to solving the everyday struggle of human rights. Her dedication caught the attention of one of the civil rights movement's greatest pillars, Mr. Harry Belafonte who would go on to make Carmen the Executive Director of "The Gathering for Justice." Carmen is dedicated to lifting the intersections of women's issues in social movements and recently served as a National Co-Chair of the Women's March on Washington.



**TOSHI REAGON**

NEA's Conference on Racial and Social Justice is honored to bring Toshi Reagon to Boston. Toshi has been performing professionally since she graduated from high school and is described as a "one-woman celebration of all that's dynamic, progressive, and uplifting in American music." Toshi's irresistible personality and activism, combined with her singular approach to music, has a galvanizing effect on her audiences as she empowers and moves them with storytelling and song.



## 2017 CONFERENCE ON RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PLANNERS

Earl Wiman  
*NEA Executive Committee*  
*Chairperson, Conference on Racial and*  
*Social Justice Planning Committee*

Charmaine Banther  
*California*

Cecile Bendavid  
*California*

Nichole DeVore  
*California*

Ruth Ellen Goff  
*Kansas*

Jacqui Watts Greadington  
*New Jersey*

Robin Jeffries  
*Ohio*

Mary Levi  
*California*

Gladys Marquez  
*Illinois*

Mary Ann Rivera  
*Illinois*

Sophia Rodriguez  
*Ohio*

Christine Sampson-Clark  
*New Jersey*

Edward Sanderson  
*Utah*

Tanya Thomas-Coats  
*Tennessee*

Rocío Inclán, *Senior Director, Center for Social Justice*  
Human & Civil Rights Staff

**S A V E T H E D A T E !**

**2017 National Education Association  
MLT/WLT Training Conference**

**EAST: October 27-29, 2017**

**WEST: December 8-10, 2017**



**edjustice**  
www.neaedjustice.org