

Never Again Coalition's Accomplishments for 2018

Here are some of the highlights of what we accomplished in 2018.

*You might notice that we mention particular congresspeople. That's because they are the congresspeople we work closely with through the Postcard Brigade and in other ways. Check out the "scorecard" we've created also to see how the Senators and Representatives did with legislation we've been pushing for.

JANUARY

Screening of *Scandal in Ivansk* - The film chronicles a group of descendants of Ivansk Jews who restore the town's cemetery. This screening was in partnership with the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE) and PSU's Holocaust and Genocide Studies Project (HGS at PSU).

Never Again: A Jewish Response to the Rohingya Crisis – Organized by Rabbis Joshua Rose and Deborah Kolodny, speakers included Holocaust survivor Evelyn Banko, photographer John Rudoff as well as many representatives from Portland's own Rohingya community: Yusuf Iqbal, Yasmin Amin, Ali Yusuf, Mohammed Husson Ali, and Reza Uddin. We provided postcards. Over 300 postcards were sent to Congress, called for them to pass the BURMA Act. The program was jointly sponsored by the Oregon Board of Rabbis, OJMCHE, and HGS at PSU.

FEBRUARY

Chocolate for Congo - The 5th annual fundraiser to benefit Eastern Congo Initiative featured thirteen Portland restaurants and bakeries that donated one dollar from the sale of each chocolate dessert sold that month. Theo Chocolate donated their chocolate to the participants. Over \$2600 was donated to the Eastern Congo Initiative, which will fund grants and advocate for the people of eastern Congo.

Lemkin Summit – NAC sent two delegates to the 2018 Lemkin Summit to End Genocide and Mass Atrocities in DC. The summit brought together 160 activists and student leaders in the anti-atrocity movement. We were able to network, engage with guest speakers and learn new approaches to end and prevent mass atrocities in places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Sudan. On the final day of the Summit, we joined other activists on Capitol Hill. After our meetings, Reps. Bonamici and Blumenauer co-sponsored HR 4223 - the Burma Act. Rep. Bonamici also signed onto a congressional letter to Secretary Tillerson on US policy on Sudan (Blumenauer already had).

MARCH

PB Success! Following up from Postcard Bridgade asks, Representatives Bonamici (OR) and Carbajal (CA) co-sponsored H.R.3030 - The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

Screening of *Desert Wounds* at OJMCHE - In honor of International Women's Day, we hosted a screening of *Desert Wounds*. Filmed over five years, *Desert Wounds* gave a personal connection to the situation for over 32,000 Sudanese and Eritrean asylum seekers living in limbo in Israel. Attendees signed onto a letter to PM Netanyahu, asking for a halt to the plan to deport the asylum seekers to Rwanda. Co-sponsored by OJMCHE, Beit Haverim and the Institute for Judaic Studies and HGS at PSU.

APRIL

Stand Up: Lessons from the Holocaust - We premiered our short documentary at OJMCHE. Following the film, we held a panel discussion with Holocaust survivors and students featured in the film. We felt that it was especially fitting to premiere our film just one day before Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. We partnered with the organization Together We Remember to have people write reflections. The 15-minute film is available for free for anyone to use for educational purposes. Co-sponsored by OJMCHE and HGS at PSU.

Amnesty International's Annual Oregon Meeting - NAC member and Oregon Area Coordinator for Amnesty International USA, Marty Fromer, spoke about our work towards a Conflict Mineral Procurement Bill for the State of Oregon. Lauren Fortgang spoke about the Rohingya Crisis. Lauren was joined by Yusuf Iqbal and Ali Yusuf of Americans for Rohingya as well as photographer John Rudoff.

Valentino Achak Deng in Portland – Deng, a former Lost Boy of Sudan, spoke at both PSU and Mercy Corps about his story and his current work with the VAD Foundation to provide education and employment initiatives in his hometown of Marial Bai, South Sudan. Co-sponsored by PSU's University Studies and English Departments, HGS at PSU and Mercy Corps.

Screening of *Intent to Destroy* - Just before Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, we held a screening of this film that focuses on the Ottoman Empire and subsequently Turkey's denial of the genocide and the censorship that has occurred in Hollywood around it. Co-presented by HGS at PSU and the local Armenian community.

MAY

Conflict Mineral Procurement Bill for Oregon - We traveled to Salem to get support for a conflict mineral bill for Oregon in 2019. In these meetings, we successfully secured our two chief sponsors for the bill.

NAC's Lauren Fortgang and photojournalist John Rudoff traveled to Bend, Oregon and spoke to their Amnesty chapter about the Rohingya crisis.

PB Successes! HR 3030, the Elie Wiesel Act Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act and HR 5819, the BURMA Act passed out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) on May 17th! Elements of the BURMA Act were also added as an amendment by Rep. Engel to the National Defense Authorization Act on May 23rd.

JUNE

UNAMID Letter - NAC organized a letter to UN Security Council members ahead of a vote to renew UNAMID, the UN peacekeeping troops in Darfur. The letter was signed by 58 Sudanese, scholars, human rights organizations and leading activists.

World Refugee Day PDX – We joined the Portland community at the Immigration and Refugee Community Organization. We got the word out about the work of NAC, and learned more about other organizations working to support refugees in the Portland area.

PB Success! S. 1158, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Act passed out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 26th.

JULY

NAC joined Wyden for First Amendment Tour - Senator Wyden hosted the first stop on his First Amendment Tour through Oregon at IRCO in Portland on July 1st. NAC's Lauren Fortgang joined others for a panel discussion about religious freedoms and the concerns of immigrants and refugees in our community.

Pamper for a Purpose - NAC member and Pamper founder, Denise Wetherell, raised an incredible \$1,700. This money will go toward iACT's Little Ripples meal program which fills the food gap that is created by reduced rations in refugee camps in Chad.

PB Success! H.R. 3030 (the Elie Wiesel Act) passed overwhelmingly in the House on July 17th by a vote of 406-5.

Congressional Meetings - NAC members met with the offices of Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and Representative Blumenauer to discuss matters from all of NAC's areas of focus, but especially to highlight the need for Congress to address the Rohingya Crisis. Members of Oregon's Rohingya community joined us for these meetings to advocate on behalf of the Rohingya population here and abroad. NAC member Dale Oller was in DC on August 1st and met with Senator Merkley's staff there as well.

AUGUST

City of Portland Passes Sustainable Procurement Policy PB Success! - On August 22, Portland City Council passed a new sustainable procurement policy. This overarching policy strengthens the conflict mineral resolution that the City passed in 2015. Amanda Ulrich and Eugene Sadiki both gave testimonies at the City Council meeting. Postcards and the online petition that many of you signed helped too.

SEPTEMBER

PB Success! Congressman Ted Lieu co-sponsored H.R. 5273, the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018.

OCTOBER

iACT Fundraiser – NAC held a house party to benefit iACT that raised just over ten thousand dollars for Little Ripples' meal program. That money covered meals for the 477 children enrolled in school in 9 "ponds" as well as the 9 host families for 3 months.

#HerToo campaign – We launched the #HerToo campaign in collaboration with screening of *Mother, Daughter, Sister*. #HerToo aims to raise awareness about the lack of avenues that Burmese women - and in particular, stateless Rohingya women - have to pursue justice for crimes committed against them and to acknowledge that #MeToo doesn't end at our borders.

Mother, Daughter, Sister Tour - We helped organize a tour of the documentary *Mother, Daughter, Sister* by director Jeanne Hallacy. *Mother, Daughter, Sister* amplifies the voices of courageous and brave Rohingya and Kachin women as they continue to be the targets of the Burmese army. Our screenings took place at Cinema 21 and TaborSpace in Portland and we also co-hosted a screening at Seattle University. All of the screenings were followed by panel discussions with director Jeanne Hallacy and others. The film tour continued on to LA, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, New York and Washington, DC. In New York, a screening was held at the UN during the General Assembly. We hosted a congressional screening that was sponsored by Senator Merkley as well. Senator Merkley and Congresswoman Bonamici both sent us statements in support of Rohingya and Kachin women to read at our local screenings.

PB Success! Congresswoman Bonamici co-sponsored H.R. 6207 – the Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act of 2018.

NOVEMBER

PB Success! On November 27, the House passed two important bills. H.R. 6207, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act of 2018 and H.R. 5273, the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act of 2018.

DECEMBER

PB Success! S. 1158, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Act of 2018 passed the Senate and House in December and was sent to the President's desk on January 2.

Conflict Mineral Bill for Oregon - A group of NAC members were back down in Salem in December to get formal co-sponsors for our Conflict Mineral Procurement Bill. The bill was filed with Secretary of the Senate in mid December and will be introduced in the 2019 Oregon State Legislature. The City of Portland has added this bill to the City's Legislative Agenda which means that we will have the assistance of City officials to help us in the passage of this bill.