

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 27

Overview:

- Team updates will be discussed at our next general meeting on 8/6/2024
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a guest speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s topic, guest speaker, and introduction
- Group discussion

Notes:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM EST
The 7/9/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Introduction and welcome to our member and guest speaker Madeleine Vaché. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Madeleine completed her medical training in Arizona and California, and practiced family medicine and then psychiatry until her retirement in 2022. A year earlier her loved one had entered prison, and she had started learning all she could about those who have been harmed, those who have caused harm, about incarceration, and about the registry. She is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), who have a long tradition of social activism, including peace-making and prison reform. She tries to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and she began to sense that she was being called to share her knowledge with other Friends. In support of that calling she spent this past spring at Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat and education center outside of Philadelphia, where she continued her research and writing and prepared a talk.
3. Discussion and group questions.
 - Madeleine shared the presentation that she gave at her retreat, titled “More Harm Than Good” which is aimed at faith groups. She spoke about how she got involved with the subject of sex offenses and the registry, and how she was deeply troubled by the things that she learned. She reviewed the misconceptions about recidivism and the registry and talked about how to speak with others and how to approach resistance with love and compassion.
 - Questions were asked and answered regarding the challenges of speaking on these topics and how to advocate effectively when discussing these issues with those who hold opposing viewpoints. Discussion included details of how the registry inhibits people from restarting their lives and does more harm than good, and how we can encourage faith-based organizations and communities to offer education and support to their members.
 - Madeleine can be reached via email at mjvache@icloud.com

8:51 p.m. Adjourn Meeting

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 7:30 p.m. EST