



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL of  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



# INCLUSIVE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

2018 Summer Institute Year in Review



# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Our current political moment is profoundly troubling. According to global watchdogs, the advancement of women's rights has stalled in many countries around the world, alongside a generalized and global backlash against human rights. From the U.S. to India to Brazil, right-wing populism and autocratic regimes have eroded democratic institutions, restricted freedom of the press, and shrunk the space for community organizing.



The Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative (IGLI) at the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy generates research, education, and programming to counter these worrying trends. We aim to elevate and amplify women's leadership in grassroots, nonviolent, people-power movements to secure justice, peace, human rights, and security around the world. We create space and bring together women-identified leaders to explore the intersections of feminism and identity, leadership, and contemporary issues related to gender equity and social justice. And importantly, we work alongside activists, policymakers, and researchers to inform solutions for change.

As we continue our work, we are excited about growth in all of our programs and initiatives. In 2019, we will host our 3rd annual IGLI Summer Institute. We are also launching a practitioner-in-residence program, a series of curricular innovations, and will continue to expand our partnerships with others organizations focused on gender, peace, and security. We also have exciting new research projects that will examine women's leadership in conflict-affected societies.

However, IGLI is only possible with the continued support of people like you, who help us work toward a more just, prosperous, and peaceful world. Thank you!

*Marie Berry & Erica Chenoweth*





# IGLI

... WHAT IS IT?

The Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative (IGLI), hosted by the Sié Chéou-Kang Center at the University of Denver, initiates research, education, and programming aimed at elevating and amplifying the work that women-identified activists are doing at the grassroots to promote peace, justice, security, and human rights around the world. IGLI embraces a commitment to nonviolence and feminist principles of leadership. Through IGLI programming, we bring social science research and expertise on how to most effectively wage movements for social change to activists working to effect this change in their communities. IGLI has three core components: a cutting-edge research program; a speakers series and practitioner-in-residence program; and the annual IGLI Summer Institute. The focus of this report is the 2018 Summer Institute.

ELEVATING  
LEADERS &  
ACTIVISTS  
TO PROMOTE PEACE



# 2018 SUMMER INSTITUTE

The annual IGLI Summer Institute brings women-identified activists working on the frontlines to promote peace, justice, human rights, and security in countries across the globe (including the U.S.), to the University of Denver for training and dialogue on how best to wage strategic non-violent movements in the current global political climate. The Summer Institute includes three major components: training from some of the world's leading experts on civil resistance, a series of public events, and a culminating retreat.

Co-directed by Marie Berry and Erica Chenoweth, the 2018 Summer Institute brought together an incredible cohort of activists from around the world, including Burnad Fathima Natesan (India), Chonthicha Jangrew (Thailand), Christine Ahn (United States), Eveniya Chirikova (Russia/ Estonia), Farida Nabourema (Togo/ Ghana), Gabriela Flora (Denver, Colorado, United States), Gloria Senga (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Isabella Picon (Venezuela), Karen Isaacs (Israel), Lisa James (Los Angeles, California, United States), Rita Thapa (Nepal), Rossih Amira Martinez Sinisterra (Colombia), and Zainab Kamara (Freetown, Sierra Leone).



**WORKSHOPS THAT BUILD  
TOOLS AND RESOURCES**



**SPEAKERS THAT BRING  
NEW IDEAS**



**A RETREAT THAT  
PRIORITIZES SELF-CARE**

## 2018 INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS

The three-day workshop offered activists and leaders an opportunity to interact with each other, share stories about their particular struggles and successes, and receive advanced trainings from some of the world's leading experts on waging effective non-violent civil resistance campaigns. Workshops were facilitated by IGLI alumnae who shared their own experiences and ways Institute participation has impacted their work. Participants left with tools and resources to continue their invaluable work promoting peace, security, and human rights worldwide.

### PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE PANEL

A Participant Experience Panel opened each day of the workshop. Participants were invited to share their story, as they chose to tell it, to create community and provide insight into common struggles and successes among themselves and with other activists. This gave participants an opportunity to exercise autonomy through the telling of their story in contrast to threats, censorship, and misinformation campaigns that many of these women are subjected to by those in power they oppose. These panels were a testament to the power of narrative and relationship in transformative movements.

### TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

Participants attended other trainings that highlighted the complexity and vast range of tools for developing and sustaining movements. This year they included:

- *Civil Resistance Strategies and Tactics*
- *Organizing Communities and Campaigns*
- *Lunch discussion with Denver immigrant rights activist Jeanette Vizguerra*
- *Creating and Sustaining Inclusive Coalitions*
- *External Support and Movement Resources*
- *Art, Media and Social Change*
- *Managing Repression and Violent Flanks*
- *Vulnerability, Self-Care and Resilient Resistance*

# 2018 SPEAKER SERIES



## REVEREND BLACKMON

Reverend Blackmon is the Executive Minister of Justice Ministries for The United Church of Christ and a national leader in the Black Lives Matter movement. A featured voice with many national media outlets, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown Jr., in Ferguson, MO has gained her both national and international recognition and audiences from the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican. Reverend Blackmon spoke about inclusive organizing and leading with humility and heart. She gave inspiration, wisdom and encouragement on remaining active in the struggle, in the midst of contentious social and political climates, at home and abroad.

## JUST VISION

Suhad Babaa is the Executive Director of Just Vision. Just Vision is a team of filmmakers, storytellers, and media strategists that work to highlight stories of Palestinians and Israelis working to end the occupation and build a future of freedom, dignity, and equality for everyone in the region. Suhad spoke about the power of strategic storytelling in furthering grassroots movements and shifting perspectives on social justice issues around the globe. The evening featured excerpts from Just Vision's newest documentary, *Naila and the Uprising*, which chronicles the remarkable real-life journey of Naila Ayesh, an activist during the First Palestinian Intifada, a widespread nonviolent civil resistance movement in the late 1980s that forced the world to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination for the first time.

A key part of the IGLI Summer institute is to engage the community, both at the University of Denver and across Denver more broadly, in conversations related to global peace and security. These conversations include presentations by activists and change agents across the country and the globe who embody inclusive and transformative leadership for sustainable change. The 2018 Summer Institute featured an evening with Reverend Traci Blackmon and a discussion with Suhad Babaa of Just Vision.



From left: IGLI alumna and participants chat before Reverend Blackmon's talk; Just Vision's Suhad Babaa co-leads an IGLI workshop before the public screening of *Naila and the Uprising*.

# RESTORATIVE RETREAT



The 2018 IGLI Summer Institute culminated with a retreat in the mountains to give the activists a chance to deepen their relationships with each other and allow them a chance to recharge before returning to their respective struggles. The retreat focused on self-preservation and resilience—powerful tools for waging long struggles against injustice both for the sustainability and intersectionality of movements, as well as for the health and longevity of its leaders and participants. The retreat weekend offers participants an opportunity to build community with the other participants and share strategies for continuing in their work. Through optional hikes, yoga, art activities, and spaces for reflection, the weekend centers the act of healing as radical and integral to resistance movements. The 2018 retreat was held at Shambala Mountain Center.



*“CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT  
SELF-INDULGENCE,  
IT IS SELF-PRESERVATION,  
AND THAT IS AN ACT OF  
POLITICAL WARFARE.”*

Audre Lorde

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT FROM:**

THE ARCA FOUNDATION  
THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK  
THE COMPTON FOUNDATION  
THE JEWISH WOMEN'S FUND OF COLORADO  
THE SOCIAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**Sié Chéou-Kang Center  
Josef Korbel School of International Studies**

**2201 S. Gaylord St.  
Denver, CO 80208**