



Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition



Health & Hope at Work

Stories of workers and faith communities who organized for better health and safety at work

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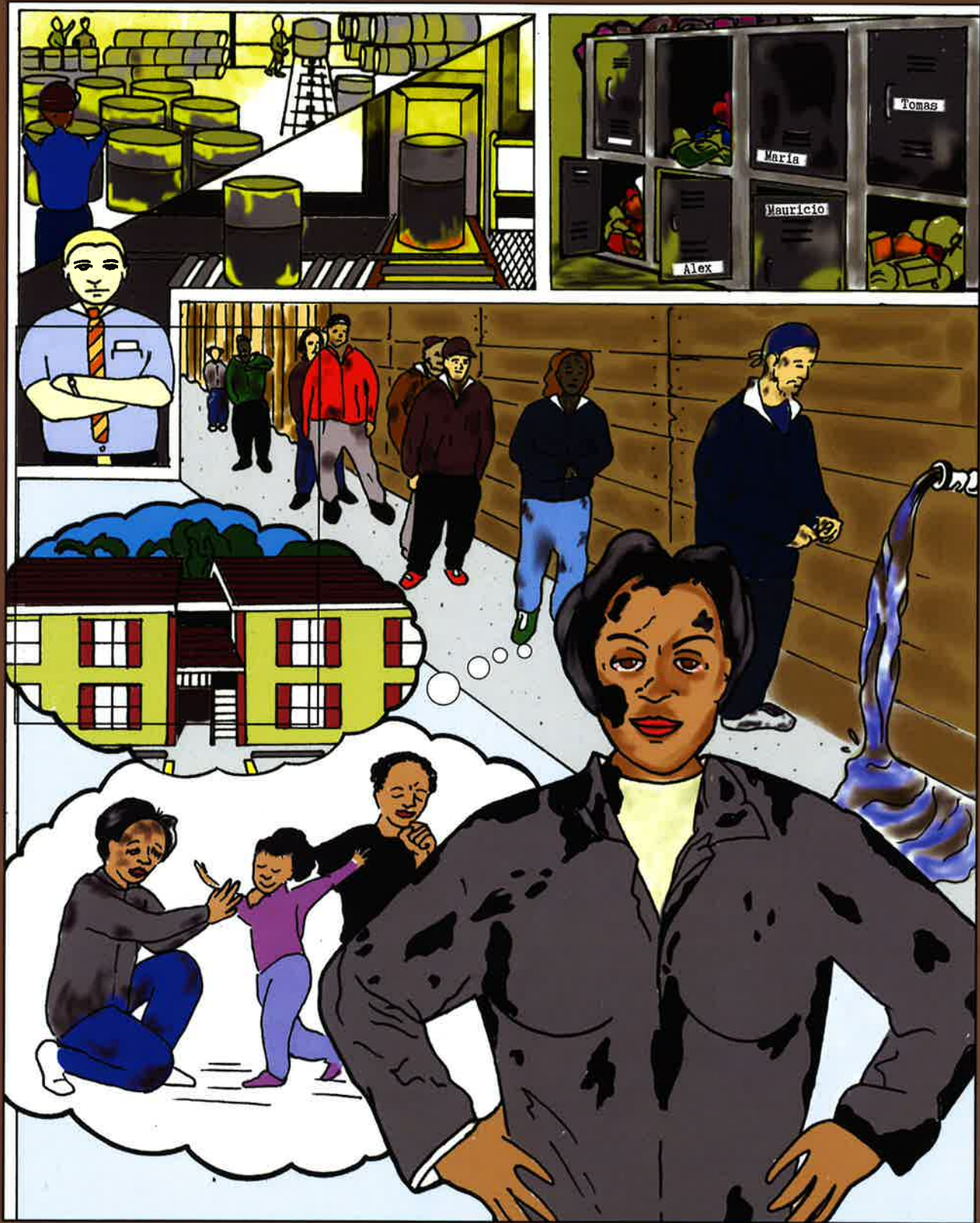
PUGET SOUND SAGE INTERFAITH ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION



Workers and family members gather at a Community Center to listen to four workers share stories about making changes at work. Each worker shares stories about the different ways they were able to change the problems they had at their jobs. This listening session is organized by Puget Sound Sage's Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition (IEJC), who support and stand with workers.



Maria's Story



Maria works at a factory with a lot of chemicals. There is no clean water to wash her face or hands. On her break, Maria thinks about how the smell of the chemicals make her children cough. This worries her very much and she thinks that things need to change at work.



Maria learns about the dangers of toxic chemicals especially when transferred to children. She talks to her co-workers about her concerns. They decide to organize into a union so they can talk and negotiate with their employer for better health and safety. IEJC members support the workers choice to form a union and win changes that are better for their health.



Leo's Story



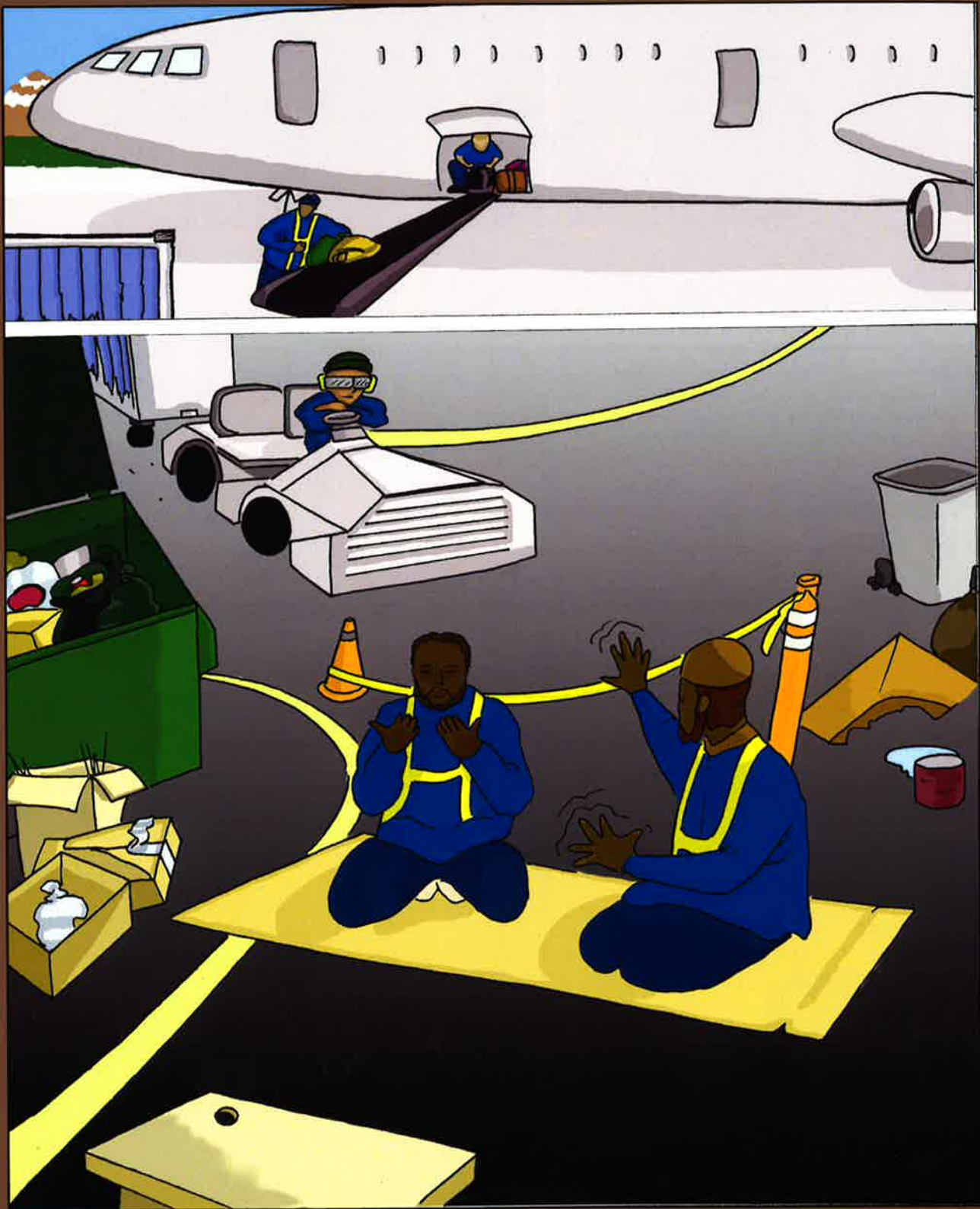
Leo works as a fueler at the airport and every day jet fuel spills on him. His body and clothes always smell like fuel and his only option is to wash his uniform at home. At Church he learns about the connections between our health and the environment. This makes him think about his work and he decides something must be done.



At work Leo's bosses do not listen to his concerns, so he talks to his co-workers instead. They work with IEJC members to organize a press conference. This press conference brings attention to the dangers at work and the public health concerns of washing clothes with toxic chemicals at home. After eight months of community supported organizing Leo and his workers win healthier working conditions.



Hassan's Story



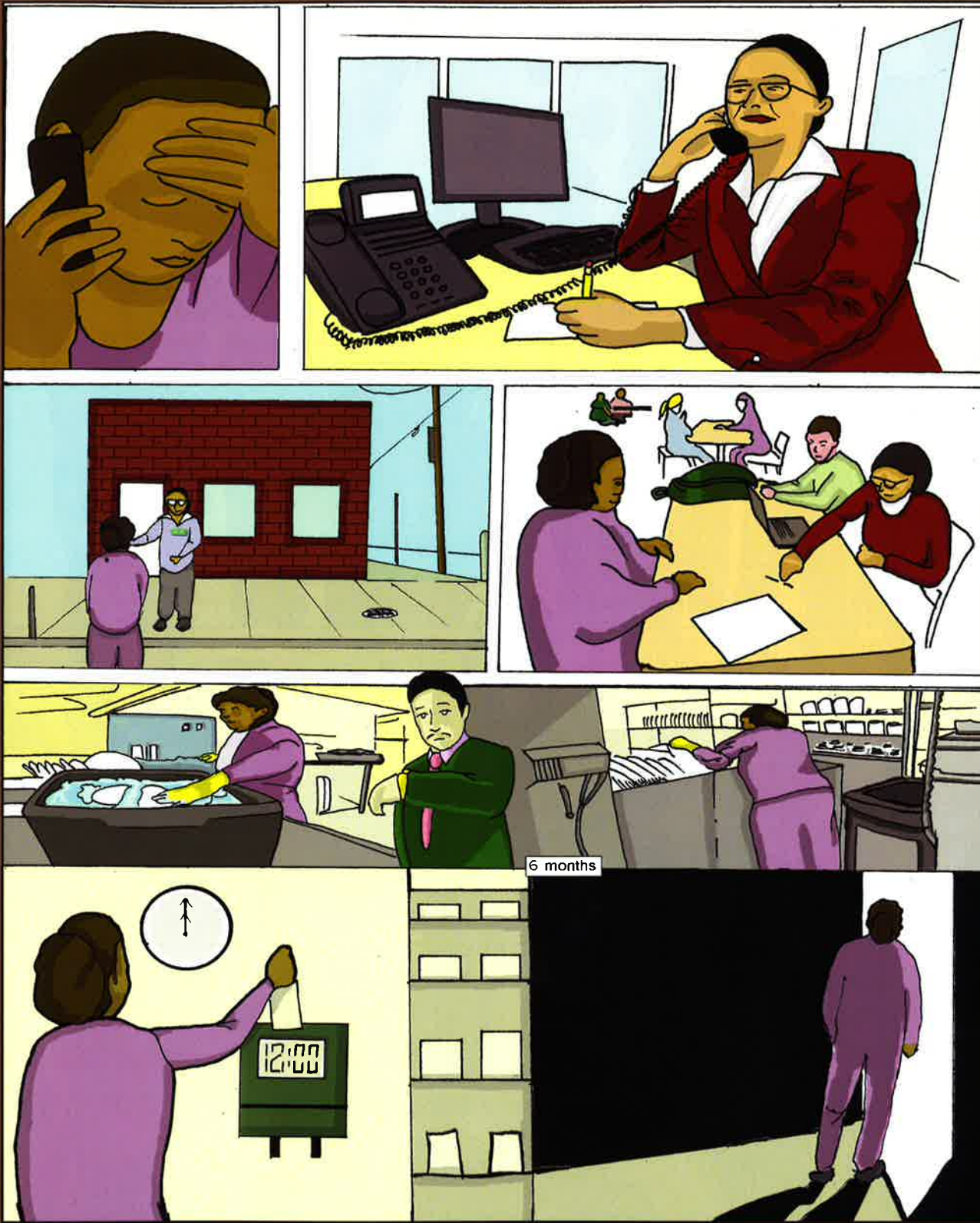
Hassan loads and unloads bags on the airplanes. He and his Muslim co-workers do not have a safe place to pray during their breaks. Often times they are in danger of being run over by moving vehicles, and smell garbage and jet fuel as they are praying. For Hassan and his co-workers being able to pray is important for their spiritual health.



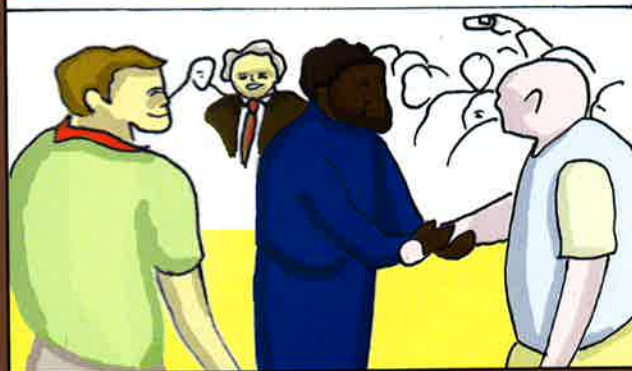
After prayers at the Mosque, Hassan listens to an IEJC member talk. He learns that it is the law for every employer to provide a prayer space for workers. IEJC members talk to the company bosses about their concerns. They connect Hassan and his co-workers to CAIR WA, an organization that helps workers file legal complaints for prayer spaces. After three months, Hassan and his co-workers have a room to pray.



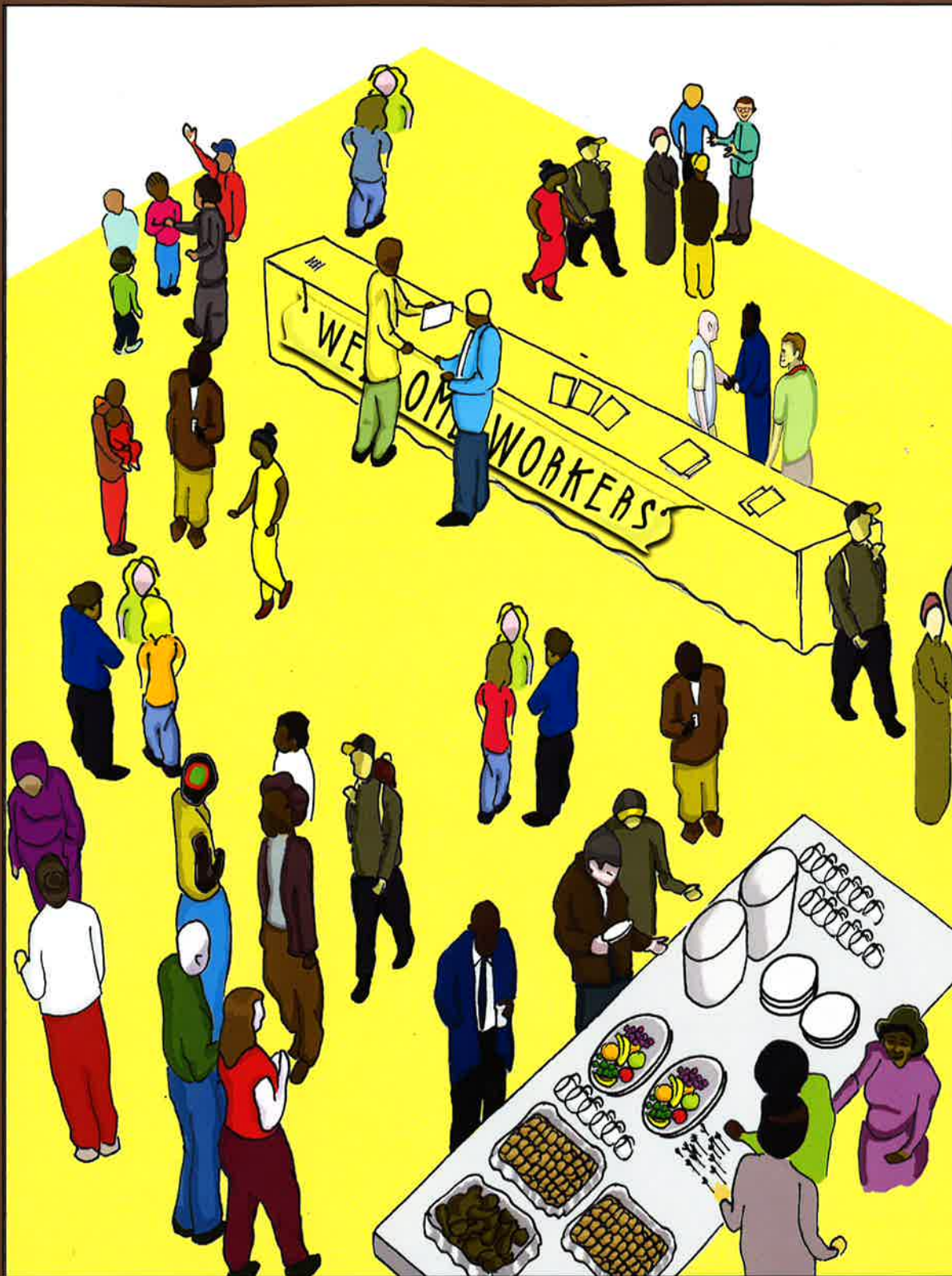
Alma washes dishes for a restaurant. After her shift is finished, she washes more dishes without getting paid. One Sunday at Church, workers talk about their experiences in the workplace. Alma learns that being asked to work hours without pay is wage theft and illegal. EJC members share ways to help workers who are too afraid to report wage theft or do not know what to do about it.



After suffering from stress and anxiety about her work situation, Alma decides to take action. She calls the Fair Work Center and an IEJC member goes with her to talk to them. Six months later, Alma is able to get paid for all the hours she has worked. She is glad that she took action for herself and sees the difference it makes for other workers at the restaurant.



When the program is finished Maria, Leo, Hassan and Alma receive a standing ovation and loud cheers from the crowd! There is food for everyone to eat. Different people approach them to talk about their own health and safety questions and concerns throughout the night.



IEJC members believe that by standing with workers for Health and Safety at work, we are standing for the improved health and safety of our families and friends. There is no separation between workers and communities. We are all stronger when we build and work together.

If you want to join other faith leaders who are standing with workers for their rights contact:

Puget Sound Sage
Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition
info@pugetsoundsage.org
206-568-5000
www.pugetsoundsage.org

If you do not have a space for prayer at work or are being denied prayer times contact:

Council of American Islamic Relations
(CAIR-WA)
info@cairseattle.org
206- 367-4081
www.cairseattle.org

If you are working hours and not getting paid contact:

Fair Work Center
1-844-485-1195
www.fairworkcenter.org

If have questions about toxic materials at work or home contact:

Local Waste Waste Management Program in
King County
206-296-4692
www.hazwastehelp.org

If you want to organize into a Union at work you can contact



Teamsters 117
206-441-4860
www.teamsters117.org

Unite Here Local 8
206-728-2326
www.unitehere8.org

SEIU Local 6
206-448-7348
www.SEIU6.org

Thank You to Seattle Public Utilities and Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County for supporting Sage's Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition and the publication of this book.



**Local Hazardous Waste
Management Program
in King County**

Seattle
Public
Utilities

Puget Sound Sage's Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition (IEJC) members are from different faith communities in King County (listed below) and community organizations such as Church Council of Greater Seattle (CCGS), Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR-WA), Faith Action Network (FAN) and African Diaspora of Washington (ADWA).



Seattle

Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)
4320 SW Hill Street
Seattle, WA 98116

Alnoor Islamic Center of Seattle
6727 MLK Jr. Way S Seattle,
Seattle, WA 98118

Beacon United Methodist Church (UMC)
7301 Beacon Avenue South

Seattle, WA 98108

Christ Episcopal Church
4548 Brooklyn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Keystone United Church of Christ (UCC)
5019 Keystone Place N.
Seattle, WA 98103

Plymouth United Church of Christ (UCC)
1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Rainier Beach United Methodist Church (UMC)
5500 South Roxbury Street
Seattle, WA 98118

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Seattle
111 NE 80th Street

South King County

Abubakr Islamic Center of Washington State
14101 Tukwila International Blvd.
Tukwila, WA 98168

Des Moines United Methodist Church
22225 - 9th Ave. So.
Des Moines, WA 98198

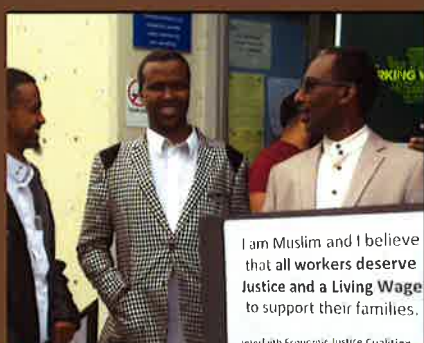
Ethiopian Muslim Association of Seattle
3730 S 166th St
SeaTac, WA 98188

God First Christian Ministries International
12629 Renton Ave S. #D
Seattle, WA 98178

Normandy Park Congregational Church (UCC)
19247 1st Ave S.
Normandy Park, WA 98148

Riverton Park United Methodist Church (UMC)
3118 S. 140th Street
Tukwila, WA 98168

Valley & Mountain
5623 Rainier Ave S.
Seattle WA 98118



Puget Sound Sage's Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition (IEJC)

Puget Sound Sage envisions a robust economy where all people thrive, regardless of race or gender. Puget Sound Sage combines research, innovative public policy and organizing to ensure all people have good jobs, affordable housing and a healthy movement.

The Interfaith Economic Justice Coalition (IEJC) includes leaders and members of different faith communities across King County committed to standing with workers in their rights for dignity, respect, and living wages.

Since 2012, IEJC members have witnessed and stood with SeaTac workers who have courageously moved from telling their stories around workplace health and safety concerns to seeking solutions that directly improve their working environments.

In 2013, IEJC members contributed to the SeaTac worker's winning \$15/hr by talking to the press, registering new voters, and consistently informing their communities about the issues workers face. Even when the law was blocked in 2014 by lawsuits from big companies, IEJC members vigilantly stood with workers until the State Supreme court reversed the lawsuit in August 2015. At the date of this printing, big companies are yet again roadblocking full implementation and IEJC members remain steadfast with workers at SeaTac.

