

Spotlight Person : The Gulabi Gang



The Gulabi Gang (Licensed Under CC)

There is a group of women in India who fight injustice, and call themselves the Gulabi Gang. The Gulabi Gang began with Sampat, a middle-aged female, in what is called the hinterlands in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, India. This area also was known as “the underbelly” with it being among the poorest 200 districts of India. Over 20% of its 1.6 million people are of “low caste” or “untouchable.” Female children are considered a shameful financial burden, with the dowry required for marriage to a man usually being more than what can be raised by the family. It is because of these facts that domestic and sexual abuse is very common in this area.

Sampat began self-defense lessons and is considered to have single

handedly helped the female population of her community in the Bundelkhand region defend themselves. She also has instilled in young and old women the importance of education and women empowerment. Sampat began the Gulabi Gang to create a presence in the “17 zillas across the UP [Upper Peninsula]” akin to vigilante justice. They have been known to beat abusive husbands with brooms while aiding the wife. The Gulabi Gang focuses on the three districts of the poorest and most restrictive areas in the Bundelkhand region: Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, and Banda. Currently, they are about 100,000 women strong and are known by their pink saris, and by travelling in groups armed with brooms. Their main recruitment tactic is to include the women they save and offer them a bright pink sari.

When they do travel around, they teach other women everything from reading to sewing/embroidery, cooking, or zardosi (specialized fine Chikan work). Through the combined efforts of the more educated members, Sampat worked for twenty-five years to set up a formal trust in 2006 within the Banda District and called it

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Spotlight Person Continued

Adivasi Mahila Uttan Gramudyog Seva Sansthan (AMUGSS). Its objective is to gradually create an infrastructure in the poorest districts of India as well as to expand the Gulabi

Gang, and promote the message of women empowerment and education in an area that is known for having this message fall upon deaf ears.

Spotlight Event: Florida School Shooting

On February 14, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, students attended classes at their high school and went about their morning routine like any other day. This day was different, however, as there was a fire alarm drill in the early morning.

After the fire drill and lunch, students began their afternoon session. When another fire alarm sounded, students became confused, but left their classrooms, regardless.

And that's when the shots sounded. Some thought officers were shooting blanks with intentions to be more similar to a 'real' school shooting drill, while others thought fire crackers were being popped.

Teachers began ushering students into classrooms; screams were surrounding everyone; real shots penetrated the walls and doors, injuring students. The Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) students used Kevlar to shield themselves because it "would slow the bullet down."

After the shooter, Nikolas Cruz, had finished his rounds, he dropped his possessions in the school and walked out with all the other students fleeing. Officers were told to check IDs before transporting students away from the school or letting anyone leave.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team members grouped together and ran inside to secure the building and help those injured. Some students made the executive decision to

call 911 before opening classroom and closet doors for fear it was the shooter pounding on the door for entry.

Families soon awaited to embrace their students in local parks and on the school grounds.

Just before 3:30 p.m. on February 14, 2018, Cruz was identified and taken into custody as he walked past a McDonalds near the school campus. At 3:21 this same day, the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history had concluded.

This tragic event has sparked a number of protests. A large number of students, activists, and political leaders are speaking out in favor of gun control and social change. Our hearts and thoughts are with the family members of the deceased, the survivors, and all affected by this horrific tragedy.



Protests in FL following the Marjory Stoneman Douglass HS Shooting (Licensed Under CC)

Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference

Benjamin V Cohen Peace Conference: Peacemakers: People, Politics, and Possibilities

April 6-7, 2018

Muncie, Indiana

Early Registration Ends: March 19, 2018

Organized by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, along with the City of Muncie, and with the financial support, in part, from the [Benjamin V. Cohen Memorial Endowment Fund](#), The H.C. Gemmer Foundation, and Champions for a Safe Community. Community activists and scholars from all disciplines as well as laypersons will present their strategies, research, and recommendations related to peacemaking and peace-building, and those that explore the bridge between activism and research.

For more information, click [here](#)

To Register for the conference click [here](#)



Benjamin V. Cohen passed away on August 15, 1983. To honor his legacy and dedication to resolving worldwide conflicts peacefully, on this 30th year anniversary of his death, Ball State University will host a Conference entitled "Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Peace in Troubled Times," in Muncie, Indiana, April 6-7, 2018.

Born in Muncie, Indiana on September 23, 1894, Benjamin Victor Cohen graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1915. He then attended Harvard Law School where he attracted the attention of Felix Frankfurter. In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt summoned Cohen from private practice in New York to public service.

Cohen became a major legal architect of much of the New Deal legislation including the Securities Act and the plan for Lend-Lease and economic stability during World War II. A shy man, Cohen worked behind the scenes where his brilliance as a legal draftsman was widely recognized.

Following World War II, Cohen turned his talents to the problems of world peace and became one of the architects of the United Nations, serving on the U.S. delegation to the UN and on the United Nations Disarmament Commission. His abiding interest in world peace and his outstanding legal ability influenced American Presidents and world leaders until his death in 1983.

Conferences

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference

@ University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

April 13-14, 2018

The Notre Dame Student Peace conference is an annual conference organized by students for students. Its mission is to provide space for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in dialogue on important issues related to peacebuilding, social justice, and global issues. <https://www3.nd.edu/~peacecon/description.html>

Midwest Political Science Association 76th Annual Conference

@ Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

April 5-8, 2018

The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) was founded in 1939 and is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in all areas of political science.

Spring Student-Faculty Conference

@ Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin

April 6, 2018

Throughout the world, and here at home, authoritarianism and authoritarian forces are on the rise. At this important moment, Edgewood College – along with the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies – invites you join us for an academically-focused conversation on, and exploration of, this world-wide phenomenon. <https://www.uwsp.edu/cols-ap/WIPCS/Pages/Student-Faculty-2018.aspx>

Second International Conference on Peace & Conflict Management

@ Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

August 23 – 24, 2018

The aim of this conference is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for presentations and discussion of recent, ongoing research and innovations regarding peace and conflict management from leaders in academia and industry worldwide. <http://peaceandconflictmanagementconference.globalacademicresearchinstitute.com/main/sicpcm>



ICPCM

Conferences

Authentic Leadership for Progress, Peace & Prosperity Conference

@ West Palm Beach, Florida

October 24-27, 2018

The 2018 ILA global conference theme invites examinations of Authentic Leadership through the lens of "leadership for what?" It is intended to foster a timely and important exploration in this era of fake news by considering how authentic leaders can engage with their followers and stakeholders to create a future that embraces progress, fosters peace, and creates prosperity for the greater good of the global community. <http://www.ila-net.org/Conferences/2018/theme.html>



The “Free Speech War”: The Role of Provocative Speech on Campus

When: March 22, 2018 - 2:00 pm

Where: Arts and Journalism Room 175

Featuring:

BSU Police Chief James Duckham

Professor Dominic Caristi

Moderated by Professor Beth Messner

This presentation will explore tensions between the mission of higher education, the right to free expression, and valuing marginalized voices and experiences.



“Middlebury College students protest speaker Charles Murray” (Todd Balfour)

Organizations

International Justice Mission

Tuesdays @ 6 p.m. in the Student Center, Rm. 301

November 17 - 6-8 p.m. - Documentary Night @ Student Center Ballroom

November 21 - 6 p.m.-Midnight - Benefit Concert @ The Living Room

IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. Ball State's chapter is a group of students who are passionate about ending slavery & human trafficking around the world. They believe that through Jesus Christ, they can create tangible change in the lives of slaves through prayer, educating people, changing our behavior, & volunteering. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, & strengthening justice systems.

Feminists for Action

Tuesdays @ 6pm in Burkhardt Building Rm. 220.

A group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, & children through advocacy & education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, & community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions & work to organize events to benefit feminist causes.

Ball State University Social Justice League

Wednesdays @ 5pm at the Center for Peace & Conflict Studies.

SJL seeks to promote awareness, equality, & justice on the BSU campus, in the state, in the country, & in the global community. SJL desires to educate & discuss modern injustices & social justice topics, promote the distribution of advantages to be fair & equitable to all, & actively work to change current injustices.

Cardinal Kitchen

Cardinal Kitchen is Ball State University's campus food pantry. The pantry is located on the second floor of the Multicultural Center & is available for use to all undergraduate & graduate students. The pantry is open the first three Wednesdays of every month from 5:00 - 8:00pm. The mission is to ensure that no Ball State student goes hungry on our campus.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance

Mondays @ 5:00 p.m. in Arts & Communications Building Rm. 308.

ETA uses theatre to explore cultures, diversity, & racial-discrimination to develop worldviews in BSU students, & create well-rounded artists.

Global Brigades

Global Brigades is an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health & economic goals through university volunteers & local teams. GB offers skill-based 1-3 week brigades to Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, & Ghana. Each of these programs meets an aspect of GB's holistic model to strengthen the health & economic development of communities. Social Media: Twitter; Instagram; Facebook

Organizations, cont.

MOSAIC

MOSAIC is a social justice peer education program whose mission is to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on diversity and social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and inter-group understanding.

ALIVE Campaign

Wednesdays @ 9 p.m., in the Student Center Rm. 308

The Alive Campaign is a student-ran group at Ball State that is dedicated to raising awareness towards Suicide Prevention by representing as a "Life Appreciation Organization."

OXFAM America

Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, & injustice. Oxfam saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, & campaigns for social change.

Call to Action

Wednesdays @ 7:30pm in Teacher's College Room 108

CTA is a student organization at Ball State looking to educate & create awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender (LGBT) political issues at the local, state, & federal levels in order to empower students to take positive action to-wards equality for LGBT individuals & to influence others to take positive action.

Students for Life

Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Monday of each month @ 7:30pm in Bracken Library, Educational Resource Rm. 1 Ball State Students for Life (BSSFL) is committed to the protection of all human life; from conception until natural death. We strive to educate our members & the Ball State University community about why we value life in all its forms. We strive to respond with love, compassion, & support to those who suffer from restrictions of life.

Timmy Global Health

Wednesdays @ 8:00pm in Bracken Library Schwartz Complex.

Timmy Global Health expands access to healthcare & empowers students & volunteers to tackle today's most pressing global health challenges.

Student Action Team

Mondays @ 4:00pm in the Kinghorn Multipurpose Room.

SAT is an organization made up of general members & housing and residence life representatives. This organization is dedicated to volunteering & supporting Ball State University

On-Campus Support Groups

INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOUR

TUESDAYS from 6:00-7:30 pm – STUDENT CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

This program is designed to help international students practice English, learn studying skills and classroom culture, and make American friends. Through interactive discussion, they can normalize their experiences and decrease their isolation, worries, and stress as well as get support from American students. ICH begins September 8th, 2015.

COUNSELING CENTER THERAPY GROUPS:

(Therapy groups require appointment at counseling center before joining. Call 285-1736 or let your intake counselor know you are interested in a group.)

UNDERSTANDING SELF & OTHERS

Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Discussions vary greatly from depression, anxiety, relationships, family concerns, eating issues, alcohol abuse and/or personal growth. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences.

Mondays 1:30-3:30; Wednesday 3:00-4:30; Thursday 1:00-2:30

WEIGHT NOT, WANT NOT

Supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping. Time to be determined by availability of group members.

SAFE HAVEN: LGBT SUPPORT GROUP

This therapy group provides a safe place for GLBQ students to explore and discuss patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Topics of discussion vary greatly from coming out, finding support, relationships, family concerns, depression, anxiety, and/or personal growth. Mondays 10:00-11:30

C.A.L.M.:

Care for myself, manage my Anxiety, Live in the moment, practice Mindfulness - This group offers a secure space for students struggling with anxiety to not only explore their fears and worries, but also receive feedback and support from others with similar concerns. The group also focuses on teaching students about a variety of techniques, including mindfulness meditation, which can be particularly helpful in managing anxiety. Another benefit of being in a group is having a place to experiment applying new skills and ways of relating to others, in a safe and supportive environment. Tuesdays 3:00-4:30

L.I.F.E. SKILLS

Are you struggling with how to deal more effectively with stress? Are you your own worst critic? Do you ever wish you had some better ways to take care of yourself? This group can help teach you tangible coping skills to take with you, and from the very first session, you can begin taking active steps toward change. These brief, 4-session workshop style groups will be running at different times throughout the semester.

On and Off Campus Events

On Campus

March 15-17

48th Annual Festival of New Music

All Day, 3 Day Event

Sursa Performance Hall

Now in its 48th year, the Festival of New Music spans three days and is a wonderful opportunity for composers and musicians to come together and perform new works. The festival is comprised of four concerts featuring works by composers from across the country. In addition, a guest composer is featured each year and presents workshops for festival attendees.

March 20

Moscow Festival Ballet: Romeo & Juliet \ Carmen

7:30 p.m.

Emens Auditorium

The Moscow Festival Ballet was founded in 1989 when legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet Sergei Radchenko sought to realize his vision of a company which would bring together the highest classical elements of the great Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies in an independent new company within the framework of Russian classic ballet.

March 20-25

Julie Johnson

March 20-24 at 7:30pm, March 24, 25 at 2:30pm

Cave Studio Theatre

Julie Johnson takes the audience on a journey of two women who start in similar situations, fall in love, and then come to different realizations as their efforts to improve their personal lives leads to a shift in priorities, including deciding on who they love. All Tickets are \$6.00.

March 22

We Banjo 3

7:30 p.m.

Pruis Hall

For all the innovation and invention that goes into modern music these days, it's the inspiration derived from one's roots that proves the most enduring.

On and Off Campus Events

Off Campus

March 17

2018 5th Scotty's Shamrock Shuffle

Race Starts @ 10 a.m.

Start/Finish at Scotty's Brewhouse

St. Patrick's Day Parade

33rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held Saturday, March 17th beginning at 6:00p.m. Line-up will begin at 4:30 pm at Muncie Central Field house parking lot.

March 25

Muncie Gras – The Finale

6 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Downtown Muncie

About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary center whose mission is to pursue research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; to implement nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; to offer mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and to train people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportsperson-ship skills. The center also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

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Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services
Mediation classes
Discussion Series Events
The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
The Social Justice League
Organization

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