Houston / Harris County, Texas: A Composition of Place
Introduction

What does it mean to be “Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice”? In urging all Jesuits to a renewed emphasis on the mission of reconciliation and justice, the 36th General Congregation reminds us that “reconciliation is always a work of justice, a justice discerned and enacted in local communities and contexts,” (GC 36, d. 1, no. 21).

This document intends to invite Jesuit communities and works to engage in that discernment and enactment, sensitive to the ways in which God labors in their local context. By bringing to light the call for reconciliation in all its forms, “reconciliation with God, with one another, and with creation” (GC 36, d. 1, no. 21), we hope to help bring about the “profound spiritual renewal” of the Society to which God invites us in this and in all times (GC 36, d. 1, no. 18).

The study comprises two parts. Part I takes a deep look at the social and economic dimensions of Houston, a look that “allows us to understand reality more deeply and thus to serve more effectively” the people of the city (GC 36, d. 1, no. 33, quoting Adolfo Nicolás, SJ). The data below are meant to train our eyes of faith on the daily “suffering, vulnerable faces of people, indeed in the suffering of creation” in Houston (GC 36, d. 1, no. 20).

Part II presents questions that are meant to inspire reflection on how we can know and follow God’s will for us in light of the social and economic challenges of Houston set forth in Part I. By holding up the reality of the city to the call of the Gospel to attend to the cry of the poor and the earth, these questions are meant to promote “apostolic audacity” and a “generous personal response” as a life and mission (GC 36, d. 1, no. 19).
PART 1: Local Context

Population

The City of Houston has a population in excess of 2.2 million and is the largest city in Texas and fourth largest in the United States. It is quite diverse and a “majority minority” city (non-Hispanic whites make up about one quarter of the population of Houston). It is part of Harris County, which has a population of more than 4 million.

Figure 1: Houston Population: 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Change From 2005</th>
<th>Median Age</th>
<th>Youth Share</th>
<th>Female Share</th>
<th>Foreign-born Share</th>
<th>Limited English Proficiency Share</th>
<th>Married Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston:</td>
<td>2,240,582</td>
<td>+10.8%</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas:</td>
<td>26.96 mil.</td>
<td>+18.3%</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages, U.S. Census Bureau’s Statistical Atlas, and LEP.gov.
Notes: 1 – Figure represents the proportion of the population that is under 18. 2 – Figure is for households reporting limited English proficiency, 2014. 3 – Figure is for Harris County. 4 – Figure includes persons 15 years and older.

Figure 2: Population by Race/Ethnicity

Houston

- Non-Hispanic White: 44.3%
- Black/African American: 22.4%
- Hispanic: 25.1%
- Asian: 4.3%
- Other: 6.6%

Texas

- Non-Hispanic White: 38.6%
- Black/African American: 12.6%
- Hispanic: 43.4%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 5.2%

United States

- Non-Hispanic White: 62%
- Black/African American: 16.9%
- Hispanic: 5.2%
- Asian: 3.3%
- Other: 6.6%

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages and the Census Bureau’s American FactFinder.
Notes: 1 - Latino/Hispanic persons are not included in any category.
Religion

The number of Catholics in Harris County increased about 20% from 2000 to 2010, though their share of the population (around 18%) remained roughly the same. As of 2010, there were nearly three-quarters of a million Catholics in Harris County. The data further indicated that the major change from 2000 to 2010 was in the number and proportion of Evangelical Protestants. A more than 50% increase in their numbers (to over one million) means that in 2010 they made up more than 26% of the population of Harris County.

Figure 3: Religion: 2000 and 2010, Harris County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>“Nones” Share</th>
<th>All Denominations</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congregations</td>
<td>Adherents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congregations</td>
<td>Adherents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,092,459</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>3,031</td>
<td>2,389,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,400,578</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>1,587</td>
<td>1,713,211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1 – Data from the decennial religion census is provided by county. The next religion census will be in 2020. 2 – “Nones” refers to those respondents who did not identify with any of the 236 religious groups in the survey. So this number includes non-believers, as well as some believers who are unaffiliated with any particular faith/denomination (at least among the 236 identified in the survey).

Education

In Harris County, about 7.1% of children (5-18) are in private/parochial school (see Figure 4 to the right). As is typical across the nation, white children are more likely than children of color to be in private schools. In Harris County, about 17.3% of white youth are in private school, but only 3.1% of Hispanic youth are in private school. The number for African-American youth in private school is 4.5%. Diving deeper into the data, we find that more than 45% of all private school students are white, but they make up less than 25% of all school-age children in the county.

Figure 4: Private/Parochial School and Public School Enrollment Rate, Harris County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private School</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.
Notes: 1- The percentages refer to the proportion of all children ages 5-18 in Harris County.
Educational attainment differs by race/ethnicity in ways that are similar to the national divide—minorities are more likely to be limited to a high school diploma or less and whites are more likely than others to have a college education (see Figure 5 below). In Harris County, over 60% of all Hispanics/Latinos have a high school diploma or less, while that number is 38.5% for African-Americans and only 23.3% for whites. And while more than 46% of whites have a bachelor’s degree or higher, about 24% of African-Americans and only about 12% of Hispanics have reached that level of education. There are three primary reasons for this educational achievement gap. First is the lack of educational opportunities for those with limited income or who face discrimination. The second reason for the gap is the expense of higher education. The third reason is the significant foreign born population (29%), which likely would have had even more limited educational opportunities in their native countries.

**Figure 5: Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity, Harris County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Total (All Races/Ethnicities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A, No School</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No H.S. Diploma or GED</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. Diploma or GED</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.
Note: 1 – Survey of adults 25 and older.

*Today’s prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others’...who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors.* – Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

In 1973, this address was delivered to a group of Jesuit high school alumni who were predominantly male. We have adapted the text to include “men and women” to make its powerful message applicable for a contemporary Jesuit alumni audience.
Household Income

The median household income for non-Hispanic whites in Harris County is $81,928. This is significantly more than the median income for Hispanic households, which stands at $43,882. For Black/African-American households, their median household income--$40,186--is less than half of the white median household income.

Regardless of race, we know that over half of all the income earned in Harris County goes to households in the top 1/5 (quintile) of income earners. The bottom 1/5 saw just 3.1% of the income in Harris County (similar numbers are found nationally). This income inequality significantly impacts people’s lives and life chances. Figure 6 further summarizes the overall income distribution in Harris County.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of racial groups in the top 20% and the bottom 20% of income earners. About one-third of all white households have incomes in the top fifth of all income earners, whereas only a little more than 9% of black and Hispanic households have incomes at that level. Conversely, only 1 in 8 white households have incomes in the bottom 20% of income earners, but about 1 in 3 black and 1 in 4 Hispanic households have incomes in the bottom 20%.

Figure 7: Household Income Distribution by Race/Ethnicity, Harris County

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year averages.
**Wages and Unemployment**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate for the 3rd quarter of 2018 was 3.8%. For Texas it was 3.9% and for Harris County it was 4.3%.

The African American unemployment rate of 5.7% was nearly double the white unemployment rate of 2.9% in Texas. The unemployment rates for Hispanics and Asians were 4.5% and 3.4%, respectively.

In median hourly wages, Texas ranks 25th of the 50 states with a wage of $17.06.¹ The state’s minimum wage is $7.25 per hour, which is the federal rate (a majority of states at this point have enacted a higher minimum wage). A person who works 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year at a $7.25/hour rate will earn an annual income of just $15,080. This is not enough to get a family of 2 above the official poverty threshold in 2018. The last time the federal minimum wage was raised was in 2009.

Texas is a “right to work” state, which means that workers are allowed to not join a union or pay union dues even if they benefit from a union contract. Such laws undermine unions and union wages, which are generally higher than non-union wages.²

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic Policy Institute, and governing.com. Note 1 – Data on median hourly wages are for May 2016. Note 2 – For people in the Houston area who wish to be involved in the fight for economic justice, one place to start would be to check out the Texas AFL-CIO (www.texasaflicio.org). Their website has valuable information on economic issues and resources for making local connections.

**Poverty**

The official poverty threshold (a level of income below which you would be identified as “poor”) was set decades ago and has only been adjusted for inflation. The original formula is widely seen as outdated, causing a gross undercounting of the population that is truly living in poverty. For example, a family of 4 in 2016 would have to have an income below $24,300 to be considered officially poor. This is extremely low. Yet even by this standard, millions of Americans and over three-quarters-of-a-million people in Harris County are living in poverty.

People of color are substantially more likely to be poor (see Figure 8 right). This is true across Texas and the United States. This is rooted in a history of racism/discrimination at the individual and structural levels.

**Figure 8: Poverty Rate¹ and Child Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Harris County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Below Poverty—All Ages</th>
<th>Child Poverty (under 18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Hispanic White  
Hispanic/Latino  
Black/African American  
Asian

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages. Note: 1 - The numbers are five-year averages and represent the percentage of the respective populations living below the official poverty line established by the U.S. government.
Discrimination based on race/ethnicity has been found to exist both in the past and today in virtually all areas of economic and social life—when applying for a loan, negotiating the criminal justice system, or pursuing an education, for example. Such experiences necessarily lead to more difficult economic circumstances, including a greater likelihood of living in poverty.

Of all age groups, children are the most likely to be living in poverty. Furthermore, child poverty, as Figure 8 shows, is much higher in the Hispanic and black communities than it is in the white community. In fact, about 1 out of every 3 black and Hispanic children in Houston lives in poverty as defined by the federal government.

**Particularly Vulnerable Populations**

The data in Figure 9 (to the right) include three measurements that depict special challenges faced by many young people and families in Harris County. Typically, single-parent families must make due with less income and have one parent do the household and childcare work that can be challenging even for two parents. Single-parent families, then, tend to be poorer and more stressed.

Disconnected youth are by definition not in school or employed and ultimately are at greater risk of future economic hardships.

Many families are considered to be “housing burdened”—meaning that they are paying more than 30% of their income on rent or mortgage. That means less money to spend on all of the other essentials of life.

**Homelessness**

The Houston Coalition for the Homeless (www.homelesshouston.org), based on their most recent point-in-time count in early 2018, identified 3799 homeless individuals in Harris County. (“Homeless” refers to people who are in shelters, transitional housing programs, or found to be unsheltered.) After several years of decline, the number of homeless rose from 2017 to 2018, due at least in part to the effects of Hurricane Harvey (August 2017).

The problem of homelessness persists in the Houston area and across the nation and is due largely to the lack of affordable housing, which has to do with both the cost of housing and low wages.

**Figure 9: Vulnerable Populations (2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single-Parent Household Share 2</th>
<th>Disconnected Youth Share (Ages 16-19) 3</th>
<th>Housing Burdened Share 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Notes: 1 - Figures are for Harris County. 2 - This number represents the share of all households with children. 3 - “Disconnected” refers to youth who are neither in school or working. 4 - “Housing Burdened” refers to households that are spending more than 30% of their income in rent or mortgage.
The Social Welfare System

In Harris County, only about 36% of poor families received cash assistance, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Less than half receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as “food stamps”. The bottom line is that people living in poverty receive little to no help. In fact, in Harris County, about 39% of all people living below the poverty line receive neither cash assistance nor SNAP benefits. If somehow a family was able to access welfare assistance, the maximum TANF benefit in Texas for a family with one parent and two children is $290 per month or $3480 per year or about 17% of the poverty line ($20,780 in 2018).

Health

Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation (17.3%) and Houston’s, specifically, is even higher (see Figure 10). This has a great deal to do with the state government’s refusal to expand Medicaid coverage as provided for by the Affordable Care Act. It has been estimated that well over a million Texans would benefit from Medicaid expansion. Analysis also indicates that such an expansion would be a boost to the economy of the state.

Birth Indicators

Rates of unintended pregnancies, abortions, and teen births have been on the decline for a number of years across the country and are at or near record lows. However, the unintended pregnancy and teen birth rates are much higher in Texas than in the nation as a whole. On the other hand, the abortion rate is much lower. The data suggest that many young people and families would benefit from comprehensive sex education and collective efforts to aid in the caring of pregnant women and their children, such as affordable childcare, greater access to health care, and higher wages.

- About 54% of all pregnancies (to women 15-44 years of age) in Texas are unintended. The national percentage is 45%.1
- The abortion rate in Texas is 9.8 for every 1000 women, ages 15-44. Nationally, the abortion rate is 14.6.2
- The teen birth rate in Texas about 31 births for every 1000 females, ages 15-19. The national rate is 20.3.3

Sources: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Guttmacher Institute.
Notes: 1 – Share of all pregnancies for women 15-44 years old. 2 – Per 1,000 women 15-44 years old. 3 – Births per 1,000 women 15-19 years old.
Infant Mortality

Infant mortality refers to babies that do not live to their first birthday. The reported rate is the number who die for every 1000 live births. Infant mortality rates for the nation and for Texas remain high when compared with virtually any country in the “developed world.” Texas’ rate is slightly better than for the U.S. as a whole. Harris County, however, has a rate that is higher than the state or the nation. In Texas, the African American infant mortality rate (9.8) is double the rate for whites (4.9). The Hispanic rate is 5.2.

Maternal Mortality Rate

Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy. The rate is the number per 100,000 births. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate (20.7) in the developed world. Texas’ rate of 34.2 is significantly above the national rate.\(^1\) In fact, it ranks 43rd of the 50 states. There is a significant racial gap in Texas’ maternal mortality rate, which is presented in Figure 12.

Drugs

Texas, like every other state, has problems with drugs and addiction. However, looking specifically at overdose death rates, we see that Texas has much less of a problem than we find nationally (see Figure 13). It ranks among the states with the lowest rates. Experts are warning, however, that things can change, as in these words of caution from the Texas Health Institute (www.texashealthinstitute.org/blog) last April: “While illicit drugs laced with fentanyl are driving a recent wave of overdose deaths nationally...Texas has been insulated from the lethal impact of fentanyl primarily because the most commonly used type of heroin in Texas, black tar, is harder to mix with fentanyl prevalent in the Midwest and Appalachia. (continued on next page)
**Violence and Crime**

Overall, crime rates in Texas are above the national averages (see Figure 14). Homicide is a notable exception, though this is not true of Houston. The city of Houston, specifically, has crime rates (including homicide) significantly above the rates found in the state as a whole or in the nation. The prevalence of street crime in Houston or almost anywhere in America is largely a confluence of poverty, racial inequity, and limited educational and economic opportunities. The good news is that around the country crime, in general, has been in long-term decline. However, there does appear to be a recent rebound in crime rates.

**Incarceration**

Texas has higher incarceration rates than the nation as a whole (see Figure 15). In the state, just as in the nation, there is a significant racial gap. In Texas, the black/African American incarceration rate is more than 4 times the rate for whites. The Hispanic incarceration rate is also higher than the rate for whites.

**Firearm Death Rate**

The United States has the highest firearm death rate in the developed world. In 2016, the rate was 11.8 deaths per 100,000 of the population from all firearm related causes—suicide, accidents, homicide. Texas’ rate of 12.1 was somewhat higher than the national rate. (Alaska had the highest rate at 23.3 and Massachusetts the lowest at 3.4.)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

---

**Figure 14: Reported Crime Rates (per 100,000): 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Property Crime Rate</th>
<th>Violent Crime Rate</th>
<th>Homicide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>4,128</td>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>11.5 (actual #: 269)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>2,563</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>5.0 (actual #: 1,412)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>5.3 (actual #: 17,284)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1 – The rates in this chart represent the numbers of crimes reported to the police and recorded by the FBI per 100,000 of the population. Most crimes go unreported, it should be noted. 2 – The property crimes here refer to Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson. 3 – The violent crimes are Murder/Non-negligent Homicide, Forcible (not Statutory) Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery.

---

**Figure 15: Incarceration Rates (per 100,000): 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Prison Incarceration Rate</th>
<th>Jail Incarceration Rate</th>
<th>White Imprisonment Rate</th>
<th>Black Imprisonment Rate</th>
<th>Hispanic Imprisonment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sentencing Project.
Notes: 1 – Figures typically reflect prison sentences 1 year or longer. Rate is for 2016. 2 – Figures typically reflect jail sentences less than 1 year. Jail inmates also include those awaiting trial. Jail incarceration rate is for 2013. 3—Rates by race are for 2014 for prison sentences longer than 1 year.
Voter registration and voter turnout rates in Texas lag behind the national rates, except for African-American voter registration. Latino/Hispanic voting rates are quite low nationally, but particularly so in Texas. While white voter turnout in Texas is 62.9%, Hispanic turnout is 40.5% (see Figure 16 below).

Figure 16: Texas Civic Engagement: 2016

Houston faces a number of environmental challenges, probably the worst being air pollution from transportation and industry. In 2016, the EPA identified Harris County as being the 10th most polluted county in the United States in terms of the total pounds of toxic chemicals released into the air: nearly 38 million pounds! This level of pollution has a serious adverse impact on public health.

Houston, like the rest of the world, is also facing climate change. Temperatures are heating up, ocean levels are rising, and more powerful storms will be threatening the region. Climate change threatens agriculture, industry, and, of course, human health. The financial toll will be great.

Pope Francis, in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, reminds us of the importance of caring for God’s creation: “Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.”

A particular challenge for the Houston community as it confronts its (and our world’s) serious environmental problems is the fact that the area’s economy is still quite dependent upon the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, which are noted for their significant contribution to pollution and climate change.

Note 1 – Among the rich Jesuit resources available on the environment is the International Jesuit Ecology Project. Their educational materials can be found at: www.luc.edu/ijep Also, the Carmelites have created a useful high school curriculum and an adult study guide to teach *Laudato Si’*. Interested individuals, schools and parishes can check it out at www.laudato-si-for-all.com.
PART 2 - Reflections

Many national, state and local authorities, businesses, and other organizations make policies that profoundly affect the people of Houston whom we strive to serve in the name of Jesus. As we think about these data, we might reflect upon how we as individuals and Jesuit communities and ministries can become more effectively involved in decisions bearing upon the common good.

So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead (James 2:17).

What is it for which you are spending your life?
– Sr. Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

Questions for Reflection

1. In view of the fact that nearly 42% of the Harris County population is unaffiliated with any religious denomination (“nones”) and considering our significant Jesuit resources, in what new ways are we called to reach out beyond our ministries to bring the reconciling Good News of Jesus Christ?
2. Given the significant educational inequalities that exist in the Houston area (not to mention the many other social injustices), are the Jesuit community and our schools doing all that we can do to challenge these injustices in word and deed and to promote greater reconciliation?
3. Pope Francis has urged us “to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” What exactly does this demand of us in the Houston context?

Never, never be afraid to do what’s right, especially if the well-being of a person...is at stake. Society’s punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.
—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.