



FAITH IN HARM REDUCTION

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Naming Ceremony for Lives Lost to Overdose and War on People Who Use Drugs: US Convening on Overdose, Open Society Foundations, April 10, 2018, Erica Poellot

Sacred Source,
The one of no names And all names

We listen for your voice.

That voice which called us together here today in this room made holy by our presence

That voice which calls us to remember the myriad ways we belong – one to another- inextricably and lovingly bound

That voice which call us to our sacred charge –
to presence, to hope, to persistence for liberation.

That voice which can no longer tell its own story, calls us to testify to worth, to value, to the possibility of resurrection –
to refuse to be silenced.

And just as we have been called together here today,
we act as the voice—the heart—the hands of another call:

The call:

To meet and walk with our beloved, exactly where and as they are

To celebrate the gift of second, third, and more chances - for life-giving

To revel in recovery and resilience, shaped by radical welcome, no matter our path.

To proclaim the memory of those who have taken their leave.

To hold accountable all those who have broken their vows, who have let us die.

call us back—again and again—to the covenant and work of justice, love, and resistance.

Call us back to the work of harm reduction. For this we are here today.

We gather to vision a collective way forward
Ours, a movement of truth telling, life affirming, of connection.



We gather to honor and learn from the many ways and wisdom with which people who use drugs have been saving one another, loving one another back to life.

We also gather to remember The lives of our beloved lost.

We gather to honor the living
And to remember
To remember and hold space for those who are no longer with us in body That
our remembrance of You is inspiration for our way forward.
We are witnesses in this moment.
Let this light be a symbol of our witness,

witness to the communities where those who died did their living and were cared
for in their dying, witness to the communities where loss has occurred and has
long been occurring–

and witness to the community we create today in our being together. so let us
remember
together

Following a moment of silence
Please join me in keeping alive the spirit of the beloved we have lost to overdose
Calling them each by name
Saying of the names
We love you.
We are witnesses to your life and the knowing that it was Divine.

Your name, your memory, they are our way forward.
A way that ignites, again and again, your living and our love for you In all the holy
names.
Amen.