

Request for Approval of SnowFlower Joining MOSES during 2012

The Coming Home Project Committee and the Steering Council have each recommended asking the Sangha to join MOSES, an inter-faith coalition in the Madison area, and to pay annual dues of \$200. MOSES is working on issues involving Wisconsin's rate of mass incarceration, alternatives to incarceration, and discrimination against those released from prison. This appears to be a valuable extension of the important and compassionate work being done both in and out of prisons by the Coming Home Project and other prison ministries in which Sangha members participate

MOSES is a newer affiliate of WISDOM, which is a faith-based organization devoted to social justice policy issues. WISDOM has 9 affiliates across the state, including in the areas of Milwaukee, Racine, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Green Bay, and Appleton. Each affiliate is a coalition of local faith-based congregations, including Catholic and Protestant congregations, synagogues, and at least one Islamic Center. Each affiliate focuses its efforts on whatever social justice issue it chooses, consistent with the WISDOM mission statement. The most active issues selected by affiliates tend to be prison issues (such as alternatives to incarceration) and immigration.

To date, the MOSES chapter has been very focused on prison issues, including its opposition to current legislative bills that would allow any employer to overtly discriminate by refusing to consider any applicant for employment, or firing any current employee, who has ever committed a felony. MOSES also has a Ban the Box campaign against employment discrimination, and is involved in the large inter-faith protest planned for February 20, 2012 in Madison to challenge Wisconsin's mass incarceration rate (called the 11X15 campaign, to cut Wisconsin's prison population in half to 11,000 by the end of 2015).

Carol Rubin is Secretary of MOSES and would function as Sangha liaison to MOSES. WISDOM has decided that given its relatively small size, SnowFlower would only be expected to pay \$200 dues to become a member for 2012.