

Newsletter: A poverty-fighting campaign for 2023, a PPC shoutout in Congress and more

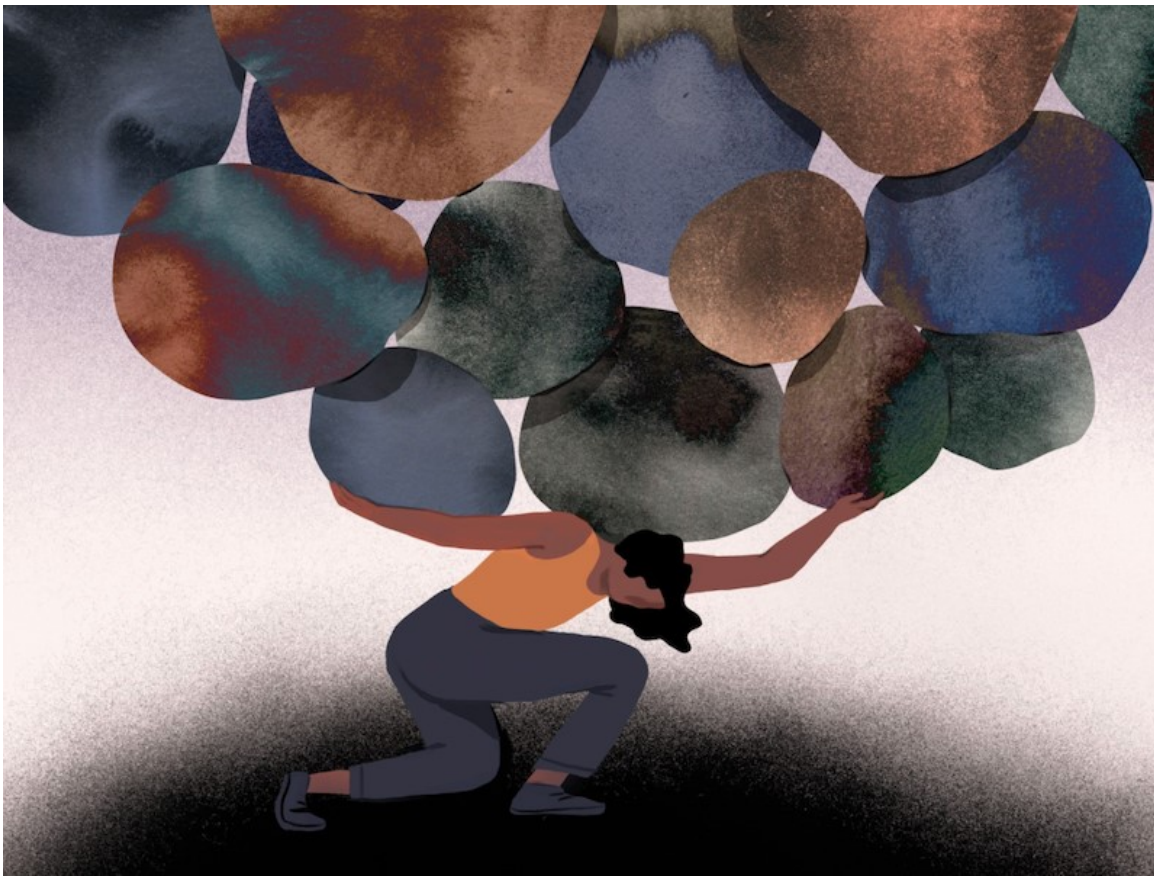
Thu, Jan 5, 2023

CALIFORNIA



Our plans for another jam-packed year—especially our Close the Wealth Gap, CA! campaign—continue to roll out. Below, we have two ways you can get involved, as well as a quick recap of last month's statewide convening. (Special guest Barbara Lee mentioned our new campaign in Congress that same day!) And if you missed Bishop Barber's powerful editorial on the holiday and the war in Ukraine, you can check it out [here](#).

Announcements



California PPC launches Close the Wealth Gap Campaign

At last month's statewide convening, we launched a new campaign: Close the Wealth Gap, CA! The meeting was a collaborative effort, involving organizers statewide who helped us recognize the importance each person makes in the work of ending poverty. Testimonies offered by Caesar Seabron (who also spoke at our [National Day of Action](#) in Sacramento last year) and Michelle Hayes grounded us in the reason for our efforts to address the needs and concerns of poor and low-wealth people—140 million nationally, with 20 million in California alone.

Our testifiers were bookended by powerful presentations from PPC co-chair Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Congresswoman Barbara Lee. And in case you missed it, Rep. Lee mentioned our statewide convening and new campaign in Congress the morning of our convening! Here's the [recording of her remarks](#). Rep. Lee also sponsored [HR 438, the 3rd Reconstruction Resolution to Fully Address Poverty from the Bottom Up](#).

We look forward to working with you all to Close the Wealth Gap in 2023. We'll be rolling out more information in the coming weeks, but here are two things you can do right now—

1. Sign up for a reading of the Third Reconstruction Agenda

On January 16, MLK Day, we'll be honoring Dr. King's legacy by hosting readings of the PPC [3rd Reconstruction Agenda](#)—a document loaded with actionable ideas on ending poverty

from the bottom up. (As you might recall, the original Poor People's Campaign was cofounded by Dr. King in 1968.) [Fill out this form](#) to let us know how you'd like to be involved; we'll send you more information to help you organize a successful event.

2. Not sure what the Third Reconstruction Agenda is? Read up!

Drawing on the transformational history of the First Reconstruction following the Civil War and the Second Reconstruction of the civil rights struggles of the 20th century, the Third Reconstruction is a revival of our constitutional commitment to establish justice, provide for the general welfare, end decades of austerity and recognize that policies that center the 140 million poor and low-income people in the country are also good economic policies that can heal and transform the nation. Learn more by [checking out the Agenda](#), which is presented as a series of provocative questions like this: "Did you know that billionaire wealth surged by over \$2 trillion during the pandemic, but under current tax law, these gains will go largely untaxed?"



Our Freedoms, Our Vote: January 6 rallies nationwide

Jan. 6–8 | [Find an action near you](#)

To remember the 2021 attack on our Capitol, activists across the country are scheduling events as part of a nationwide weekend of action from January 6–8. The theme is "Our Freedoms, Our Vote," and local activists are designing creative visuals to pit the winning side of freedom and democracy against the losing side of fascism and authoritarianism. We will highlight that after the 2022 midterm election, democracy is winning, but the fight is not yet

over: We all need to fight for a future where we all have a say in how we are governed, and where all of us can thrive.

Actions are being held all across the state. [Sign up here](#) to attend an event near you.

(Image above: Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

Upcoming meetings

Los Angeles regional meeting Sunday Jan. 8, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Please join us for our first LA PPC meeting of 2023, where we'll discuss plans to launch our new campaign: Close the Wealth Gap, California! To kick off the campaign we're organizing MLK Day gatherings, where together we'll read the [Third Reconstruction Agenda](#). We'll also talk about reaching out to elected officials, creating virtual banners and taking on local issues. Invite your friends, neighbors, community members—all are welcome. We hope to see you there.

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

PPC in the media

“The Rev. William Barber II Delivers a Moral Call for Peace”

On the last day of 2022, [The Nation](#) published a lengthy piece written by Bishop Barber on the occasion of Christmas. Recalling the holiday's origins—in particular the often-overlooked story of King Herod slaughtering children in an attempt to snuff out the newborn Jesus, and the earlier account of the cries of the bereft mother Rachel—he writes, “Might we never forget that at Bethlehem there was a battle between war and peace, love and hate, violence and nonviolence.” He goes on to argue for a ceasefire in Ukraine and indeed “ceasefires everywhere.” It's a deeply moving piece, and a great way to balance the lessons of the past with the work ahead. [We urge you to read it.](#)

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.