

Thu, Mar 23, 2023

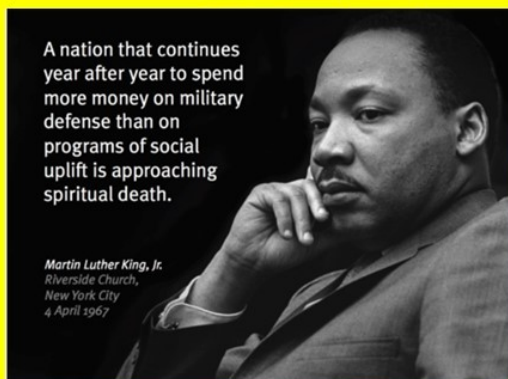
CALIFORNIA



Just keeping dry this week has been a challenge for many of us, but that didn't stop scores of PPC people from gathering at the state Capitol to demand justice for essential workers, and at the Ninth Circuit Court to demand protection for Oak Flat. You'll find reports on both actions below—but first, read up on our 2023 “Beyond Vietnam” plans.

Announcement

April 4, 2023: Participatory readings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." Organize or join a reading in-person or online.
Statewide online reading April 4, 2023 from 6:30—8:00 pm.



Called by the California Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Join us in bringing Dr. King's prophetic vision to life "Beyond Vietnam" planning meetings start today

On April 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, California PPC is once again organizing readings of his speech "[Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#)"—a tradition that the PPC has honored for years with gatherings both in-person and online.

This year's readings will be part of CA PPC's **Close the Wealth Gap, California!** campaign, an outgrowth of the [Third Reconstruction Agenda to Heal the Nation](#). These participatory readings will take place across the state and at a [statewide virtual reading](#) in the evening.

Want to help us prepare organizers and readers for this year's reading? Great! Sign up for one of these...

Beyond Vietnam planning meetings

Thursday Mar. 23, 12pm | [RSVP](#)

Wednesday Mar 29, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Thursday Mar. 30, 12pm | [RSVP](#)

If you've already planned a reading, fill out this [form](#) to let us know.

Some background on the occasion: On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his tragic assassination, Dr. King delivered the prophetic "[Beyond Vietnam](#)" speech. "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values," he declared. "We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

Upcoming meetings

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Apr. 2, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Join us as we prepare to mark the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. We'll also have updates on national PPC trainings and local activities to Close the Wealth Gap, California! Invite your friends, neighbors, community members—all are welcome. We hope to see you there.

News



Oak Flat gets another day in court

On Tuesday morning, PPC activists and other community members braved the rain and gathered at the U.S. Court of Appeals in Pasadena to show support for Apache Stronghold, which is fighting in court to protect Oak Flat—one of their most sacred sites—from complete destruction by a foreign-owned mining company.





Over a hundred people packed the courtroom and an overflow area to witness the hearing before the entire eleven-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court. Although a federal appeals court ruled against them last year, it recently agreed to rehear the case.

Apache Stronghold arrived in Los Angeles last Friday and visited with other communities of struggle, including Alexandria House and Unión de Vecinos.

In a press conference after the hearing, Apache Stronghold leader Dr. Wendsler Nosie emphasized the gravity of the case. “We’re all victims of this corporate world,” he said. Dr. Nosie encouraged us to keep showing up: “Our struggle is your struggle.” A ruling in favor of Apache Stronghold would be a huge victory for all Native tribes who want to protect their sacred sites from cultural and environmental destruction.

Keep an eye on this newsletter for updates on the ruling.

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



State Workers Stand Up

California state workers who are members of SEIU 1000 [rallied at the state Capitol](#) on Monday with these demands: “Respect us! Protect us! Pay us!” The state government has close to a quarter of a million employees, almost half of whom are women and almost two-thirds of whom are workers of color. These workers—including custodians, health care workers and librarians—are essential to the public’s health and quality of life. They have been on the front lines during the pandemic, risking their health and safety to keep the state running, and now they are demanding living wages for themselves and their families.

A report released by the UC Berkeley Labor Center found that state workers represented by SEIU Local 1000 lack sufficient wages to meet basic needs: “As an employer, the state’s provision of wages that are insufficient to support a decent standard of living has severe negative effects on the economic security of state workers and their families, and exacerbates the persistent gender and racial wage and wealth gaps.” In fact, 69 percent of state workers don’t earn enough to support themselves and one child on their own.

The SEIU is a national PPC partner, and we joined them to show our support. Two

of our quad chairs, Sacramento-based Brother Kevin Carter and SEIU 1000 member Rose Escobar, represented us. “The state has failed us!” Rose told the crowd. “We were essential when they needed California to keep running, but will not deem us essential to provide us essential pay. This has resulted in many of the State of California’s working families facing enormous challenges, including food insecurity and an untenable rent burden.”

International Women’s Day event now online

It’s Still Women’s History Month! Here’s a way celebrate any time this week: Watch the justreleased [video](#) of our International Women’s Day online event. Spearheaded by the California PPC in coordination with dozens of cosponsors and endorsers, the

day drew over 200 people to honor women, to acknowledge their contributions and to recognize the challenges they continue to face.

We heard the painful and powerful stories of women struggling to survive and fighting back. We also heard from two of our champions in Congress—Rep. Gwen Moore (WI) and Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)—along with national PPC leaders Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Shailly Gupta Barnes. Whether you missed the event, want to share it with others or would like to be inspired again, you can watch it [here](#).

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