

Thu, Aug 10, 2023

CALIFORNIA



All CA PPC people are invited to tune in this Sunday afternoon for an inspiring presentation on June's Moral Poverty Action Congress. The CA delegation will share their experiences, and we'll discuss how the Congress can fuel our efforts to end the wealth gap. We've also got a recap on last weekend's anti-nukes actions at Livermore and in Orange County, plus commentary on food aid (and the inextricable issue of policy violence) from Bishop Barber.

Announcement



This weekend! Moral Poverty Action Congress CA PPC report-back Sunday Aug 13, 4pm | [Register](#)
Join us to meet the faces, hear the stories of the 2023 Moral Poverty Action Congress California delegation and learn what's coming next for this year and beyond.

Back in June, more than 20 of us joined our national PPC family in D.C. to spread the word that poverty is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. We heard from testifiers whose stories illuminated the facts and figures, and we strategized to shift the nation's attention to the reality of poverty and force elected leaders to take action to end policy violence. When people die for lack of healthcare, living wages, clean air and water and other basic needs—that is violence.

We were also excited to be in Washington D.C. with Congresswoman Barbara Lee when she re-introduced [House Resolution 532: Fully addressing poverty from the bottom up](#).

At this report-back, we will be taking action together to press our demands for moral policies, practices and budgets at the national and state levels. We need all hands on deck!

Don't forget to [register](#). See you on Sunday.

Recaps



Dismantle the Doomsday Machine: A day of remembrance and renewal

This year's gathering at the Livermore Laboratory on August 4 commemorated the victims of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—where an estimated 226,000 people, mostly civilians, were killed—and Daniel Ellsberg, the legendary disarmament activist who died earlier this summer. Given that the Laboratory is currently designing a new warhead for a new generation of ICBMs, Ellsberg's message is as timely as ever.

The event, organized by the Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF), an active PPC partner, Tri-Valley CAREs, SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility and other groups, was titled “Dismantle the Doomsday Machine”—a nod to Ellsberg’s 2017 book *Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*.

John Burroughs, a WSLF board member, noted that “Ellsberg was a passionate opponent of nuclear weapons, especially ICBMs, ground-based ballistic missiles.” Patricia Ellsberg offered a moving tribute, recalling how she and her husband were arrested together at other Livermore protests. A [video featuring the talks](#) Ellsberg had given at past rallies at the Laboratory was shown.



Jane Welford and Rachel West, part of PPC Bay Area and Global Women’s Strike (a national PPC partner), brought signs protesting militarism. “The vigil happens annually to remember the hideous and long lasting destruction of nuclear weapons,” they said. “We protest militarism and the war economy which impoverishes us.”



Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Orange County

On August 6, the Orange County Peace Coalition, Veterans For Peace and other groups came together in Huntington Beach to remember the victims of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Participants called for an end to nuclear weapons and an overhaul of the military budget to fund people’s needs. Pat Alviso, Military Families Speak Out national coordinator and longtime PPC supporter, reported that “we got a lot of attention because we walked down the Huntington Beach Pier during the national surfing contest.”

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.

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PPC in the media

“Democrats urge US House Republicans not to cut food aid to the poor”

On Monday, [Reuters](#) reported that 25 Democratic lawmakers had co-authored a letter regarding the 2023 Farm Bill and the embattled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). At the heart of the debate between Republican and Democrat lawmakers is the expanded work requirements that were added as part of the debtceiling deal. This year's farm bill could erode the program further.

Bishop Barber [tweeted](#) the article along with this remark: “Work requirements don’t just make it harder for people who need it to access aid. They also perpetuate the lie that people who need government aid are lazy.”

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