

Newsletter: Don't wait for the next government shutdown—contact your representatives now

Thu, Nov 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA



The government will not shut down tomorrow, but the needs of America's poor and lowwealth people are still being shoved to the margins. Read on and find out how you can help. We'll also tell you about an opportunity to support migrants and hotel workers this evening, and we have a report on an interfaith discussion on the crisis in Gaza. And don't miss our recap of an event commemorating the Wilmington massacre of 1898.

Announcements



Now is the time to write to your member of Congress

Until a stopgap bill was passed on Tuesday, we were once again on the brink of a government shutdown. Our representatives in D.C. focused on protecting corporate tax breaks and military aid while proposing deep reductions to Head Start, K-12 education, mental health services, veterans benefits, the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and other basic-needs programs. The lives of poor and low-wealth people have not been front and center in these debates.

But we're not giving up. And you can help get our voices heard.

Would your family and loved ones be impacted by the loss of these vital programs? PPC national partner Coalition on Human Needs is [collecting stories to send to Congress](#) so that they hear firsthand from us.

Another national partner, Global Women's Strike, asks us to [write to our members of Congress](#) demanding that they reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit. A monthly, fully refundable CTC would extend this benefit to 19 million children currently left out of the full credit because their families' incomes are too low.

Even if Congress wraps up a short-term deal this week, discussions over our nation's priorities will continue. It's our job to remind them that the wellbeing of people should come first. As [PPC fundamental principle number 5](#) reminds us:

We believe that people should not live in or die from poverty in the richest nation ever to exist. Blaming the poor and claiming that the United States does not have an abundance of resources to overcome poverty are false narratives used to perpetuate economic exploitation, exclusion, and deep inequality.



Truth Commission on Violence Against Hotel Workers Tonight! Thursday Nov 16, 5pm | [RSVP](#) St. Augustine by-the-Sea Church (1227 Fourth St, Santa Monica)

Striking hotel workers have been met with violence by hotel security, while unhoused migrant workers have been brought in to replace them. This truth commission hearing will give you the opportunity to hear testimonies from workers and migrants who have been affected and exploited during the ongoing labor dispute, and to show your solidarity as their struggle continues. Sister Judy Vaughan, founding director of Alexandria House, will be representing PPC as one of the truth commissioners. We hope to see you this evening.

PPC in the media

Joy Reid hosts interfaith discussion on the violence in Israel and Gaza

Last weekend, Joy Reid hosted a thoughtful discussion on her [MSNBC](#) show with three faith leaders—Bishop Barber, Rabbi Sharon Brous and Imam Imad Enchassi—on the violence in Israel and Gaza, our common humanity and a path to peace.

Bishop Barber made the case for moral consistency. “We are each a reflection of God, known as imago dei,” he said. He invoked each religion’s common starting point, calling for us “to stand together, Jews, Christians, Muslims, to say ‘Stop the indiscriminate killing,’ because we must recognize the imago dei of every person.”

Rabbi Brous, who founded the IKAR Jewish congregation in Los Angeles, spoke about what is needed from leaders. “There is this false binary that you are either with Israelis or with Palestinians, when I am with humanity,” she said. “While it might feel good to be tribal in moments like this, what we actually have to do is avoid dehumanizing rhetoric that will lead to more violence.”

Imam Enchassi added that “the solution is going to come from courageous leadership. I have four members of my family who have been killed in Gaza, and my heart also bleeds for people being kept as hostages. People of faith have this in common.” Watch the discussion on [The Reidout](#).

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

Recap



Remembering the 1898 Wilmington massacre

This week, Bishop Barber shared a [video](#) from a gathering held on the 125th anniversary of the Wilmington, North Carolina massacre. On Nov. 10, 1898, a mob of 2,000 armed white supremacists descended on the offices of *The Daily Record*, a Black-owned newspaper, then moved into the streets and opened fire as Black men ran for their lives. The armed mob murdered more than 60 people (possibly as many as 300), seized control of the multiracial [Fusionist](#) city government that was elected two days prior, expelled Black aldermen and installed unelected whites. No one was ever held accountable for the brutal murders.

The Governor and President McKinley turned a blind eye, and leaders of the violence went on to enjoy celebrated political careers.

During the remembrance gathering, Bishop Barber asked a series of questions to congregants about why the massacre happened. Together they discussed the fusion coalition that had come together after slavery was ended, how it gained momentum and political power and was a threat to white supremacists. He talked about the fundamental rights of equal protection under the law and the tremendous importance of organizing. Drawing parallels to our urgent need to come together today, he said, “When death is in the land, unity must come to those who want to live.”

Read more about the massacre in this [special feature](#) from the Equal Justice Initiative, and watch the anniversary [gathering](#).

Please note that the CA newsletter team will be taking next week off for the holiday. We'll be back in your inbox on November 30. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org. Forward together!