

Thu, Nov 2, 2023

CALIFORNIA



We were honored to join Global Women's Strike and other groups in D.C. last week, where we spoke with officials about a bill that could bring some long overdue compensation to unpaid caregivers. You'll find a report on the trip below, plus invitations to stand with migrant workers and learn about Fukushima's nuclear waste. Finally, we have some words from Bishop Barber and Rev. Theoharis on the situation in Israel and Gaza.

Announcements



March for Migrants

Saturday Nov 4, 10am

Le Meridien Delfina (530 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica)

Join us this Saturday to march for migrant workers and protect the rights and dignity of all workers! This event follows L.A. County district attorney George Gascón's announcement that he would launch an investigation concerning hotels' alleged exploitation of unhoused refugees during recent hotel strikes.

[UNITE HERE Local 11](#), a union representing hotel workers, has spoken to some of the refugees who have been staying at a shelter on Skid Row. They report working long hours with no breaks and receiving paychecks with little to no documentation regarding hours worked. The workers include refugees who entered the country to seek asylum in Texas and were bused to Los Angeles during the summer.

UNITE HERE co-president Kurt Petersen told the [L.A. Times](#) that hotel employers "had stooped to a new low."

CA PPC has been supporting and picketing with hotel workers, who have been on strike since July. During this time hotel owners have retaliated against workers, denying them shifts and changing work assignments, and have allowed violence against peaceful protestors.

You can learn more in this [KTLA article](#).



Fukushima Nuclear Waste Release: Is It SAFE?

Monday Nov 6, 7pm

South Berkeley Senior Center (2939 Ellis St., Berkeley)

The Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission invites the public to an educational roundtable to address the question, "Fukushima nuclear waste release: Is it safe?" The public will hear from scientists, environmental experts and health professionals as the

world faces, for the first time ever, the planned release of 31,000 tons of contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean by March 2025, and then more over the next 40 years.

On July 11, 2023, the Berkeley City Council abstained on a proposal from the Peace and Justice Commission to oppose the dumping. Since then Japan has released water from the damaged Fukushima Nuclear Plant into the Pacific Ocean twice.

While this is an in-person event, some presenters will appear by pre-recorded video from other parts of the world. This event is free, wheelchair accessible and open to all. For more information email george.lippman@gmail.com.

Upcoming meeting

Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Nov 5, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

This month we'll lay out more detailed plans for 2024, including coordinated statehouse assemblies on March 2 and the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls on June 15. Who do you know who could go to the statehouse in Sacramento? If you can't go yourself, there will be lots of other ways to help: phone banking, media and social media work, signs, banners and more. Join us to learn more and add your ideas. Invite your neighbors, families and friends—all are welcome.



News

Mothers and other family caregivers tell D.C. to “value our work!”

Last week, a coalition of organizations including PPC national partner Global Women's Strike brought together more than 20 mothers and other family caregivers (including eight Californians and two mom/daughter teams) from across the country to urge elected officials and the Biden administration to support policies that recognize, value and provide resources for unwaged caregiving work.

They traveled to Washington D.C. and kicked off their efforts with a [congressional briefing](#) on [HR 1468](#), the Worker Relief and Credit Reform Act. A panel moderated by Margaret Prescod, CA PPC Coordinating Committee member and GWS co-coordinator, featured

Congressmember Gwen Moore (WI), the bill's sponsor, and special guest Congressman Dwight Evans (PA) along with caregivers and policy experts. Some caregivers provided testimony, which you can read [here](#).

The bill would extend the financial support provided by the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to caregivers of children, family members with disabilities and older people, as well as to low-income students. It would also recognize unpaid caregivers and students as workers deserving of a wage.

A recurring theme of the [testimonies](#): Providing care for our loved ones that is not paid for results in hardship and poverty, and cash payments such as the expanded Child Tax Credit, which was available for a short time during the pandemic, lifted many families out of poverty.

The briefing was followed by a press conference. The teams then spread across the Hill to visit representatives and senators on both sides of the aisle. PA PPC and GWS member Barbara Gurley's testimony moved her senator to highlight her story on the floor of the Senate following the visit.

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



Seeking a way to peace, spiritual leaders speak out

Bishop Barber and Rev. Theoharis are spreading the word in support of an end to the violence in Israel and Gaza. Bishop Barber shared a [Vatican News](#) article about Pope Francis's call for a ceasefire. He quoted the Pope at length in a Twitter thread that begins, "As a bishop in the church, I join others to say, 'Let us hear the Spirit speaking

thru the call of the Holy Father for prayers of penance for peace. Let us all search our hearts, consider the suffering of others, & seek a way to peace.”

Rev. Theoharis posted pictures from a [massive demonstration](#) in Grand Central Station (pictured above) along with the message, “New York says no to war! #CeasefireNow.” She also shared live events with activists from Jewish Voice for Peace, among others.

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