

Jan 11, 2024

CALIFORNIA



The original PPC was cofounded by Martin Luther King, Jr., so it's no surprise that we go all out for his birthday. If you live around L.A. or the East Bay, we hope you'll join us at one of the events listed below. We also have invites to some important meetings and reports on struggles for the rights of renters and differently abled people. Forward together!

Announcements



Justice for Renters at the Kingdom Day Parade

Monday Jan. 15, 10:30am | [RSVP](#) for details Near Arlington and MLK Blvd. (Los Angeles)

The Justice for Renters Coalition will be marching for rent control at the [Kingdom Day Parade](#). The housing crisis in California has reached a critical level, with skyrocketing rents making it increasingly difficult for residents to find affordable housing. Rent control can help alleviate the housing crisis by stabilizing rental prices, which would provide longterm affordability to tenants.

[Justice for Renters](#) is a statewide initiative that will be on the November 2024 ballot. It will allow local governments, cities and other municipalities to expand or enact rent control as they deem appropriate for their area to protect residents and communities.

Join us on the parade route so we can demonstrate the large contingent of folks who support the movement for rent control! Please complete this [form](#) to get the exact time and location.



Community Sing-In: Celebrating Songs of the Civil Rights Movement

Monday, Jan 15, 1–3pm | [RSVP](#) Crenshaw United Methodist Church (3740 Don Felipe Dr., Los Angeles)

Looking for an uplifting way to celebrate Dr. King's birthday and legacy? Be a part of this event, where you'll sing old civil rights favorites and learn some new ones too. All voices are welcome!

“Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world.”

Dr. Martin Luther King
Beyond Vietnam

Monday January 15, 2024
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Oscar Grant Plaza - Oakland
14th and Broadway/12th St BART stop

*march * speakout * tabling*

volunteers needed

[rsvp bit.ly/CAPPC_RadicalKing](https://bit.ly/CAPPC_RadicalKing)

CALIFORNIA
Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL

Reclaim Dr King's Radical Legacy 2024

Monday, Jan 15, 11am–4pm | [RSVP](#) Oscar Grant Plaza (14th and Broadway, Oakland)

The Laney College chapter of the CA PPC's Bay Area region is joining the 10th Annual week of action to “Reclaim the Radical Legacy” of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. From 11am to 3pm we will be tabling at Oscar Grant Plaza, where the march begins and ends. Hear testifiers speak out about the devastating impact of policy violence impacting 18 million Californians and 140 million people nationwide. Join our contingent for a short march and take action in King’s memory. Volunteers needed; please [RSVP](#).

Upcoming meetings

We're going to Sacramento! Mobilization meeting

Saturday Jan. 20, 12pm | [RSVP](#)

SEIU 721 building (1545 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles)

[Los Angeles](#) is getting organized to go to Sacramento on March 2 as part of a national day of action that will take place in 30 states. We are calling for all hands on deck to organize this effort collectively—help with outreach, transportation, media and more is needed. Our March 2 actions will call politicians to account for allowing policies of violence to continue. We will demand they stop making concessions for the wealthy while leaving families and children to die in poverty.

Lunch and English/Spanish interpretation will be provided. Don't forget to fill out this [form](#) and let us know you'll be there.

Statewide organizing meetings Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Help us organize for the March 2 rally in Sacramento and other 2024 efforts. You'll meet activists from around the state and take part in mobilizing our communities for these historic actions. It's a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another. Drop in any Wednesday.

News



Bishop Barber and others speak out for equal access

Bishop Barber held a second [press conference](#) following his [expulsion](#) in late December from an AMC movie theater that refused to accommodate his needs as a differently abled person. Together with Maria Town, president and CEO of the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD), he addressed the need for improved inclusivity and equal access for all.

Town shared a similar story about Senator Tammy Duckworth, who was unable to attend a movie with her daughter at a theater that lacked elevators. She then spoke of Ethan Saylor, a 26-year-old disabled man with Down Syndrome, who went to the movies in January 2013 in Maryland but did not make it back home; he was killed by sheriff's deputies who forcibly removed him. Finally, she shared key ADA requirements and implored all to "learn more about the disability community, culture and civil rights so we can become a more inclusive community."

In addition to citing key historical figures who were differently abled (including Saint Paul, Harriet Tubman, President Franklin Roosevelt, Helen Keller and Fannie Lou Hamer), Bishop Barber talked about the conversation he had with the head of the AMC movie theater corporation (the two men met last week).

"I am not ashamed of being differently abled," he said. "What is shameful is the poverty in this country causing one in four deaths, wars around the world due to hatred; we have real things to deal with besides blocking people from seeing a movie."

Check out the [press conference](#), and learn more about the incident in Bishop Barber's [CNN piece](#) "Why I couldn't watch *The Color Purple* with my mother."

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

“As California evictions boom, whether tenants get lawyers depends on where they live”

A new report from [CalMatters](#) highlights the critical importance of legal support for an increasing number of tenants receiving eviction notices. Given how quickly evictions can occur, the difference between having legal support and not means tenants have a fighting chance or may lose their cases by default. And when faced with the daunting task of packing up their belongings or filing paperwork, many people don't realize how important a timely response can be.

San Francisco is the only city in California that guarantees access to an attorney; elsewhere, representation can be difficult to find in spite of the free legal service networks and nonprofits that exist in places like Alameda, Contra Costa and Los Angeles counties.

California is not unique; the problem is a national one, where according to a study, “fewer than 5 percent of tenants in eviction cases are represented by an attorney, compared to more than 80 percent of landlords.” This is compounded by the further injustice that evictions affect Black people disproportionately and despite being “protected” under the Fair Housing Act. Half of all eviction filings are against Black renters while they represent just one in five renters, according to a [study](#) by Princeton University's Eviction Lab. In the same study, it was found that California also evicts more children than any other state.

What is clear is that when renters have legal support, outcomes are far better. Read the informative [CalMatters](#) piece to find out what Los Angeles and other cities and critical nonprofit support groups are doing to overcome these interlocking injustices.

This report is further evidence of the urgent need for Congress to pass [H.Res.532](#) to ensure fair housing and eviction protection, and for California to pass the [Justice for Renters Act](#), which will be on the November 2024 state ballot and is endorsed by CA PPC.

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