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1972-2022: Celebrating 50 Years

NETWORK Advocates Training

April 21-23, 2022 • Washington, D.C.

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ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE, INSPIRED BY CATHOLIC SISTERS



Welcome!



“Politics, rightfully understood, is a ministry of justice, promoting the common good.”

– *Sr. Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ*





Rooted in

Encounter



Calls for

***Structural
Transformation***





Guided by

***Catholic Social
Justice***





Uphold the dignity of each person as an equally valuable member of the human family

Embrace our right and responsibility to participate with others in our shared public life



Be in solidarity with those experiencing poverty in the struggle against structures of injustice

Bridge divisions, rising above individual interest for the good of the whole community



Unite with workers to build an economy that puts people, not profit, at the center

Nurture the earth, recognizing that we are interdependent with the rest of God's creation



A just society:

- Includes all and values people over the accumulation of profits,
- Ensures that all people have what they need to live dignified lives,
- And recognizes that we live in an interconnected world.



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BUILD A NEW

A JUSTICE AGENDA FOR ALL OF US

NETWORK Advocates Training · April 2022



Laura Peralta-Schulte



**Ronnate
Asirwatham**



**Min. Christian
Watkins**



**Chiquita
Jackson**



**Gina
Kelley**



**Jarret K.
Smith**



The Build Anew Agenda

Economic
Security



Healthcare,
Housing, and
Food



Immigration



Reforming the
Criminal Legal
System



Democracy



Taxes



*Dismantle
Systemic
Racism*

*Cultivate
Inclusive
Community*

*Root Our
Economy in
Solidarity*

*Transform Our
Politics*

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Economic Security



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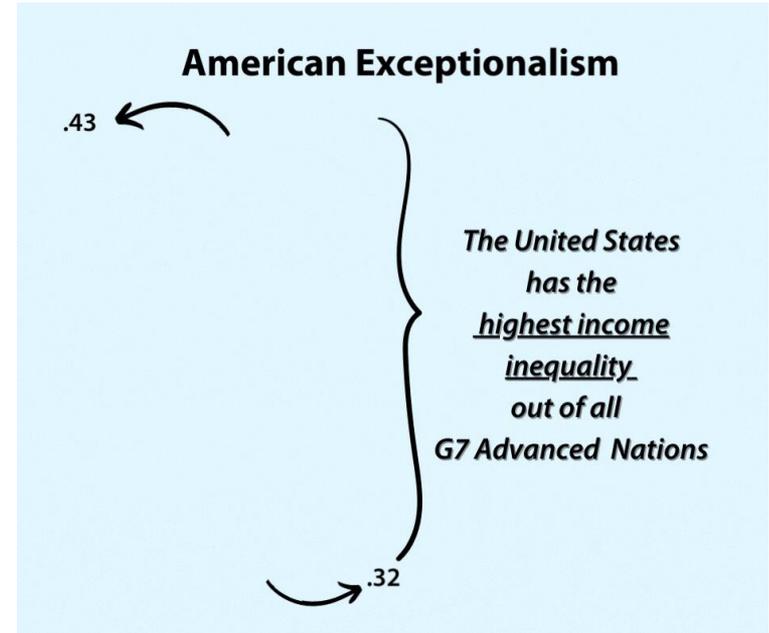


We respect workers and families and address the racial wealth and income gaps **so everyone has the economic stability needed to thrive.**



Economic Security

- **Our economy places profits over people**
 - Immoral inequality and poverty persist
- Low wages perpetuate **systemic racism**
- Discriminatory practices in the workplace **undermine worker dignity**



Economic Security

Our Values

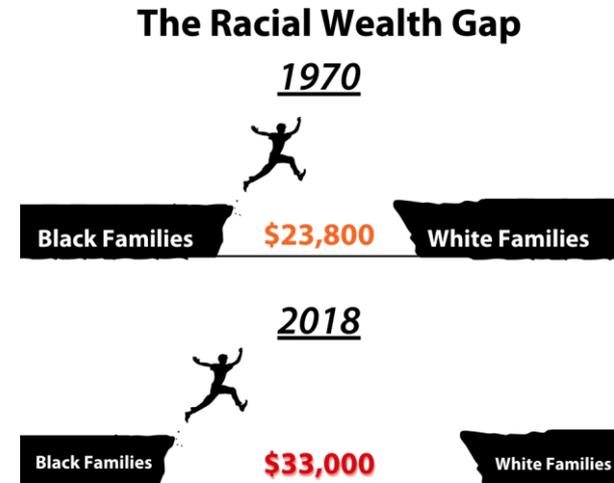
- **“Preferential option”** for the those pushed to the margins
- **Unite with workers** to build an economy that puts people over profits
- Inspired by Jesus’ ministry and critique of extractive wealth



Repairing Harm

to descendants of enslaved people

- The effects of slavery are still with us today
- Reparations like this are not new in the U.S.
- **H.R.40: Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.**
- Currently, **H.R.40 has 216 supporters** — the most support it has ever had in Congress



Repairing Harm

Newsweek

OPINION

During the Easter Season, Catholics Across the Country Call for Reparations | Opinion

MARY J. NOVAK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NETWORK

ON 4/15/22 AT 7:30 AM EDT



The time is now to address this political, economic and social wrong and its enduring legacy. During this Easter season, we must ask ourselves, how are we going to atone for the systemic evils that oppressed so many people in this country for centuries? How can we always keep this lesson of Easter before us?

Catholic teaching is clear in its call to name the evil of slavery and work toward repair, and people of faith from many faith traditions continue this call to repair wrongs today. Last year, [180 faith organizations and leaders](#), including my organization NETWORK, as well as the African American Ministers in Action, the American Muslim Empowerment Network, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Union for Reform Judaism, sent a letter to House leadership asking for their support of H.R. 40.

Together, We Will

Shrink the racial wealth gap

Raise the minimum wage

Strengthen the right of
workers to organize

Protect workers and families
from discrimination



Secure paid leave for
all workers

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Health Care, Housing, and Food

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We eliminate racial and economic disparities in health outcomes, housing, and hunger, affirming that **health care, housing, and food are essential human rights and fundamental social goods.**

Health Care, Housing, and Food

- The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee **paid sick days and family and medical leave**.
- 1 in 10 adults know at least one person who has died because they were **unable to pay for needed medical treatment**.
- Tens of millions of people in the U.S. experience **housing insecurity** and **hunger** every year.
- **COVID-19 has worsened disparities in access** across race, age, sexuality, and gender

Countries without Paid Leave



Health Care, Housing, and Food

Our Values:

- **Upholding the dignity of each person** means ensuring that they have what they need to live well: shelter, health care, and nourishment.
- Throughout his ministry, **Jesus healed and fed** masses of people.
- [Pope Francis](#): Health is not a consumer good, but rather **a universal right**.



Social Determinants of Health



Together, We Will

End the Black maternal health crisis

Expand healthcare coverage

Promote affordable housing and pathways to homeownership

End hunger and food insecurity



Prioritize clean air and clean water

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Immigration



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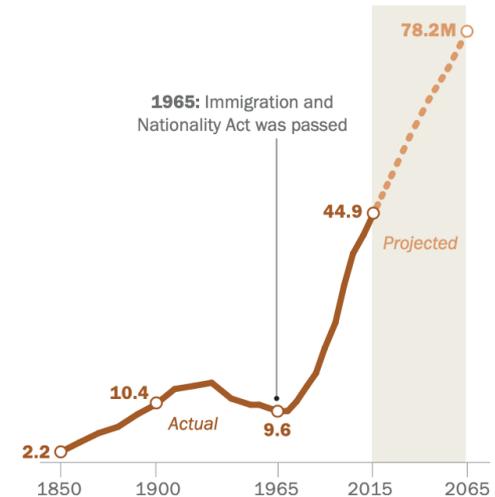
We transform our outdated, unjust, and racist immigration system to **respect families and human dignity, uphold equity in every way.**



Immigration

- **Racism** in immigration policies
- Asylum seekers face **inhumane conditions** and uninhabitable detention facilities
- **Family separation** in practice and in policy
- **Immigrants are an important part of our families and our communities.**
 - A [quarter of children in the U.S.](#) have at least one immigrant parent

U.S. foreign-born population reached 45 million in 2015, projected to reach 78 million by 2065



Source: Gibson and Jung (2006) for 1850 to 1890; Edmonston and Passel (1994) estimates for 1900-1955; Pew Research Center estimates for 1960-2015 based on adjusted census data; Pew Research Center projections for 2015-2065.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Immigration

Our Values

*“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. **You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you**, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”*

(Lev 19:33-34).

- Scripture calls us to **welcome and love migrants** and refugees
- The Catholic tradition affirms **the right of all peoples to migrate**
- Each person belongs to the **interconnected human family**

Together, We Will

**Uphold the rights of refugees
and asylum seekers**

**Ensure racial equity in all
immigration policies**

**Create pathways to
full citizenship**

**Reunite families
separated by migration**



**Support border
communities
welcoming immigrants**

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Criminal Legal System Reform

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We transform our unjust, racist criminal legal system to **respect human dignity, uphold equity, and honor the potential for rehabilitation.**



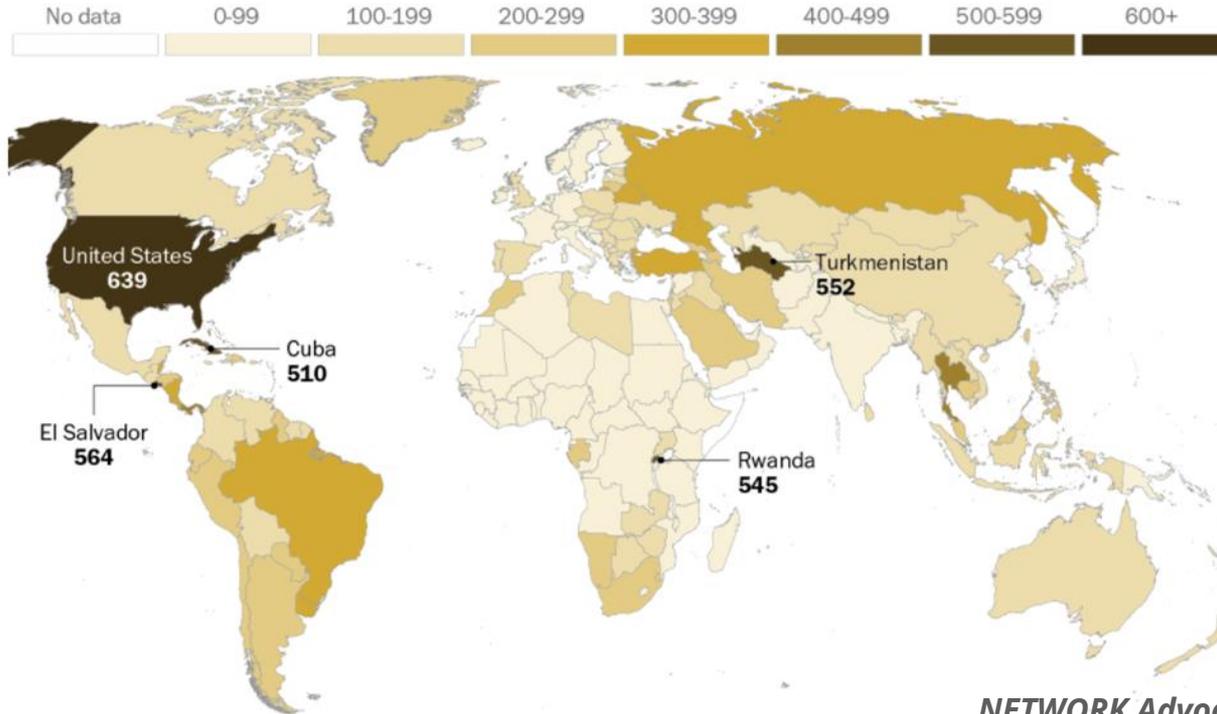
Criminal Legal Systems

- **Over-criminalization, mass incarceration, and police militarization**
- **Systematic violence against communities of color**
- The U.S. has the highest percentage of incarcerated people in the world
- Dangerous conditions and **inhumane practices**
- **Long-term discrimination** in employment, education, and public services

Criminal Legal Systems

U.S. incarcerates a larger share of its population than any other country

Incarceration rate per 100,000 people of any age



Criminal Legal Systems

- Restoration, inclusion, **peace and racial justice**, over control, disposability, violence, and subjugation
- **Throughout the Bible, God promotes liberation.**
- ***“Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings.”***
 - Angela Davis
 - Jesus moved to encounter and worked for **healing**

*“The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.**”*

(Isaiah 61:1)

Together, We Will

**Eliminate racial inequality
in sentencing**

**Provide supports for citizens
reentering society**

**Invest in rehabilitation &
remove barriers to employment**

Demilitarize law enforcement



**Reduce spending on
prisons; invest in
communities**

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Taxes



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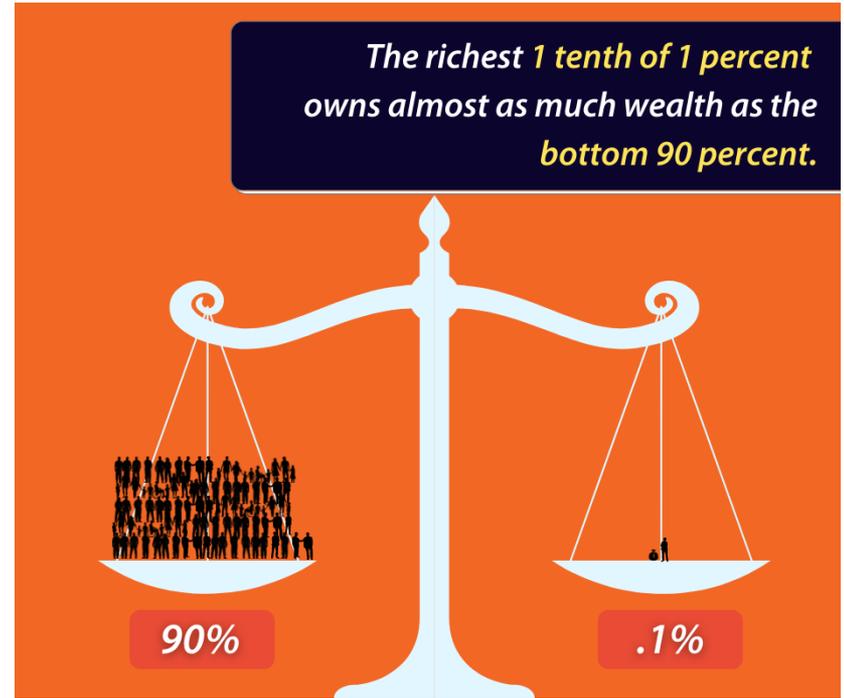
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We end the tax code's preferential treatment of wealthy people and corporations and instead **reduce disparities** (including racial & gender wealth gaps) **and raise revenue to invest in people and communities.**

Taxes: The Current Reality

- Our **unjust tax code** is directly related to the **economic insecurity** and inequality
- Decades of tax cuts for the wealthiest people and corporations → **insufficient federal revenues** to pay for needed investments in our communities



Taxes

Story: Nakitta Long

“ Giving \$300 to families may not seem like a lot, but when you’re working minimum wage or you’re underpaid, it’s everything.”

“The **child tax credit** has benefited me because my daughter started college in the middle of the pandemic, and my son is starting kindergarten. I was able to buy my daughter a laptop so she could do her studies at home. **I was able to do things with my family that I wasn’t able to do before because my income was low.**”

“The benefits of incentives such as the **child tax credit...** takes my family to a different place as far as what we can do successfully and how we can grow.”



Nakitta Long is a mom in Winston-Salem, NC with a master's degree in criminal justice.

(From Domestic Human Needs Story Bank)

Taxes

Our Values

- A just tax code is a moral obligation.
- The apostles modeled **common destination of goods**:

*"No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but **they shared everything they had...** And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were **no needy persons among them.**"*
(Acts 4:32-35).

- The U.S. Bishops, in [*Economic Justice for All*](#), insist that **taxes must serve the needs of the disadvantaged.**



Together, We Will

Expand tax credits for low-income families

Require corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share

Ensure the IRS has resources to assist low-income families and enforce our tax laws for wealthy individuals and corporations



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Democracy



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A truly representative, multi-racial democracy **welcomes and facilitates voter participation, limits the influence of the powerful, and holds government accountable for advancing the common good.**

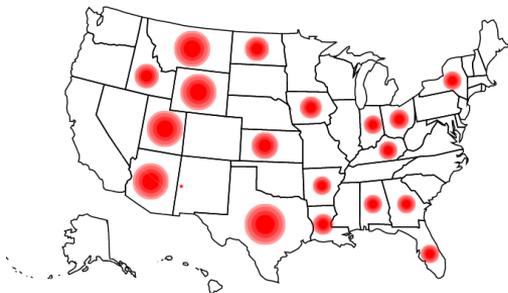
Democracy

VOTING RESTRICTIONS SWEEP ACROSS THE U.S.

This affects voting in most swing states

27 STATES

HAVE INTRODUCED A
SWATH OF NEW VOTING
RESTRICTIONS



- **Voting rights are under assault** at the state and federal level:
 - Voter suppression
 - Unrestricted corporate money in elections
 - Gerrymandering
 - Felon disenfranchisement
- Election policies continue to **deliberately disenfranchise voters of color**

Democracy

Our Values

- Catholic Social Justice and Catholic teaching say:
Democratic participation is both a right and a responsibility
 - Each person must be equipped with the resources needed to participate

“The vote is a kind of prayer for the kind of world we desire for ourselves and our children. And our prayers are stronger when we pray together.”

- Rev. Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA)
- For our democracy to work for all of us, it must include us all.

*“There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **If one part suffers, every part suffers with it;** if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”*

(1 Corinthians 12:25-27).

Together, We Will

**Restore and strengthen the
1965 Voting Rights Act**

Win D.C. statehood

**Address the influence of “dark money”
with campaign finance reform**

**End partisan
gerrymandering**

**Strengthen voters’ faith in
our elections**

**Improve voter registration,
early voting, and mail-voting**

**Restore voting rights to
people with prior
convictions**

Building Anew Together

"If we walk and talk and work and play and stand together, we'll be who we say we are – truly Catholic and we shall overcome – overcome the poverty – overcome the loneliness – overcome the alienation and build together a Holy city, a new Jerusalem, a city set apart where they'll know that we are here because we love one another"

- Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA

We cannot sit on the sidelines.

Building Anew Together

6 out of 10 U.S. adults favor raising the minimum wage to \$15

84% of voters support a federal paid leave program

The ACA's popularity recently reached **an all-time high**

64% of people say the rich pay too little in taxes

Building Anew Together

"Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy, because there we will discover all the goodness that God has planted. Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation ... Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man (he encountered along the way); we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members."

- Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti paragraph 78

**Thank you for saying yes to the call
to work for justice.**

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Thank You!

