



DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE

The Office of the Americas' Guide to Organizing

The Office of the Americas
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Don't Mourn, Organize!



Joe Hill

The OOA “Don’t Mourn, Organize” campaign started after the 2016 presidential election. The phrase “Don’t mourn, organize!” came out of the progressive labor movement of the early 20th century. Prior to his execution by the state, labor organizer Joe Hill had written to Bill Haywood, a founder of the International Workers of the World (IWW), “Don't waste any time in mourning. Organize...” Despite strong government resistance to the work of the IWW, songwriter Joe Hill tirelessly worked as a labor organizer and activist, organizing and defending the rights of workers through political songs, satirical poems and hymns.

This is only a small sample of the many organizations who are working in solidarity with the poor, the uninsured, the immigrant, the LGBT community, the environment, and so many other important causes that are currently in jeopardy. We wholeheartedly endorse the list below, and our website will continually update this list. So visit www.officeoftheamericas.org to find out more.

We also encourage you to join our newsletter list; our newsletter offers weekly actions and comes out just once a week. Send an email to ooa@igc.org and we'll add you to the list.

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– [OurRevolution.com](http://www.ourrevolution.com) (www.ourrevolution.com) – This site came out of the Bernie Sanders movement, and is a great place to start to find critical issues and actions that you can take on a daily basis. Start your day with a cup of coffee and a peek at ourrevolution.com!

– [Organizing for Action](https://www.ofa.us/) (<https://www.ofa.us/>) – This one started out as barackobama.com; as Obama began as a community organizer, this movement encourages community organization and is committed to training the next group of progressive leaders. Lots of great stuff going on here including downloadable documents you can use in organizing and lots of tangible advice and links.

-[People's Action](https://peoplesaction.org) (<https://peoplesaction.org>) – People's Action focuses on economic equality, climate justice, debt and Wall Street, decriminalization and more.

-[Legit Action](#) – fighting to undo Citizens United, end the Electoral College, and more.

– [Indivisible](https://www.indivisibleguide.com/) (<https://www.indivisibleguide.com/>) – a downloadable guide for resisting the Trump Agenda; and lots of action ideas, lists of events, etc. Indispensable!

- [MoveOn.org](http://www.front.moveon.org) (www.front.moveon.org) – create petitions, find out where rallies and house parties are in your area, and how to start your own. Democracy in Action.

- Advocating on behalf of , and providing outreach and care to, homeless men and women in Los Angeles – [G.O.A.L. Advocacy Foundation](http://www.goalfoundation.org) (www.goalfoundation.org or visit their Facebook page for more information)

-For homeless children and youth – [Covenant House](#)

– For climate justice – [350.org](http://www.350.org) (www.350.org) – started by Bill McKibben, this site has invaluable action plans for protecting our planet

-[The Environmental Working Group's](http://www.ewg.org) (www.ewg.org) mission is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, they drive consumer choice and civic action

– **Protecting our rights** – [the American Civil Liberties Union](http://www.aclu.org) (www.aclu.org) - hugely important as evidenced by their quick reaction to the Muslim ban



Dennis Davis of G.O.A.L. Advocacy Foundation

-To **guarantee the Presidency to the candidate with the most popular votes** – [National Popular Vote](http://www.nationalpopularvote.com) (www.nationalpopularvote.com)

– For **campaign finance reform** – [End Citizens United](http://endcitizensunited.org) (endcitizensunited.org)

– **Protecting our water and food** – [Food and Water Watch](http://foodandwaterwatch.org) (foodandwaterwatch.org) - as regulations disappear, this group will be increasingly important

- **Actions for positive progressive change** – [Credo Action](https://credoaction.com/) (https://credoaction.com/)

- [Earth Justice](https://earthjustice.org/about) – **the country’s largest non-profit environmental law organization**, representing and protecting our public lands – (https://earthjustice.org/about)

– Add yourself to **Elizabeth Warren’s** email list by [clicking here](http://www.elizabethwarren.com/stop-trump) or visiting <http://www.elizabethwarren.com/stop-trump>

– To **stand up against gun violence and the gun lobbyists** – [Everytown for Gun Safety](http://www.everytown.org) (www.everytown.org)

– To fight against **human rights** abuses – [Human Rights Watch](http://www.hrw.org) (www.hrw.org) and [Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org) (www.amnesty.org)

- **For LGBT rights** – [Human Rights Campaign](http://www.hrc.org) (www.hrc.org) - The Human Rights Campaign is the largest LGBT civil rights advocacy group and political lobbying organization in the United States.

- **To take control of the House** – [Swing Left](https://swingleft.org/) (https://swingleft.org/) - Control of the House in 2018 will be decided by a handful of Swing Districts, places where the last election was decided by a thin margin. Find your closest Swing District by entering your zip code at this site; then find out what you can do to support progressive candidates in your area.

– **Call or email your Congressperson!** – If you’re not sure who to call, [enter your zip code here](http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep) (http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep) and find out who your Congressperson is.

– [Oxfam](http://www.oxfamamerica.org) (www.oxfamamerica.org) – Concerned about **poverty** in America? Oxfam is “The power of the people against poverty”. Donate if you can; they also have great action ideas!

– for **REAL news** – The Young Turks is the younger generation’s progressive media and an increasingly important outlet for real news and progressive opinion; watch them on YouTube and join and give your support to this critical cause at www.tytnetwork.com

– and of course, [KPFK out of Los Angeles](http://www.kpfk.org), (www.kpfk.org) from which Blase broadcasts his weekly radio program, “World Focus”, on Sunday mornings at 10am. KPFK is a part of the [Pacifica Network](http://www.pacificanetwork.org) (www.pacificanetwork.org) and offers a variety of progressive opinion and news.

– more for **REAL news** – We can’t say enough about “real news” in these days of alternative facts and people in government telling the media to just “shut up” - Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting – www.fair.org – FAIR, the national media watch group, has been invigorating the First Amendment, by offering well-documented criticism of media bias and censorship, since 1986

Please Help Us Continue Our Work

The Office of the Americas continues to need your support for our progressive educational outreach. You may copy and send the form below, or simply mail a check to the OOA at 2016 Hill Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405. You can also donate by PayPal, credit or debit card by visiting the donate page on our website - www.officeoftheamericas.org.

Thank you so much! Your support is so vital to our continued work.

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Victories!

When we say “Don’t Mourn”, we mean it! We are energized and overjoyed at the number of victories that have already taken place.

These are just a few of the many victories that have taken place. This list will just keep growing!



- In November 2017, in a move that unseated the Republican who introduced the anti-LGBT “bathroom bill”, Virginia elected its first openly transgender state lawmaker, voting Democrat Danic Roem into the State’s House of Delegates.
- Also in November 2017 elections, transgender activist Andrea Jenkins was elected to the Minneapolis City Council, becoming the first openly transgender African-American woman elected to the city council of a major U.S. city. According to The Advocate, Jenkins will be the **first openly transgender person of color elected to office in the United States**.
- Residents of Main approved a ballot measure to **expand Medicaid coverage** under Obamacare to about 70,000 more people across the state.
- A bipartisan bill to **expand background checks on gun sales** was recently introduced in the House.
- Talk show host Sam Clovis has withdrawn his nomination to be the USDA's top scientist. Clovis has a long history of racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and climate-denying rants. And, it was revealed that he helped the Trump campaign collude with the Russians. Clovis' withdrawal is a huge victory for us all, and especially, for our planet!
- The ACLU immediately sprang into action challenging Trump's executive order; they were issued a stay and were able to prevent people from being deported.
- 9th Circuit Court of Appeals refuses to reinstate travel ban.

- The VA was able to get a partial hiring freeze.
- The CEO of Uber stepped down from Trump's economic advisory council and set up a defense fund for its drivers affected by the ban.
- Organizing for Action has held over 20,000 online calls and trainings for volunteers.
- Air BnB offered free housing to people affected by the ban.
- Google created a crisis fund to support immigrant rights organizations.
- Starbucks pledged to hire 10,000 refugees worldwide.
- Lyft committed to a one million dollar donation to the ACLU over the next four years.
- Mayors from cities across the country, including Chicago, LA, New York, Oakland, San Francisco, Austin and more vowed to defend their residents and stay sanctuary cities in direct defiance of the President.
- Churches and other houses of worship across the country have committed to becoming sanctuaries.
- Protests, rallies, and organized solidarity have sprung up across the country at airports, state capitals, and town hall meetings.
- On February 20, the New Mexico Senate became the 35th state legislative chamber to approve the National Popular Vote bill.
- Macy's and Nordstrom's stop selling Ivanka Trump's brand; Macy's had stopped selling Donald Trump's menswear last year in protest to his comments about Mexicans. TJ Maxx and Marshall continue to sell Ivanka's brand but will not promote it.
- In March of 2017, a federal court in Hawaii was able to block Trump's new travel ban just hours before it was set to go into effect!
- Obamacare repeal bill doesn't have the votes!
- Please email us at ooa@igc.org and let us know your victories and solidarity achievements.



OOA 's Santa Monica office is well-represented at the Women's March, LA, January, 2017. Blase Bonpane foreground, RoseErin Colby, rear left, Theresa Bonpane, rear right. Photo courtesy of Russell Colby.

Inspiration

Don't Mourn, Organize.

- *Joe Hill, Labor leader*

Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful and optimistic. Change happens one step at a time. Keep picking them up and putting them down.

- *Rep. John Lewis*

Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.

- *Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones)*

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Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- *Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Some favorite signs from marches and rallies:

- *Make America Think Again*
- *IKEA Has Better Cabinets*
- *Did You Remember to Set Your Clocks Back 60 Years?*
- *Tweet All People Kindly*
- *The power of the people is greater than the people in power*
- *Love is power, Hate is poison*

We cannot let the dream of our country die and be dashed and killed. We can do something about it, and it is unacceptable, when you have the power, to do nothing ... We allow our inability to do everything to undermine our determination to do something."

- *Senator Cory Booker*

Take Your Broken Heart and Make it Into Art

- *Meryl Streep*

Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.

- *Anne Frank*

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