

Hell No to Budget Cuts!

It is time to say NO MORE business as usual! No more trillions in bailouts for Wall Street barbarians while five million workers have lost their jobs; 47 million people, including children, still have no healthcare; 600,000 teens and children are homeless; and thousands of homes are being seized by the banks.

When the public treasury bailed out AIG, GM, et al. it set the stage for government bankruptcy, massive public-sector layoffs, and inhumane raids on social security and education.

We Are Fighting for our Lives!

These statistics reflect only part of the misery being felt all over the country. In California, safe shelters for abused women and children have been shut down. The last homeless drop-in shelter for HIV+ people in San Francisco's Tenderloin has been shut down. Fewer hospital beds have led to more imprisonment of poor and sick people. Medi-cal has eliminated **all** dental and eye care services, creating a much bigger human problem down the road.

California ranks as the eighth largest economy in the world, yet public education has been decimated and priced out of most working people's reach. Both Democratic and Republican legislators refuse to tax the rich and corporations, so what was left of a flimsy social safety net has disappeared as a result of drastic cuts. Instead, they budget more for prisons than for education. Meeting basic needs are fundamental human rights – not privileges we should “be grateful for”.

Capitalism is the Enemy

This economic system bails out corporations and the wealthy who have caused the global meltdown because of their drive for profits. Under capitalism, women are still marginalized workers who toil--unpaid in the home --and in jobs which pay them much less than men. Many women are triply oppressed as people of color, queers, and immigrants. Scapegoating of immigrants, Arabs and Muslims continues to rise as does the attacks on women's right to control her body. Fascist terrorists are killing physicians who provide abortions and police brutality against people of color is increasing. The criminal behavior by rapacious corporations and corrupt billionaire CEOs will go on and on, unless we step up our fight back; in our unions and in the streets, and by organizing, protesting, and uniting. Our struggles can achieve only limited results as long as the divide-and-conquer, profit-driven capitalist system rules. Both Dems and Republicans reject even the puniest of tax hikes on millionaires, who can well afford them. Meanwhile it's billions upon billions directed to the Pentagon for two deeply unpopular, immoral, and illegal wars.

What is the Answer?

As socialist feminists, we say: When our lives are under attack, what do we do? **STAND UP, FIGHT BACK!!!** On September 24, staff, students and faculty at ten University of California campuses walked out in support of the University Professional and Technical Employees strike and in solidarity with faculty and students. They joined the struggle for affordable education and the end to layoffs, furloughs and massive budget cuts. State workers rallied in August to fight the cutbacks and furloughs and homecare workers marched in June to save their jobs and in defense of their clients.

While it's important to take strike votes and organize rallies, it is not enough. The state has declared war on workers and the poor. We need to follow through with work stoppages and join together for a general strike. It's time to wrest from private hands the immense wealth created by US workers and invest it back into society where it belongs, for everyone's benefit!!

We Demand:

- Redirection of war and prison funding into healthcare, public education, domestic violence shelters, and HIV/AIDS services!
- No to bailouts – protect working people and the poor, not corporate CEOs!
- No to layoffs and furloughs! No to home foreclosures!
- Tax the rich and corporations, cut senior management and legislators' salaries to increase revenue for social services!
- End organized labor's destructive dependence on the Democrats--run independent, anti-capitalist labor candidates!
- Government-funded quality education and living wage jobs!

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