Trans, queer activists to Marriott

Keep ‘Moms for Liberty’ out

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Trans- and queer-led groups are protesting the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown for agreeing to host the Moms for Liberty (M4L) national conference scheduled for June 29 to July 2. Members of ACT UP Philadelphia, Galaei Philly, Stop Moms for Liberty and other activists rallied outside the hotel May 12, calling on the Marriott to refuse to host the racist and transphobic group. Organizers are urging people to call the Marriott and demand that it “stop hosting hate.”

Galaei, a nonprofit organization serving queer and trans Black, Indigenous and other people of color, suggests people tell the Marriott it will lose business if it does not cancel the M4L summit.

ACT UP member Aaron Bodiford, who planned to protest, said it “breaks my heart” that trans students face attacks on their identities by Moms for Liberty and other groups’ rhetoric. Bodiford, who is 20 and trans, added: “The way this ramped up so dramatically, more than ever we should be focusing on what’s happening in schools,” referring to anti-trans actions. (Philadelphia Inquirer, May 13)

Moms for Liberty is a right-wing conservative “parental rights” group that has pushed schools’ libraries to remove books they claim have “sexual content,” heavily targeting LGBTQ+ books, as well as books pertaining to racism. This includes fiction books with protagonists of color or LGBTQ+ characters or which explore themes of feminism.

The nonprofit organization PEN America cited 1,648 titles that have been banned by schools across the U.S. as a result of pressure from M4L and other reactionary forces between 2021 to 2022. (Truthout, May 18)

Fight bigoted book bans!

The State of America’s Libraries Report 2023, from the American Library Association, found a record 1,209 attempts in 2022 to remove some 2,571 books from U.S. schools and libraries. “Almost all were written by or about members of Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+ and other marginalized communities.”ALA found these censorship efforts to be well-organized, typically targeting lists of books at the same time.


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Post-Stonewall liberation movement

Power to the people!

By Leslie Feinberg

This article is #72 in the Lavender & Red series, written by the late transgender author and Workers World newspaper managing editor Leslie Feinberg and published in Workers World from 2004 to 2008. See workers.org/books to view the entire series.

Stonewall is often recalled as a critical turning point in the United States because it marked the qualitative development of a mass movement in this country. That is both evident and important.

The Stonewall Rebellion was certainly not the first time in history that people who today would be referred to as [gay, lesbian, bi, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, Two-Spirit, nonbinary, gender non-conforming and other identities] fought back against police repression. Stonewall, however, was only defensive in its very earliest hours. It quickly turned into an insurrectionary offensive.

The street leadership of youth of all [genders] — particularly those who were homeless and trying to cobble together a living on the streets and those who faced oppression based on their nationality and/or gender expression — forced the police and riot troop reinforcements to retreat, again and again, in running battles.

Stonewall was not just a response to oppression. For at least the third time in history, revolutionary leadership sparked a mass struggle for the liberation of same-sex love, oppressed genders and sexes.

But unlike the early 20th century German Homosexual Emancipation Movement and the early 1960s Mattachine movement, the left-wing of gay liberation unleashed by the Stonewall insurrection was more thoroughly multinational and included many more women and trans people. The revolutionary leadership of early gay liberation was both of the oppressed and with the oppressed.

Some 25 militant organizations coalesced across the country in 1969, including the Committee for Homosexual Freedom of San Francisco, which fought job discrimination, and chapters of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in cities that included New York, Berkeley, California; Los Angeles; and Minneapolis.

Many of these youth of all nationalities and sexes and genders identified as radicals and revolutionaries. They drew inspiration from the Chinese Revolution, the indefatigable resistance of the Vietnamese people and the liberation struggles sweeping the African continent.

Many of the youth of color were actively a part of struggles for their own national liberation, and many of the white youth saw the need to unite against racism and its white-supremacist ideology.

Within a week after the Stonewall Rebellion, the Gay Liberation Front formed. It named itself to honor the

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Struggle to stop Cop City continues

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Hundreds of opponents of “Cop City” — the militarized police-training facility scheduled to be built on forested lands in Atlanta’s historic Sweetwood Forest — literally occupied City Hall on May 15. The line to speak before Atlanta Council members in the public comment section of their meet- ing snaked from the large ground-floor atrium up the stairs and along the balcony to the sign-in table at the Council chamber doors, long before the hearing started.

Despite having been in line for a considerable time, sev- eral people who didn’t reach the sign-in table by 1 p.m. were denied the right to speak or even enter the chamber.

When the meeting started, more than an hour was spent with various Council members presenting proclamations to civic groups and individuals and getting their picture taken with the recipients. When city public works employees were brought up to be honored, at the urging of this writer, a stand- ing ovation was given by the Stop Cop City advocates.

Finally at 21:15 p.m. the Council president announced that people would be given two minutes to speak and that no clapping or cheer- ing would be allowed, or he would close the room.

However, those inside the room could clearly hear chants of “Let us in.” “Stop Cop City” and “Cop City will never be built” coming from people outside the chamber.

The sign-in sheets showed over 280 people signed up to speak before the list was closed. Despite dozens of empty seats, many Atlanta area residents never gained entrance to the meeting. However, scores watched the proceedings on screens in overflow rooms and the atrium.

In the seven hours of in-person public comments, not one person spoke in favor of Cop City. Rather every issue, from racist and brutal over-policing, to corporate control to alternative public needs to environmental devastation, was passionately and clearly addressed.

Many took pains to make it clear they lived in the Atlanta metro area, as a way to dispute the oft-repeated lie that only “outside agitators” opposed Cop City.

Despite this historical turnout, the majority of the Council members moved the proposed budget with its $83.5 million allocation of taxpayers’ money to the Budget subcommittee for review on May 24. Another large crowd is expected for that committee meeting.

Multiple organizations and coalitions are gearing up for the June 5 scheduled final Council vote on whether to approve city tax money to save the Atlanta Police Foundation’s cor- porate plan, to insure their profits against any mass upsurge.

In the meantime, the demand for institutions, companies and banks to sever their relationship with the Atlanta Police Foundation and Cop City is escalating across the country with demonstrations, continued legal challenges, mass petitions and phone calls to corporate headquarters and presidents’ offices.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist- Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the everincreasing quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

In the meantime, the demand for institutions, companies and banks to sever their relationship with the Atlanta Police Foundation and Cop City is escalating across the country with demonstrations, continued legal challenges, mass petitions and phone calls to corporate headquarters and presidents’ offices.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Solidarity with writers strike growing

By Martha Grevatt

As the 11,500 members of the Writers Guild (WGA) began the WGA strike, the strike shows no signs of weakening. On the contrary, the effort to win a decent pay formula that keeps up with inflation is bolstered every day by new voices of solidarity.

Representing Hollywood drivers and prop warehouse workers, Teamsters Local 399 Secretary-Treasurer Lindsay Dougherty spoke at a strike rally May 3: “If we all want to get what’s ours, we are going to have to fight for it tooth and nail. If you throw up a picket line, those f— trucks will stop, I promise you.” Drivers have made good on Dougherty’s promise. (Los Angeles Times, May 12)

Members of other unions representing entertainment industry workers, including the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), have joined the picket lines. Numerous unions are listed as strike supporters on the WGA web site. (wga.org)

A long list of celebrities have voiced support for the strike, from late night talk show hosts to film actors to comedians, including those whose shows are affected by the strike. Many have walked the line with striking writers.

The strike first impacted talk shows, which depend on writers for material and are not taped far in advance. Now streaming shows and cable and network programs have been affected. Soap operas could be next, and eventually theatrical film production will be halted if the powerful strike continues.

The Tony Awards were not going to be televised as scheduled June 11, but the WGA agreed not to picket the show only after its producers agreed not to use any scripted content.

With the technology of how programs are created shifting towards streaming, “minirooms” and other new and exciting production methods, WGA members have watched their incomes fall. This has driven them to strike to force the entertainment industrial complex to take a decent pay formula that keeps up with inflation is bolstered every day by new voices of solidarity.

Workers understand the need to back the strike. To quote the old union slogan, “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Georgia workers join Steelworkers union

The 1,400 workers at Blue Bird electric bus manufacturing plant in Fort Valley, Georgia are now unionized. In May they voted to join United Steelworkers (USW) Local 697 after a three-year organizing campaign. The workers and the union competed company-union-busting tactics, including worker intimidation and misinformation about the union.

Blue Bird received 840 million in rebates, as part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean School Bus program, and are expected to get additional funds through 2026. Yet workers are underpaid and have cited multiple safety issues at the plant.

“It has been a long time since a manufacturing site with 1,400 people has been organized, let alone organized in the South, let alone organized with predominantly African American workers and let alone in the auto industry,” said Maria Somma, organizing director with the USW. “It’s not a single important win. It’s an example of what’s possible.” (Jacobin.com, May 2023)

Medical residents in Pennsylvania unionize

Early in May, medical residents and fellows at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center voted 892-110 to organize with the Committee of Interns and Residents. CIR, affiliated with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), is the largest union of its kind in the U.S., representing over 27,000 medical interns, residents and fellows. The Penn doctors are the first group of housestaff to unionize in Pennsylvania.

The organizing effort began during the COVID-19 pandemic, when residents were on the front lines risking their lives while Penn Med cut the residents’ cost-of-living wage increase and began union-busting tactics to thwart the organizing effort.

Dr. Chantel Tápé, a third-year resident in family medicine, spoke on why medical housestaff need the power of collective bargaining at institutions like Penn. “We chose to train at an academically rigorous and highly respected institution, but we expect more from Penn than just a fancy name,” she said. “We are human beings first and foremost. If we’re sacrificing our physical and mental health, our financial stability and our personal relationships in order to provide care, that means our health care system is failing.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, May 9)

Protests demand justice for trans organizer Banko Brown

By Judy Greenspan

San Francisco

Despite the fact that recently released video footage clearly shows a Walgreens security guard tackling, beating up and then killing unarmed Black trans activist Banko Brown April 27, on busy Market Street in San Francisco, no charges will be filed. In fact, the San Francisco District Attorney’s office released a statement after viewing the video calling the shooting “reasonable.” (Guardian, May 15)

Since Brown’s murder by the security guard, demonstrations have been organized in San Francisco and around California. Brown, 24 years old, was well-known in the local trans movement as an organizer who worked hard to support Black trans youth, despite his own recent struggles with homelessness.

Angered by Brown’s murder and by San Francisco DA Brooke Jenkins’ early release of the Walgreens security guard from custody (three days after the shooting), along with her announcement that no charges would be filed, community activists attended a San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting. They spoke out and demanded accountability for Banko’s murder.

DA Jenkins, who recently replaced former DA Chesa Boudin, ran on a law and-order platform promising swift and severe punishment of shoplifters and others engaging in property crimes. Boudin was targeted in a right-wing recall, due to his unprecedented championing of the poor and his refusal to join the gentrifiers in filling the jails with poor people.

The Young Women’s Freedom Center has been consistently outspoken in its demand for justice for Brown. On Twitter, in a recorded statement, Co-Executive Director Julia Arroyo said, “You can’t take a Black life here. You can’t take a Black trans life here. Now you have to answer to us!” She went on to say, “We won’t stop until we hold Walgreens and the City of San Francisco accountable.”

Brown was unarmed. The recently released video showed him being brutalized by Walgreens security guard Michael Earl-Wayne Anthony, thrown into the air and then, as Brown was backing away, shot by Anthony in the chest.

The fact that an unarmed Black trans person can be killed for an alleged crime of survival like shoplifting, and the guard who murdered him can go free is testimony to the incredible racist gentrification that has swept San Francisco. The city has declared war not on homelessness but on the homeless, the unhoused and the poor.

This ongoing racist war has clearly targeted the trans community, not only with the unprecedented rise of anti-trans legislation across the country, but with the recent brutal attacks and murders of trans people, including at least 11 this year so far.

Here in San Francisco, the home of the 1966 Compton Cafeteria Riots, a rebellion led by Black and Brown transgender youth and drag queens that set the stage for the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City in 1969, the LGBTQA2S+ community and its allies will continue to expose and fight back against this upsurge of violence against the Black and Brown trans community.
Health care is a right – for those bars too!

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette

In 2022 the New York Supreme Court found the New York City Department of Correction in contempt for failing to comply with an order to provide people in its custody with access to basic medical services. Corrections officers often report incarcerated people as declining treatment that they would otherwise offer.

The lawsuit filed by New York public defenders and pro bono associates listed more than 1,000 instances in December 2021 alone, in which someone incarcerated at a Rikers Island jail was denied a scheduled medical appointment, because a corrections officer had failed to escort them. (tinyurl.com/3jkwj75s)

Routine care denied

The New York court’s ruling highlights the denial of basic care, which penalizes jails and prisons across the U.S. in state prison facilities, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, more than a million people in the U.S. are incarcerated with a persistent medical condition go without care. (tinyurl.com/8y2m444)

A disproportionate background of women and people of color, who make up the majority of incarcerated populations, are more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions like heart disease, asthma and diabetes, making inadequate care in prison more likely to result in premature death. (tinyurl.com/3a9e80kq)

Wheelchair cruelly removed

On April 19 Arroyo’s wheelchair was cruelly taken away by Rikers Island’s Jane Jones and Heather Britt, and he was uprooted under threat of being placed in the Restricted Housing Unit (solitary confinement) if he didn’t voluntarily get out of the wheelchair. He is not getting a crutch, a walker or even a cane to help counterbalance the pressure of his weight on his severely inflamed sole ankles. He had to limp back to cell with the help of another incarcerated person, Joseph Cruz.

Six months earlier, Arroyo had many biopsies performed, resulting in several stitches on both ankles. Despite complaints about pain, he has not received any oral medication since then.

On April 25 Arroyo was seen by Physician Assistant Dusan, who insisted on prescribing the same ineffective generic topical cream prescribed last year. Arroyo refused the ineffective, costly ointment.

In Pennsylvania, each visit to the medical unit or for a virtual telehealth call costs $85. Each prescription costs an additional $5. Incarcerated workers in Pennsylvania prisons only earn 23 to 50 cents per hour, forcing them to consider whether to seek treatment or a pre- scription. (tinyurl.com/3y9p9rph)

Arroyo was seen by Dr. John Hochberg on April 26, when he noticed his wheelchair was still folded and parked in the same medical unit. In response to Arroyo’s complaint about losing his wheelchair, Hochberg stated: “This is what you get for living in a substance abuse facility on health care.” He refused Arroyo’s right to a walking aid; Arroyo limped away in pain. (Hochberg was trying to investigate the World Health Organization data) “Health care in prisons is a crime,” workers.org/2022/02/68201/.)

On May 15, Arroyo was given a virtual visit by dermatologist Stephen Schlachter, who exclaimed: “Whoa, this is way too long!” when told how long Arroyo has been waiting for follow up since the biopsy. Schleicher prescribed a new topical cream and an appointment for an injection May 18.

Incarcerated workers have right to Medicaid

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) sets standards and offers accreditation to jails and prisons for health care services. (tinyurl.com/3yqy73se) Participation is optional, and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections isn’t listed as a participant. In fact, just 17% of prison facilities (930 of 5,000) in the U.S. are accredited. The NCCHC opposes co-pays for health care for incarcerated people. (tinyurl.com/3yavw6v)

Medicaid provides health coverage for low-income people who qualify based on income, disability status and other factors. Most incarcerated people would be eligible for Medicaid, since people in prisons and jails and other incarcerated people have high rates of disabilities. (tinyurl.com/2zd6lmty)

Yet, Medicaid rules deny those health care rights to the incarcerated, with those restrictions would give incarcerated people more access to health protection, as stipulated in the landmark Supreme Court case Tennessee v. John E. White, ruling established that failure to provide adequate medical care to incarcerated people as a result of deliberate indifference to serious medical needs violates the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Health care is a right, including for those behind bars! [1]
Overrepresented in prisons: LGBTQ2S+ people

By Mirinda Crissman

This article was originally published in Workers World on May 28, 2021

At every stage in the criminal justice system, LGBTQ2S+ people are overrepresented, including within the juvenile justice system.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, this is true from arrest to sentencing to incarceration to probation to parole: “In 2019, gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals (with an arrest rate of 3,620 per 100,000) were 2.2 times as likely to be arrested than straight individuals (with an arrest rate of 1,610 per 100,000). This disparity is driven by lesbian and bisexual women, who are 4 times as likely to be arrested than straight women (with a rate of 3,210 per 100 arrested compared to 2,380 per 100,000).” (tinyurl.com/LGBTQbehindbars)

Incarceration is designed to exacerbate the discriminatory trends of the arrest rates, with queer women facing the brunt of disproportionate representation. They, along with transgender women — whose sexual orientation may overlap with queer identity or not — also tend to have the least amount of data to show if they are more likely to be incarcerated.

“Once behind bars, trans people face extremely high rates of harassment and physical and sexual assault, are frequently denied routine health care and are at high risk of being sent to solitary confinement. Black and Pink found that 44% of people in state and federal prisons and [Indigenous] ‘Two Spirit’ people in their sample were denied access to hormones they requested.” (Prison Policy Initiative)

The overrepresentation of LGBTQ2S+ people persists in prisons, jails and migrant detention centers and interlocks with other oppressions that based on race, disability and income. Data demonstrates that Black, Latinx and Indigenous people are locked up in numbers incredibly disproportionate to their share of the population. Many LGBTQ2S+ people are people of color, and many have disabilities.

There is no data on Two-Spirit Natives incarcerated. However, according to the Appeal, South Dakota leads the country on jail admissions based on arrests for nonviolent crimes, and Native people account for the majority of all arrests in that state.

“In South Dakota, the people who are arrested and admitted to jail are disproportionately Native. Although Natives make up 8.7% of South Dakota’s population, they are roughly half of those booked into jail. Racial disparities in incarceration rates exist nationwide — Black people are jailed at more than 4 times the rate of white people — but disparities in South Dakota are far greater.” (The Appeal, Sept. 18, 2019)

Roots of oppression

Gender-based oppression and oppression based on sexual orientation have their roots in the rise of private property and capitalism. These oppressions have similar roots as other class-bases oppressions like race and disability.

Oppression based on gender and sexual orientation is maintained through various social enforcements such as, but not limited to, criminalization and the structure of the nuclear family. These tactics rely on the punishing power of imposed isolation, confinement and imprisonment.

Overrepresentation of LGBTQ2S+ people in the criminal legal system is largely due to obstacles LGBTQ2S+ youth face after fleeing abuse and lack of acceptance at home. In order to survive, many are pushed toward drug sales, theft and sex work — which dramatically increase the risk of arrest and confinement.

Up until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association listed homosexuality in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). That medical definition — and the assumptions that continued even after it was delisted — has been used to justify, isolate and attack many LGBTQ2S+ folks.

Because of the material conditions faced by LGBTQ2S+ individuals, many find themselves with high rates of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. In this context, someone needing mental health care can end up confined for an indefi- nite stint in a hospital under strict surveil- lance — experiencing something more like punishment than help.

Shared struggles, abolition, liberation

Liberation for those oppressed based on their gender or sexual orientation must be fought on many fronts: without prisons, jails and migrant detention centers. These structures do not keep people safe from violence but perpetuate and root in the histories of these institutions on this continent.

Prisons, jails and detention centers in the U.S. evolved from enslavement of African people. Enslavement legally codified Black people as property. During the shift from slavery to the system of convict leasing to today’s mass incarceration, there have been continuously shared struggles to abolish these institutions that are based on extracting profit from warehousing human beings.

Now the fight has turned to ending the profit-making prison-industrial complex that funds the growth of the system. The destruction of capitalist private property. Abolition also means the end to borders and criminalization of migrants, who are simply workers and opressed people seeking to find a place they can survive. Societal organization based around meeting human needs can and must be built in the wake of the aftermath of enslavement.

Many of the reasons LGBTQ2S+ people end up being held in prisons, jails and detention centers could be alleviated first and foremost by abolishing the state. This project of abolition — whether it be prison abolition or the abolition of capitalism — is not simply a negation. It is a generative project that requires collective building.

This means building up social support for LGBTQ2S+ youth within families, schools, communities and other institutions; eliminating discrimination against LGBTQ2S+ people in housing, employment and other realms; eliminat- ing homelessness, for housing is a human right; ending criminalization of sex work; and providing free, gender-affirming health care for all.

LGBTQ2S+ people’s liberation is bound to the struggle for Black liberation, just as it is bound up with the struggle for disability justice. Our liberation is bound to the struggle against settler colonialism and capitalism at home and around the world.

No cages! No borders! We will accept nothing less. ⬤

Haiti, hunger and U.S. prison imperialism

By James Patrick Jordan

Note: This article, first published by Black Agenda Report, has been edited for this print issue of Workers World. Read in full at tinyurl.com/yck3k98y.

Three prisoners in the U.S.-built prison in the Haitian city of Jacmel died of COVID between Aug. 25 and Sept. 27, 2022. The website Haiti Libre reports: “...one of the deceased prisoners was from Léogâne imprisoned for stealing an electric wire, and ... [another] from the 5th communal section of Petit-Goâve was serving a prison sentence in the prison of Jacmel.”

The vast majority of those imprisoned at Petit-Goâve and throughout the Haitian prison system have not yet been tried or convicted of a crime. Many have been seized at roadblocks, arrested during demonstrations, and charged with rebellion, terrorism and other offenses. As of February 2021, 11,580 persons were incarcerated in Haiti’s prison system. Since 2013, when President Michel Martelly ascended to power, nearly 30 percent of the population detained were political prisoners.

The United States has funded the construction of five new prisons in Haiti since 2013. However, given its dominant influence over and funding of the Haitian National Police and its prison system, the U.S. bears responsibility for the deplor- able conditions that characterize all of Haiti’s jails today.

Besides Petit-Goâve, the U.S.-built prisons include Port Liberté, for a cost of as much as $8 million; Hinche, at $1.34 million; and Cabaret, which, together with Petit Goâve, cost between $5 million and $10 million. With 83% of the incarcer- ated awaiting trials that rarely come and people in the darkest cells for years, even the most minor offense can be a de facto death sentence.

On April 18, 2021, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report titled “Figueroa prison: An inhumane prison in Haiti” that documented the tragic situation in the prison. HRW researchers interviewed prisoners, guards and workers, and reviewed documents and food rations. The report concluded that the prison was grossly inadequate, leading to the following conditions:

1. Insufficient and poor quality food and basic nutrition for prisoners.
2. Insufficient and inadequate sanitary conditions.
3. Lack of access to potable water.
4. Insufficient and inadequate health care.

A 2017 report by the American Council of Social Services (ACOS) found that 70% of prisoners in Haiti were held for less than three months, while the average length of stay was three years. This indicates that the justice system in Haiti is not effective in processing cases quickly.

The U.S. government has been a key player in the development of the Haitian prison system and has provided significant financial support. According to HRW, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided $101 million to support the development of the Haitian prison system since 2000 with an agreement between the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and Haiti.

The INL is the main funding source, and some of its efforts have included the following:

1. Training programs for police officers and prison guards.
2. Construction of new prisons and renovation of existing ones.
3. Purchase of equipment and supplies for prisons.
4. Development of prison management systems.

Despite the significant funding, the condition of the Haitian prison system remains dire. The Human Rights Watch report highlighted several serious issues, including:

1. Inadequate basic infrastructure.
2. Insufficient staffing levels.
3. Lack of medical care.
4. Insufficient food and water supplies.

The report also highlighted the role of the U.S. government in the development of the Haitian prison system. The U.S. has provided significant financial support to the Haitian government through USAID, which has helped to develop the prison system.

In conclusion, the Haitian prison system is in urgent need of reform and funding. The U.S. government has played a significant role in the development of the system, and it must take responsibility for the deplorable conditions in the prisons. The Haitian government and civil society organizations must work together to improve the conditions in the prisons and ensure that all prisoners are treated humanely.
By Monica Moorehead

The edited remarks were given on a May 11 webinar: “U.S. Women need what Cuban Women have: Socialism” sponsored by Workers World Party’s Women and Gender Oppressed Caucus.

Comrades and friends, when it comes to living in the capitalist U.S., every issue is a women’s and gender-oppressed issue because every issue impacts the working class here and around the world. And I will mention some of these issues which should be guaranteed rights but unfortunately remain ongoing struggles:

Everyone should have the right to healthy food; jobs, not jails and union busting; free quality education; housing, not gentrification; environmental, housing, and public health; legal documentation and full legalization for migrants, not deportation; an end to white supremacy including police violence and extralegal terrorism; an end to all forms of misogyny; no imperialist war and occupation; and full rights for people with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

And then there is the right to health care, especially free access to abortion for those who can become pregnant. The U.S. Supreme Court did the bidding of the reactionary ruling class, along with the capitalist state – that is the judicial, legislative and executive arms of the government – when it abolished Roe v. Wade last June. This ruling gave the states the right to severely curtail this health care treatment, via state intradudatory justice.

While this devastating defeat has harmed and endangered the lives of millions, since the Cuban women have the right to legal abortion performed by doctors in hospitals with only the pregnant person’s consent. Cuba has been a beacon in Central and South America and the Caribbean for abortion seekers for decades. But a movement is growing here, where the Constitution has been referred to in several states and more.

Our expert panels will explain in their own words why Cuba inspires us here to struggle for socialism – a system that puts human needs before profits. The Cuban people do not face the same obstacles we face here, because of the Revolution they achieved in 1959. Cuban women have been in the vanguard of this ongoing socialist process. And this process would be more advanced if it wasn’t for the violation of their sovereignty by U.S. imperialism through the criminal blockade.

Next January will mark the centennial of the death of the great leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, Vladimir Lenin, who was a champion of women’s rights. The Soviet Family Code of 1918 gave women equal status to men, granted children born outside of marriage the same legal rights as those born to married parents, secularized marriage and allowed a couple to take either spouse’s last name once married.

Divorce became easily obtainable, abortion was legalized in 1920 and communal facilities for child care and domestic tasks were introduced with the aim of relieving women of household chores. Same-gender sexual relations were decriminalized under this code during the early years of this historic Revolution.

The revolutionsaries in the belly of the beast, we have a lot to fight for here, along with workers and oppressed peoples globally from Haiti to Palestine to other imperial centers like France fighting for a world free from capitalist exploitation and oppression. And women and gender-oppressed people will be in the forefront of these battles, united until victory.

By Betsey Piette

This talk was presented at the May 11 webinar: “U.S. Women need what Cuban Women have: Socialism” sponsored by Workers World Party’s Women and Gender Oppressed Caucus.

I want to dedicate my remarks on housing tonight to Jordan Neely, the Black homeless subway entertainer murdered May 1 on a New York City subway by a white vigilante. Neely’s death drives home the trauma of being mentally disabled and without shelter that all too many people in the U.S. suffer, especially if they are Black.

My remarks tonight will not be discussing housing in Cuba. It’s almost impossible to find unbiased information on housing in Cuba in U.S. media.

Here is a link to an article by a Portland commentator, Dane D’Obrion, who visited Cuba and who writes on housing and the question of houseless people there: wwp.org/2021/06/obryan/.

However, when we look at housing in the U.S., it is easier to understand why the media here doesn’t want us to know how Cuba handles housing.

The lack of affordable housing in the U.S. and most capitalist countries has only intensified with the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the U.S., rents increased by around 25% since early 2020. Median rents were already over $2,000 per month by July 2022, which is 35% more than in 2019. Over 40 million people in the U.S. could not afford to live in homes that charge 30% of their income or less. All that was brought about by the profit-driven housing market.

Federal programs for rental assistance have not kept up to prevent widespread evictions.

Housing activists estimate that 7.2 million new affordable housing units are needed. Yet the 2020 Census found that one in 10 existing homes are vacant. The federal government alone owns an estimated 45,000 underutilized buildings.

The problem is a shortage of homes that are both livable and with rents that work for the average worker.

Federal policies for rental assistance ended today [May 11], with nothing set up to prevent widespread evictions.

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Urban Townhomes just one example of enormous housing crisis

For decades, 400 low-income residents of the University City Townhouses in Philadelphia enjoyed the security of government-subsidized housing for millions in need.

In 2018, before COVID-19, only 3.6 million eviction cases were filed in the city. The U.S. Census Bureau now estimates that 3.8 million tenants could be evicted every two months. Meanwhile, wait lists for affordable housing units, especially for families or seniors, stretch years into the future.

The battle waged by Townhomes residents since late 2021, led primarily by Black women, has launched a citywide fight-back for affordable housing which includes tenant activist groups and communities struggling against gentrification, like the Save Chinatown coalition. Students at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University have turned out in significant numbers to support the low-income tenants, who have been impacted by decades of the two universities’ gentrification of historic Black and Brown neighborhoods surrounding the campuses.

Their heroic fight-back brought these divergent communities together and has raised awareness that there is no solution under the profit-driven housing market economy. In supporting these struggles, our task is to raise awareness that socialism does offer a solution and is worth fighting for.

By Chris Smalls

On May Day, I joined a delegation of organizers on a trip to Cuba to show solidarity with the Cuban people and call out the injustice that is an economic blockade designed to harm workers and the people on the island.

Let’s make one thing very clear: The blockade is designed to hurt the political leaders in Cuba or whatever nonsense people say to defend a Cold War-era policy. The blockade is designed to hurt the people — full stop.

Our group had to fill our suitcases with medical supplies like syringes and antibiotics, because the blockade literally cannot access even basic lifesaving instruments. Just imagine losing a friend or a family member, just imagine not being able to see a doctor when you are so sick in the past. They are hoping to let folks die.

Enough talk about solidarity with the workers of Cuba and all of the people who have suffered for literally no reason and join us in demanding an end to the blockade.

Nearly every country in the United States has called out the United States for its brutal economic sanctions on Cuba, all because they want to propagate the lies spread by massive corporate representations about the island. Massive corporations are actually threatened by even just a small society that dares to exist without their interference.

Throughout its history, Cuba has been a bastion of workers’ rights. That’s exactly why the rich and powerful are so dedicated to keeping the people there down.

But worker solidarity doesn’t stop at the border—or any border. After decades of completely preventing economic struggle, it’s time for the United States to listen to the rest of the world and end this pointless blockade. Sign your name to show your solidarity.

Chris Smalls is the president of the Amazon Labor Union. Sign the ALU’s petition to end the U.S. blockade of Cuba at: wwp.pub/alucuba.

ALU’s Chris Smalls:

‘Worker solidarity doesn’t stop at the border’
Haydée Santamaría, central figure in the Cuban Revolution

By Lyn Neeley

In the early hours of July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro and nearly 150 Cuban rebels traveled to the Moncada garrison to capture the barracks and seize the many weapons stored there. They planned for this to be the beginning of the Cuban Revolution to overthrow the Cuban dictator, President Fulgencio Batista.

Batista’s forces ambushed the rebels, however, killing half of them and imprisoning those who survived the attack, including Fidel and Haydée Santamaría.

Although the rebels failed to take hold of the Moncada, it was a turning point that changed the course of Cuban history. It laid the basis for the successful revolution six years later in 1959.

While in prison Fidel wrote his famous decisive thesis: “History will absolve me.” He wrote in lemon juice in the cell where he was kept, so that the guards would not find out what he was writing. He held tight to that thesis, and to the idea of redistributing wealth, to the idea that the revolution would be for all Cubans.

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**U.S. banks ‘extraordinarily’ sound — really?**

**By Steve Gillis**

Jamie Dimon is Chief Executive Officer of JPMorgan Chase, the largest U.S. bank with over $3.7 trillion in global assets and the world’s largest bank by market capitalization, i.e., stock value. Dimon made headlines May 1, with a pronouncement: “The American banking system is extraordinarily sound.”

Dimon had reportedly stayed up all night making JPMorgan Chase an even bigger bank, by buying the failing California-based First Republic Bank at a rock-bottom price. By April 24, First Republic became the second-largest bank failure in U.S. history, after Weber wealthy depositors like Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg yanked out over $400 billion out of the bank in just a few weeks. (Technology conglomerate Meta owns Facebook and Instagram.)

These rapid withdrawals drove First Republic’s stock price down 79.7% to near worthless, resulting in its seizure by bank regulators.

This is Dimon’s world, where a run on a bank was driven by the richest of the rich panic buying. This moved unimaginably more wealth into the monoply vaults of JPMorgan Chase, which Dimon characterized as just another “extraordinarily sound” day at the office.

The first second-largest bank collapse ever

Just two months earlier on March 8, Silvergate Bank, whose deposits were invested heavily in cryptocurrencies, went belly-up after a Bitcoin dive.

Then on March 10, the first “second-largest bank failure in U.S. history” occurred, when regulators and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) declared Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) insolvent following a classic bank run. This run featured the spectacle of wealthy depositors, business owners, foundation executives and real estate developers — for-profit and nonprofit alike — lining up on sidewalks on both U.S. coasts in abject fear of losing their deposits. (Workers World, March 10)

Immediately following SVB’s seizure, Signature Bank collapsed March 12, in the wake of last fall’s implosion of the world’s then-largest crypto-exchange, FTX. Last year, FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried was feted at the White House and on Capitol Hill. Today he’s a scapegoat, under federal arrest for financial crimes and facing a potential life sentence.

**Yellen: ‘Banking system is safe and sound’**

Following the First Republic take-over, the “extraordinarily sound” bank collapses continued like slow-motion dominoes, when Pacific Western Bancorp, another regional bank, announced May 11 that its stock price had dropped nearly 25% overnight, down 80% since January 2023. This occurred after tens of billions of dollars of deposits recently fled to bigger banks like JPMorgan Chase.

Other medium-sized regional banks, including Zions Bancorp and Western Alliance, are reportedly experiencing similar deposit outflows and stock-price tremors.

President Joe Biden’s Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, formerly chair of the Federal Reserve Bank, had issued her own soothing statement that the banking system is “safe,” “sound” and “resilient,” in a joint release by Treasury, Federal Reserve and the FDIC March 12. Yet she ordered the rules for deposit insurance changed to cover jumbo clients with accounts over $250,000. Jumbo mortgages and deposits exceed Federal Housing Finance Agency limits and are currently not guaranteed.

Yellen’s new, stronger bank regulations, a hostile emblem of the economy, involves putting up tens of billions of dollars to essentially bail out JPMorgan Chase, which had assumed much of the jumbo low-interest mortgage debt, and other liabilities and many jumbo deposits from this season’s failed banks in its frenzy of crises-driven monopoly acquisitions.

Despite their optimistic forecasts, Yellen and Dimon are aware that the U.S. finance system is quickly running out of bail-out money. Their recent utterances, mostly off newspaper front pages tucked in the business sections, have all included the words “panic,” “sadness,” warnings of impending “catastrophe” and news of the creation of a “war room” at JPMorgan Chase’s Park Avenue headquarters. (Reuters, May 11)

**Only workers produce value**

A fundamental problem for the bankers, often hidden away in the reams of bourgeois journalism and arcane economic data about interest rates, rates of profit, debt default and Wall Street’s pseudo-theories, is that workers are the only class in the capitalist economy who produce value. Profits are based on workers’ unpaid labor — surplus value — and that includes the share of profits that goes to the bankers.

The fortune of the capitalist class are for a time augmented by Wall Street gambling, speculation and criminal activity, ultimately resulting in multiple bubbles of unprecedented debt, in restless but futile pursuit of ever higher wealth.

When capitalist bubbles burst, the working class pays the price. The Boston Globe noted May 11: “The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week rose to its highest level in a year-and-a-half, though jobs remain plentiful by historical standards, even as companies cut costs as the economy slows.”

Bankers are attempting to manipulate interest rates to lower inflation as a tactic to prevent workers from demanding and winning wage increases and improved working conditions. By doing this, however, bankers create the conditions for their own internal balance-sheet crises and for increased workers’ resistance.

In the U.S., young workers in rebellion at Starbucks and Amazon, Teamsters building for a potential strike at UPS, writers on strike in Hollywood and teachers at school districts and universities should know the leading role of JPMorgan Chase and other banking monopolies in fomenting austerity, war, mass layoffs and union busting.

What is “extraordinarily sound” is the growing working-class consciousness that these bank monopolies must be overthrown and totally replaced by a socialist system of production, owned and compassionately but forcefully controlled by the working class and oppressed peoples, organized, planned and run for the equal benefit of all.

For further background: “Top banker says, an economic ‘hurricane’ is coming — Workers of the world, time to get ready to fight!” by Larry Holmes, Workers World, June 20, 2022.

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**Nakba commemorations**

**‘Today South Africa, tomorrow Palestine’**

**By Martha Grevett Cleveland**

Chief Nkosizwelile Mandela, grandson of the late South African President Nelson Mandela, was the keynote speaker at a Nakba commemoration in Cleveland on May 17. He is the tribal chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council and a member of South Africa’s Parliament, representing the African National Congress.

Mandela drew parallels between the successful movement to overturn apartheid in South Africa and the ongoing resistance to Zionist apartheid in occupied Palestine, along with struggles in Central America and Colombia. The Cleveland program was part of Mandela’s national speaking tour, sponsored by USCYN, PYM and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

May 15 was the 75th anniversary of Nakba, the genocidal expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland to establish the Zionist apartheid state of Israel. As speakers pointed out, Nakba was not a one-time event; it continues to this day.

The crowd applauded Mandela throughout his talk, including when he declared: “Today South Africa, tomorrow Palestine!”

Other speakers represented organizations co-hosting the event: U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Palestine Youth Movement, Council on American-Islamic Relations and the InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia.

“The second-largest bank collapse ever”


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**Cleveland Palestinian activists present an award to Chief Nkosizwelile Mandela, grandson of the late South African President Nelson Mandela, at a Nakba commemoration on May 17, 2023.**
Spanish state accuses web magazine of ‘glorification of terrorism’

The following is a May 20 statement by the Editorial Collective of La Haine, a web news magazine that publishes anti-imperialist, anti-fascist and anti-capitalist articles, calling for solidarity to stop a new attack by the Spanish authorities to target the collective for its publication of news and opinion. See Lahaine.org. Translation: John Catalinotto.

A colleague of our media has been called to appear May 23, 2023, before Judge Isabel Moreno of the Audiencia Nacional [National Court], under investigation for “glorification of terrorism.” The case involves a video that was published on the social network Twitter of our media and the arrest of the ex-prisoner to Casco Viejo, of Iñaki Etxeberria ‘Mortadelo,’ the citizen of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, in an interview with Canada Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). “At the reserve we have our own areas that we live in; it’s like clusters of families. And within those clusters, we also have the environment around us … especially the medicines and the berry bushes we grew up in — and those are all gone,” said in a CBC interview. “We still have the potential of losing even more homes,” said.

As of this writing, the wildfires have affected over 12 First Nations and at least three Métis communities, including the Little Red River Cree Nation, O’Chiine First Nation, Sunchild First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation #499, Swale Lake Cree Nation, Heart Lake First Nation, Swan River First Nation, Driftpile Cree Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Beaver First Nation and the East Prairie Métis Settlement. Despite this, the settler-colonial regimes of Canada and the U.S.— as well as those of Australia, Israel and New Zealand—are worsening the climate crisis by imposing pipelines, fracking and strip-mining projects that devastate Indigenous lands and poison water supplies. Alberta, the Canadian province most affected by the wildfires, is also one of the Canadian settler state’s largest fossil fuel-producing regions, releasing over 250 million tons of carbon dioxide every year. "We’re really an emotional roller coaster," said evacuee Gary Mooteen, a citizen of the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, in an interview with Canada Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). “At the reserve we have our own areas that we live in; it’s like clusters of families. And within those clusters, we also have the environment around us ... especially the medicines and the berry bushes we grew up in — and those are all gone.”

"Devising, deviating, life-altering situation" First Nations and Métis leaders have described how the wildfires have disrupted the lives of their residents, many of whom have lost access to traditional and vital food sources, including moose and other game animals. “There’s one [resident], he’s lost everything, his trapping equipment and guns, his hunting supplies — really devastating, life-altering situation, absolutely,” said Dave Lamanche, President of the Alberta Métis Settlement Council. In the East Prairie Métis Settlement, wildfires have destroyed at least 14 homes, and last week all 300 residents were forced to evacuate. Though many residents have returned, they remain under evacuation orders. The community has gone without power since May 5.

"We’ve got to punish political ideas contrary to the state's repressive tactics." The Court of Public Order [that conferred on it by [Gen. Francisco] Franco’s regime, to punish anti-fascist ideas, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity." — Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, UN, General Assembly, 2006-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government. Available at online booksellers.

Spanish state accuses web magazine of ‘glorification of terrorism’
June 28 will mark the 54th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion, sparked that day by police raids on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village neighborhood. These raids were commonplace, as were arrests for violating anti-trespass laws prohibiting “inappropriate clothing.” What made this raid different was that bar patrons and LGBTQ+ people in the neighborhood had had enough; they took back the police to retake after the first night of the six days of protests and fights with the cops. Leading the resistance were drag queens, trans women and butch lesbians, mostly poor, working class, and Black and Brown.

The movement for LGBTQ+ liberation did not begin with Stonewall. The gay and lesbian rights groups Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis were formed in the 1950s and picketed government agencies, LGBT+ workers organizing that won historic union victories against Amazon and Starbucks and sparked further organizing elsewhere. This historic upsurge was fueled by the leadership and solidarity of young, multinational, queer, gender-nonconforming workers.

Stonewall means FIGHT BACK!

The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village neighborhood, was the site of a protest in 1959 against police harassment; it became a rebellion after a protester was arrested. But Stonewall was a major turning point in the LGBTQ+ movement, spawning the formation of groups around the country, such as the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. Sylvia Rivera and Stonewall participant Marsha P. Johnson formed SAKO— Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries — in the Village. Beginning with the first anniversary of Stonewall and continuing to this day — Pride is celebrated in the month of June.

Solidarity: ‘Our first, most elementary and fundamental duty’

Workers World Party has supported this movement since its inception. To orient the entire party on the need for solidarity with the gay liberation movement — as it was known in the 1970s — WWP’s late Chairperson Sam Marcy wrote: “Our first, most elementary and fundamental question on this question is to completely eliminate all forms of persecution and oppression of gay people. We must also fight against all ideological, political, and social manifestations of gay oppression that may be reflected in our own ranks.”

Ending oppression is really an elementary democratic demand that a bourgeois democracy should be able to grant, along with all other demands. But imperialist democracy tends to restrict the elementary rights of all people — not only gays, women, youth, Black and Brown. It is only the struggle that can wrest concessions.” (Sam Marcy, “From a tendency to a party”) One of the most famous photos from the movement’s early years depicts a banner signed by the Gay Caucus of Youth Against War and Fascism, with the slogan “Stonewall means fight back! Smash Gay Oppression!” The photo, which hangs today in the Stonewall Inn, is from the 1971 march on the second anniversary of the rebellion. YAWF was the youth group of WWP.

That slogan — Stonewall means fight back! — is as true today as it was over a century ago. Trans youth are on the receiving end of a fierce attack by forces that would like to see them annihilated. There are state legislatures that have passed — and eight more are considering — bills blocking gender-affirming health care for youth under 18 years old. Some bills set the age for health care denial at 26, the age limit for coverage by one’s parents’ insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

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WW needs your support!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalist exploitation and for revolutionary change.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has sponsored workers.org, where articles containing news and analysis of global and domestic issues and struggles are posted continually. The website is a resource for political activists. It contains firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff.

Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the news current on unionization drives, along with reports on anti-racist and other progressive movements. While WW’s staff is voluntary, we have 12 printed issues each year, and the website inures expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

Join the WW Supporter Program: Can you donate $50, $100, $200 a year or more? Donating to WW is a tax-deductible way to support the work of workers.org. As a supporter, you can choose to receive our print newspaper, the Workers World, or to read us online. To join, or to give a gift, visit workers.org/give today.

Our articles are free to all readers.

Workers World hails LGBTQ2S+ Pride

Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming workers. WW has consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. WW published “The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal,” in 1976, reissued in 1993 as “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View,” with a new preface and afterword.

WW managing editor and globally recognized trans-gender leader Leslie Feinberg’s “Lavender & Red” series ran from 2004-2008 in WW; 25 of those articles were part of the gender leader Leslie Feinberg’s “Lavender & Red” series, published later in “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” Read these books at workers.org/books.


The hate group has expanded to other states with its book bans are part of the Republican, right-wing strategy to host a heavy lift to get that demographic. … But now Moms for Liberty wants to return to has already proven to be a failure.

The path to this day — now globally — Pride is celebrated in the month of June. One of the most famous photos from the movement’s early years depicts a banner signed by the Gay Caucus of Youth Against War and Fascism, with the slogan “Stonewall means fight back! Smash Gay Oppression!” The photo, which hangs today in the Stonewall Inn, is from the 1971 march on the second anniversary of the rebellion. YAWF was the youth group of WWP.

That slogan — Stonewall means fight back! — is as true today as it was over a century ago. Trans youth are on the receiving end of a fierce attack by forces that would like to see them annihilated. There are state legislatures that have passed — and eight more are considering — bills blocking gender-affirming health care for youth under 18 years old. Some bills set the age for health care denial at 26, the age limit for coverage by one’s parents’ insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

The Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming workers.

Lee and his co-author Bridget Ziegler is married to Christian Ziegler, vice-chair of the Florida Republican Party, who told the Washington Post that he expected M4L to “become foot soldiers” for Delaino’s reelection campaign. “I have been trying for a dozen years to get 20- and 30-year-old females involved with the Republican Party,” he said, “and it was a heavy lift to get that demographic. … But now Moms for Liberty has done it for me.” (Oct. 15, 2021)

In 2022, Moms for Liberty was suspended from Twitter for calling gender dysphoria a “mental health disorder that is being normalized by predators across the U.S.”

The hate group has expanded to other states with its work to draw 650 people to the Philadelphia summit, with tickets priced between $249 and $499. At present, there are M4L chapters in nearly half of the state’s counties, although not in Philadelphia County.

Book bans are part of the Republican, right-wing strategy to host a heavy lift to get that demographic. … But now Moms for Liberty wants to return to has already proven to be a failure.

The answer to Moms for Liberty must include a unified, broad-based progressive social movement that picks up where the earlier protests left off. The society M4L wants to return to has already proven to be a failure and needs to be swept into the dustbin of history.

Call 215-625-2900 and tell the Marriot to stop hosting hate.

Workers World hails LGBTQ2S+ Pride

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming workers.


WW managing editor and globally recognized trans-gender leader Leslie Feinberg’s “Lavender & Red” series ran from 2004-2008 in WW; 25 of those articles were published later in “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.”

The newspaper has extensively covered resistance to the current storm of right-wing “Don’t Say Gay” and anti-trans, anti-youth laws sweeping the country, as well as the ongoing struggle for reproductive justice and covered opposition to racist laws limiting the right to vote and the right to teach a people’s history of resistance to oppression, namely the struggle for the vote, from the early 19th century to today.

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Call 215-625-2900 and tell the Marriott to stop hosting hate.

The Eisenhower Media Network placed the ad. The EMN is an organization of veterans of the U.S. military, police and/or foreign policy establishment, who once served the state apparatus. In the course of their engagement or following retirement, they found themselves disagreeing with many U.S. policies. They now especially oppose the U.S. role in the war in Ukraine—a war they describe as “an unmitigated disaster.”

The statement warns that: “Future devastation could be exponentially greater, as nuclear power creeps ever closer toward open war.”

The document’s arguments counter the corporate media’s relentless demonization of the Russian government (with the exception of some of the ultralight media like Fox, which focuses its warmongering against China). The ad’s arguments present an opportunity to strengthen antivarian and anti-imperialist positions within the population of NATO countries.

The Russia-Ukraine war has opened a new area of multinational political and economic exploitation. The corporate media’s hating of any antivarian statement as being pro-Vladimir Putin, who the same media reviles in multiple reports and opinions daily, has succeeded up to now in intimidating many who fear political isolation. The EMN statement is a brave step in establishing some truths, as told by people who have been inside the U.S. establishment and know how it works.

Anti-imperialists have the opportunity to use these truths to expose, weaken and destroy the framework of pro-war and anti-Russia propaganda and to strengthen the movement against war, so that it targets the real warmongers in the U.S. imperialist establishment and in NATO.
América Latina en Resistencia: EE.UU. mantiene la ‘presión máxima’

Por Jessica Dos Santos y Ricardo Vaz

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El pasado 29 de abril, el presidente de Colombia Gustavo Petro logró reunir a delegaciones de 20 países para la llamada “Conferencia Internacional sobre el proceso político en Venezuela”, realizada en Bogotá. 

Desde su llegada a la presidencia, el gobierno de Petro ha mantenido a Venezuela entre sus prioridades, restableciendo relaciones diplomáticas y comerciales, así como condenando las sanciones estadounidenses contra su nación vecina.

Sin embargo, la conferencia en Bogotá fue algo “útil”. Para empezar, se trató de un encuentro dedicado a Venezuela sin la presencia de actores venezolanos, tanto del gobierno como de la oposición. Desde su llegada a la presidencia, Petro ha mantenido a Venezuela entre sus prioridades, restableciendo relaciones diplomáticas y comerciales.

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