

# CONNECT MOVE ACT!

Standing together for human rights

**A regional summit  
organized by the Rochester Chapter  
of the Social Welfare Action Alliance**

**Friday April 15, 2016**

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Downtown United Presbyterian Church  
121 Fitzhugh St, N, Rochester

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**Featuring Keynote Speakers Mary Bricker Jenkins and Maureen Taylor**

**“Welcome to this Changing World”**

**Lunchtime panel given by On the Ground Organizers:**

**“Connecting the Dots: Invisible Mechanisms of Oppression”**

**Workshops** (morning sessions will be repeated in the afternoon, except for workshop 6)

- 1 Radical Racial Justice: “Soul Murder” and Surviving White Supremacy
- 2 Flying under the radar: Radical practice dangers and opportunities
- 3 Fighting for U.S. Water Rights: Emergency Management and Austerity Threats to Clean, Affordable Water
- 4 Worker Rights in the 21st century U.S.
- 5 A New and Unsettling Force for Human Rights: Building a new Poor People’s Campaign for Today
- 6 Organizing for Action *am: It’s a Crime to be Poor; pm: Ticket to Ride*

**The day will end by: “Planning and Commitments for Action”**

Registration: \$20 donation ~ \$15 for students

Low income scholarships are available.

Make checks out to SWAA Rochester. Please write HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT on the check!

Mail checks to P.O. Box 17323 Rochester, NY 14617.

Check us out on Facebook - Social Welfare Action Alliance - Rochester Chapter

For more information Email: [info@swaarochester.org](mailto:info@swaarochester.org) or call 585-969-3409

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**How can we connect the struggles within our communities  
and come together to fight the crisis of poverty?**

**Sponsor** - The Social Work Department at the College at Brockport **Co-Sponsors** - The Student Social Work Organization At the College at Brockport; The Office of the Dean of the School of Education and Human Service at the College at Brockport, Justice Ministry Team of Downtown United Presbyterian Church, National Social Welfare Action Alliance **Additional Sponsors** - The Women and Gender Studies Program at The College at Brockport; Department of Human Services at Monroe Community College, House of Mercy, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Poverty Initiative at the Kairos Center, Take Back the Land

## Workshops

### **Radical Racial Justice: Soul Murder and Surviving White Supremacy**

*Leigh-Anne Francis, Ricardo Adams, Jackie Dozier and Melanie Funchess* Mass incarceration, racist policing, the school to prison pipeline and legal lynching constitute the soul-murder of poor people of color in the United States. In this workshop, we will discuss these issues and the traumatic effects of living and working in this environment and begin the work of healing the broken hearts of the working wounded and ensuring that radical self-love is part of the revolution.

### **Flying under the radar: Radical practice dangers and opportunities**

*Mary Bricker-Jenkins and Carrie Young* Is it possible to keep a social work job doing radical practice? Under what conditions? Just what is radical practice anyway? In this workshop we'll explore those and many other matters, including the reasons that this period in history both demands radical practice and provides some unique opportunities.

### **Fighting for U.S. Water Rights: Emergency Management and Austerity Threats to Clean, Affordable Water**

*Michigan Welfare Rights Organization MWRO organizers* will lead a workshop examining the decline of democracy in U.S. cities through privatization efforts and finance managers who control all local government decisions. In Michigan, over 100,000 low income households have their water shutoff in recent years due to the inability to pay for residential service. Public officials have denied the right to water to Detroit customers who are too poor to pay, and are demanding water bill payments from lead poisoned Flint residents despite international protests against these human rights violations. We will discuss how the crisis develops in various forms, how to build short-term and long-term solutions, and outline responses and actions needed from social workers, advocates and movement groups across the U.S.

### **Worker Rights in the 21st century U.S.**

*Bruce Popper* The erosion of worker rights and freedom of association in the United States has been a major factor in the dramatic increase of income inequality and poverty, and its corresponding social effects. Restoring the rights of workers is a critical element in protecting democracy and restoring a measure of economic justice in our nation.

### **A New and Unsettling Force for Human Rights: Building a new Poor People's Campaign for Today**

*Willie Baptist and Rev. Liz Theoharis* Willie will share lessons in leadership development, the poor organizing the poor, and an effort to launch a national "Poor People's Campaign Spirit of Struggle Revival Tour" to bring together grassroots organizers of different struggles, testimonies of those directly affected by poverty and related injustices, local and national artists, filmmakers, social movement educators, and religious leaders to shine light on the current crisis and our intersecting interests.

### **Organizing for Action**

Discussion of several local initiatives to address poverty and strategies for organizing for effective change on the local level. The morning and afternoon workshops will have different presentations:

**am session** *Ken Warner* "Decriminalizing Poverty in Rochester" Writer James Baldwin said, "Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor." For example, unpaid parking tickets lead to multiplying fines, and then jail time for those who can't pay. Offenders end up losing their jobs, and have trouble with future employment. Rochester needs to duplicate a model already being implemented in Buffalo, to negotiate alternative sentencing and payment plans. This workshop discusses creation of a community coalition to advocate for this change and to develop an outreach program.

**pm session** *Judge Karen Morris*, "Ticket to Ride" is an initiative designed to provide bus passes to needy individuals in the criminal justice system. "Crime is fueled by poverty and poverty creates transportation barriers to attending court, court-ordered mandates and job training. Failure to appear at these events leads to unavoidable bench warrants, arrests, jail time and criminal records." (Morris)