

Why Should I March?

The American people suffered a tremendous tragedy on September 11th. As we try to make sense of the inhumane and horrendous events of last week, we are clear that our efforts to build a more just and humane world are needed more than ever.

Our hearts go out to those who lost loved ones in this attack, and we grieve for those who died. Every one of those killed was someone's mother, father, son or daughter. We condemn this attack, as we condemn all forms of terrorism, no matter its stated purpose or goal. The slaughter of American workers will contribute nothing to the resolution of the problems faced by oppressed people across the world.

As America's poor and working people are facing brutal layoffs, sleeping on the streets, eating out of garbage cans and struggling to survive, and as it is becoming increasingly difficult to afford heat, health care, food or housing, we know that the dire situation that we face will only increase with our

new focus on war. Resources that have not been "available" for the American people's most basic needs are now available as the U.S. has turned toward war and corporate bailouts. Continuing our 20-year fight for economic justice, the Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP), host site of the California Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, and other organizations are increasing our efforts in this time of tragedy and heightened economic instability.

It is our historic and ongoing duty as Americans to pursue life, liberty and happiness. As a part of exercising our voice as American people and continuing to build the California Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, the Community Homeless Alliance Ministry (CHAM), the Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP), the First Christian Church, the Labor Party, the Low-Income Self-Help Center, the Silicon Valley De-Bug and Religious Witness have come together for a March for Compassion and Spiritual Renewal from San Jose to San Francisco. The purpose of this March is to reclaim our Economic Human Rights. We will document economic human rights abuses, protest that poverty is an economic human rights violation, teach about the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Labor Party's Just Health Care Campaign and build our network of people and organizations who stand for economic human rights.

This March, with its vision of a just and peaceful world, is our way of framing what we as working and poor people of this country stand for. The decent and noble people of America who are struggling to survive every day are leading this movement. In the end, the American people's interests will be served only by building a society that guarantees the well-being of every one of its members, and which uses its power and resources to help end the poverty and injustice that afflicts the great mass of humanity. The compassion and generosity that most of us display at times of tragedy is proof that America can be that country. We are marching to insure that our country is a force for good in the world

– a force for democracy and freedom for all!

The time has come! We urge everyone to endorse and plan on attending at least part of the 8-day March for Compassion and Spiritual Renewal from October 28th to November 4th. Organize a delegation to come from your town or city, collect documentation of economic human rights violations from people suffering in your town, and bring the documentation and a delegation to this important March for our lives! It is vital that we continue building links across California to solidify and strengthen our efforts to end poverty and build a world where all of our children can prosper.

This will be the 1st of several marches throughout the state of California. The time has come to build links in the smaller towns where our Freedom Bus Tour could not go!

We are resolved to reach out to the world in peace, and use our resources and new technology to help end poverty everywhere. It's up to us to make sure we lead our country in the direction of economic justice and human rights.