

November 12, 2020

Katal Weekly Update

Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice



In this issue:

- **Join Us: Wednesday 11/18 - #FreeThemNowCT Protest & Speakout at Hartford Correctional Center**
- **Katal at Facing Race 2020**

**Join Us: Wednesday 11/18 - #FreeThemNowCT Protest
& Speakout at Hartford Correctional Center**

#FREETHEMNOWCT

PROTEST

AND

SPEAK

OUT

When: Wed., November 18 | 11:00-12:00 pm

**Where: 177 Weston Street Hartford, CT 06120
Hartford Correctional Center**

While COVID-19 continues to ravage our state prisons and jails, Governor Lamont has yet to implement a comprehensive plan to mitigate the spread of the virus in correctional facilities. Join Katal and allies for a protest to demand that the Governor address COVID-19 in state prisons and jails. It is time to #FreeThemNowCT.

We invite you to join us next **Wednesday, November 18th at 11:00 am for our #FreeThemNowCT Protest and Speakout outside of Hartford Correctional Center.** Families of incarcerated individuals and community groups will gather to voice their demands

that Governor Lamont address the issue of COVID-19 in correctional facilities. As the pandemic continues to spread across the country, correctional facilities make up some of the worst outbreak sites of the virus in the country. In mid- October, there was a COVID-19 outbreak in Hartford Correctional Center, and 56 incarcerated people tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, the number of positive cases has grown to 191 incarcerated individuals, which underscores how the inaction of Governor Lamont continues to put incarcerated individuals' lives in threatening danger.

Family members of those incarcerated and community groups across the state including Katal have been tirelessly organizing and calling for a comprehensive plan to address COVID-19 behind bars since the onset of the pandemic, and it is *beyond* time that Governor Lamont and legislators construct one. Lives are on the line, and needless deaths must be prevented.

[Read our press advisory.](#)

[Action details and RSVP to attend, here.](#)

Additionally, Katal's Lead Organizer **Kenyatta Thompson** will be a guest speaker on the "**Systems Change Work in a Time of Crisis**" panel, organized by Fairfield County's Community Foundation. Panelists will discuss concerns emerging on the grassroots level and tactics being used to make sustainable systems change in this time of crisis. This virtual discussion will take place next **Tuesday, November 17th from 6-7pm**, and serves as a timely and important preface to Wednesday's action. [Register to join.](#)

Katal at Facing Race 2020



We're excited that we're able to attend this year's [Facing Race conference!](#) Presented by **Race Forward**. Thanks to support from the Graustein Memorial Fund, Katal Lead Organizer **Kenyatta Thompson**, and Policy Coordinator **Yonah Zeitz** are part of a delegation of organizers from Connecticut to attend the conference, which of course is being held virtually.

The conference includes workshops, panels, and plenaries, and the virtual set up allows for participants to build relationships with multiracial and inter-generational organizers, educators, creatives, and other leaders across the world. In this moment of major upheaval and transition, we're grateful for the space to collaborate and share knowledge with other movement builders, media makers, and influencers.

This week, Kenyatta and Yonah have joined numerous workshops including:

- *Decolonizing Gender: A Workshop* - focusing on how the gender binary operates through white supremacy, and how it is constructed to support a hierarchy of humans run by mostly white men;
- *Racial Justice Approaches to Community Organizing* (including a 15-minute video on the student protests in Birmingham, Alabama);
- *Political Education that Advances Racial Justice*;
- *Abolitionist Change Strategy Lab* with Durham Beyond Policing Coalition;
- *Strategic campaigns-- advancing racial justice*, which featured veterans in the organizing field.

Learn more about these sessions and check out the full 2020 program including over 50 sessions with over 100 activists, artists, educators & more, [at this link.](#)

We thank Race Forward for hosting this excellent conference, and we thank the Graustein Memorial Fund for supporting our participation. We are excited to integrate the lessons and insights from the conference into our work to end mass incarceration and the war on drugs and advance equity, health, and justice for everyone.

Keep practicing social distancing, wear your mask, wash your hands, and check in on your neighbors. If you want to get involved, learn more about our work, or just connect, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Katal works to strengthen the people, policies, institutions, and movements that advance health, equity, and justice for everyone. Join us: web, Twitter, Facebook! Email: info@katalcenter.org. Phone: 646.875.8822.