



"Pessimism of the intellect; optimism of the will."

-Antonio Gramsci

#CancelRent: a Nationwide Movement



Our homes, health, and collective safety and futures are on the line. Many of us don't know how we are going to pay our rent, mortgage, or utilities on April 1st, yet landlords and banks are expecting payment as if it's business as usual. It's not. We are joining renters not just in D.C. but across the U.S. to fight for a people's plan to ensure a healthy, stable, thriving future for us all.

1. Immediately Cancel Rent, Mortgage and Utility Payments, No New Debts.

Cancel rent & mortgage payments through the duration of the public health and economic crisis for all renters, homeowners and small businesses, and ensure a 3-month recovery period.

2. Turn Vacant Units into Safe Homes and Decrease the Spread of COVID-19 by Releasing People from Cages

We must guarantee that every single person has a safe, healthy home during a public health crisis, and beyond. We demand the local, state and federal governments turn all vacant units into safe homes for people experiencing homelessness or needing healthy housing now.

Further we echo the demands of people experiencing incarceration and detention and call for action to ensure the health and wellbeing of people currently imprisoned and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We call for the immediate release of all people who are being held in immigrant and pretrial detention. Increase the use of Elder, Medical, and Early Release. Immediately release all individuals who are 50 years old or older, are immunocompromised, and/or have underlying medical conditions that pose increased risk from a COVID-19 infection. Release all individuals who have 90 days or less remaining in their sentence, and accelerate the release of individuals with more than 90 days remaining. Release people without using electronic monitors.

3. Permanent Refuge and Moratorium from Evictions, Foreclosures, Raids, Sweeps, and Anti-Homeless Ordinances

All people must be able to stay in their homes, be provided adequate housing, be allowed to safely shelter-in-place whether they are housed or unhoused, and be able to maintain all of their belongings to ensure personal and public health and safety. Cities must provide comprehensive support to those “sheltering-in-place” outside.

4. Prohibit Utility Shut Offs, Rate Increases and Restore Service to all Households

Utilities like water, gas, electric, phone and internet are vital to our personal and collective health. They should be provided as a public good, especially during a public health crisis. Any current utility service shut-offs should be suspended indefinitely for all households, regardless of ability to pay.

5. Guaranteed Unemployment, Sick Time, Worker Protections and Basic Income for All

All people, regardless of status, must have access to the resources they need to provide for their needs, safety and health. People doing essential work must be provided with the equipment that is necessary to keep them safe in addition to any necessary child or elder care for their loved ones.

[Get connected to the national movement to #CancelRent](#)

And here's what you can do locally:

1. **[Sign the petition](#)** initiated by the DC Tenants Union to #CancelRent in D.C.
2. **[Call Mayor Bowser and D.C. City Council](#)** to demand they take action now
3. **[Fill out the ONE DC COVID-19 Survey](#)** to join our local organizing efforts
4. **Phone bank** community members to get them involved by emailing organizer@onedconline.org to receive a call list and script

5. **Join the next ONE DC Right to Housing or Right to Income committee** meeting this Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM. Email organizer@onedconline.org or text/call 202.760.4875 for more info.

Help Ward 6 Mutual Aid Team Get Help to Families

[Reprint from HillRag.com. By Elizabeth O'Gorek - March 24, 2020](#)

The DC Mutual Aid Network is organizing Ward by Ward to help those who are hit hardest by the economic consequences of the coronavirus. "For people who are living paycheck to paycheck and are living in Public Housing, the economic consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic start taking effect immediately," wrote Maurice Cook, Executive Director of [Serve Your City DC](#), which is part of the effort.



Maurice Cook, a 22-year Hill resident and Executive Director of Serve Your City DC.

The city government has offered what it can for all of these issues, but this is not enough for everyone to be able to get by during this enormous crisis.

To solve this problem, local groups have created the [DC Mutual Aid Network](#). It has already helped thousands of residents across the city. The basic model is that donations of goods are collected at hubs, monetary donations are used to purchase additional necessities, and then grassroots organizers who already have relationships in the community are making sure that these necessities are delivered to the neighbors who are in need.

The Ward 6 Mutual Aid Team is orchestrated by local community organizations including [Capitol Hill Arts Workshop](#), [Momma's Safe Haven](#), the [TraRon Center](#), [Brotha's Huddle](#) and other hard working messengers.

Serve Your City ED Cook said that families are struggling with the pressure to manage the educational engagement of their children, often without the necessary hardware and internet access. "Schools are closed and our city's youth are transitioning to distance learning, but the digital divide is holding back neighbors who cannot afford connectivity or devices," Cook said.

These families must also find money for groceries, and then find what they need even as shelves empty across the city and navigate the unemployment system and the realities of reduced or no pay together with all of the new, constantly changing realities that all of us are confronting.

Many of these hard working neighbors cannot afford basic necessities, Cook said, and neighbors who are elderly or have compromised immune systems cannot leave home to get necessities.

Please do what you can to contribute and help your neighbors. "It's all of us, or none of us," Cook said.

[Click here for ways to help Ward 6 mutual aid](#)

[Info about mutual aid efforts in other areas can be found here](#)

Upcoming (Online) Events

DC Tenants Union Virtual Meeting

Thursday, April 2 - 4:00 PM

Organized by DC Tenants Union

[Click here to join](#)

DC TENANTS UNION VIRTUAL MEETING



JOIN US FOR THE LATEST INFO ON:

- **EVICTION MORATORIUM AND OTHER EMERGENCY PROTECTIONS**
- **MUTUAL AID**
- **HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LANDLORD IF YOU CAN'T PAY RENT**
- **MOVEMENT TO CANCEL RENTS**

**THURSDAY
APRIL 2ND
@ 4 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting:

bit.ly/DCTUWEB

Zoom Meeting ID: 988 480 682

To join on the phone, call: +19292056099

Then enter the meeting ID 988480682#



Movement Building in the Time of the COVID-19 Crisis
A Left feminist perspective on 21st-century racial capitalism in this moment featuring Angela Y. Davis, Naomi Klein & more
Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 PM EST
Organized by the Rising Majority

[Register Here](#)

WE ARE THE RISING MAJORITY

**MOVEMENT BUILDING IN THE TIME OF
THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS**

**A LEFT FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON 21ST
CENTURY RACIAL CAPITALISM IN THIS MOMENT**

**ANGELA Y. DAVIS, NAOMI KLEIN,
AND RISING MAJORITY MEMBERS INCLUDING
CINDY WIESNER, MAURICE MITCHELL & THENJIWE MCHARRIS.**

APRIL 2, 2020 7:00 PM ET / 6:00 PM CST

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION
TINY.CC/TRMCV19**



Pod Mapping: Organizing Your Community During COVID

Friday, April 3 - 6:00 PM

A webinar for DC Tenants and resident leaders on how to support one another in this pandemic.

[Click here to join](#)

A WEBINAR FOR DC TENANT &
RESIDENT LEADERS

POD MAPPING: ORGANIZING YOUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID

Friday | April 3 | 6 PM

Video: bit.ly/PODMAP

Call in at (415) 762-9988

Meeting ID: 9944737



#CancelRent Festival

EVERY Night at 9PM EST/6PM PST on Youtube Live

Organized by Right to the City Alliance

Rent party was a party thrown by African Americans who lived in urban neighbourhoods during the early decades of the 20th century to collect money for rent. Rent parties were part of a solution to a growing housing crisis caused by swelling urban populations, which landlords responded to by raising formerly affordable rents. Originating in Harlem during the 1920's, these parties were a means for black tenants to eat, dance, and get away from everyday hardship and discrimination. Now, with the coronavirus crisis, many of us are stuck between staying healthy or staying housed. With the lost of our incomes, we may not be able to make Apr 1 rent or May 1 rent, so we're calling out to our electeds to #CancelRent #CancelMortgages #HomesForAll.

Lineup:

March 31 Ana Tijoux

April 1 Direct Action Livestream

April 2 Vaneza Songwriting Session

April 3 La Marisoul

April 4 Jose Luis Orozco

April 5 TBD

April 6 CharLA: Community Forum/Discussion

[Click here to view at 9PM EST](#)

ONE Bit of Good News - 65 Sustaining Donors Now Giving Monthly

Transformative change requires sustained efforts. Especially in this time of uncertainty, we are grateful to our 65 sustaining donors who are able to contribute a regular monthly gift to support our ongoing organizing efforts.

[You can start your monthly gift by clicking here](#)

[You can find past editions of the Monthly Voice here.](#)

Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*? Email organizer@onedconline.org

**Become a
ONE DC
Member**

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