



Revolutionary Love is difficult to define. Distinct from personal or familial love, it originates from a desire for the greater good that entails radical risk-taking for justice.

-Joy James, [Black Revolutionary Love Reimagines Democracy](#)

Celebrating Black Love

In celebration of Black liberation month, we asked some members of the ONE DC community to respond to the prompt, "What does Black love mean to you?" Here are their responses:

Black love means love of self; universal love. -Maurice

It means, "I know what you are going through." -Luci

Radical self-care of our community in the spirit of Audre Lorde...loving the broken part of ourselves into healing and restorative justice communities, fighting like Maroons people with a spirit of compassion, forgiveness, and joy - beginning and ending our daily life with a Soul Music and Happy Dance! -Dominic

Black love is love of self. My body, my mind and my soul are my top priority. -Jourgette

The deepest love one can get is from the wisdom, experience, mercy, forgiveness, and a million second chances that only Black love can give one. Black love means no one left out of human rights or left behind. -Angie

Black Love is embracing our full selves in all of our beauty, creativity, legacies and struggles.

Black Love is celebrating generational strengths and legacies and committing to healing generational curses so we don't pass them forward.

Black love is just that loving ourselves with all our beauty and challenges too and never accepting the racist denigration of our people nor trying to win their approval which is surely not forthcoming. -Ka

What Does Your Black Love Look Like? by Fanta Whiting

"Love is patient, love is kind, love does not boast," as the saying goes, but my black love looks a little different. My black love comes with peaks and valleys, highs and lows, but it's one of my favorite love stories.

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Fanta Whiting and I have been married to my husband Terrell Whiting for 5 years. Him and I met in 2013 at our workplace in Bethesda, MD. He was working as a contractor and I was working as care coordinator. One year later we were engaged, and the next year in 2015, we wed. As you could see, we accelerated through our journey not realizing it would lead to many hiccups within our marriage.

Getting married was the easy part, staying married was the hard part -- something that my husband and I didn't understand. In the beginning, everything was all bells and whistles and a garden full of roses. We enjoyed each other's company and truly were on cloud 9. Things were amazing, and then the children came and so much changed.

We started to forget why we married each other and our love story took a turn and we suffered from a separation. Throughout that period of time we both focused on loving the kids and working on ourselves, but through lots of prayer, counseling, and people around us we were able to weather the storm and come back as one.

This second time around Terrell and I truly understand the value of love and black love. We understand how important it was for our children to see us in a happy space. **Black love comes with twists and turns, but it also comes with dedication and hard work.** Two people dedicated to one another, willing to fight to keep the vows at the forefront of the marriage. Some days may be harder than others, but as long as we know that this is a partnership we will forever have this black love.



[Also: An Introduction to Black Love Day by Ayo Handy-Kendi](#)

Cancel Rent Campaign Members Put the Pressure on DC Politicians

This past week, as part of the DC Cancel Rent campaign, ONE DC members participated in bird-dogging of multiple city council members. Bird-dogging is a powerful tactic that aims to seek out elected officials in public settings and ask them specific, pointed questions, capturing their views and responses on the record. This aims to build pressure on councilmembers and popular will behind the movement.

The first action was at the 6A ANC meeting, where members posed questions directed at councilmember Charles Allen. Our bird-doggers were able to build enough pressure by posting in the chat that the facilitators of the meeting allowed ONE DC member leader Trayci Campbell to speak to Charles Allen directly. As a result, Allen agreed to a meeting to discuss rent cancellation. Ms. Campbell was also able to question Anita Bonds at an AARP virtual meeting on Friday the 12th.



#CANCELRENTDC

"I want ALL people in DC that was affected by the Pandemic, to have their rent cancelled because they'll never catch up and will be displaced as well as cause mental health issues!"

*- Trayci Campbell, Ward 6
Retired Senior*



Later that day, members Lark Catoe and Ashe Durban questioned Bonds, as well as councilmembers Silverman and Pinto at the Rental Strike Force meeting. Through sharing our stories, we were able to build on the momentum and pressure started by our midnight protest at Anita Bonds' residence in July.

Our bird-dogging actions are ongoing and we need strong leaders to share their stories to help us CANCEL THE RENT!! Contact pgregoire@onedconline.org if you would like to get involved.

[Join the movement to Cancel Rent!](#)

We Power DC Hold Energy Justice Town Hall

On Tuesday night, ONE DC joined [We Power DC](#) at an Energy Justice Town Hall. Pepco—DC's investor-owned electric utility—fleeces DC residents, underpays contractors, lobbies against clean energy, and corrupts our political system with donations. Roughly 1 in 6 Pepco customers in the District have fallen behind on their electricity bills. Meanwhile, Pepco's parent company Exelon publicly boasts that their "excellent" profitability has "exceeded expectations" amid a massive health, economic, and climate crisis.

Working-class Washingtonians are struggling to pay their electricity bills and DC is struggling to combat the climate crisis and meet our clean energy goals. All the while Pepco pulls in huge profits, despite the pandemic. That's why We Power DC, with our coalition partners, is demanding a transition to a just energy system in DC, which includes:

1. Establishing a permanent ban on utility shutoffs
2. Forgiving all existing utility debt without passing the costs on to other ratepayers
3. Paying all utility contractors union wages & providing them health insurance

4. Increasing investment & community solar for renters and low-income neighborhoods

As the pandemic rages on, the moratorium on utility shutoffs in the District is set to expire on April 15. We need you to take action by calling and emailing your Councilmembers to ask them to establish a permanent ban on utility shut offs and fees. You can find We Power DC's [action toolkit here](#), which includes a call and email script, along with DC Councilmembers' contact information and information for MD residents.

If you're interested in joining our fight for energy justice in the District, you can [sign up to join a working group here](#), or email wepowerdc@gmail.com to meet 1:1 with one of our organizers. Hope you'll join us as we organize for public power and a fair energy system in DC that works for all!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Limited Equity Housing Co-op governance, transparency and accountability best practices

Wednesday, February 24 - 5:30 PM

Douglass Community Land Trust will host a virtual training, presented by the Public Integrity Section of the DC Office of the Attorney General for Limited Equity Housing Co-op board members via Zoom. The training is open to all and will focus on the District's law and best practices regarding governance and transparency and accountability with member-owners. Registrants will receive a direct link to the webinar by email closer to presentation date.

[Register here](#)

Right to Income Committee Meeting

We meet every other Thursday at 6:30 PM EST. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jokebed at jmorinvil@onedconline.org or Kelly at kiradukunda@onedconline.org.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Thursday, February 25

Thursday, March 11

Right to Housing Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 4 - 6:30 PM

Join us every other Thursday at 6:30 PM ONLINE to strategize, create and share popular and political education, conduct outreach to the community and take bold direct actions to build and secure community control of housing and Cancel the Rent! All ages are welcome!

[RSVP here](#)

ONE DC Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 20 - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The Annual Membership Meeting is a space for members to guide the vision of ONE DC. The agenda will include: Elections for open seats on the ONE DC Shared Leadership Team; Overview of our 2020 wins and campaign goals and

strategy for 2021 Community learning on ONE DC membership and leadership; Treasurer's report, and a free raffle drawing for all attendees!

[RSVP here](#)

ONE Bit of Good News - Become a ONE DC intern!

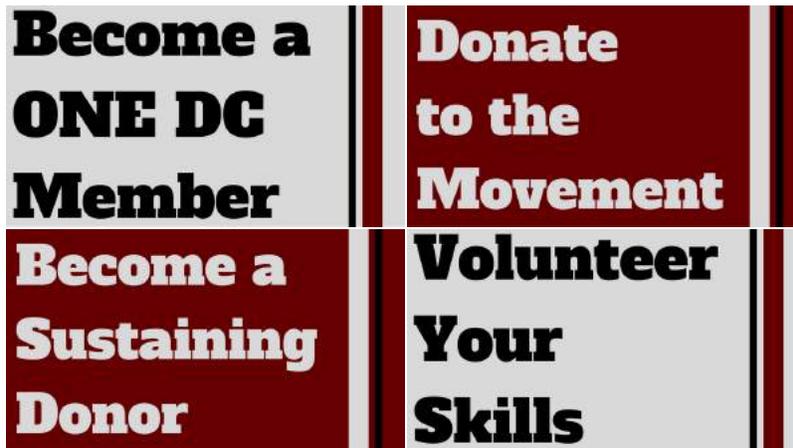
We are welcoming new interns to join ONE DC on a rolling basis. We are seeking creative and dynamic people with a genuine interest in learning about and getting on-the-ground experience with community organizing. Interns support campaign organizing strategy while collaborating with DC residents and workers, ONE DC staff, and ONE DC members. Local DC students strongly encouraged to apply!

[Click here to learn more and how to apply!](#)

[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



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