

Creation of a Universal Single-Payer Health Care System

Health care is a fundamental human right and must not be subordinated to the rule of profit. The Universal Single Payer Health Care Bill (HR 679) would reduce costs by billions of dollars a year while providing preventive care for everyone. Action must be taken now to:

- Expand Medicare for everyone, covering preventive services, prescription drugs, and mental health, regardless of ability to pay;
- Provide immediate relief on prescription drug prices by repealing the legislation which privatizes Medicare, and replace it with a real program of affordable drugs for seniors;
- Develop a plan to eliminate all racial disparities in health care within ten years, including the utilization of information technology to help decrease racial disparities;
- Propose legislation to eradicate excess profits of the insurance, pharmaceutical, nursing home and for-profit hospital industries.

Initiation of a Process to Establish a Humanly Sustainable Environment

Environmental degradation literally threatens life on this planet. A concrete program of conversion to clean, renewable energy will help create a healthy environment and, at the same time, create a massive number of new jobs. It will offer a powerful alternative to war for oil and the drive to dominate resource-rich areas of the world. An *Agenda for Peace & Justice* includes:

- Legislation to shift tax dollars from subsidizing oil and coal to the rapid introduction of clean and renewable energy sources.
- Signing by the United States government of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming and leadership in an international effort to

transfer clean energy technologies to poor countries.

Defense of Constitutional Rights and the Advancement of Human Dignity

The Bush Administration has launched an unprecedented assault on civil liberties and shredded policies motivated to achieve human dignity. An *Agenda for Peace & Justice* requires:

- The repeal of the Patriot Act and electronic wiretapping, open-ended detentions, deportations and denials of legal rights of immigrants and foreign nationals;
- The reaffirmation and protection of affirmative action at the workplace and in educational institutions;
- An end to capital punishment and abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex;
- Guarantees of reproductive rights and the legalization of gay marriage;
- Full government commitments to end racism, sexism, and homophobia. Ending racism, sexism, and homophobia also requires persistent effort to transform a culture and media that celebrates violence and debases human dignity into one whose cultural instruments provide access to knowledge and ideas that lift human beings and nourish equal economic opportunity and political empowerment.

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AN AGENDA FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

The Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism offers the following "Agenda for Peace & Justice" for discussion in the crucial 2008 elections. It is a work in progress. We welcome your comments.

Crisis, Vision, and Program

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis. It is marked by an economic "recovery" of high unemployment, grotesque economic inequalities, historic concentrations of wealth among the ruling class and expanding poverty particularly impacting youth and people of color. At the same time, violence and war spread across East Asia, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and North Africa.

We are experiencing a seemingly never-ending war in Iraq; perpetual threats of pre-emptive military strikes against other countries;

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efforts to criminalize undocumented workers and those who help them; near-genocidal joblessness and incarceration of African American males; new campaigns to destroy reproductive choice; uncontrolled threats to basic constitutional rights to speech, association, and privacy; continuing redistribution of wealth and income from the many to the super-rich at home and around the globe; and unbridled destruction of the environment.

A VISION

Alternatively, an *Agenda for Peace & Justice* is grounded in a vision of a world of genuine international cooperation with just and humane laws based upon unqualified respect for the rights and dignity of every human being, a world that guarantees racial and gender equality, freedom from every form of discrimination, the right to work at a living wage with full access to quality education, health care, housing, and democratic participation in political and cultural life.

To achieve this vision, the vast majority of humanity must control the means of producing wealth – the factories, the land, and the banks – so that economic organization and political power operate for the benefit of the many rather than for the profit of the few.

The pursuit of this vision is a long-term project. The first step, however, must be to continue to work with others to defeat the right-wing in the next two election cycles. The Bush administration has rewarded its wealthy friends while engaging in a relentless assault on the living standards and security of all working people. The "Bush Doctrine" which promotes militarism, pre-emptive war, dismemberment of the Constitution, and virulent racism constitutes an extraordinary threat to a peaceful and just world. The program below should guide our work over the coming period.

A PROGRAM

Defense and Advancement of the Rights of Working People Worldwide

The growing gap between stagnating wages and exploding profits is the scandal of our time. Rising productivity has generated record corporate profits while the living standards of working people recede under relentless corporate attack.

Corporate globalization renders the interests of working people everywhere inseparable and indivisible. International labor solidarity requires struggle against the super-exploitation of people of color, workers in the Global South, women, and young workers.

An *Agenda for Peace & Justice* requires on a worldwide basis:

- An end to all trade agreements that violate national sovereignty and impede the right of nations to regulate their economies in the interests of their workers;
- The adoption of government policies that protect existing jobs and promote the creation of new ones everywhere;
- The right to join unions, the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike -- all undermined by an openly anti-labor administration -- must be fully restored;
- Laws guaranteeing the right of all immigrants to full citizenship and equality, opposing any form of guest worker program or sanctions on employers for hiring undocumented workers;
- Dramatic improvements in wages, benefits, and working conditions;
- The elimination of tax cuts for the rich, such as the Bush tax cuts in the United States, and the enactment of progressive tax policies that do not unfairly burden working people.

Abolition of the Militarist State and a Foreign Policy Based on Intervention and War

The Bush Administration has established a militarist state to pursue unchallenged supremacy and global empire. It promotes the most insidious corporate welfare, driven by military expenditures for arms races, new high-tech weapons on earth and in space, and further research and development of useless war-making products.

Military spending replaces critical allocations of resources for housing, education, health care, job creation, and other crucial government functions. The militarist state requires obedience at home and the use of force abroad to justify itself. This requires repression of civil liberties, the celebration of violence, and support for deadly military adventures. An *Agenda for Peace & Justice* requires:

- An immediate fifty percent cut in military expenditures. Cuts must not be made to facilitate military "streamlining" aimed at producing new and more mobile lethal weapons of mass destruction tailored for pre-emptive strike warfare. Instead cuts should be combined with the establishment of economic conversion programs, to retrain workers from military industries, reallocate resources into revitalizing the economic infrastructure of the country, and to establish expanded health care and education programs for the people;
- The renunciation of pre-emptive war and full commitment to international cooperation, the participation in international organizations, and the creation of mechanisms of conflict resolution;
- Effective actions to oppose and foil acts of terrorism and in defense of the safety and security of the people of our country and all peoples while focusing on the deeper economic and political conditions giving rise to terrorism;
- Disarmament as a long term goal of military policy.