Climate change is not a looming future threat, it is a clear and present danger, and it is already threatening the livelihoods, living conditions, and life chances of historically oppressed peoples and the working class throughout the South. From the inhabitants of the coastal lowlands of the Gulf who are witnessing the sea reclaim the land and watching their livelihoods, lifestyles, and ancestral homelands disappear along with it; to the midland farmers and harvesters of the region who are dealing with the rapid flora and fauna change and steady, but growing disruptions to the harvesting and growing seasons; the South is already feeling the destructive impact of climate change. There are also thousands who are beginning to suffer from infectious diseases, old and new, that are beginning to thrive in the region as a direct result of climate change, and the havoc it creating to the ecology, like the Nile virus and deadly Amoebas.

The South is also one of the global epicenters of the petrochemical-driven extractive economy, which is at the heart of the capitalist-imperialist world system, and the primary cause of climate change. Oil, natural gas, coal, rare earth materials, lumber, and mass monocrop, meat and fishing industries are the bedrocks of our regional economy. The South also bears the brunt of the deadly by-products of the extractive industries in the form of environmental racism and the extremely high prevalence of toxin induced cancers, birth defects, learning disabilities, and respiratory diseases that afflict the region. We have to end the region’s dependence on the extractive economy in a manner that ensures that the workers, families and communities that are dependent on these industries for their livelihoods are not abandoned and disposed of. And, deeper still we have to defend Mother Earth — our survival as a species and the species we depend upon require it. In order defend the Earth and avoid ecological collapse, we have to eliminate the capitalist socio-economic system that is destroying our planet. Eliminating a socio-economic system requires a profound mass movement that changes socio-political systems and alters human behavior, particularly the behaviors that guide our collective choices about who decides what we produce and consume, why we produce and consume it, and why what we produce and consumed is distributed in the unequal and inequitable manner that it is. In effect, we need a mass movement for a Just Transition and we have to build it!

Cooperation Jackson invites the people of Jackson, the state of Mississippi, and the Southern region to join us for the Summer of Our Power People’s Movement Assembly, which is a Climate Justice Alliance and US Social Forum Assembly on Friday, June 26th through Sunday, June 28th, 2015 at the Chokwe Lumumba Center for Economic Democracy and Development located at 939 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 309203.

This Assembly will focus on how to broaden and expand the Southern movement for climate justice and a just transition. Space for this Assembly is limited. Priority will be given to Southern based organizations and individuals and organizations affiliated with the Our Power Campaign, the Climate Justice Alliance, the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, the US Solidarity Economy Network, the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, and the Reinvest Network. Registration is $50. Please register immediately at http://www.cooperationjackson.org/events-calendar/new-products-1/summer-of-our-power-peoples-movement-assembly. Registration opens on Friday, May 8th.

For more information visit www合作社jackson.org or contact Cooperation Jackson at CooperationJackson@gmail.com or 601.208.0090. You can also get updates on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CooperationJackson and via Twitter @CooperationJXN.
What in the World is a Just Transition and What Does It Have to Do With Me?

By Brittany Gray

From May 7th to 9th, I spent three days learning about the International Human Rights Framework (IHRF) and how it can be applied to the domestic human rights abuses that too many people in the U.S. face on a daily basis. I must also begin to view the exploitation, poverty, and brutality that too many residents in cities throughout America, including Jackson, face as violations of our basic human rights and dignity as defined under International Human Rights Law.

Growing up in the rural Mississippi Delta with limited resources, the nourishment of strong family, religious, and social support systems greatly enhanced Brittany's character. Exposure to the injustice in the world along the way. Brittany's values and principles of basic self-preservation were strengthened.

Unapologetically a life-long skeptic, Brittany's life has been beautifully transformed into a daily battle for purpose. She does this by reflecting on what each day has taught her and using it as a way to grow. From her work in Jackson, Mississippi, she has been designated as one of the seven pilot sites around the country.

Brittany advocates for people of all races, genders, ethnicities, and social classes through research and practice. The Climate Justice Alliance’s mission to celebrate and honor the beauty and diversity of life and the rights of people to realize their full potential as creative beings strongly correlates with her personal values.

The Cooperative Way

Viewing Our Problems through a Human Rights Lens

By Brittany Gray

Forces that benefit from the divisiveness and inequality that seem to permeate our every turn here in the Deep South and abroad. Brittany longs to fully press towards the mark of a just society. Although her life has not been one that was devoid of personal loss and tragedy, the desire to see a world in which everyone is valued regardless of pigmentation, worship preference, or sexual orientation, burns deeper. Brittany wholeheartedly believes that our lives are only as rich as the compassion we display and the lives we work to improve. Only when we acknowledge the depth and stagnant nature of our own ignorance will we be able to take steps toward true social change. We have to simply relearn what it means to love and be human and humane

Our Power

By Brittany Gray

“Part of being a revolutionary is creating a vision that is more humane. That is more fun, too. That is more loving. It’s really working to create something beautiful.”

Asstata Shakur

by Brandon King

We’ve been living in a world where our economy demands that we continuously buy things, even things we don’t need as a way of life. This over-consumption and over-production, that is made to benefit only a select few, is the result of a capitalist society to function. For too long, our environment and as a result, has placed us in grave danger. A Just Transition is super necessary because for the past 200+ years, the globalized industrial withdrawal of natural resources, the ever-increasing consumption, and products as well as human beings being seen as disposable has devastated the environment and has taken a toll on the Earth’s life support system. As a result, we’re facing a crisis in having an economic model where our environmental, biological and cultural diversity we need to continue to sustain life—i.e., the bees are dying, a crisis in climate, energy, food, agriculture, and a waste and toxic crisis. More times than not, the impacts of these crises are often felt the most by communities of color, because historical, political, and economic forces have driven these crises. In the United States, it’s mostly been poor, working class, Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and women.

We are speaking of a world in which we live along the way. Brittany’s values and principles of basic self-preservation were strengthened.

Brittany advocates for people of all races, genders, ethnicities, and social classes through research and practice. The Climate Justice Alliance’s mission to celebrate and honor the beauty and diversity of life and the rights of people to realize their full potential as creative beings strongly correlates with her personal values.

Unapologetically a life-long skeptic, Brittany’s life has been beautifully transformed into a daily battle for purpose. She does this by reflecting on what each day has taught her and using it as a way to grow. From her work in Jackson, Mississippi, she has been designated as one of the seven pilot sites around the country. To learn more about the Climate Justice Alliance and ways that you can create a more just society, please visit www.OurPowerCampaign.com or plan to attend the Peoples Movement Assembly for Just Transition on June 26-28th at the Lumumba Center.

Our Power will never be defeated!