

spotlight

2023 Issue 1



Allie Aderonke Ige (left) of Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPP) and Leona Morgan (right) of Diné No Nukes rally the crowd at the climate talks in Egypt and demand leaders reject false solutions. Photo credit: Keltie Vance, Corporate Accountability

Polluters out, people in

How we're advancing the demand for climate justice

"Now is the moment to go all-in in challenging the systems that have allowed Big Polluters to fuel this catastrophe."

HELLEN NEIMA | AFRICA CLIMATE
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Learn more!

Continue reading about the impact you made at COP27 on Page 3.

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Since we started our climate campaign, we've consistently seen Big Polluters and rich, polluting countries thwarting climate justice in the negotiating rooms—while casting themselves as climate heroes in the media.

But this year, things were different. We started seeing those most responsible for the climate crisis more frequently on the defensive—and the voices, needs, and solutions of people most affected increasingly being recognized.

This was the momentum going into the U.N. climate treaty talks that concluded in November. And from the moment our team landed in Egypt to the very last day of the negotiations, we and our allies worked hard to expose the toxic agenda

of Big Polluters, advance climate justice, and, together, achieve critical wins for the movement.

Together, we also pushed the demand for real climate solutions. This led to one of the climate justice movement's most significant victories so far: the establishment of a Loss and Damage fund so that wealthy countries that have fueled the climate crisis may at last pay for the destruction that communities on the front lines of the crisis now face.

Thirty years of organizing by front-line communities led to this win. Together with our allies in the U.S., we helped stop U.S. leaders from derailing progress to establish the fund. This is huge!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

People always have to be at the heart of it

Dear friend,

Not too long ago, I had the opportunity to be in conversation with Aderonke “Ronke” Ige, associate director of Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA). We kept circling back to the ways in which corporate power is fundamentally incompatible with democracy. As Ronke put it: “All our campaigns seem distinct and different, but they are all connected—and at the bottom of it all, there is democracy. If democracy is about human rights—about people—then people always have to be at the heart of it.” And if corporations are pulling the strings, then that is not democracy.

This is the heart of our work. To loosen and sever the tentacles of corporate power, clearing the way for people—and specifically people who are most shut out of current power structures—to be at the center of democracies. Whether we’re challenging corporate capture of international climate policy or supporting local organizing to advance the human right to water, we and our allies are building this people power.

Each moment of progress, each victory is another step toward building a world where people’s needs, visions, and dreams—not corporate profit—are at the center of decision-making.

I often speak with you about how this work is a long game, and Ronke echoed that sentiment when we talked: “It might not be short-term, it might not even be mid-term, but the people will always win.” Even when things seem the most dire, I hold on to this truth. People organizing together across differences is what will change the world.

It’s an honor to do this transformative work in partnership with you.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patti Lynn'.

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

P.S. To read my full interview with Ronke, visit CorporateAccountability.org/FieldNotesRonke

Taking water privatizers to task

How communities across Africa are pushing back against water privatization

Lacking access to clean, safe water can lead to isolating inequities. But this is the tragic reality for millions of people across the world daily—one made worse by corporations like Veolia and Suez attempting to profit from this essential service.

But all across Africa, communities are pushing back against this threat. And under the leadership of the Our Water, Our Right Africa Coalition, they are achieving critical wins to protect the human right to water for everyone.

“Water privatizers make profits at the expense of the people—and we refuse to be exploited any longer.”

UCHENNA NWAGBO | SENIOR WATER ORGANIZER

Last October, this grassroots movement brought together campaigners from eight countries to resist water privatization in Africa under every guise. With coordinated actions across the continent, together we exposed the issue in the media and demanded an end to the push for water privatization.

From coast to coast, the coalition is building power and mobilizing communities across borders to envision a future of water justice. And you are an essential part of making this kind of global campaigning possible—thank you!

Take action!

Demand executives at Veolia and Suez end the push for water privatization in Africa. CorporateAccountability.org/StopWaterPrivatization

Q&A

Member spotlight: Hannah LeBaron

Hannah LeBaron is a reproductive justice advocate and aspiring lawyer.



What led you to support Corporate Accountability?

It all started with my involvement with the Giving Circle, which is a group of young people who meet regularly over the course of several months to learn about corporate campaigning and how to mobilize resources for Corporate Accountability's and our allies' campaigns. I was inducted into this group in early 2021. At the time, I generally knew about the broad themes of Corporate Accountability's different campaigns, but through the Giving Circle, I learnt more about the deep and insidious impacts of corporate abuse and manipulation in different industries and how that affects people everywhere.

What has been the most meaningful part of your involvement with the Giving Circle?

It's fueled my belief in a multi pronged approach to activism. Working directly with affected communities is important, but so many of our movement counterparts also need the financial support to continue organizing, especially at the local levels. Becoming involved with the Giving Circle has led me to think about how I can commit to philanthropy in strategic ways, and it's given me the confidence to connect with other young folks in my position and discuss how we can all make this commitment together.

What does it look like when we win?

One thing I've learned from doing this work is that we'll always be fighting an uphill battle—and we'll always keep going. No matter how many losses we take, we're not going to care any less about what we're fighting for. In fact, we'll care *even more*. And the act of organizing is making our vision for a more equitable world a tangible reality.

So for me, winning is experiencing things we've never had the opportunity to conceptualize before. It's tackling projects together that people have cast aside, taken for granted, or dismissed as unrealistic. It's full of creativity and courage, and joy and openness—and a world where we are all in a position to dream and achieve those dreams with the means and opportunities that are made equal and available to all.

Polluters out, people in

With millions of people, we urge world leaders to kick fossil fuel corporations out of policy-making



The demand to kick Big Polluters out intensified after news broke that more than 600 people with industry ties registered for COP27. Pictured: Aderonke Ige of CAPPA leads activists in song. Photo credit: Artist Network

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The hard-won victories at COP27 show what's possible with a united, global campaign. And with allies from across the globe, we are helping build power toward kicking Big Polluters out in order for real, just solutions to take shape.

In the lead-up to COP27, we organized closely with hundreds of organizations representing millions of people from around the world to advance the call to kick Big Polluters out.

Together, we made sure that this demand was at the forefront of all discussions and activities throughout the two weeks of treaty talks. But it wasn't only activists who brought this demand forward: even

government delegates from the Global South were heard singing, "All we are saying is kick polluters out."

All across the world, people are demanding transformative change and climate justice. And your support is enabling our team to speak truth to power, build deep relationships that are moving mountains, and advance our shared vision of a livable future for all.

Add your voice!

Join the global call to kick Big Polluters out of climate policymaking. CorporateAccountability.org/KickBigPollutersOutNow

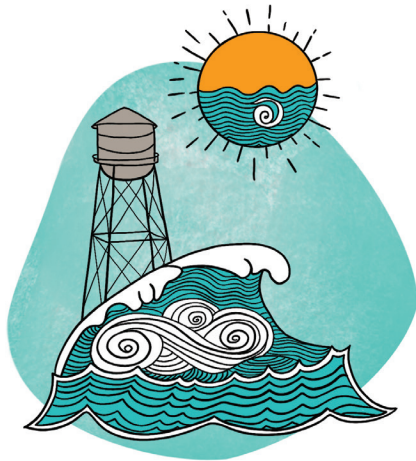
Advancing the human right to utilities

Building a future centered on utility justice for all

“Essential utilities like water are fundamental to life—and we’re working hard to make sure that everyone has the access they need.”

NEIL GUPTA | WATER CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities everywhere faced unprecedented threats to utility access when shut-offs became commonplace. As a member of the Utility Justice Coalition, we worked closely with our allies to secure moratoriums against such measures—but we quickly realized that these temporary, localized fixes weren’t enough.



Profit-driven water privatizers continue to put people at risk. That’s why we and our allies are urging Congress to pass this essential resolution. Image: Paloma Rae

What we really needed was a broad, visionary framework for utility justice that recognized that public services such as water and electricity are essential human rights. Together, the coalition laid the groundwork for a bold and transformative congressional resolution that will set the national standard for utility justice policies.

We and our partners worked closely with Representatives Cori Bush, Jamaal Bowman, and Rashida Tlaib to develop this framework. And last September, they introduced the resolution in Congress to recognize the universal human right to utilities. The resolution affirms that utilities should be held under public control and prevents predatory, punitive measures like utility shut-offs and tax foreclosures.

Utility shut-offs have long threatened public health, putting lives in jeopardy when people can’t afford running water or basic heating and cooling. But with more than 200 organizations endorsing this resolution and our congressional champions pushing it forward, we’re working hard to ensure that no one in the United States will have to live in fear of having their access to essential utilities taken away ever again.

With your support, we and our allies are advancing progressive policies that take power away from corporations and put it back in the hands of people, where it belongs.

Add your voice!

Urge Congress to recognize the Human Right to Utilities today.
CorporateAccountability.org/HumanRightToUtilities

Make a monthly gift

Sustain this work to protect human rights, people’s lives, and the planet.

Contact Adjwoa Addae, senior membership manager, at info@CorporateAccountability.org or 617.695.2525.

Visit our website at CorporateAccountability.org/MonthlyGift

Send in the enclosed envelope.

Why monthly giving?

Your gift works faster and more efficiently to make a bigger impact. You receive insider campaign updates to keep up to date on the influential role you have in creating a more just and equitable world. It’s easy to participate, and you help save resources and expenses.

Thank you for your partnership!



“Through my labor union membership, I’ve enjoyed many benefits that I wish more people could have in their lives—benefits that corporations are actively taking away from the vast majority of people. Having an organization that challenges the toxicity of modern corporations is vital. This is why I’m a proud member of Corporate Accountability.”

RICH DINEEN | CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY MEMBER



CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

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