

spotlight

2019 Issue 1



People from around the world made the call for climate justice undeniable during a sit-in on the last day of December's climate treaty talks in Poland.

You power forward global movement to kick Big Polluters out

Big Polluters come face-to-face with People's Demands at global climate talks

"With our climate justice allies, we're challenging Big Polluters and forging a path for real solutions."

GIGI KELLETT | DEPUTY DIRECTOR: CAMPAIGNS AND OPERATIONS

Take action!

Help power our climate campaign into its next phase.

Donate here:

CorporateAccountability.org/DonateToday

Things came to a head in a whole new way at this year's U.N. climate treaty negotiations in Poland. Big Polluters were forced to reckon with a powerful movement they did not expect: the more than a quarter of a million people like you and more than 350 organizations from 129 countries who backed the People's Demands for Climate Justice.

The People's Demands, a global roadmap for climate progress led by communities most affected by climate change, include keeping fossil fuels in the ground and kicking Big Polluters out. And they were front and center at the talks: from an indigenous and frontline community-led action to shut down

the U.S. government's coal sideshow, to a massive sit-in on the last day, to hard-hitting media coverage in CNN, The Nation, and outlets around the world.

Make no mistake: The meetings failed to deliver the bold guidelines for climate justice the world urgently requires. But the global climate justice movement is cracking the corporate stranglehold over the treaty.

With you by our side, that movement is more united than ever. We'll look back at the climate talks as a tipping point for climate justice. Read more about what you helped make happen at the climate talks, and what's next, here: CorporateAccountability.org/KeepGoingBig

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The transformative power of optimism

Dear friend,

Optimism. It's a trait that many Corporate Accountability members like you have in common.

I don't mean a false optimism that ignores reality and hopes everything will work out. I mean an optimism that's rooted in the ability to imagine the world as it could be: a world freed from the grasp of corporate power; a society based on justice, democracy, and equity.

I'm sure you've gotten a call or text from a staff person or volunteer, clicked on an email from a campaign director, or opened a piece of mail from me. And when you did, we asked you to take action. Sign a petition to kick Big Polluters out of climate policymaking. Make a phone call to Veolia headquarters. Give a financial gift that's maybe bigger than what you thought you would make.

It's what we do. We ask our members to stretch with us. And so many of you say yes.

Yes, we can stop water privatization. Yes, we can free climate policy from Big Polluters' stranglehold. Yes, we can power this work together by pooling our resources.

You say yes because you can see beyond the limits of what those who run transnational corporations want you to see. Beyond the scarcity mentality, beyond the idea that we are first and foremost consumers, beyond false solutions rooted in systems that have resulted in vast economic inequalities and perpetuated structural racism.

Together, we're exposing and challenging the forces that sustain corporate power—so that we can begin to clear the way for the future we imagine together.

I feel honored every day to do this work alongside each of you. Thank you for your optimism and for your transformative imagination.



Onward,

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

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

A single sentence; a decade of transformation

**You rein in corporate power
through Article 5.3**



Associate Campaign Director Michél Legendre speaks at the global tobacco treaty talks in October, where countries took precedent-setting steps forward to kick Big Tobacco out of public health policy.

“We’re setting lifesaving precedents that protect people from corporate abuse.”

MICHÉL LEGENDRE | ASSOCIATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Ten years ago, a small but mighty group of organizers and governments won a big victory: establishing guidelines for Article 5.3, a crucial section of the global tobacco treaty.

Article 5.3's hard-fought guidelines lay out precedent-setting measures to protect policy from Big Tobacco's interference. It's regarded as the backbone of this U.N. treaty, which is credited with already saving millions of lives.

Ten years on, you're expanding its impact. At the latest tobacco treaty meetings, supported by people like you, we kicked Big Tobacco out of the talks entirely. Now, we're harnessing this precedent to take on other industries that devastate people's lives—like Big Polluters at the global climate treaty talks, and the draft treaty on corporate abuse and human rights.

Read more on how you're advancing the lifesaving potential of Article 5.3 globally: CorporateAccountability.org/ArticleFivePointThree

Q&A

Member spotlight: Catherine Jampel

Catherine Jampel is a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Geography, Clark University



What motivates you to be involved with Corporate Accountability?

I remember in 2015, the year I turned 30, climate scientists reported that people younger than 30 had never experienced a single month of below-average global temperatures. That was very chilling:

What was I to do now, and for the next 30 years? You helped me understand how “little me” could face big, powerful corporations—in community with thousands of other people. In general, I’m motivated by the Jewish values of tikkun olam—“repairing the world”—and by your systems-level analysis and transnational approach to addressing economic injustice.

What feels most urgent or important to you about our work right now?

Has Corporate Accountability’s work ever not been urgent? It’s perpetually important: The underlying profit motive of corporations means exploitative practices are baked into their structure.

Your campaigns are vital precisely because they directly address exploitation, or how corporations make a profit from privatizing public goods such as clean water.

Which of our campaigns resonates with you the most?

I can’t say a “most”—they’re all important! I appreciate how Corporate Accountability uses the collective expertise of its community from fighting Big Tobacco to take on the fossil fuel industry. I’m heartened to be part of an organization that has been fighting corporate abuse for 40 years, and is continuing to build its power into the next 40 years.

Victory! National teachers union takes historic stand to reject McTeacher’s Nights

You support the growing movement to stop McDonald’s exploitation across U.S.

“More than 1 million educators are protecting kids’ health—and healing our broken food system.”

JULIA GABBERT | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF MAJOR GIFTS



Cecily Myart-Cruz, United Teachers Los Angeles/NEA Vice President, and Senior Campaign Organizer Alexa Kaczmarek march at the American Federation of Teachers annual meeting.

The movement you’ve helped build challenging McDonald’s predatory marketing to kids has racked up victory after victory over the last two years. With the support of thousands of people like you, the Los Angeles Unified School District passed a policy ending McTeacher’s Nights. Since then, statewide teachers unions followed suit: first California, then Michigan.

On February 7, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) just took another huge leap forward for the movement to protect kids’ health and challenge corporate control of our food system.

AFT’s Executive Council passed a resolution directing teachers to reject junk food fundraisers in schools,

including McTeacher’s Nights. It’s the first national-level teachers union to do so—representing more than 1.7 million educators nationwide.

Wins like this put enormous pressure on McDonald’s to change its predatory marketing tactics like McTeacher’s Nights, which exploit teachers’ free labor to sell junk food to kids. These tactics are at the core of a business model that, for decades, has driven an epidemic of diet-related disease and the breakdown of our food system.

Together, we’re winning. Keep up the momentum—download our toolkit to end McTeacher’s Nights: www.CorporateAccountability.org/EndMcTeachersNightToolkit

Building toward water justice around the world

You power a groundbreaking movement for the human right to water in Nigeria and beyond



Vickie Uremma, chairperson of AWWASHNET, a network of women advancing the human right to water across Africa, speaks about the power of the Our Water, Our Right campaign at the National Water Summit in Abuja, Nigeria.

This January, we partnered with Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA) to host an international water justice summit in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, to chart a path forward for victory in Lagos and power a global campaign advancing the human right to water.

For decades, water corporations have seen dollar signs in Lagos: Privatization in Africa's largest city could open the floodgates to privatizing water across the continent. With you by our side, our joint campaign has won victory after victory stopping water privatizers in Lagos.

Now, we've reached a tipping point in the campaign. We gathered more than 150 water justice campaigners, policy experts, allied organizations, grassroots activists, and government officials from all over the world to harness our momentum. Together, we made connections between powerful water justice campaigns from Lagos,

Nigeria to Flint, Michigan to Nagpur, India; shared expertise; and developed strategic plans not only for stopping water privatization in Lagos, but also for expanding our successful campaign throughout Nigeria and beyond.

"We are sending a message to the world: Water is not to be privatized."

SHAYDA NAFICY | SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The summit was a launchpad. From here, we'll continue partnering with ERA, the other summit attendees, and members like you to demand water as a human right, not a commodity for profit—and win big.

Read more about the women leaders powering forward the campaign for the human right to water in Lagos: CorporateAccountability.org/AWWASHNET

Make a monthly gift

Sustain this work to protect human rights, public health, and the environment.

- 1 Contact** Marilyn Willmoth, Senior Membership Manager, at 617.695.2525.
- 2 Visit** our website at CorporateAccountability.org/Get-Involved/Give-Monthly
- 3 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!



"I believe that everyone deserves fresh drinking water. I believe that everyone deserves a planet unaffected by climate change. And I believe in equity. Corporate Accountability stands for those beliefs. That's the reason I donate monthly."

EVAN GLASSER | VOLUNTEER AND MONTHLY PLEDGER



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