

Advancing the human right to water



Effective partnerships are at the heart of our water campaign. Here, Veronica Nwanya, an organizer with our longtime ally Environmental Rights Action, leads a women's march for water justice in Lagos, Nigeria, as part of our joint campaign for a strong, public water system in the city. Credit: Environmental Rights Action

Water for all, not water for profit

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO WATER

Water belongs to us all, and everyone should have access to clean, safe water. Corporations shouldn't control and profit from water at the expense of people's lives or well-being.

Our water campaign challenges transnational corporations like Nestlé and Veolia that are driving and deepening the global water crisis. We organize to prevent the privatization and commodification of our most precious resource. And we demand our water remain in public hands and accessible to all people.

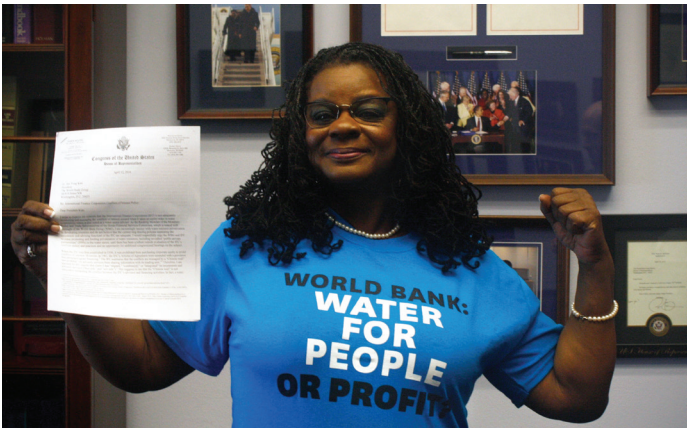
FACING A CORPORATE-DRIVEN WATER CRISIS

Today, one in four people doesn't have enough safe, clean water to drink, cook, and bathe with, and every 15 seconds, a child dies for lack of access to clean water and sanitation.

The private water industry seeks to profit from this global water crisis. Corporations like Veolia and Nestlé see this as their opportunity to take control of public water, whether through outright privatization of water systems, so-called "public-private partnerships," or water extraction and bottling. But when corporations control water, they prioritize profits over universal access. The results are rate hikes, water shut-offs, labor abuses, infrastructure neglect, and shortcuts that put people's health and lives at risk.

Here in the U.S., communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by water shut-offs, unaffordable rates, and contaminated water, due to the intertwined histories of structural racism and income inequality. The private water industry is targeting communities with false promises of investment and efficiency. But these corporations are simply jockeying to bolster their profits by squeezing money from residents.

Meanwhile, communities across the Global South face losing control over their water as the World Bank—



U.S. Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI) is a key ally on the campaign. Following one of her meetings with us, she posed with her public letter calling on the World Bank to stop funding and promoting water privatization, pending an independent review and Congressional hearings on potential conflicts of interest.

an investor in private water corporations—pushes governments to privatize their water systems.

PUBLIC WATER WORKS!

The good news is, public water works, and universal access to safe water is achievable. Historically, public water systems have been fundamental in ensuring water access. Democratic processes and adequate funding for public systems can ensure water access for all people—not just those who make profitable customers for corporations. In fact, every person in the world could have access to clean, safe water and adequate sanitation by 2025 for an additional annual investment of about \$90 billion—or about one-twentieth of global annual military spending.

That's why people are mobilizing to defend their human right to water. As a lead player in the powerful movement for water justice, Corporate Accountability organizes with communities from Flint, Michigan to Lagos, Nigeria to keep water systems public.

SECURING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Corporate Accountability, together with our members, philanthropic partners, and allies, is a formidable force in the global water justice movement. We have a 40-year history of forcing some of the most powerful

transnational corporations to stop abusive practices—bringing about transformative change.

Our water campaign has successfully exposed, challenged, and countered the private water industry for over a decade, reducing its ability to run roughshod over the human right to water. In partnership with hundreds of thousands of people who are taking action on this campaign, we are shifting the public conversation on water privatization, changing the landscape in which private water corporations and their backers can operate. We organize with communities to prevent the privatization of their water resources. We help advance policies for sufficient funding and democratic control of water systems. And we build the public climate to reject water privatization, including water bottling. Our victories include moving the World Bank to divest from Veolia; moving cities, institutions, and national parks to go bottled water free; and partnering with local organizations to stop water privatization contracts in cities like St. Louis, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland.

Corporate Accountability

Corporate Accountability stops transnational corporations from devastating democracy, trampling human rights, and destroying our planet.

We are building a world rooted in justice where corporations answer to people, not the other way around—a world where every person has access to clean water, healthy food, a safe place to live, and the opportunity to meet their full human potential.

JOIN THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

You can be part of advancing the human right to water. For more information on how you can get involved, including how to power this work through your financial support, visit CorporateAccountability.org.