

Advancing

water

justice



Corporate Accountability's water campaign advances the human right to water by preventing corporations from privatizing and extracting water around the world. Pictured: Corporate Accountability organizers Akili and Alissa Weinman.

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO WATER

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

CORPORATE CAPTURE OF CLIMATE POLICY

Today, one in four people don't have enough safe, clean water to drink, cook, clean, and bathe with. Every 15 seconds, a child dies from water-related diseases. And the private water industry seeks to profit from this global water crisis. Globally, it often is backed by the World Bank.

In particular, the industry exploits and exacerbates structural racism, income inequality, and legacies of colonialism. As a result, communities of color, low-income communities, and communities in the Global South are disproportionately impacted by the harmful effects of water privatization, which include:

- Water shutoffs.
- Unaffordable rates.
- Cost-cutting schemes that puts people's health and lives at risk.
- Labor abuses.

- Failure to invest in infrastructure in areas corporations deem "unprofitable," leaving low-income neighborhoods without water service.

Our 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.

Although not always thought of this way, the water industry is an extractive one. Bottled water corporations extract water for profit, turning a common good into a commodity. Water privatizing corporations extract profits from communities through outright privatization of water systems and so-called "public-private partnerships."

WATER FOR ALL, NOT FOR PROFIT

Universal, public access to safe water is achievable. Historically, public water systems have been fundamental in ensuring water access at rates people can afford. The fact is, there is enough water to meet the basic needs of everyone on the planet.

The real scarcity is the lack of political will to ensure democratically controlled, publicly accountable, and publicly funded systems.

But we can turn this around. Corporate Accountability's water campaign, in partnership with allies around the world, is:

- **Putting direct pressure on corporations.** Our campaign is definitively changing the landscape in which private water corporations and their backers can operate. Because of all the ways we've exposed and countered their tactics and abuses, these corporations are continually forced to adjust their PR, their "products," and their tactics. Recently, we even forced the world's largest water privatizer, Veolia, to abandon a key privatization scheme that it had set its revenue hopes on.
- **Shifting the public climate.** Over the past two decades, we helped change the conversation about bottled water. And today, we are shifting the narrative on water privatization. We are making water privatization a politically toxic issue by exposing its disastrous track record, and advancing innovative public solutions.
- **Building political and grassroots power.** We organize with communities to prevent the privatization of their water. We and our allies have stopped privatization contracts in Providence, Rhode Island; Baltimore, Maryland; and Lagos, Nigeria. We've partnered with local organizations in Flint, Michigan to demand accountability for the role Veolia played in the water crisis there. And we've mobilized hundreds of thousands of people to move cities, institutions, and national parks to go bottled water free.
- **Advancing international policy.** We help advance policies for sufficient funding and democratic control of water systems. For example, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we and our allies ensured the passage of a binding agreement to keep the city's water public. And, we moved the World Bank

to divest from Veolia. We also work with members of Congress to keep pressure on the World Bank and its support of water privatization.

CORPORATE CAMPAIGNING TO ADVANCE WATER JUSTICE

There are many ways to approach the water crisis. Here's what sets us apart:

- We campaign with a global perspective, informed by decades of organizing with allies from the Global South, and shaped by their leadership.
- We have more than 40 years of experience in challenging transnational corporations—and winning.
- We organize for transformative, systemic change: It's not about charity or digging one well at a time—it's about advancing water justice through people-power and policy.

"Corporate Accountability has been in solidarity with the people of Flint in challenging public officials and Veolia for putting profit over the lives of Flint residents. It's so good to have Corporate Accountability as a partner in our ongoing fight for water justice."

—Nayyirah Shariff, Director, Flint Rising



JOIN THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

We are a force to be reckoned with. And with you by our side, we grow stronger still. Together, we play a vital role in the movement that's creating a world where everyone has access to clean water.

For more information on how you can get involved, including how to power this work through your financial support, visit CorporateAccountability.org.