

spotlight

2025 Issue 1



Despite the deep injustices at this year's U.N. climate treaty negotiations, we remain deeply committed to the collective fight for climate justice. Photo credit: Bianca Csenki, Artist Network

Countering Big Polluters' influence at the U.N.

We expose the industry's dangerous distractions in Baku

"We will not be silent while government inaction and corporate impunity continues to jeopardize people and the planet."

RACHEL ROSE JACKSON | DIRECTOR
OF CLIMATE RESEARCH AND POLICY

Learn more!

Check out the outcomes of the climate talks on our blog: CorporateAccountability.org/COP29Recap

Support this work:

CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight

As organizers, we often ask ourselves, "What will happen if we don't show up?"

The striking scenes that unfolded in Baku, Azerbaijan, last November provided a clear answer: Without us, corporations will continue harming people and the planet, with no accountability. And it's why we and our allies in the Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO) coalition continue to organize around the U.N. climate talks, which Big Polluters are doing everything they can to invalidate and undermine.

This year, the coalition's research shed light on a troubling reality: Nearly 1,800 fossil fuel lobbyists secured their way into the negotiations.

So, in a powerful display of resistance, we mobilized. Together, we orchestrated one of the conference's most memorable

moments: a protest featuring a giant puppet snake weaving through the crowds at COP29, symbolizing Big Polluters' toxic presence at these talks.

This visual, coupled with our research, was covered by the media from across six continents and over 92 languages, capturing global attention and reaching billions of people worldwide. It also underscored KBPO's demand that Big Polluters have absolutely no place in shaping climate policy.

COP29 fell drastically short of delivering bold climate action. But we'll continue to show up, year after year, and make sure that corporate interests cannot dominate these talks unopposed—all until we secure the real solutions we need to justly address the climate crisis.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Collaborating with you to create transformative change in these times

Dear friend,

It's such a pleasure to write to you, dear members of Corporate Accountability's community. I've been in this role for a few months, and I'm thrilled to be partnering with you to hold abusive corporations accountable.

We are at a crucial global moment, one defined by rising inequities, environmental crises, and escalating threats to democracy. While these challenges are significant, they also present opportunities to deepen solidarity, reimagine systems of power, and push for systemic change with courage and clarity.

I'm galvanized by the deep commitment to justice and a profound sense of purpose, collaboration, and resilience that the Corporate Accountability community radiates. I'm inspired by your unwavering dedication to equity and justice, and the boldness with which you challenge systemic abuses. Every person I've met brings passion, insight, and a shared determination to challenge corporate power and create transformative change. This is a community that doesn't just dream of a better world—we actively work to shape it.

As I look to the future, I am most excited about building on Corporate Accountability's remarkable legacy of challenging corporate abuse and amplifying frontline movements. My vision is to strengthen partnerships with Global South communities and elevate the leadership, voices, and experiences of those on the ground. I hope to nurture Corporate Accountability's role as a leader and collaborator—linking movements, fostering solidarity, and driving collective action for meaningful change.

Together we can challenge corporate abuse and create a future where people and the planet are prioritized over profit. It's a privilege to step into this role at such a pivotal time, and I look forward to building on the incredible work that's already been done.



Onward,

A blue ink signature of Ari Belathar.

Ari Belathar
Executive Director

Learn more about Ari's experience challenging corporate abuse on our blog: CorporateAccountability.org/NewExecutiveDirector

Understanding the school-to-prison pipeline

How corporations are using schools to criminalize Black and Brown youth

"We continue to expose, name, and shame the corporations that are profiting from anti-Black racism and systemic inequalities."

ANN-MICHELLE ROBERTS | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND MAJOR GIFTS; BLACK COLLECTIVE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In a just world, schools are a place where all children can learn in a safe environment and feel a sense of belonging. Yet even this space isn't free from corporate profiteering.

Many of the same corporations that once profited from slavery are now deeply entrenched in the U.S. public education system, playing a direct role in pushing students—particularly Black and Brown youth—into the criminal legal system.

Wells Fargo, for example, has a long history of profiting from anti-Black racism, from its direct ties to slavery to its financial investments in private prisons that fuel mass incarceration. These systemic injustices are not accidental, but the result of deliberate decisions that prioritize profit over Black futures.

The school-to-prison pipeline is an issue that sits at the intersection of two of Corporate Accountability's Black Collective campaigns: education and police violence. And through a three-part docuseries, the Black Collective is revealing the hard truths about this system.

Tune in!

Watch the first part of the school-to-prison pipeline docuseries now: CorporateAccountability.org/SchoolToPrisonPipeline

Q&A

Member spotlight: Tina-Rose Calafiore

Tina-Rose is a mutual aid and food justice community organizer in New Orleans



What is your role in the social justice movement?

In a world where a lot of people get stuck in thinking about what to do and how to do it, my strength is always going for it and taking action.

You started a mutual aid group in your community. Tell us about that.

Mutual Aid Monday is a grassroots group that serves meals to people who are living on the streets of New Orleans. I started cooking a pot of red beans and rice, a typical local dish, and bringing it to the people in the area. Now we serve more than 100 people a week and are supported by 30 volunteers.

What concerns you most about the role that corporate power plays in our world?

Corporate power is a huge evil in our society. Corporations get us to buy, buy, buy, throw in the garbage, and buy again, at the expense of our planet. That's why Corporate Accountability's campaigns are so important. We need organizations that refuse to be complacent in the face of corporate power.

What advice do you have for people who want to get involved in making change in their communities?

I encourage everyone to start in a way

that works for them. For example, mutual aid can be simple and affordable. The first time I did it, I served more than 50 people with a \$25 budget and very limited supplies. Remember: Even the little things make a huge impact. Just take that first step and do it.

Read more!

Learn more about Tina-Rose and get inspired to make an impact in your own community:
CorporateAccountability.org/TinaRose

Stepping into our power together

Collective action to resist Trump's corporate-backed agenda

"Our commitment, unity, and joy is crucial to countering the divisive rhetoric and policies to come."

MED DIAGNE | MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZER

Corporate Accountability's work has always been guided by the belief that a better world where basic resources aren't commodified by corporations, and where everyone can live and thrive freely, is possible.

At the same time, we are also deeply concerned about the second Trump administration—one that is even more corporatist than before. But instead of giving in to our fears, we're leaning on our community to stay focused on our mission.

So in January, we launched the People Over Profit Corps, or the POP Corps, a network of Corporate Accountability members who are deepening their commitment to challenging corporate abuse. Through monthly meetings, we are working with members like you to cultivate your campaigning skills, sharpen your corporate analysis, and identify opportunities you can participate in or lead.

Together, we are building people power to keep challenging corporate capture

in the U.S., act in international solidarity with frontline allies, and mobilize our networks into taking action. We are ready to meet the challenges of the next four years—and to keep going until we fully loosen the grip that corporations have on our lives. And we hope you join us, too!

Get involved!

Challenge the corporate-backed Trump administration:
CorporateAccountability.org/PeopleOverProfitCorps



Prioritizing people over profits

Community activists mobilize to demand water justice in Africa

"The global water justice movement is making it clear to private water corporations that our basic rights and resources are not a means for corporate profit."

NISMA GABOBE | SENIOR RESEARCHER



Water privatization is a glaring example of how corporations threaten the fundamental needs of communities—all in the name of profit. Photo credit: Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa

This past fall, Corporate Accountability joined other water justice activists to virtually kick off the fourth annual Africa Week of Action Against Water Privatization.

From Seattle to Lagos, we gathered to confront an industry that works to commodify a resource as precious, and as basic, as water. Nothing could have deterred us from being in solidarity with the Our Water Our Right Africa Coalition (OWORAC). Not even the 1 a.m. start time.

2024 was a particularly notable year in Africa, due to rising public resistance against corporate greed on the continent. This sentiment provided a powerful backdrop to the Week of Action, during which local communities mobilized to uplift the demand for equitable access to water, free from corporate control.

Through a mix of virtual and in-person actions, the OWORAC engaged with people of all ages and backgrounds to grow the global movement against water privatization and protect the human right to water.

Through local community parliaments, our Nigerian allies highlighted water accessibility in Lagos, successfully prompting local officials to address this issue within the next six months. Similarly, Senegalese activists are organizing to expose the abuses of water privatizers and build power around reclaiming public control of this essential service. And, elsewhere on the continent, coalition partners continue to expose illegal mining activities that are poisoning local waterways and polluting the environment.

Corporate greed impacts our ability to access the resources that we need to survive. But together, we can stop corporations from profiting off our need for safe, clean water. Thank you for all you make possible!

Read more!

Read more for a full picture of what happened during the Week of Action: CorporateAccountability.org/AfricaWeekOfAction

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

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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 a donation 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 strategic corporate campaigning and relationship-based organizing, Corporate Accountability is creating real change in the world. Together, we're fundamentally shifting power—and that gives me hope."

SARAH HODGDON | MONTHLY DONOR, FORMER BOARD MEMBER



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