

!!Calling Women of Color/Women's Rights/Grassroots Feminist Groups!!

Seeking Participants for Planning Committee for Women's Organizing Retreat for United States Social Forum 2010

What is the United States Social Forum (USSF)?

The US Social Forum 2010 will take place in Detroit, Michigan from June 22nd to 26th. The US Social Forum is more than a conference, more than a networking bonanza, more than a reaction to war and repression. The USSF will provide space to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, share our analysis of the problems our communities face, and bring renewed insight and inspiration. It will help develop leadership and develop consciousness, vision, and strategy needed to realize another world. The USSF sends a message to other people's movements around the world that there is an active movement in the US opposing US Policies at home and abroad. We must declare what we want our world to look like and begin planning the path to get there. A global movement is rising. The USSF is our opportunity to demonstrate to the world that "Another World is Possible"!

What is the Women's Working Group?

In 2007, the description of the Women's Working Group was as follows: *"Develop a national plan for fundraising, logistics, actions, & outreach to women in U.S. and abroad. Ensure the full participation of women and girls throughout the USSF."*

For 2010, it is up to the collective, to envision who we are and what we are about. That's why ***we need you*** to help plan the retreat, participate in the retreat, and then engage in the working group as we lead up to the USSF 2010 and beyond!

Why Are We Reaching Out?

We need to ensure that the planning group for the women's rights agenda for the US Social Forum 2010 and beyond is representative of the breadth and the depth of the grassroots social justice movement. Therefore we need a diverse swath of representation at the planning table to make sure that our processes are tight, the relationship building is solid, and that the content for the US Social Forum is representative, so that we can be accountable to the various groups that form the grassroots women's rights movement and the communities in which we all reside.

Draft/Proposed Objectives for the Organizing Retreat:

- 1) Establish a set of core values/operating principles for the Women's Working Group of the US Social Forum.
- 2) Develop long-term goals for the women's rights agenda for the US Social Forum process and movement
- 3) Develop short term objectives for the women's rights agenda within the US Social Forum process and movement.
- 4) Develop vision and actions for establishing/strengthening relationships between the US grassroots women's movement and the global women's movement through the US Social Forum, the World Social Forum, the Americas Social Forum, and beyond.
- 5) Determine who should be at the table or involved in the Women's Working Group and objectives for engaging with those groups/individuals/movements.
- 6) Develop a detailed action plan of next steps timeline, and persons/groups responsible for each of the above action areas and objectives.

Other Questions to Consider for the Organizing Retreat:

- I. What is our role in ensuring that the WWG is more than a working group of an event, but is also an integrated, complimentary component of social justice and women's rights movements?
- II. How do we link the USSF/WWG with existing processes, groups, and movements to ensure that we are working in harmony and are being additive, not duplicative, or claiming space without adequate consultation and collaboration?

If you have questions and/or interest in joining the Planning Committee and/or USSF Women's Working Group,

Please Email Jacqui Patterson at coordinator@womenofcolorunited.org ASAP

to join the train before it leaves the station! Otherwise, you are welcome to get on board anytime!