

# KINDLING

SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACING NORTH CAROLINA AND OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY LIE WITHIN OUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND TO BUILD THE LEADERSHIP AND POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE. IN ORDER TO CREATE THE KIND OF FUTURE WE ALL DESERVE, WE MUST UNDERSTAND OUR PAST, DEFEND THE GAINS MADE BY THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US, AND IGNITE AND EMPOWER EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO LEAD EFFORTS TO BUILD A FAIR AND JUST FUTURE. WHEN THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY INJUSTICE ARE THE LEADERS WHO FIND AND IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS, WE WILL CREATE A BETTER WORLD.

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## What is the #CharlotteUprising?



by Jonathan Garris

On Tuesday September 20th in Charlotte, NC, Keith Lamont Scott a father of seven was shot and killed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer Brentley Vinson around 4 pm that day. Reports from CMPD (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department) state that Scott had a gun, but family members said that he was reading a book waiting to pick up one of his children from school. To police just the mere fact of having a book, a set of keys, a loose cigarette, or just existing in space is enough to take a life. Despite the fact that North Carolina is an open carry state, police still viewed Scott as a threat and fired at him, killing him for being a risk to the status quo. The risk:

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anything that is not white, male, and cissexual. Horrified and angered, community members rallied

to support the family in the neighborhood where the shooting took place and decided in a strategic fashion to take their voices, their lives, and their capacity to advocate for “not one more murder” to the streets.

## To those folx, “Black Lives Matter”. Once again it was time to let the world know the truth of this statement.

The #CharlotteUprising voices the pain of our communities. We have been physically suppressed, economically silenced, and our children were suffering due to discriminatory schooling. Our lives have been taken by the police and by those in support of the white supremacist state we live in. This is not new. This takes place in all of our communities that are black, brown, yellow, or working class. The elite profit off our suffering and incarcerating those due to the racist laws, practices, and thoughts of our police officers in the name of “protection”. This is population control in our communities that are not up to the standards of the rich white elite. The Charlotte Uprising brought these issues to light as we are tired of having to live in this classist and racist state. Keith Lamont Scott will never be forgotten. He is in our heart as well as Justin Carr. Their unfortunate deaths are with us as we operate our daily lives and protest this unjust world we live in. In the words of the late great Chairman Fred Hampton “You can kill a revolutionary but you can’t kill the revolution!”

#KeithLamontScott #BlackLivesMatter #CharlotteUprising  
#NoJusticeNoPeace #NoRacistPolice

## Showing Up For the Incarcerated

by James Theophilos

On September 9th 2016, the United States had its first ever national prison labor strike. The strike, which started in Alabama, radiated to 24 different states with an estimation of 200,000 prisoners participating and over 40 solidarity actions all across the world. The launching date September 9th was chosen as a homage to the most iconic and famous prison



uprising in modern US history that also happened on that same day; the rebellion of New York's Attica prison of 1971.

It's been almost month since the prison strike began and people on the inside and outside have still been fervently taking action. This hunger strike is astonishing in that it shows disempowered people, leading powerful unifying rebellions both inside their own prisons and with facilities thousands of miles away from them as well. This strike could be seen as some form of a phenomenon, that folks behind walls could start something this large and widespread.

## **Yet despite its power, most of the american population has no idea.**

With the prison industrial complex being one of the most corrupt, oppressive, and violently classist and racist spaces in our country, prison strikes are important. They empower individuals whom, since entering incarceration, have been stripped away from their humanity and autonomy. It breaks down state sponsored racial and gang segregation, creating new sense of solidarity and mutual aide. It is both a literal and symbolic disruption that is actively helping reform violent conditions by highlighting slave labor and abuse inside prisons.

Due to the lack of coverage and acknowledgement by the media, it is even more imperative for us to speak up and elevate the message of folks on the inside. North Carolina has been showing up in many ways, including western North Carolina community members, with presence by IgniteNC, who protested outside the buncombe county jail, did a banner drop at the Spruce Pine correctional facility on September 9th.

## **Action at Capital Against HB2 and HB972**

*by Morgan Howard*

On September 17, 2016 a group from Eastern Carolina

University, Relentlessly Ending Social Justice by Solidarity, organized at protest at the Capitol grounds in Raleigh against HB2 and HB972. There were about thirty people at the protest, mainly students from ECU, along with students from UNC, organizers from

Ignite NC, and some people walking by that joined in the protest.

RESIST ECU President and Ignite NC Fellow, Amber Sturdivant, began the protest by explaining the bills in protest and the negative effects they had on the citizens of North

Carolina. HB2, often referred to as the bathroom bill, is much more than bathrooms. HB2 also makes discrimination against the LGBTQ

community legal in the workplace and affects minimum wages. HB972 is a bill that went into effect October 1 that makes it so police officers do not have to make body camera or dashboard camera footage available to the public. After Amber spoke, other protestors spoke and shared their personal perspectives of how these bills affected them and those around them.

About thirty minutes into the protest, two police

officers came out and asked to talk to the people in charge and asked to see permits. Permits had already been approved to use the space but apparently the permit did not cover for amplified sound and we had to stop using the bullhorn that was brought. It

took about fifteen minutes to get that settled and then the officers left. Shortly after they sent another officer to just stand there and watch us.



We spent the majority of the protest chanting and

making our presence known. We encouraged those walking by to join us and let them know we had voter registration available. We received a lot of support: clapping and thank yous. We also noticed that people would go out of their way to thank the police officers watching our peaceful, legal protest.

## Residents Rally Against Pipeline

by Rachel Hester

On September 15th, 2016, Greensboro students and community members met outside of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum to demonstrate solidarity with the Sioux nation in Standing Rock, North Dakota. The Sioux people, along with many other Nations and supporters, have been resisting the construction of an oil pipeline that will stretch across North Dakota over sacred, historical lands. Several groups of individuals assembled that Thursday on South Elm Street to show support and raise awareness, some coming from out of town and others as close by as UNC-Greensboro's campus. Groups represented among them were families of local indigenous peoples, Greensboro Socialists and Defund Racism, a student group at the UNC-Greensboro who hosted a solidarity event for Standing Rock during the previous week.



Individuals were invited to speak, some drawing connections between the struggles for clean water near and afar, from the Duke Energy coal ash disaster in North Carolina, to the looming construction of the Atlantic Pipeline threatening to stretch from West Virginia to North Carolina over the lands of the Haliwa-Saponi and Lumbee Nations. The ongoing fight against undrinkable water in

Flint, Michigan was honored, too, as space was carved out to remember that these issues of environmental racism and injustice are shared struggles, despite the different forms they take. After several speeches, demonstrators took to the streets, marching chants such as "Water is Life" and "Another World is Possible".

## Recap of the IgniteNC Retreat

by Luis Rumbaut



In the middle of the summer of 2016, two Black men were shot within the range of a day, teacher protests were occurring in Southern Mexico. I was done sitting in the sidelines of these events feeling

helpless, I needed action. So I opened my ears to what was going on in the city around me in response to these happenings. I attended two community circles, a rally for Black lives in NoDa, and a workshop for Black Lives Matter. It was there that I heard about the state-wide organizer group IgniteNC and decided to apply for their communications fellowship.

I Did not know how I would be challenged when I looked at Ignite's three main focuses for the Fall; which were centered around Taking down the HB2 Law, Stopping the closing of HBCU'S, and Voter Protection. I hoped that this organization would not be similar to the activism that seems to plague our current times. Activism which looks for change within a broken system, activism willing to lessen its goals in exchange for compromise, activism

wherein the leadership of organization is intent on moving up the social ladder rather than working towards building a new world with the community they claim to be helping.

I can tell you now that IgniteNC is not that type of organization. Not only was their retreat the first time I've seen an activist space occupied by – as well as ran by – primarily people of color, and queer people of color. But it was also a space where we could openly discuss the relation of past radical movements to the present; where people were truly open to share about themselves and their trials; and a space that sought to truly create a new world out of youthful energy instead of maintaining the status-quo.

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