Upcoming Events and More November 22, 2019

The New York State Council of Churches is preparing for the 2020 legislative session with our many secular and religious partners. One of the Council’s highest priorities will be to focus on a much more just state budget which meets the needs of lower- and middle-class renters and homeowners by reducing property tax burdens and expanding services which have long been neglected in state budgets. Part of the reason for the neglect comes from our law maker’s reluctance to generate revenue from the very wealthiest New Yorkers who often pay less taxes as a proportion of their income than lower- and middle-class people. We need tax justice in New York to get back to a truly progressive tax system. In addition, we continue to see effective cuts or flat lined spending on needed services including housing, education, health care, child care, county public works projects, legal services and so much more because of an arbitrary 2% spending cap which must finally be lifted when combined with tax increases at the very top.

For a thorough analysis as we prepare for legislation around the state budget, we invite you to "Tax Justice NY: Moving from Austerity to Prosperity" in Albany on Monday, December 9th, from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm in Meeting Room 5, Empire State Plaza. Our state’s tax policy is a tool we can all use to eliminate existing racial, ethnic, and gender inequities and increase economic equality for all New Yorkers. Ready for the 2020 legislative session? Your enthusiasm and questions are welcomed at this FREE event! Click here to register.

Agenda: "Tax Justice NY: Moving from Austerity to Prosperity"

11:30 am - 11:55 "Surveying the 2020 Landscape"

*New York State needs to commit to ensuring that its residents have equal access to economic opportunity and the tools necessary to achieve financial success. This talk will explore what we’ve achieved and where we still need to make significant progress.*

Welcome: Michael Burgess, Board President, Fiscal Policy Institute, Rev. Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches

Remarks: Ron Deutsch, Executive Director, Fiscal Policy Institute

Noon - 12:45 pm Panel 1: “Making Headway”

*Fully funding programs and services are essential to progress, and New York State needs revenue to address many long-neglected issues. This panel will discuss what revenue-boosting policies could be enacted to ensure our state can grow equitably.*

Moderator: Jonas Shaende, Chief Economist, Fiscal Policy Institute

Panelists: Charles Khan, Organizing Director, Strong Economy for All; Michelle Gittelman, Revenue Working Group; Pierce Delahunt, Patriotic Millionaires

12:45 pm – 1:15 pm: Free Box Lunch with Keynote Speaker Elizabeth McNichol, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm: Panel 2: “Austerity’s Impact”

*The New York State budget is subject to a 2 percent growth cap, with much state spending held flat for years. Join us to explore the impact of the cap on our state’s infrastructure, both human and physical (human services, housing, education, and health care).*

Moderator: Ron Deutsch, Executive Director, Fiscal Policy Institute

Panelists: Michelle Jackson, Deputy Executive Director, Human Services Council; Jasmine Gripper, Executive Director, Alliance Quality Education; Mark Hannay, Executive Director, Metro New York Health Care for All; Paulette Soltani, Political Director, VOCAL-NY

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm: “Call to Action on the NYS Working Families Tax Credits”

*Learn how two powerful tax policies – the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit – can better serve New Yorkers who need help the most.*

Moderator: Cara Long Corra, Senior Policy Analyst, Fiscal Policy Institute

Panelists: Brenda Episcopo, President and CEO, United Way of New York State

Dorothy (Dede) Hill, Director of Policy, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

2:20 pm - 2:30 pm: Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Don’t miss this free event: [Register today](#)!

OTHER COMING EVENTS

Bard College’s degree program for prisoners at Eastern Correctional Facility will be profiled in a PBS special. Click on [College Behind Bars](#) for more information regarding this 4-hour film to be broadcast on PBS beginning Monday, November 25, 2019 at 9:00 PM. Part 2 will be broadcast the next night, Nov. 26.

Jewish Voice for Peace, Palestine, & Climate Justice will be sponsoring: A Conversation with Naomi Klein w/JVP Co-Interim Executive Director, Rabbi Alissa Wise - Thursday, December 5th at 8pm ET. The live conversation with Ms. Klein will focus on climate justice, white supremacy, and the movement for Palestinian liberation. Registrants are encouraged to read Naomi Klein's latest book, "On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal” prior to this event. [Register for the Zoom webinar here](#).

**Imprisoning a Generation Film Screening** - Dec. 3, 6:15 p.m. at the William Sanford Library, 629 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville, NY. **Imprisoning a Generation is a 51-minute documentary film** about the Israeli military detention of Palestinian children in the West Bank. The film follows the stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned in the Israeli military detention system and prosecuted in Israeli military courts. Their stories, along with the voices of their families, provide a picture of what life is like under the Israeli occupation. Following the film there will be an opportunity for discussion, moderated by Rev. John Paarlberg, Regional Coordinator for Churches for Middle East Peace and member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Council of Churches.