

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

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The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.



MIND THE GAP!

Each person has a right to the conditions for living a decent life, faith and family life, food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing.

We also have a duty to secure and respect these rights not only ourselves, but for others, and to fulfill our responsibilities to our families, to each other, and to the larger society.

USCCB, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic to Political Responsibility.

A large and growing wealth gap between a tiny fringe of super rich Americans and the rest of us robs all of us – and not just financially. It helps keep people in poverty, erodes the middle class, and results in a decline in our nation's well being, affecting life expectancy, level of trust, and social mobility.

The wealth gap straps families with stagnant wages and increasing debt. For many, it prevents access to education, healthcare, housing, legal representation, retirement savings, and other societal and family needs. It provides a louder, more effective voice for the powerful, who can lobby for their own interests, rather than the common good.



MIND THE GAP!

The Economic Policy Institute reports these staggering facts:

- The top 1% owns more than 90% of the rest of us combined!
- The super rich own over 35% of the entire nation's private wealth,

- The bottom 90% own only 30% of the nation's wealth.
- The bottom 50% - half of us combined – only own 2.5% of the country's wealth.
- The median African American household has less than 10 cents for every \$1 owned by the median white family.
- The median Latino family owns about 12 cents to \$1.
- More than 25% of American Indian and Alaskan Natives live below the poverty level.

Leaders representing the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths have made it clear to the President and Congress that without federal and state assistance houses of worship and communities of faith cannot take up the slack in funding to maintain support for the increasing number of individuals and families facing economic hardship due to budget cuts. They call upon political leaders to maintain a robust commitment to domestic and international poverty programs.



We have come to a clear realization that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence.

People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictators are made.

President F.D. Roosevelt, January 11, 1944

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Sign on to *Mind the Gap! Campaign* at www.networklobby.org/join-mind-the-gap
- Sign the petition for a White House Summit on the wealth gap at www.networklobby.org/petition-white-house-summt
- Learn more and leave your comments on our blog at www.networklobby.org/nep/blog
- “Like” us on Facebook and invite your friends (MIND THE GAP)
- Contact us at www.mindthegap@networklobby.org



Another source of information is: theeconomiccollapseblog.com

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee