STATE OF BLACK WORKERS IN AMERICA CONFERENCE

June 7, 2017
10AM-4PM
Howard University School of Social Work

#SOBW2017
As Washington’s first progressive multi-issue think tank, the **Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)** has served as a policy and research resource for visionary social justice movements for over four decades—from the anti-war and civil rights movements in the 1960s to the peace and global justice movements of the last decade. Some of the greatest progressive minds of the 20th and 21st centuries have found a home at IPS, starting with the organization’s founders, Richard Barnet and Marcus Raskin. IPS scholars have included such luminaries as Arthur Waskow, Gar Alperovitz, Saul Landau, Bob Moses, Rita Mae Brown, Barbara Ehrenreich, Roger Wilkins, and Orlando Letelier. Today the Institute’s work is organized into more than a dozen projects, reflecting our public scholars’ diverse areas of expertise.

**The Black Worker Initiative** is a bold and exciting new effort launched by the Institute for Policy Studies, which is deeply committed to helping achieve both the historic and contemporary aims of the labor and civil rights movements. Black workers have been particularly hard hit by the rising tide of inequality in today’s economy. We hope our Initiative will be a part of the solution to helping expand opportunities for black worker organizing and thereby greatly aid the revitalization of the U.S. labor movement as a whole.

Indeed, the Initiative operates under the belief that black workers hold a key role in union revitalization. Without a platform for their voices and perspectives, a vital piece of the progressive movement is absent from the greater public discourse on race and economic and social justice. The Initiative seeks to be a forum for these important conversations, allowing relationships, ideas, and projects to develop. The Initiative will use conferences, published reports, public education materials, and mainstream and social media in framing a road map to how black worker organizing can be an ongoing vehicle for the preservation of the labor movement and the promotion of civil rights and racial and economic justice.
OUR AGENDA

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
JUNE 7, 2017 | 10:00AM–4:00PM

10:00AM WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENTS

- Marc D. Bayard, Associate Fellow and Director of the Black Worker Initiative, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
- John Cavanagh, Director, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
- Clarence Lusane, Professor of International Relations and Chairman of the Political Science Department, Howard University
- Bernard Mair, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University

10:30AM WE DREAM IN BLACK: TELLING THE STORY OF BLACK WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKER ORGANIZING IN THE SOUTH

Moderated by Alicia Garza, Special Projects Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Network

- Kimberly Freeman Brown, Leadership Development, Race and Gender Equity and Inclusion Consultant
- Tamika Middleton, Organizing Director, Atlanta Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)
- Premilla Nadasen, Professor of History, Barnard College
- Joan Samuel Lewis, We Dream in Black Member and Activist, Atlanta, Georgia

12:00PM BREAK

12:15PM WHAT THE HELL DID WE HAVE TO LOSE? BLACK WORKERS REFLECT UPON THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Moderated by Joy-Ann Reid, host of "AM Joy" on MSNBC

- Marc D. Bayard, Associate Fellow and Director of the Black Worker Initiative, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
- Carmen Berkley, Managing Director, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and Former Director of the Civil, Human, and Women’s Rights Department, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Tanya Wallace-Gobern, Executive Director, National Black Worker Center Project
1:15 LUNCH

2:00PM BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN GERMAN CORPORATIONS, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AND LABOR TO ENCOURAGE HIGH-ROAD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH

_Moderated by Marc D. Bayard, Associate Fellow and Director of the Black Worker Initiative, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)_

- **Ivye L. Allen**, President, Foundation for the Mid South
- **Nadja Dalhberg**, Manager Human Resources, Talent Development Programs and Train the Trainer, Adah International, Inc.
- **Derrick Johnson**, State President, Mississippi State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- **Tom Perez**, Chair, Democratic National Committee (DNC)

3:30PM CLOSING REMARKS
IVYE L. ALLEN

Ivye L. Allen, Ph.D. is President of the Foundation for the Mid South, a regional foundation serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation supports programs and initiatives that focus on community development, education, health and wellness, and wealth-building. The organization’s successes include assisting new and incumbent workers to secure and retain employment, improving school district performance, and supporting more than 75,000 families in increasing their financial knowledge and assets. Dr. Allen previously served as Chief Operating Officer for MDC Inc. and was Director of Fellowship Programs for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. She has held finance and marketing positions in Fortune 100 corporations. Her education includes a Ph.D. in social policy from Columbia University; an M.S. in urban affairs from Hunter College; an M.B.A. in marketing and international business from New York University; and a B.A. in economics from Howard University.

MARC BAYARD

Marc Bayard is an Associate Fellow and the director of the Institute for Policy Studies’ Black Worker Initiative. He was the founding Executive Director of the Worker Institute at Cornell University. Marc Bayard is a leading expert on racial equity and organizing strategies with extensive experience in building partnerships between labor, faith groups, and civil rights communities. A frequent speaker and social commentator for a number of institutions and organizations, his dedication to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide is grounded in his firsthand work and experiences in nearly 50 countries. From 2003 to 2011, Marc Bayard was the Africa Regional Program Director for the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, AFL-CIO, and was recently a fellow with the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University. He is the author of the forthcoming biography *Standing Together in Service: William Lucy, Civil Rights and the American Labor Movement* (University of Illinois Press). He holds master’s degrees from Cornell University and Georgetown University and is a highly regarded scholar of labor politics.

CARMEN BERKLEY

Carmen Berkley is an activist, cultural organizer, and political commentator striving to intersect the issues of communities of color and women into campaigns that improve people’s lives. She currently serves as the Managing Director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund and as a principal for Can’t Stop Won’t Stop Strategies, a social impact consulting firm.

Carmen’s more than 10 years of experience in training and advancing diverse communities has allowed her to serve as the President of the United States Student Association, Field Director at NAACP and Choice USA, Digital Strategist at AFSCME, Executive Director at the Generational Alliance, and most recently Director of Civil, Human, and Women’s Rights at the AFL-CIO. A performer at heart, Carmen can occasionally be heard sounding off on morning political news shows or writing opinion pieces in blogs and magazines.
NADJA DAHLBERG

Nadja Dahlberg is the Manager for Human Resources and Talent Development Programs at Adah International, Inc. In her position, she supports companies’ implementation of job training programs, with a focus on apprenticeship-style programs. Dahlberg brings industry and schools together to develop programs to grow the existing workforce and develop young talent into skilled employees of the future.

Born and raised in a small town in the eastern part of Germany, Dahlberg studied at the University of Applied Sciences in Kiel, with a specialization in International Business Management. After obtaining her preliminary diploma in Kiel, she relocated to Bremen to study International Transport Management with a focus on Maritime Traffic and Port Management.

Dahlberg was formerly with BLG Logistics, a globally active German logistics company with 16,000 employees worldwide. At BLG Cargo Logistics—a subdivision of BLG Logistics—she gained expertise in marketing and sales as well as project management. While working at BLG Logistics, she developed internal training strategies to improve safety and quality of operations, and cultivated support for the newly implemented BLG Academy—a logistics training program for high school seniors mirroring the German apprenticeship structure.

Dahlberg enjoys developing internal onboarding and training programs for workers at all organizational levels—from team members to those in the upper management levels.

KIMBERLY FREEMAN BROWN

Kimberly Freeman Brown is author of And Still I Rise: Black Women Labor Leaders’ Voices, Power and Promise, a report released by the Institute for Policy Studies’ Black Worker Initiative in May 2015. Her latest project with the Black Worker Initiative and the National Domestic Workers Alliance examines the experiences of domestic workers across the African diaspora in Georgia and North Carolina who are organizing through NDWA’s We Dream in Black project.

Kimberly is President of KFB Consulting, LLC, a boutique organizational development consulting firm that supports some of the foremost progressive leaders, advocacy and organizing groups, and political organizations in the nation. Clients have utilized her expertise on racial and gender equity and inclusion initiatives, organizational development, leadership development, and communications strategy, and as an executive coach and facilitator. Prior to launching the firm in 2012, she served as Executive Director of American Rights at Work, a national labor policy organization that merged with Jobs with Justice under her leadership.

Additionally, Kimberly serves as Senior Advisor on Racial Equity, Inclusion and Leadership at the Center for Popular Democracy and as an Affiliate Coach with the Rockwood Leadership Institute. She is Programming Co-Director for ReFrame Mentorship, a strategic communications mentorship program supporting economic, racial, and climate justice organizations and campaigns. Kimberly also serves on the Board of Directors of Grassroots Policy Project, an organization that works with social movement groups to develop grassroots power for social transformation.

A vocal advocate for racial and gender justice and workers' rights, she has been quoted or published editorials in national news outlets including The New York Times, USA Today, Politico and The Hill, and on the websites of Ebony, NBC News, Buzzfeed and The Huffington Post. She has also appeared on TV One's NewsOne, Fox Business, and CNBC.
ALICIA GARZA

Alicia Garza is an Oakland-based organizer, writer, public speaker, and freedom dreamer who is currently the Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation’s leading voice for dignity and fairness for the millions of domestic workers in the United States. Garza, along with Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors, also co-founded the Black Lives Matter network, a globally recognized organizing project that focuses on combatting anti-Black state-sanctioned violence and the oppression of all Black people.

Since the rise of the BLM movement, Garza has become a powerful voice in the media. Her articles and interviews have been featured in Time, Mic, The Guardian, Elle.com, Essence, Democracy Now!, and The New York Times.

In addition, she has received numerous recognitions for her work, including being named on The Root’s 2016 list of 100 African American achievers and influencers, the 2016 Glamour Women of the Year Award, the 2016 Marie Claire New Guard Award, and as a Community Change Agent at the 2016 BET’s Black Girls Rock Awards.

Most important, as a queer Black woman, Garza’s leadership and work challenge the misconception that only cisgender Black men encounter police and state violence. While the tragic deaths of Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown were catalysts for the emergence of the BLM movement, Garza is clear: In order to truly understand how devastating and widespread this type of violence is in Black America, we must view this epidemic through of a lens of race, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

DERRICK JOHNSON

Derrick Johnson currently serves as State President for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP and Executive Director of One Voice, Inc. He recently served as a Mel King Community Fellow with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Derrick Johnson serves on the NAACP National Board of Directors, the Board of Directors of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, the Advisory Council of the Mississippi Economic Policy Center, and as an adjunct professor at Tougaloo College. Additionally, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court as a Commissioner to the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission. Before assuming his current roles, Derrick Johnson served as a Fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in Washington, D.C., and as a Fellow with The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management Minority Fellowship Program.

He also served on the staff of Southern Echo, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Jackson, MS, as a Regional Organizer providing legal, technical, and training support for communities within six states across the south (Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, and South Carolina). Additionally, Derrick Johnson was appointed by the Governor of the State of Mississippi as Vice-Chair of the Governor’s Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal after Hurricane Katrina. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he founded One Voice, Inc., a non-profit social justice organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for African Americans and other disenfranchised communities by increasing civic engagement in the formation of public policy through leadership development, research support, training, and technical assistance. He holds a Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law in Houston, TX, and a Bachelor of Arts from Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS.
CLARENCE LUSANE

Clarence Lusane is a Professor of International Relations and Chairman of the Political Science Department at Howard University. He is an activist and scholar, and a well-respected expert in the areas of human rights, African American politics, global race relations, U.S. elections, and international relations. He has lectured on these topics in over 70 countries, including China, Colombia, Cuba, England, France, Germany, Haiti, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Russia, Rwanda, South Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. He is a former Commissioner on the D.C. Commission on African American Affairs and board member of the National Foster Youth Initiative. He is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and eight books on human rights, U.S. and black politics, globalization, and European history. Dr. Lusane’s latest book is The Black History of the White House. The book led to two presentations at the White House. His current research is focused on the global economic factors affecting the economic life of African Americans, a study on the international politics of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the intersection of jazz and international relations.

TAMIKA MIDDLETON

Tamika Middleton is the Organizing Director for the Atlanta chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She is an organizer, birthworker, writer, and unschooling mama. She is passionate about and active in struggles that affect Black women’s lives. She has served as the coordinator of Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective, the Interim Executive Director and Board Vice President for SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, a Writing Fellow for the Center for Community Change, and a Program Coordinator for Project South. She has performed as a member of The NALO Arts Collective. Currently, Tamika is treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Organization for Human Rights and Development and is an advocate for self-directed learning.

PREMILLA NADASEN

Premilla Nadasen is a Professor of History at Barnard College and a scholar-activist who writes and speaks on issues of race, gender, social policy, and labor history. She is most interested in visions of social change and the ways in which poor and working-class people, especially women of color, have fought for social justice. She has published extensively on the multiple meanings of feminism, alternative labor movements, and grassroots community organizing. She is the author of two award-winning books, Welfare Warriors: The Welfare Rights Movement in the United States (Routledge 2005) and Household Workers Unite: The Untold Story of African American Women Who Built a Movement (Beacon 2015), a history of domestic worker activism in the post-war period.

TOM PEREZ

Tom Perez has never hesitated to take on a fight. He has stood up for progressive values his entire career, from his time on the Montgomery County Council to his years leading the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Department of Labor. The son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Tom grew up in Buffalo where he learned the values of a union town. After putting himself through college with Pell Grants and working on the back of a trash truck, Tom started his career of public service as a DOJ civil rights attorney prosecuting racially-motivated hate crimes.

But Tom’s strongest roots are in local organizing. In 2002, he became the first Latino elected to the Montgomery County Council. And as board president of CASA de Maryland, Tom helped grow the organization from a small service provider to one of the largest immigrant advocacy organizations in the Mid-Atlantic.
As Chairman of the Democratic Party, Tom continues to get things done. He is rebuilding the DNC as an all-day, everyday, year-round organization that supports our state parties, reaches out to voters in every zip code, and grows our party from the grassroots up.

JOY REID

Joy Reid is the host of AM Joy on MSNBC as well as a national correspondent appearing regularly on primetime programs including Hardball with Chris Matthews and The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell. She was previously the host of The Reid Report from 2014-2015, a daily program that offered Reid's distinctive analysis and insight on the day's news.

Joy Reid is also the author of the book Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons and the Racial Divide (William Morrow/Harper Collins, 2015) and co-author with E.J. Dionne, Jr., of We Are The Change We Seek: the Speeches of Barack Obama (Bloomsbury, 2017). Reid is also a contributing author for The Daily Beast.

Before that, Reid was the Managing Editor of theGrio.com, a daily online news and opinion platform devoted to delivering stories and perspectives that reflect and affect African-American audiences. Reid joined theGrio.com with experience as a freelance columnist for the Miami Herald and as editor of the political blog The Reid Report. She is a former talk radio producer and host for Radio One, and previously served as an online news editor for the NBC affiliate WTVJ in Miramar, FL.

During the 2004 presidential campaign, Reid served as the Florida deputy communications director for the 527 “America Coming Together” initiative, and was a press aide in the final stretch of President Barack Obama's Florida campaign in 2008. Joy's columns and articles have appeared in The New York Times, the Miami Herald, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, South Florida Times and Salon.com. She is currently producing a documentary, The Fight Years, which looks at the sport of boxing in Miami during the 1950s and 1960s.

Reid graduated from Harvard University in 1991 with a concentration in film and is a 2003 Knight Center for Specialized Journalism fellow. She currently resides in Brooklyn with her husband and family.

JOAN SAMUEL LEWIS

Joan Samuel Lewis is an active member of the We Dream in Black chapter in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is a native of Trinidad and Tobago and attended Brixton College in London, England, the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Atlanta College of Medical and Dental Careers, and Clayton State University.

Samuel Lewis has been an entrepreneur, published author, poet, activist, intuitive thinker, inspirational speaker, community organizer and business woman with more than 30 years of experience.

She successfully wrote and published her book, The Goddess Energy Returned. She has spoken on many panels on such topics as women’s rights, religion, and reparation. She has also been a part of hosting a morning show on Synergy TV and 91.9 radio representing the Black Caucus Movement. She currently work as Compliance Manager in her family business, JoJo Home Health Care Services.
Tanya Wallace-Gobern is the first executive director of the National Black Worker Center Project.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, she moved to the deep south in 1991 after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola University of Chicago to launch an organizing career empowering women and people of color. Her professional experience includes organizing with UNITE HERE (formerly the Union of Needletrades, Textiles and Industrial Employees) AFL-CIO, and the Association of Flight Attendants. Aggravated by the low number of African Americans among staff and union leadership, she created the AFL-CIO’s Historical Black College Recruitment Program.

In 2004, she entered the nonprofit community to lead the field operation for Women’s Action for New Directions. Based in Atlanta, GA, she directed national programs to educate the public and elected officials about the need to reduce and redirect excess military spending.

Returning to labor in 2008, Tanya relocated to Sacramento, CA, where she learned a different, non-adversarial approach to trade unionism and joined the staff of the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions (CKPU). Initially hired as the National Affiliations Coordinator, she led the affiliation of the Hawaii region into the Coalition. Being promoted several times, she served in the roles of Southern California National Coordinator, Director of Transformation, East Coast Field Director, and National Field Director.

Ms. Wallace-Gobern has an advanced knowledge of community and political structures. She is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Executive Leadership Program, and her opinions and contributions have been featured in YSB Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, and on ABC Nightly News.
With additional support from