

IT TAKES ROOTS TO GROW THE RESISTANCE GGJ / IEN / CJA / RTC

Beyond the Moment: Uniting Movements from April 4th to May Day (BTM) Discussion Questions

On April 4th, The Majority—a coalition of more than 50 organizations committed to the multi-racial, cross-movement fight for justice, freedom and the right to live fully, with dignity and respect—will launch **Beyond the Moment: *Uniting Movements from April 4th to May Day (BTM)***. This introductory resource gives you language and tools for initiating conversations on-and-offline about The Majority and Beyond the Moment, with the caveat that an in-depth toolkit including messaging, graphics and social media posts will be available soon. The information in this document is available for you to begin sharing publicly on Tuesday, March 21st .

Website : beyondthemoment.org

Twitter and Instagram : @btmmayday

Facebook : www.facebook.com/BeyondtheMomentMayDay/

It Takes Roots is joining The Majority and the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) in this call to action from April 4th to May Day and beyond. April 4th is the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s “Beyond Vietnam” Speech. In that speech at Riverside Church in New York City, he referred to the “giant triplets” of racism, materialism/capitalism and militarism. This marks an important milestone in movement history and the radicalism of Dr. King. Exactly one year after this speech, Dr. King was assassinated while organizing alongside Black sanitation workers in Memphis on the eve of launching the Poor People’s Campaign which would declare poverty a human rights violation. We are asking our members across the country to organize mass political education events, based on a study of MLK’s speech *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence*. We are joining in this mass political education surfacing an intersectional lens from MLK’s framing and how that is relevant to our movements for Indigenous Sovereignty, Self Determination for Black and Brown communities, visions for expanded sanctuary, Just Transition, grassroots feminism, LGBTQIA rights and economic justice for workers, the unemployed and the poor.

Following the April 4th day of political education, we are leading an arc of action that includes national mobilizing for the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice with the People’s Climate Movement on April 29th, and translocal May Day Actions on May 1st. After May, we are supporting our members in building out local Resistance Hubs across the country.

#ItTakesRoots

Discussion Questions for Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence

1. What connections do you see in the key themes that Dr. King raises in this speech and the conditions that we are facing today?
2. What values does Dr. King lift up around the rights of Vietnamese people to self determination?
 - a. How does this relate to the fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples in North America?
 - B. How does this relate to the issues of self-determination for Black and Brown communities inside the US?
3. Why does Dr. King refer to war as “an enemy of the poor”?
4. Dr. King describes the war in Vietnam as a “symptom of a far deeper malady in the American spirit”. What is the malady (sickness) he is referring to?
5. What was Dr. King referring to about need for a radical revolution of values? How can Just Transition and/or the concept of Expanded Sanctuary/ Freedom Cities/ or Rebel Cities relate to this concept of a radical revolution of values?

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin, we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

6. As we expand our movements and the revolution of values we envision today, how would we also speak to the issues of grassroots feminism, and challenging the evils of misogyny and hetero-patriarchy?