

# #poweredbyfaith

Songs compiled by the Kairos Center's  
Songs in the Key of Resistance (SKOR) Project

**\*Titles of Songs are hyperlinked to audio / video of songs**

## Never Alone

By the Peace Poets

*This song was written with No Separate Justice campaign against Islamophobia. Used to call in ancestors and all those who've taught us to love.*

We have not come here alone,  
we carry our people in our bones  
We have not come here alone,  
if you listen you can them in our soul

## Never Again Para Nadie

By emet ezell

*Never Again Para Nadie was written by poet and songcatcher, emet ezell, the night before a big Never Again Action and Cosecha march in Boston the summer of 2019. The organizers expected a few hundred to show up but more than double that number turned out and nearly a thousand marched through the streets that day singing this song all the way to the ICE detention center to protest family separation and child detention.*

We've got ancestors at our backs  
We've got generations forward  
We've got land and spirit in our bones  
Never again para nadie  
Never again free families

## We Get There Together

By Joshua Blaine

Joshua wrote this song in 2022 as part of a We Cry Justice artists collective project and was inspired by Dan Jones' chapter from We Cry Justice, "A Mixed Multitude." He also drew from the poem by Aurora Levins Morales, "Red Sea," in which she challenges us to ask: what happens this time if we all cross together? This song has become an important song sung in protest spaces and gatherings calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. For a longer story behind the song, see the link above.

No one is getting left behind this time  
No one is getting left behind  
No one is getting left behind this time

We get there together or never get there at all  
We get there together or never get there at all  
We get there together or never get there at all

## We Will Protect Each Other

By the Peace Poets with Francisco Herrera and Oona Valle  
*This song was written for migrant justice work in California and across the country. Used to ground the group in our commitment to each other and also to remember that the lands, waters and skies are always on OUR side.*

We will... Protect Each Other  
We will... be everything we need  
The good land... The wild Water  
The whole Sky... is always on our side!

## Faith Calls Us to Love Out Loud

Original Song by the Peace Poets + Green Faith

Adapted by SKOR

*The original version of this song was written for stopping fossil fuel extraction and remixed by The Peace Poets and SKOR for Free Families campaign.*

Faith calls us to love out loud  
Spirit speaks we hear the sound  
Of all creation rising now  
To free our families, we're freedom bound  
For all our children, Freedom now!

## No Están Solos

By Francisco Herrera, Emma's Revolution and The Peace Poets

*This song was written in collaboration with migrant justice and anti-militarism organizers from the School of the America's Watch in front of Eloy Detention Center in Arizona. Always powerful song to sing to those who are inside and to each other as we bravely speak out and act for justice.*

No están solos, no están solas  
Juntos hacemos la Liberación

## Wade in the Water

Shared by Michael Rae Matthews

*Wade in the Water is an African American spiritual born from the struggle for freedom. Originally a religious song and a coded signal for enslaved people escaping on the Underground Railroad—directing them to walk through water to evade tracking dogs—it later became a powerful anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, linking generations of resistance through song.*

Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children  
Wade in the water  
God's gonna trouble the water

See those people dressed in white  
They look like the children of the Israelites

See those people dressed in red  
Must be the children that Moses led

Now who are these kindred gather here?  
They're the people who have learned to place faith over fear.

## All of the Children Are Always Ours

By: Martin Urbach

“The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality.”—James Baldwin

All of the children are always ours  
All of the children are always our  
Together we will abolish ICE  
Together unidas mi gente will rise

## What Happens to You

By: Je Naé Taylor

*Je Naé wrote this song on a zoom call in 2019 while observing community members share about their experiences, frustrations, addictions, etc. She used this simple phrase as she pointed to each “window” to let them know that whatever happens to them, matters to her.*

What happens to you  
Matters to me  
What happens to you, you, you, you, you, you  
It matters to me

## Liberation Today

Adapted by Ciara Taylor, Pauline Pisano, Steff Reed and Charon Hribar

This song was adapted from a traditional folk song, Bele Mama. Likely of Cameroonian origin, it's been passed down through oral tradition. “Bele Mama,” translates to “Call Mother” in the Oroko language of Cameroon, referring to calling one's mother to join a celebration. The song has been adapted in movement spaces to be a calling for liberation.

Hey na na, hey na na, hey na na yeah...

You only get what you're organized to take

Hey na na, hey na na, hey na na yeah...

Liberation today

Hey na na, hey na na, hey na na yeah...

I need you to survive

Hey na na, hey na na, hey na na yeah...

We need to organize

Hey na na, hey na na, hey na na yeah...

You only get what you're organized to take

## Justice, Let It Be So (Adapted for training)

By Arnaé Batson

*Arnaé wrote this song in response to the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, offering a musical response to political violence and a call toward justice, accountability, and collective responsibility.*

Justice, justice, justice, justice

Ooooh ooooh oooooh

Let it be so

Justice

... courage

... freedom

... liberation

## Mi Unica (teach as call + response)

By the Peace Poets

*This song was written by the Peace Poets in collaboration with Migrant Justice and Mijente fighting against the criminalization of immigrant communities and deportations. The Spanish lyrics say - hey yo, my people we bring the strength. Liberation for all is our only flag. It goes on to lift up a native prophecy of the Condor and Eagle, representing a time when the Condor (the south) and the Eagle (the north), societies that had split into two different paths, would be united and create a new level of consciousness for humanity. The song is an affirmation of the connection we share across boundaries, across borders, across identities.*

Oye mi gente traemos la fuerza  
La libertad es mi única bandera  
Rise up my people, my condors, my eagles  
No human being will ever be illegal

## Oye Mi Gente Medley

By: Songs in the Key of Resistance

Oye mi gente traemos la fuerza  
La libertad es mi única bandera  
Rise up my people, my condors, my eagles  
No human being will ever be illegal

We belong we belong we belong  
We belong we belong together  
We belong we belong we belong  
We belong we belong together

We will protect each other  
And we will be everything we need

No están Solos  
No están Solas  
Juntos hacemos la liberación  
No están Solos  
No están Solas  
Juntos hacemos la liberación

La liberación

## Set It Right Again

By Ana Hernandez

*This song adapts a line from Sojourner Truth's stirring and courageous speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron Ohio, as transcribed by Marius Robinson: "I have heard the Bible and have learned that Eve caused man to sin. Well if woman upset the world, do give her a chance to set it right side up again." The song calls us all to action as we contemplate the "great trouble in this land" – and that we are the ones who will "set it right again".*

There's a great trouble in the land  
We're gonna set it right again (3x)  
We're gonna set it right, set it right again

Trouble been brewing too many years  
We need healing across the land  
We need justice across the land  
We're building a movement across the land

## We Keep Us Safe

By: Songs in the Key of Resistance

*This song was written as an organizing tool—a shared safety song for community gatherings, actions, and events. Building on a practice developed by song leaders with Jewish Voice for Peace, the song is used when a situation begins to feel unsafe. Song leaders initiate it as a cue to the community—without panic or escalation—that it's time to move together into agreed-upon safety protocols.*

*The song reminds us that safety is a collective responsibility, and that we will act together to protect one another.*

Who keeps us safe? We keep us safe. [Repeat]

Our love for our people, will conquer hate

## We Are the Movement

By the Peace Poets

*A freedom love song to us: the movement for liberation. This is a song to GROUND, INSPIRE, AND CONNECT us when we gather online or in the streets to struggle for liberation. It's purpose is to express how simple and beautiful it is to be part of taking action for every single human's liberation.*

We are the movement

Liberation moving

For every single human

We have come to win

## We Are Many (Call + Response)

By Katie Eckeberger

*"We Are Many" was written in response to an unprecedented surge of ICE enforcement in the Twin Cities, a deployment that has sparked national outrage and mobilization following the fatal shooting of Renée Nicole Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis on January 7, 2026.*

*In Minnesota, singing has become a powerful way for communities to come together to protect one another, build courage, and strengthen collective solidarity in the face of targeted immigration operations and rising resistance.*

We are many

We are one

We won't stop fighting

Til ICE is gone

We are many

We are one

The fight ain't over

Til love has won

## Until All of Us Are Free

**By: Arnaé Batson**

*Inspired by the words of Fannie Lou Hamer— "Until I am free, you are not free either" during a speech she delivered at the founding of the [National Women's Political Caucus in Washington, D.C., on July 10, 1971](#)*

None of us, none of us, no of us are free

Until all of us, all of us, all of us are free

## That's How the Light Gets In

By Leonard Cohen, Adapted by Dream Defenders

This song reminds us not to let perfection be the enemy of the good. In a season of overlapping crises, our movements are called to experiment, to learn in real time, and to trust that even imperfect efforts can open pathways forward. The cracks in our society reveal both the depth of the harm—and the possibility that light, life, and new futures can still break through.

Forget your perfect offering

Just ring the bells that still can ring

There is a crack, a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in

## Solid as a Rock (Call + Response)

Shared by Michael Ray Matthews

*In a world where so many systems and people aim to create disarray and disconnection, this song is a reminder that it is a deeply spiritual challenge to stay rooted.*

Solid as a rock

Rooted as a tree

We are here

Standing strong

In our rightful place

## Hold on

By Heidi Wilson

*This song was written in 2018 after a teenager in Wilson's community was lost to suicide. Composed for a community gathering, it was created to offer hope, connection, and comfort in times of deep grief and long, dark seasons. Today, the song is being taken up by community members in Minneapolis, as ICE occupies their neighborhoods and immigrant families fear leaving their homes. Hundreds have gathered to sing through the streets—lifting their voices toward neighbors who are isolated and afraid—offering a living practice of hope, solidarity, and collective care.*

Hold on, hold on

My dear ones here comes the dawn.

## How Great is Our Love

Adaptation of How Great is Our God

How great is our love (sing with me)

How great is our love (all will sing)

How great, how great is our love

Free families (sing with me)

Free families (all will sing)

Free, we will free, families

Age to age we stand

Together hand in hand

Our hearts will sing

How great, is our love

No families torn apart,

Love has come to lead,

We will free, we will free, families

We are not afraid

Cus love will conquer fear

We will free, we will free, families

Jericho walls come down

Tumbling to the ground

Jericho walls come down

Tumbling to the ground

Free, we will free, families

## Rebel

By the Peace Poets

Rebel against the war they sell

Rebel against the lies they tell

Rebel and let us do this right

Rebel for the children in the world tonight

Rebel for all the people in...

Rebel for all the families in...

## Songs in the Key of Resistance Theme Song

By Lu Aya

*The SKOR theme song was written in 2020 as a song to ground gatherings of cultural organizers and movement song leaders in the power of song for building and inspiring our movements.*

Sing your song

In the key of resistance

Sing it strong

If you're down for the vision of us

All belonging

If you hear hope calling

Sing your song

## No Nos Moveran / We Shall Not Be Moved

*This song is a classic of the labor and Civil Rights struggles spanning the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Originating from the spiritual “I Shall Not Be Moved”, the song first became an abolitionist song and was eventually translated into Spanish, becoming “No Nos Moveran” during actions such as Mexican American and women-led pecan-shellers strike of 1938. The song was also used to protest the fascist government in Spain of the middle 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the anti-Pinochet movement Chile following the violent coup of 1973. The song was sung extensively in the US during the Civil Rights Movement when it became an anthem taught by the Highlander Folk School to movement organizers and popularized by groups like The Weavers and many others. Joan Baez continued to sing the song in both Spanish and English, performing in solidarity with Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta in the United Farmworkers strikes of the 1970s. We Shall Not Be Moved can be heard in the 2014 “Tillis 15” sit-ins, when Rev. Barber led the song as a way for the community to bear witness to the suffering caused by the political action of Sen. Thom Tillis and many others.*

No,no, no nos moveran! no, no, no nos moveran!

Como un arbol firme junto al rio

No nos moveran

We shall not, we shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved

Just like a tree that's planted by the water,

We shall not be moved

Unidos en la lucha, no nos moveran

Unidos en la lucha, no nos moveran

Como un arbol firme junto al rio

No nos moveran

We're fighting for our rights (and)

We shall not be moved...

No,no, no nos moveran! no, no, no nos moveran!

Como un arbol firme junto al rio

No nos moveran

Unidos en la vida, no nos moveran...

## Somebody's Hurting My Brother

By Yara Allen

*“Somebody’s Hurting My Brother”, now a core song of the campaign, was born in a church in Stokes County, NC after the devastating 2014 Duke Energy coal ash spill. On its creation, Theomusicologist Yara Allen says the following: “Before Dr. Barber closed the town hall with a prayer, he asked me to sing. The only thing I could hear was, ‘somebody’s hurting our brother, we won’t be silent’. Then it was my time to walk up there and I went with a blank slate, except for those few words. I asked the audience to sing along with me. I paused for just a moment and relied on what my faith tradition taught me, which was to lean into the spirit in that moment and just be guided. And I started singing and, and that song came out. And as I looked over at the young boy who had testified—a 14 year old boy who was in remission for cancer—and the verse, ‘Somebody’s hurting our children’ poured out followed by ‘Somebody’s poisoning the water’. And so, that was how that song came about. Now a core song of the campaign, people have continued to expand the issues to include their areas struggles.*

Somebody’s hurting my brother

and it’s gone on far too long

Yes, it’s gone on far too long

It’s gone on far too long

I said, somebody’s hurting my brother

and it’s gone on far too long

And we won’t be silent anymore

Somebody's hurting our children...

Somebody’s hurting our families...

Somebody’s hurting our people....

## Our Liberation

By the Peace Poets

Your liberation is my liberation

And my liberation is your liberation

So let me hear the people say

Let’s Get Free (Let’s Get Free)

Let’s Get Free (Let’s Get Free)

## Rise Up (call and response)

By Charon Hribar and Jose Vasquez

*“Rise Up” is a song written in the wake of growing uprisings around the United States in 2016 responding to the unjust killings of Black people (Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and others) by police; the militarized response to protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation; the government’s intentional disregard that led to the water crisis in Flint, MI; as well as worsening economic conditions experienced by the 140 million poor and low income people in this country. Charon Hribar and Jose Vasquez wrote this song as a mantra that could be used by grassroots leaders who were coming together to organize for the launch of a new Poor People’s Campaign in December 2017. The song was first shared at a national gathering of grassroots movement leaders, artists, cultural workers, and media makers in Baltimore, MD in August 2016. Drawing on a long-standing tradition of call and response music, “Rise Up” is a call to unite as poor and dispossessed people to put an end to the violence, hatred, and greed enacted against our people.*

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

We ain’t gonna let nobody turn us around

Because the people united will stand our ground

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

The powers that be can’t keep us down

We’re gonna rise up and turn the world around

Rise up come on and rise up

Rise up come on and rise up

The people are ready so follow our lead

We’ll put an end to the violence, the hatred and greed

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

Rise up we’re gonna rise up

Rise up (4x)

## The People Are My Reason

By The Peace Poets

*This song was written in community and collaboration between the Peace Poets & Black Lives Matter in Oakland, CA. This song helps to MAINTAIN FOCUS, reminding us that we are here to lift up our people.*

The people are my reason

The people are my reason

The people are the reason I am never giving up

Cause you can't hide from freedom

You can't hide from freedom

You can't hide

You can't hide

Cause freedom’s gonna come

## **Additional Resources**

[Free Families Songbook](#)

[Singing Resistance Songbook](#)

[Songs in the Key of Resistance Songbook](#)

For additional movement songs resources check out [Songs in the Key of Resistance](#) at the Kairos Center!

[Holiday Songs for Collective Action](#)