

We Vote For Us Song Challenge Tool Kit

Help spread the word of a album series with *Songs In The Key Of Resistance & The Singing Resistance*
www.songsinthekeyofresistance.org or bit.ly/SongsInTheKeyOfResistance



AN INVITATION,

Across the country we continue to witness barriers that can make it harder for people to cast their ballots - from polling place closures and restrictions on mail in voting to limited voting hours and long lines at the polls. And we know this is especially impacting communities we in the **Kairos Center Survival Network** are organizing in - poor and low-income voters, communities of color, and voters with disabilities.

As we approach election day, we know that those in power will do anything to maintain that power. With approval rates down and prices on the rise, they are using trickery, rule-breaking and intimidation to try to prevent us from voting.

Songs in the Key Of Resistance (SKOR) is seeking to train song leaders and equip communities with music, songsheets, and collective practices that can strengthen courage, solidarity, and nonviolent public witness during the election season.

Join us as we amplify a new teaching album series, made in partnership with **Singing Resistance**, that features heartfelt songs and histories to empower and invigorate our election defense efforts everywhere across the country. We envision these songs being used in the streets, at our polling places, in our living rooms, and in the places we gather with the community in defense of our democracy and rights. As Lu Aya of the Peace Poets and SKOR says, "we won't ever let go of that hard won freedom to vote."

WE WON'T EVER LET GO OF THAT HARD WON FREEDOM TO VOTE!

To explore, learn and listen to the new album visit
bit.ly/SongsInTheKeyOfResistance or
singing-resistance.org/election-defense-music



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CHOOSE A SONG CHALLENGE OPTION, OR COMPLETE ALL OF THEM!

#1

POST A VIDEO OF “HARD WON FREEDOM” BY LU AYA

In 2022, The Peace Poets and Songs For Good wrote this song to support a nationwide fight to protect our hard won voting rights that have come under attack. Democracy is a radically beautiful prospect. We decide together how to organize our lives. That's why people have fought and died simply for the right to cast a ballot. It's also why oppressive extractive forces invest in repressing the people's access to vote. We sing this as a promise to ourselves and freedom fighting ancestors, “we won't ever let go of that hard won freedom to vote.” This song was used in front of government buildings in Washington D.C. in marches and rallies. Now more than ever let it be heard from polling stations to kitchen tables to places of worship.



Listen to Lu tell the story

LYRICS

We won't ever let go of that hard won freedom to vote
We the people are for the people and for the people we act
We the people are for the people, will you have our back?



Listen to the song



Example Video

*Interested in sampling and remixing Hard Won Freedom? We have a vocals only version of the track available for you to use! Please email info@kairoscenter.org to obtain the track.

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#2

POST A VIDEO OF “ANVIL” BY CRYSTAL MATTHEWS

LYRICS

They wanna take my vote away
I'm here to tell them not today
I'm gonna lift my voice
Lift my feet
Til I'm buried in my grave

We are hoping to feature this song across socials the week of October 26th!

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS:



tinyurl.com/EDalbumcampaign



[Example Video](#)

#3

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE SONG FROM **WE VOTE FOR US**

Songs from [We Vote For Us](#) are written for different contexts. From waiting in long lines, to defending election sites, and more. You're invited to pick a song that resonates with your community and your context. We are encouraging everyone to share why they chose this song for their community.

Example, "I'm recording this song because _____"



Pick a song from any of the albums in the series, [We Vote For Us](#)!



Learn the history and story behind each song using the [We Vote For Us Song Book](#)!

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HOW TO POST/FILMING TIPS

Video record yourself or your group singing the song (in portrait/vertical mode)! You can record at home, in the street, at a march or vigil, with friends or community members!



More info on best practices for filming vertical videos

Post your video on social media to show your solidarity with Election Defense!

When posting on IG: invite @KairosCenterNYC and @SingingResistance to be collaborators. This will help amplify the video!

In order for us to accept the collaboration make sure you include this in the copy of your post, "In collaboration with Kairos Action"

Invite any other organizations you are connected to that support this call to action! (including arts organizations!)

Use #WeSingFreedom and #SongResistance when posting

After posting share video with Songs in the Key Of Resistance team in the shared drive below

Please make sure you aren't wearing clothing of various candidates in your video
Email info@kairoscenter.org if you have any questions



Upload to the SKOR Shared Drive

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



More info about We Vote For Us visit: bit.ly/We-Vote-Us-About

***Please feel free to pass this one-pager along to friends, community members, fellow artists, and partner organizations**



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MORE ABOUT *THE KAIROS CENTER FOR RELIGIONS, RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE* AND *SONGS IN THE KEY OF RESISTANCE*

Songs in the Key of Resistance (SKOR) is a cross-movement project, hosted by the **Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice**, for artists, organizers, faith leaders, and community members to come together in song. We gather to learn and share music for demonstrations, direct actions, and community rituals; to tell stories of hope and resistance; and to create the world we know is possible.

We lift up the practice of organizing through song—recognizing that music, when used intentionally and strategically, grounds our communities, energizes our spirits, sets tone and intention, and helps us grieve, celebrate, and connect our struggles. Music is not a decoration—it is foundational to how we express our deepest values and collective dreams. Through SKOR, we are working to reclaim and reimagine the role of music in building powerful movements for justice and liberation.



Stream the self-titled debut album from Songs In The Key Of Resistance
bit.ly/SongsInTheKeyOfResistance or visit SongsInTheKeyOfResistance.org



More about Songs in the Key Of Resistance

MORE ABOUT *SINGING RESISTANCE!*

Singing Resistance mobilizes people to take action through song to protect what we love, while building a culture based in belonging and solidarity. Find out more how to get involved in election defense with Singing Resistance [here](#).



More about Singing Resistance

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