

**Somebody's Hurting Our People
Children, Women, and People with Disabilities in Poverty**

Leader: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed “Doom to you who legislate evil, who make laws that make victims—Laws that make misery for the poor, that rob my destitute people of dignity, Exploiting defenseless widows, taking advantage of homeless children.”

People: **It is a national disgrace that there are 14.7 million children and 6.5 million extremely poor children in the United States of America—the world's largest economy.**

Leader: It is true, millions of children are homeless, lack adequate food and housing, and do not have quality education; that in many communities it is more likely that teenagers will end up in prison than graduate from high school; and that three quarters of the people living below the poverty line are women and children.

People: **Somebody is hurting our children and it is time for this country to make a huge down payment on ending preventable, costly, and immoral child poverty in our wealthy nation. A nation that does not stand for its children does not stand for anything and will not stand tall in the 21st century world or before God. Somebody's hurting our children, and it's gone on far too long.**

Leader: Today, we stand as truth-tellers witnessing the pain and suffering of women caused by the injustices within our communities.

People: **The truth is that women held in local jails are the fastest-growing segment of incarcerated people in the United States, and the majority of them are black or Latino. The truth is that women are more likely to live in poverty. The truth is that economic gender equality is getting worse in the United States. The truth is that women earn 79 cents to a man's dollar. The truth is that 10 million women a year are victims of domestic violence. Somebody's hurting women, and it's gone on far too long.**

Leader: Today, we stand as truth-tellers witnessing the injustices suffered by those in our communities who live with disabilities.

People: **We stand in solidarity with the over 40 million Americans living with a disability. We fight for justice for our elders who are significantly more likely to live with a disability. We call out the injustice that disabled Americans earn less than those without a disability. We call out the injustice that in many of our communities disabled Americans do not have access to the services they need. Somebody's hurting those who live with a disability, and it's gone on far too long.**

Leader: We know that we are a stronger nation and that our communities are better places to live when we care for the most vulnerable: children, women, and people living with disabilities. As moral people, we have a duty to stand for justice for our children, for women, and for people with disabilities. In the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, “It's time for America to get right.”

People: **Somebody's hurting our people, and it's gone on far too long. And we won't be silent anymore.**