



June 2007

ATD FOURTH WORLD

FOURTH WORLD
MOVEMENT/USA

Fourth World Delegates to Attend US Social Forum

Founded by
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(1917-1988)

Member of
the International
Movement
ATD Fourth World
NGO in consultative
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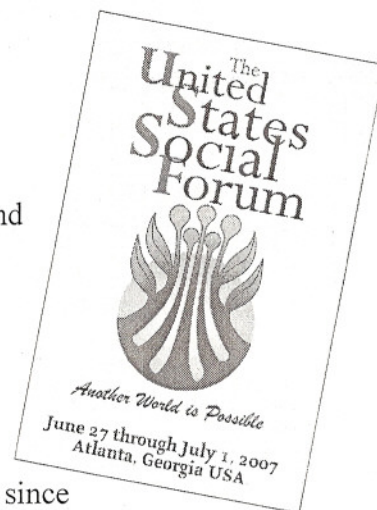
Dear Friends,

The 2007 United States Social Forum (USSF), being held in Atlanta at the end of this month, will bring together hundreds of organizations and individuals working for justice and peace here and abroad. They will share ideas and networks; they will march, sing and celebrate. They will proclaim in a united chorus of diverse voices that *"Another World is Possible."* We want the vision and voices of Fourth World Movement members to be part of that chorus. We are asking you to help make that possible.

From New Orleans, 23-year-old Germaine wants to go to the USSF. She has been a member of the Fourth World Movement since she was child. The past two years have been particularly difficult, including personal hardship beyond that caused by the hurricane and evacuation. Germaine and her siblings have made it back to Crescent City, however. They are connected with other returned Fourth World members who support one another in yet another search for housing, education, and employment. Germaine wants to be part of our national delegation at the US Social Forum. She wants to share her involvement and experience of partnership in the Fourth World Movement. And she wants to reach out to and learn from others. *"We need more people to join us,"* she explains, *"to be with our movement."*

Germaine wants to join other members, like **Zena**, a low-income **mother from New York**, who attributes her current stability to the partnerships she has formed through Fourth World Movement actions. And like **Kim, from the Appalachian region** of southwestern Virginia, who excitedly welcomes our foreign volunteers and consistently lends her energies to run Tapori activities with local children. And like **Cory**, a young Fourth World Volunteer in **Washington, DC**, who works on our communications. He is excited to use his knowledge of internet technology to link those back home to the energy and activities going on at USSF. We are working to **send a delegation of 24 members**, making it a priority for people from low-income neighborhoods to participate.

What are the plans for our delegation at the USSF? We want to **highlight the different projects that create our "partnership to overcome poverty."** Our delegates have organized a **panel discussion** on that theme and will facilitate a lively **"theater forum" workshop** about it. To engage others, we are planning a dynamic **information table** with descriptive albums, power point presentations of our actions, and even **internet video conferencing** with members unable to attend the event. We will display everywhere possible our children's **Tapori silhouettes and hearts** to highlight their creativity and their messages of hope and friendship, and we will run an energetic Tapori silhouette activity to reach out to new children. Finally, we will use our dialogue and signature campaign entitled **Call to Action: Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace**. Encounters around this Call to Action will reinforce the mobilization around October 17th, helping manifest that people living in persistent poverty must



be recognized as principle actors in the struggle to overcome it. Germaine, Zena, Kim, Cory and the rest of us will be busy! We will be building a stronger future: learning, developing leadership, and recruiting more people, as Germaine hopes, “to be with our movement.”

Friends, this is a specialized appeal. You may have given to us recently; you may have contributed once at an event. You may give regularly each month or at certain times of the year. For that, we thank you. Your donations, at all times, are vital. They are what allow us to think about attending this incredible event in Atlanta! And we call on you now not only for extra financial support, but for encouragement, advice, and to spread the word.

The United States Social Forum is more than a conference or a grand networking opportunity. It is part of a dynamic process which aims “to contribute to strengthening the civic dialogue by bringing together various sectors of society to work for justice at home and abroad.” Germaine and others who know the daily, long-term struggle of poverty should be part of that dialogue. We count on your input to make that possible.

With sincere thanks,

Jill Cunningham, Director

Further information and details:

The USSF is a “self-organized” event, so we will be finding our own room, board, and transportation.

Transportation: New Orleans delegates will be part of a Gulf Coast bus convoy. Most of our other delegates will travel by car; some will arrive by train.

Lodging: We have made contacts with a school and families in the area who will host some of our delegates. Because of a special Gulf Coast mobilization, the New Orleans delegation will stay in a specially-priced hotel with others from that area.

Food: Local church groups and just nice people are offering to make snack lunches for us and organize “meet and greet” barbecues.

What your in-kind or financial donation will support:

- **\$1000** pays for **room and board** for 12 delegates from New Orleans.
- **\$600** pays for the **travel** of 6 delegates from New York or Appalachia.
- **\$250** pays for **Tapori materials** for display and activity.
- **\$150** pays delegate travel and **material transport** from Washington, DC.
- **\$80** pays for a **wireless internet access** card for video conferencing on the web.
- **\$50** pays for one delegate's **registration fee**.
- **\$20** pays for one delegate's **food** for a day.
- **\$13** pays for an **in-city transport** card.

“The USSF will provide space to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, share our analysis of the problems our communities face, and bring renewed insight and inspiration.We must declare what we want our world to look like and begin planning the path to get there. A global movement is rising. The USSF is our opportunity to demonstrate to the world Another World is Possible!”

For more information on the United States Social Forum go to www.ussf2007.org, or check out interviews with lead staff organizer Alice Lovelace on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XLYq6Vx6IY.