JOIN US FOR
A People’s Justice & Peace Convention
BEFORE THE RNC

Current public policies disproportionately benefit corporations and the wealthiest individuals and promote and expand U.S. militarism, while the concerns of the vast majority of people are ignored, distorted and/or manipulated for political and/or economic gain. The People’s Convention will include a diversity of voices and experiences, transcending any one political party or perspective. Its purpose is to lift up issues and problems that the Republican National Convention (RNC) will not authentically address and to develop collectively agreed-to solutions, a “People’s Justice & Peace Platform,” that will achieve just, nonviolent, democratic and sustainable results.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Michael Eric Dyson—U.S. academic, author & radio host
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy St., Cleveland, OH 44106

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Rev. Lennox Yearwood—Hiphop Caucus, Connie Burton—Grassroots advocate
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy St., Cleveland, OH 44106

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Medea Benjamin—Code Pink  MUSIC BY Earth Force, Featuring Ras Matunj
Masonic Auditorium, E. 36th St. between Euclid and Chester, Cleveland, OH 44115

FIVE PLATFORM THEMES:
Economic justice • Racial and Social justice • Political justice • Environmental justice • International justice

REGISTRATION
Register at www.pjpc2016.org

ORGANIZERS:
Black-on-Black Crime, CAIR-Cleveland, The Carl Stokes Brigade, Cleveland Environmental Action Network, Cleveland Nonviolence Network, Cleveland Peace Action, Greater Cleveland Human & Civil Rights Coalition, InterReligious Task Force on Central America, NEDOhio American Friends Service Committee, Northeast Ohio Industrial Workers of the World, Organize Ohio, Peace In The Hood, Sierra Club, SpanOhio, Stop Targeting Ohio’s Poor, Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice and others...

A non-partisan and campaign-free event
MEDEA BENJAMIN **CODE PINK**

Medea Benjamin is the co-founder of the women-led peace group CODEPINK and the co-founder of the human rights group Global Exchange. She has been an advocate for social justice for more than 40 years. Described as “one of America’s most committed — and most effective — fighters for human rights” by New York Newsday, and “one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement” by the Los Angeles Times, she was one of 1,000 exemplary women from 140 countries nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the millions of women who do the essential work of peace worldwide.

She is the author of eight books, most notably *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*, and her newest book, *Kingdom of the Unjust: Behind the US-Saudi Connection*. Her articles appear regularly in outlets such as The Huffington Post, Common Dreams, AlterNet, The Other Words, and TeleSUR.

CONNIE BURTON **POOR PEOPLE’S ADVOCATE**

Connie Burton was born and raised in Tampa. She is a mother, a grandmother and a long time activist who represents the poor, the impoverished and public housing residents. Connie hosted a popular radio show called “Straight Talk” on WMNF-FM 88.5 in Tampa where she talked about the important issues affecting the poor and their communities. She is a former member of the International People’s Democratic Uhuru Movement and the African People’s Socialist Party. She is the chairman of the Black People’s Advancement & Defense Organization.

She states that, “...liberation and freedom is what the Black Community as a whole needs to claim. There is continued disparity in housing, healthcare and education. In order to save ourselves, we need to free ourselves.” Connie’s undying love for African people, her vision for the future and her unwavering belief that the Black Community will eventually win their freedom is clearly expressed in her words and actions.

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON **AMERICAN ACADEMIC, AUTHOR, RADIO HOST AND PROFESSOR**

Named by Essence magazine as one of the 50 most inspiring African Americans in the U.S., Michael Eric Dyson is also a best-selling author, and one of the nation’s most renowned public intellectuals. He has revitalized this title with the fervor of an ordained Baptist minister. Called “a street fighter in a suit and tie,” he takes on the toughest and most controversial issues of the day, including race, politics and pop culture, with his fearless and fiery rhetoric.

His speeches and books both provide some of the most significant commentary on modern social and intellectual thought today, interwoven with a combination of cultural criticism, race theory, religion, philosophical reflection and gender studies. Works such as “Making Malcolm X”, “I May Not Get There With You”, and “Holler If You Hear Me”, deeply probe social themes and cultural politics.

Dyson bridges gaps between generations, connecting civil rights identity to hip-hop culture, forging links between older and younger Americans, especially black Americans. As a cutting edge historian, he educates the general public on the significance of hip hop, not only in understanding the black community, but general American culture, as well. With his powerful voice, Dyson reaches beyond race, addressing the universal commonality of American concerns.

REV. LENNOX YEARWOOD, JR. **PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, leads the national Respect My Vote! campaign and coalition (www.respectmyvote.com). He works with celebrities and others to engage young people in registering to vote, learning about the civic process, and helping people with felony convictions reclaim their right to vote. As a national leader within the green movement, Rev. Yearwood successfully bridges the gap between communities of color and environmental advocacy, raising awareness and action in communities that traditional environmental campaigns often overlook. Rev. Yearwood graduated from Howard University School of Divinity and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC).

Read more at [www.hiphopcaucus.org](http://www.hiphopcaucus.org)

RHONDA Y. WILLIAMS, PhD

Social Justice Institute founder and director Rhonda Y. Williams, PhD is a professor of history and the founder and director of the postdoctoral fellowship in African American studies at Case Western Reserve University. Williams received her PhD in history from the University of Pennslyvania in 1998 and her undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Maryand College Park in 1989, where she became that university’s first black salutatorian in its then 187-year history. Dr. Rhonda is an expert in social inequality and has a passion for social justice.

EARTH FORCE