Welcome to CVSA’s Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS in the US
March 30, 2020

A note from CVSA’s Executive Director:

We initiated our Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S. in early 2016. We did in-person speaking engagements and workshops, one at a time, with community organizations, nonprofits, church groups and classrooms. And our newsletter *ITEMS FOR ACTION* has been reporting on the SDGs since 2015.

Now, in the context now of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the crisis in the United States of being one of the most unprepared counties and slowest in taking the necessary steps to contain it — it is clear to us the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals are more relevant than ever in the US.

Long term policies for sustainable economic, social and environmental health for all need to be fought for NOW. We can’t wait until the end of the pandemic and there is no reason to.

CVSA is endeavoring to expand our Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the US at this time. We are learning ways to do it remotely without gatherings.

Please share this presentation with others and contact us about how you can volunteer to help with the campaign.

Susan Angus
Executive Director
Commission on Voluntary Service & Action
March 31, 2020
This presentation is compiled by volunteers of CVSA, the Commission on Voluntary Service & Action. CVSA is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, all-volunteer organization founded in 1945. CVSA holds Special NGO Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN since 2013.

Publisher of INVEST YOURSELF: Guide to Action
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1284 S. Sycamore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019 / (323) 933-2872 / cvsa@bway.net / www.cvsa-investyourself.org
What is Sustainable Development?

The globally accepted definition, first adopted in 1987 at the World Commission on Environment and Development:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

In other words, Sustainable Development is the criteria for achieving social and economic progress in ways that will not exhaust the earth’s finite resources and not deprive or impoverish one grouping of people for the enrichment of another.

It applies to all countries – developed as well as developing. It connects ending poverty and extreme inequality in all its forms with saving the world’s environment and stopping global warming... in every country.
What are the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?

On September 25, 2015, after three years of debate and negotiations, conferences and surveys, all 193 member nations of the UN — including the United States — voted unanimously to adopt the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), stating:

“On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this agenda by 2030 ...and to leave no one behind.”

from the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development provides an agreed upon road map for each country to adapt and implement domestically — and cooperate on internationally — to achieve these critically needed 17 Goals in each country, by each country, by 2030.

Who wrote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Goals?

Over a 3 year period that started in 2012, representatives from all 193 member nations of the UN, as well as hundreds of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups representing indigenous people, small farmers, laborers, scientists, social workers, national minorities, women’s groups, educators, engineers and many other stakeholders debated and wrote it.

This was the most inclusive process the UN had ever coordinated, including input from millions of people through surveys all over the world, on every continent.

It received no press coverage in U.S. mainstream media.
The 17 Goals are universal and indivisible and ambitious

- The SDGs are universal in that they apply to every country – developed and developing.
- The SDGs address systemic causes of the problems requiring transformative changes.
- The SDGs are indivisible in that one Goal cannot be achieved without the rest.
- All 193 member nations of the UN — including US — agreed these goals are ambitious but doable and urgently necessary; the resources and know-how exist.
- Achieving them requires that government at all levels (national, regional or state, county and municipal) business, academia, and grassroots nongovernment organizations in all sections of society work together… change policies and priorities, and build partnerships to leave no one behind.

We can raise the local leadership needed to build these partnerships and insure that in fact no one is left behind! Many community-based nongovernmental organizations are already acting on this.
Let’s consider:

- How do these Goals relate to problems and needs in our community, city, state and in the US?
- Why haven’t you (or most other people in the US) heard of the 2030 SDGs before?
- What is the US government doing to achieve them?
- What are governments of other countries doing to achieve them?
- What are businesses, universities, schools, faith organizations doing to achieve them?
- What can we do?

Let’s start by examining how each of the 17 Goals directly relates to the systemic problems here in the US that we need to solve and that many of us have already been working on:

Note: Most of the statistics in the following slides date pre-Covid-19 pandemic.
1 in 7 people in the U.S. currently live at or below the U.S. poverty line; nearly half of Americans will experience at least a year of poverty or near-poverty during their working years, currently living one paycheck or one disaster away from having nothing.

Over 149 million Americans are currently living in poverty or on the brink, and according to the 2014 U.S. Census, 19% people in L.A. live in poverty.

U.S. consumer debt is now more than it was when the 2008 financial collapse occurred. 40% of American adults wouldn't be able to cover a $400 emergency with cash, savings, or a credit-card charge that they could quickly pay off.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- Nearly 50 million people in the U.S., or 1 in 6, suffer from hunger and lack of adequate nutrition, 1/3 them children. 1 in 7 Americans rely on food pantries and meal service programs to provide food for themselves or their families. The number of senior citizens facing food insecurity has gone up every year over the last decade.
- 1 in 5 in L.A. County face food insecurity, and Latinx people make up 67.4% of those insecure households.
- Studies show a correlation between food insecurity and chronic health conditions caused by lack of access to healthy food options. (Related to Goal 3)
- Large-scale farm corporations push out smaller, local farms that grow diverse varieties of healthy produce and other farm products. Four companies own half the world’s seeds, escalate prices and destroy food diversity.
- Massive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, and mono-culture industrial farming methods by agri–business depletes the land’s mineral value and thus the food’s nutritional value. Of all the agricultural land in the U.S., 80% is used to raise industrial produced animals for food and grow grain to feed them.
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Millions in the US suffer high rates of cancer, asthma, and other diseases caused by proximity to industrial sources of toxins (Related to Goals 1, 7, 8, & 9). Pharmaceutical corporations make huge profits on drugs to treat these diseases. Very little comparatively is invested by government or private sector in prevention or addressing the causes (Related to Goal 1 and 16).

- From 1999 to 2018, obesity in the US increased from 30.5% to 42.4% of the population and the number of adults diagnosed with diabetes has more than doubled.

- Hospital corporations have closed hundreds of urban and rural hospitals that serve low-income communities over the last two decades as Medicaid (MediCal) and Medicare pay less than private insurance for services. 102 rural hospitals in 27 states closed between 2010 and 2019, four of them in California. (Related to Goal 10)

- In L.A. County (2015) 11% minors had trouble accessing health care, 23.6% adults reported having trouble accessing health care, and 6.4% minors didn’t see a doctor in the past year because of unaffordability.

- 2/3 of US personal bankruptcies in the US are caused by medical debt.

- For the first time in decades the average life expectancy of Americans started to go down each year in 2016 (except for the wealthy).
Additional Note on Goal 3:

How fundamentally flawed the US medical system is has become deadly apparent with the outbreak of the novel corona virus. Our health care system was left unequipped to mobilize the necessary process of testing, isolating and treating the disease to the extent necessary to contain the spread and limit the deaths.

- Not enough hospital beds, respirators or personal protection equipment for health care providers or masks for the public.
- Two months into the pandemic there is still no mass testing to identify and isolate those with the virus in time before they spread it, and the virus continues to spread.
- Low-paid service workers are paying the biggest price as they continue to work (grocery stores, delivery service, bus driving and other essential services, also farm worker) without adequate protective gear.
- Haphazard orders for “stay at home” when an estimated 1 million people have no home, even more who live in crowded housing conditions, and no process for protecting those in prison, jail or detention camps.
Ensure inclusive and equitable, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities

- 6.4 million young people in the U.S. between the ages 16-24 are neither in work nor in school. In L.A. it is 14.2% of the youth, and in the neighborhood of Watts, it is 25.1%.

- Among college students, hunger was cited as the 3rd most important issue affecting college campuses, according to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, with 42% of community college students regularly facing hunger, and more than 1/3 of all college students not always having enough to eat. (Related to Goal 2)

- 80% of the over 600,000 students in the Los Angeles public school system live in poverty. In L.A. County (2017) there is a 23% dropout rate in public schools. (Related to Goal 1, Goal 8, Goal 10)

- In the U.S. 32 million adults are illiterate, 21% read below a 5th grade level, and 19% of high school graduates are functionally illiterate.
The United States ranks 74th in wage equality among 145 countries. Women earn 2/3 what men make for similar work.

The United States and Papua New Guinea are the only two nations in the world that do not ensure paid time off for new moms according to the International Labor Organization (ILO.) Only 12% of American companies offer paid maternity leave.

In L.A. County, 36.4% of women with children ages 0-5 years old reported having difficulty finding childcare they could afford (43% Latinas relative to other ethnic groups believed finding childcare to be difficult). (Related to Goal 1, 8, & 11)
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- In Los Angeles, water rates increased by 71% from 2010-2017
- The groundwater that 95% of Central Valley residents rely on is now largely dried up as agribusiness owns the right to use as much as they can buy, and what is left is undrinkable due to pesticide, fertilizer, fuel and other contaminants.
- Years of industrial pollution have contaminated Southern California’s water supplies; in Los Angeles 40% of the groundwater wells have been found to be contaminated above “safe” levels.
- Fracking (hydraulic fracturing - method of extracting natural gas using massive amounts of water infused with toxic chemicals) is being done in 10 California counties. These chemicals are making their way into aquifers and drinking water. (Relates to Goals 3, Goal 7 and Goal 13)
- More than two million people in the US lack access to running water, indoor plumbing, or wastewater services.
Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all

- As of 2018, about 80% of the nation’s energy still comes from fossil fuels, 8.6% from nuclear, and only 11% from renewable sources. 580,000 Angelenos live less than ¼ mile from an active oil well.

- Low-income people spend 4 times more of their income on energy than higher-income people do.

- In 2016, California households experienced 884,380 utility disconnections, disproportionately impacting children, low-income communities, and communities of color. 628,000 of the shut-offs were in L.A. County.

- Installing solar is still unaffordable to working class and low-income people, although it could significantly lower their electric bills.
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Despite media and government reports on the unemployment rate (prior to COVID-19), only 62.7% of adults who can and would work were working, the lowest rate since the late 1970s.

- Over 16 million people live on income from jobs that pay less than $8 an hour. (Related to Goal 1)

- After the 2008 depression, 95% of all wealth that was lost by the people of the U.S. was gained by the top 1%, and 66% of the jobs created since then are low-paid, part-time and temporary. (Related to Goal 10)

- Farm work and domestic work, including home health aids, are the lowest paying jobs, despite the difficulty of the labor and importance to our economy and society.
In 2019, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) evaluated and rated California’s aviation, bridges, dams, inland waterways, levees, ports, public parks, rail, roads, schools, and transit to all either be “mediocre/requires attention” or “poor/at risk,” including 805 high hazard dams, 98 hazardous waste sites and 44% of public roads in poor condition.

Many of the one million pipes carry America's drinking water have been in use for almost 100 years. The aging system makes water breaks more prevalent and about two trillion gallons of treated water lost each year. (Related to Goal 6)

The average age of Amtrak's rail infrastructure in the Northeast Corridor is 111 years old. This includes bridges, tunnels, and a viaduct that all need upgrading.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 22 individuals in the US have more combined wealth than the bottom 50% of the population.
- There are 8 individuals in the world that own more than the bottom 50% of the world’s population – 6 of them are Americans.
- The US is now the most unequal society among all developed wealthy nations, and is seen in access to health care, housing, education, legal recourse, as well as in income.
Public mass transit services in most large U.S. cities are either inadequate in routes and frequency, or with fare rates that burden the working poor. (Related to Goal 10)

Housing costs should not exceed 30% of a household's total income, but in most U.S. cities, families spend a much larger share on rent, mortgage payment, utilities, and other housing-related expenses.

More than half a million Americans are homeless with approx. 63% staying in sheltered facilities, the rest living outside. This does not count people living in their cars, or “doubled up” with other families in the same house. Los Angeles has the 2nd largest population of people without homes — 56,257. In New York City, 1 in every 147 persons are homeless. (Related to Goal 1 and Goal 10)

Compared to the national average, L.A. prices for housing is 127% higher (median home price $788,384, median rent $2,470/month), and cost of living is 43% higher.
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- A U.S. citizen produces more than 1,650 lbs. of household garbage a year, and Americans constitute 5% of the world’s population but consume 24% of the world’s energy – more than China and Russia combined.

- In 2017, L.A. County disposed an estimated 28.05 million tons of solid waste, with 10.3 million tons ending up in landfills. County residents dispose of enough waste to fill Dodger Stadium every two weeks.

- Food packaging produced 269,000 tons of plastic pollution in the oceans in 2017.

- 40% of the U.S. food supply is wasted and ends up in landfills. (Related to Goals 2 & 14)

- The fashion industry generates 4% of the world’s waste each year (92 million tons); mostly consisting of discarded/unsold materials.

- About 22 million acres of land in the US are used for hazardous waste from many different industries; more than half of the US population lives within 3 miles of one of these waste sites. (Related to Goal 9)
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions from the US have increased in the last decade. The federal government has rolled back many environmental and safety rules for the energy sector, and fossil fuel extraction continues to receive subsidies and tax breaks.

- Of the world’s 238 highest-emitting, publicly listed private corporations, more than 80 percent remain off track for a 2 degrees Celsius world.

- Increased flooding, droughts, sea rise and mega-storms are creating what will be an estimated 250 million climate refugees in coming decades.

- An increase of just 3°C in the earth’s temperature will mean extinction for 30% of all living species.

- California fire seasons (usually in the fall) start earlier and have gotten 75 days longer over last several decades.

- Extreme heat now kills thousands of people in the US every summer, with heat waves getting hotter and longer.
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 70% of the oxygen we breathe comes from marine plants in the oceans, which are dying due to warming and acidification of the oceans. (Related to Goal 12 and Goal 13)

- Run-offs of animal waste, pesticides, chemicals, fertilizers, hormones and antibiotics are contributing to dead zones in coastal areas (e.g. in the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi River), degradation of coral reefs, and health problems to humans. (Related to Goal 2 and 3)

- Corporate industrial fishing practices have overexploited a quarter of fish stocks and half have already been exploited to the maximum. 3 billion coastal and island people in the world rely on fish for their animal protein and income. (Related to Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 16 and Goal 17)

- At the current rate of plastic use and disposal, by the year 2050, the amount of plastic in the oceans will outweigh the fish pound for pound. (Related to Goal 12)
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- Ecosystems, species, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. The essential, interconnected web of life on earth is being broken.

- Over 1 million of the world’s 8 million species are currently threatened with extinction due changes in land and sea use by humans, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution and the spread of invasive species and constitutes a direct threat to human well-being in all regions of the world.

- Over the last 40 years, 30% of the world’s arable land has become unproductive as a result of soil erosion.

- In several southern California watersheds, between 75% and 85% the wetlands have been lost in the recent past to urban development, infrastructure, pollution, and invasive species.

- Freshwater animal populations in river and lake habitats in the US have been collapsing by up to 81% since 1970 following huge water extraction for farms and people, plus pollution and dams. However, when agricultural operations are sustainably and organically managed, they preserve and restore critical habitats, protect watersheds, and improve soil health and water quality.
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- The U.S. criminal justice system has the highest % in the world of its people in prison with over 7 million in the correctional system (prison, jail, parole, probation) — a 790% increase since the 1980s. They are mostly low-income people with a higher percentage of blacks and Hispanics than the country’s demographics.

- Out of 80,000 federal prosecutions in 2018, only 2% went to trial. More than 94% of U.S. convictions are obtained through plea bargains.

- Corporations (e.g. the oil, pharmaceutical, insurance industries) spend hundreds of millions $ lobbying against legislation that would protect the people and planet from harm and for tax breaks and subsidies. When it effects their profits, large corporations can sue local governments that pass laws and regulations to protect people and the planet.
In this interdependent world, cooperation with other nations on global agreements is imperative for sustainable development and peace. The US can be in a position of positive world leadership when it implements these 17 Goals at home, fully honors international agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and meet its Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments, and ends the illegal (by international law) economic sanctions it has imposed on numerous countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa keeping them from achieving these Goals.

The US currently spends more than half the nation’s budget on the military, nearly $685 billion in 2019, out-spending 11 countries combined – including China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, the UK, France, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Brazil, and Italy. If even half of this was instead spent on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the US and in cooperation with other nations — we could have a sustainable world with much more peace.
Why the 2030 timeframe?

Combine the fact that:
Scientists have determined that if the earth’s temperature is not kept below a 1.5 degree rise, climate change will be irreversible by 2030 with catastrophic effects.

With:
The rapidly rising level of inequality and enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power within our nation and between nations and the level of conflict and instability in the world...

There is such a thing as doing too little, too late.

But, building a better world is still possible – with the transformative changes called for in the 2030 SDGs.
This is no time to be “overwhelmed” or uninvolved!

Many of the inequalities and disparities we just reviewed became even wider and more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The massive economic and social recovery that will be needed in the US and around the world post the COVID-19 pandemic needs the SDG approach towards systemic change – starting NOW.

With the adoption of the 2030 SDGs, all nations pledged to ensure “no one will be left behind” and to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first.”

That commitment is based on the fact that “a better world is possible.”
Every country is different and will prioritize which Goals they put more work into first, in what order and develop their own strategies for achievement of all 17.

But just as every Goal is interrelated with all the other Goals, what each country does or does not do towards achieving these Goals has impact on the rest of the world.

Because of how interlinked each Goal is with the other, within each country and between countries:

- progress on one advances the others
- and lack of progress on any one of the Goals holds back achievements in the others
How are the SDGs supposed to be implemented?

To achieve these Goals by 2030, every nation agreed in September 2015:

■ “...all member states [are] to develop as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can...build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.”

■ “...the essential role of national parliaments [is] through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in insuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments [the SDGs].”

■ “...governments and public institutions...[are to] work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others.”
How is the progress in each country to be monitored and reported on?

A. Through Voluntary National Reviews at the UN
   Each country is to “…conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.”
   “Regular reviews at the High Level Political Forum [held every July at the UN] are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.”
   Since 2016, over 142 countries have presented reviews at the UN of their plans, their achievements so far, and their specific obstacles to be overcome.
   See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/ to read any of their reports.

B. Involve “Stakeholders”
   Government at all levels are to involve nongovernment organizations, academia, volunteer groups, professional and labor associations, and other stakeholders… in the planning, monitoring and compiling of reports.
   We, the people affected most by the need for these Goals, are called on to organize and keep our government accountable to implement the 2030 SDGs.
What is the US doing?

- The US Executive Branch has not brought the 2030 SDGs to Congress, has not formed any councils or committees to plan implementation, and has not given any reports at the UN. (The US is the only G20 country that is not reporting to the UN on its work towards the SDGs.)

- The US State Department directed government agencies and officials “not to talk about the 2030 SDGs,” stating the US recognizes the Sustainable Development Goals as a “framework” and supports the “spirit” for other countries, but does “not endorse any of the 17 individuals Goals.” (Articulated in a 2019 internal government memo)

- Mainstream US media does not cover what is being done by other countries striving to achieve the 2030 SDGs, nor the annual 8-day long conference at the UN where all countries and 100’s of NGOs come together to review progress and problems towards achieving the SDGs.

- Most people in the US have not heard of the 2030 SDGs despite the global movement for them.

- A growing number of US local mayors have declared they endorse and are pursuing the 2030 SDGs. Los Angeles and New York submitted Voluntary Local Reports to the UN on their efforts to achieve the 2030 SDGs. However, significant involvement of community-based nongovernmental organizations that represent low-income constituencies and other “stakeholders” most in need of the 17 Goals in those cities plans and reports was lacking.

Now, a growing number of community-based, nongovernmental volunteer organizations are promoting the 2030 SDGs in their communities and mobilizing for their implementation locally. Much more is needed! Join us! Here is how:
It is up to us to build this groundswell of involvement and demand for the 2030 SDGs – from the bottom up.

- **Your organization can** publicly endorse the 2030 SDGs.
- Identify the specific Goals your organization is already pursuing.
- Point to the work of your organization as example of how specific Goals could be achieved.
- Build partnerships for the SDGs with other local nonprofit and volunteer organizations (as well as schools, businesses, congregations of worship, professional and labor associations) in the community.
- Look through the *INVEST YOURSELF* catalogue to see who is working on the same problems in other regions. CONNECT with them, compare notes, share best practices.

**CVSA can help with all of this.**
Join CVSA’s Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SDGs

Here are some steps to take:

1. Hold a Staff Meeting to discuss which of the 17 Goals or Goal the work of your organization already addresses and what you are already doing to achieve them. (Hold it by remote means during stay-at-home mandates)

2. Print the 17 Goals in your organization’s newsletter; post the 17 Goals on your organization’s website and highlight the icon(s) of the Goal(s) your organization is directly working towards. (CVSA can supply these graphics)

3. Plan a COMMUNITY MEETING about the 2030 SDGs to discuss what else can be initiated. (You can use this PowerPoint and hold it on-line. You can invite a CVSA speaker to log-in and help.)

4. When you can, set up presentations in your school, or with the social justice committee at your place of worship, or with businesses you know – to talk about your organization’s work and why you endorse the 2030 SDGs.
5. Build partnerships with other stakeholders and engage with local government:
   a) Find out why your local government has not yet formed SDG Planning Councils involving all local stakeholders.
   b) Recommend that they do so, request seats on those councils as representatives of your constituency to have a voice in the planning and implementing of the SDGs.
   CVSA is available to consult and advise on this.

6. Enlist volunteers and students to compile lists of government policies and corporate practices that are counter to the achievement of particular Goals that your organization strives to achieve. Prepare lists of solutions, proposals and demands, based on your experience.

7. Delegate an SDG liaison from your organization to CVSA for ongoing communication, assistance in developing this campaign.
In the immediate, as a member of CVSA you can:

1. Contribute data to include in CVSA’s report to the UN about local voluntary action in the US for the SDGs. Send us:
   • Data that describes conditions in your area and the need for the Goals
   • Data on the work your organization does towards meeting those needs
   • Proposals on how government could change or initiate policy that would solve the problems at their root.

2. Help CVSA produce and distribute the 2020 edition of *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action* to build more volunteer involvement in the work to achieve the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. and in solidarity with the people of all nations.
An end note:

As the corona virus crisis unfolds across the country, the inequalities and disparities described under each of the 17 Goals in this presentation have taken on even greater life and death ramifications as the gaps are even wider. The poorest, those with compromised immune systems, those with no savings and now no jobs, or with jobs that provide inadequate protection will be impacted that most.

The policies that caused so many hospitals to close across the country over the last two decades, the complete privatization of health care and medical supplies; the policies that kept wages so low for so many to the extent that half the country has been living pay check to pay check; the policies that eliminated or decreased safety nets for the unemployed, elderly and disabled, and that allowed housing prices to soar, utility rates to go beyond people’s means, and so on… are now among the factors that make the virus pandemic so hard to contain and stop and costing so many lives.

The government is taking what seem to be some extreme measures in reaction to the crisis — but they are short-term emergency measures – not systemic sustainable solutions.

And on top of everything, the EPA recently gave the fossil fuel industry a waiver retroactive to March 13, 2020 against enforcement of many health and safety protections for the duration of the pandemic — in order to curtail their loss of profits. This is a time when more protections of our air, water and workers should be enforced — to curtail loss of life.

What will be done differently in recovery from this? We need to build a groundswell of demand now that the 2030SDGs be adopted by all levels of government as a roadmap for transforming our economy and our social policy priorities, to become mainstream policy criteria for how we recover our economy and social policies after the pandemic.

Contact CVSA about how you can join us in completing the new edition of INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action, and expand this community education campaign.

Thank you,
CVSA
March 30, 2020
CVSA is nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, all-volunteer organization. Donations are urgently needed for this campaign.

Labor donated

Call CVSA TODAY for more information and to discuss a plan of action, or talk to a CVSA organizer at the end of this presentation.

To learn more about what other countries are doing, what some businesses are doing, and what we can learn from these examples – contact CVSA!

Sign up to be a volunteer organizer with CVSA!

Sign up your organization as a CVSA member for all the benefits of working together.

THANK YOU.