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**April 1, 2019**

**"Our experience of pain for the world springs from our interconnectedness with all beings, from which also arise our powers to act on their behalf."** -[Joanna Macy](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tb7436fdc-6098-4b86-861c-572315b12e14/9e4dca38-c7e4-4a43-9dba-f75e0c3b115a)

**CALENDAR**

***April***

**April 1 Cesar Chavez Day - Holiday in California**

**April 7-13 National Crime Victim’s Rights Week**

**April 7 Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide**

**April 21 Easter Sunday**

**April 22 Earth Day**

**TAKING ACTION**

***Protect Nutrition Assistance***The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation's foremost anti-hunger program. Each year SNAP lifts millions of low-income Americans out of food insecurity. On February 1, 2019, the USDA released a [proposed rule](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/fCayUocBSScH8Ak8wTvtew) to increase SNAP work requirements which would limit state flexibilities to adapt the needs of low-income and working families in the state.

As a result of these changes more than 755,000 individuals would lose SNAP benefits over the next three years.  Even individuals living in areas that have persistent unemployment above 6.9 percent (almost double the current unemployment rate) would be ineligible for waivers. This means less local control, more food insecurity and more people in need.

Tell the USDA to withdraw or modify the rule so that it protects access to necessary food and nutrition programs and adheres to the bipartisan policies implemented in the recently-passed 2018 Farm Bill.



***Pass the Berta Caceres Act***
The United States should not be sending public money to the military and police of Honduras, especially when basic human rights conditions have not been met.
[**Click here to ask your Representative to sign on as a sponsor of the Berta Caceres Act introduced by Rep. Hank Johnson, and to ask your Senators to introduce similar legislation in the Senate.**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mpss/c/GwE/ni0YAA/t.2qe/vbllGAVzSe65cGqTQa7P9w/h2/wRIxH4hhoinV5zvemCPwsX95zBoJrS526VKOIoqvfpqJ-2FcAyvX78h-2FGolwzDhXyG-2FsJgr9uRdZtYik603Y5AVYhopyZQ36ZQmJxvCU-2B97s4GEmMwy-2FkEzo-2Fk0WstmJ0f7zVsTVP2oJRx580rtVX1ZA-2B1Elen-2B6HR9Nq9Bfic7b-2BB3nbxl8eKK-2B93GGWu3vxJNqQJem4WIYhDOFjpsZpHBOB7Y37MzeCAmvvKJezsaLB7p28Zvskg-2FM-2FS-2BFmFYVlKSQtaa2d4wSFvpC-2Bs-2BEMQlkRz8-2FOAXh7XYb94NVHdqjwLbCqe07ffi7hE0erubOO9tDiUG6QNzJaSWtd06RKY0NRV3hhUP-2B99RicVZbXm2vBRJVmqPUFrY4jnl8C9rNhrKdcwslfVFgTIlqwfChJZVh-2FOwmwNHrGrlut8T040jOw-3D)

***Studies show more than half of our nation's families live in a child care desert.***

Request from Save the Children Action Network:

Congress can help states solve this problem. That's why I'm heading to Capitol Hill tomorrow to ask my lawmakers to support the Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act (H.R.1488/S.605).

[**Will you join me in urging Congress to support this bill?**](https://default.salsalabs.org/T3e30dfa1-9463-4cee-892a-eb92af792c7a/b0709dff-ccc9-4bc9-9fae-31196d74a864)

**INFORMATION/RESOUCES**

[***Report: 62M people were affected by weather extremes in 2018***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lreVCCjbkDDhgoaECieHdeCicNxdvr?format=multipart)

The World Meteorological Organization issued its yearly report on global climate and the agency says that extreme weather affected 62 million people last year. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited a "clear link" between social instability and climate change.

**How Bad Can a Chocolate Bunny Be?**

You may want to download and read the flyer below from Catholic Health Association.

[Download a flyer](https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/human-trafficking/150127_chocolatebunnyflyer.pdf?sfvrsn=4)

[Order copies of the flyer](https://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=2995)

[Order copies of a card](http://www.chausa.org/store/products/product?id=2779)

***Starbucks Working to use Recyclable Coffee Cups***

The new takeaway coffee cups will be recyclable and compostable and will be trialled across major cities in the UK, US and Canada.

The global coffee company are also trialling straw-less cups in a bid to become more sustainable and reduce their plastic pollution.

The newly redesigned, lightweight, recyclable straw-less lids will be implemented in stores across the US and Canada next year, a move that will put the company in a better position to meet their target of reducing all straws.

***National Crime Victims' Rights Week***

Catholic dioceses in California are offering special prayers and Masses in observation of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 7-13, 2019.

This year's theme is Honoring Our Past, Creating Hope for the Future.

In recognition of those impacted by crime, the Restorative Justice offices of the state's dioceses offer special events, classes and reflection on the meaning and application of restorative justice in today's society.  .

For more information about events in your area contact your local Diocesan Restorative Justice Director at [www.restorejustice.com](http://cqrcengage.com/cacatholic/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxXuYb_kMpo5L5jPeApspegV8CJFpH3K7nOl5rcsEPIvP4J42rGvesN4b3ythQf99FtiATiQqVgV_-y4gfUS2Iim7gRESr5XrciL8KnujL8ZbaOsN5mqLR86MQaZtMn4HiI6sNTXbb1Qsc0W2g4qNTSA&lp=0) or visit the CCC website at [www.cacatholic.org](http://cqrcengage.com/cacatholic/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxzkWRqtW6XTCe-FrSAWya9gvXqeqLlk6-Q3mZRirF0mMrYn_QNCSOKFWaIkPTrDTA32hVkMHHl6pEMbu6tfvFRm0Kxnldm-BlOsrVEWH6Wea0e-16sDThYbLBVBC-dkOP11XAX7YyCrPfwQ6MLWghQA&lp=0).

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| ***[Can Afghanistan Reap a Peace Dividend if Taliban Talks Succeed?](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=1e913d25bc45053b617a28ce2b35f15e2e8f8006c1d7d7cec6ac538168a0e2c628b432ac577d491fbf5eeb4c684ff644623b20dd54a45cea" \o "Can Afghanistan Reap a Peace Dividend if Taliban Talks Succeed? - headline)***In recent months there has been a flurry of movement in the Afghan peace process, leading to talk of a “peace dividend” that would boost the country’s economy and incentivize and sustain peace. What do the economics of building and maintaining peace look like in Afghanistan? |  |

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| [Read the commentary](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=1e913d25bc45053bf24e7120ad5e5ff8a148930c23a8ec17f1c49a04077c0d6f695cd796b36b2a01a8968dabc3f8b3ae6fe509a78c13cde0) |

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| ***USCCB Justice Peace and Human Development*** * Chairman of U.S. Bishop’s Committee on International Justice and Peace [offered support and solidarity](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=0eb1671e38&e=3a5fc3789d) to the people affected by the cyclone earlier this month in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.
* Chairmen of Domestic Justice and Pro-Life Activities [expressed concern](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=dc1b06052d&e=3a5fc3789d) over a new EPA rule that will expose pregnant women and unborn children to mercury and other toxics.
* Chairman of the U.S. Bishop’s Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development [issued a statement offering prayers](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=9ff11c38cb&e=3a5fc3789d) for those impacted by severe flooding across the U.S.
* President of the U.S. Bishop’s Conference [called on Catholics to respond with prayers and solidarity](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=2d1bafb884&e=3a5fc3789d) in wake of shootings at New Zealand mosques.
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[***The Legacy of Injustice Against Native Americans***](http://cqrcengage.com/networklobby/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxu2uMlrchVFfAlF9Y-oqqkVIGOKK6OXqAVfVg4VUCgSeWolsGCu99XO8U2Jo4pNk5IbaK1wuWLHvoxHy8ba5jPYPS5JVH_PSXGQGe-Edre3leM_dpOQ6aYldOh38AJtCc4Q7yUZIPDtTqeTqaw5x7m96jqDnfSFfEc6Q77ZaeRZaHTgmCc09JSITCJ0P-SiX4&lp=0) ***(From NETWORK)***
Click here to [*download a PDF*](http://cqrcengage.com/networklobby/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxX-KozX30ZyWSFuzadd0qjN1z03BgUMjzZJj0RPDAP5avnr7H08civjz-pGvmM9e_yphUU88_NbqMvbbgp_Dn6f2XgVuTlZPB0qY6GNd0ICcI35fevduy-VCUcTFs4jdBHDTujMG9f__HEnfhtR1nYWzIC2_8wJ9w7O0FuuB1_s_-wSKswQTAqO9eNwMz1-yWbVH_ikFW0kb2ObOIl0ws86RE6R78Ux2u884enbN_uo8&lp=0)