



Confronting Chaos, Forging Community

Challenging Racism, Materialism and Militarism



*Annual National Gathering
& Congressional Lobby Day*

*April 21-24, 2017
Washington, D.C.*



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Confronting Chaos, Forging Community: Challenging Racism, Materialism and Militarism

When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posed the question, “Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?” in his book of the same title 50 years ago, no one could have imagined that we would still be wrestling with this question today. In that same year on April 4, 1967, a year to the day before Dr. King was assassinated, he spoke at Riverside Church in New York addressing the intersectionality of “*the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism*” as the principal challenges of the time. Five decades later, Dr. King’s prophetic insights and challenges – and the stark choice between chaos and community — are incredibly current.

Over the past year, our nation has experienced a divisive election in which *racism*, xenophobia, and religious bigotry were a constant. We still find racism an open wound in our nation, resulting in the disproportionate killing of black and brown bodies and stunting their lives through unjust economic and social structures. The militarization of our police is a reflection not only of broken communal values, but also a lopsided foreign policy that spends drastically more on defense than diplomacy or development. *Militarism* continues to be the United States’ overriding approach to resolving conflict, despite studies that show the effectiveness of peacebuilding and the power of non-violence. Extreme *materialism* threatens our souls and our very planet, as prosperity narratives and unchecked capitalism spreads despite overwhelming scientific evidence that our current path is unsustainable. As in Dr. King’s time, we teeter precariously between chaos and community.

A new time calls for new strategies. The dynamic movement of people of faith and conscience today to challenge these “giant triplets” of chaos is taking different forms from those of the civil rights era.

Join us in Washington for “**Confronting Chaos, Forging Community**” from April 21-24, 2017 to grapple with the intersectionality of **racism, materialism, and militarism**, and learn more about the impact they have around the world, in our communities, and in our own lives. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, and networking with other Christians, Ecumenical Advocacy Days will culminate with a Lobby Day on Monday, April 24, 2017, where participants will converge on Capitol Hill to meet with their members of Congress. We seek to renew this revolutionary spirit as we affirm the vision of a day when ‘Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.’” (Isa: 40:3)

REGISTRATION FEES

Entire Four-Day Event: Before March 24: \$225 | After March 24: \$250

Two Days: Friday/Saturday or Sunday/Monday: \$125

Register online or by mail at AdvocacyDays.org/register

HOTEL

DoubleTree Crystal City, Arlington, Va.

Special Room Block Rate: \$129 / night

Reserve online at AdvocacyDays.org/housing or call (800) 222-8733 and mention code “Ecumenical Advocacy Days” or “EAD”.

**For More Information and Event Schedule
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