

Rochester Social Welfare Action Alliance Presents

# CONNECT MOVE ACT!

**Standing together for human rights**

## Human Rights DENIED!

**Flint's water crisis as a microcosm  
of the nation's politics of inequality**

**Thursday April 14, 2016**

**6:00pm** (doors open at 5:30 pm)

The College at Brockport MetroCenter -  
Grand Hallway

55 Saint Paul Street, Rochester  
(across from RTS terminal)

National headlines report the disastrous impact of the decision to change the water source to residents of Flint, Michigan. The corrosive impact the acidic river had on the pipes delivered lead-permeated water. Families drank it, bathed in it, cooked with it, brushed their teeth with it, and now they are suffering serious nerve, brain, skin and other illnesses that are caused by lead poisoning and other impure elements in the water.

In reality, the Flint water crisis is connected to a larger national threat to the human rights to water and sanitation, and has direct ties to privatization, homelessness, racism and the decline of democracy. Most of all, the impact is felt by people living in poverty.

Rochester, NY - More of its citizens live at less than half the federal poverty level than any similarly-sized city in the country. Rochester is the only city of its size where more than half of its children live in poverty.

## How can we connect the struggles within our communities and come together to fight the crisis of poverty?

### Panel Moderator

**Sady Fischer**

### Featured Panel Speakers

(more information on reverse)

**Willie Baptist,**

**Mary Bricker-Jenkins**

**Leigh-Ann Francis**

**Sylvia Orduno**



### sponsors

*The College at Brockport's: Social Work Department; the Student Social Work Organization the Women and Gender Studies Program; Department of Public Administration; Promoting Excellence in Diversity Grant Fund; and the Office of the Dean of the School of Education and Human Services*

Child Care provided, light refreshments served

Discounted Parking - \$3.00 in the Radisson Hotel Garage, sold at the event

**For more information: Katie Liebel, 585-317-4149, klieb2@brockport.edu**

## Featured Panel Speakers:

**Willie Baptist** - A formerly homeless father - came out of the Watts uprisings, the Black Student Movement, and worked as a lead organizer with the United Steelworkers. Baptist has 40 years of experience organizing with poor people, including such groups as the National Union of the Homeless, the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, the National Welfare Rights Union, and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign. He is currently the Poverty Initiative Scholar-in-Residence and is the Coordinator of Poverty Scholarship and Leadership Development for the Kairos Center based in New York City.

**Mary Bricker-Jenkins**, LCSW, PhD. After decades of practicing, teaching, and publishing in child welfare, feminist social work, community organizing, social welfare history, and economic human rights, she has continued in retirement her work to end poverty by convening the USA-Canada Alliance of Inhabitants, co-coordinating the Poverty Working Group of the US Social Forum, conducting workshops on poverty and human rights, and teaching part-time. She has held local, state, and national positions with the National Association of Social Workers.

**Leigh-Anne Francis**, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at the College of New Jersey. Her research analyzes the intersections of gender, race and class by exploring crime and punishment, labor and community, through the lens of black women's experiences while offering comparisons with imprisoned native-born and European immigrant white women.

**Sylvia Orduño** is an organizer, coordinator and activist who works with anti-poverty organizations, community groups, and national social movement coalitions. She has been an organizer and communications coordinator with Michigan Welfare Rights Organization for nearly 20 years, and is a Board member of the National Welfare Rights Union. Sylvia is a community coordinator with the Detroit Housing Is a Human Right Coalition to move homeless families into abandoned houses. During the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit, 2010, she served as the National Co-Coordinator and is an active organizer in the People's Water Board coalition and has worked with the Assembly to End Poverty, labor unions, Occupy groups, student organizations and racial-ethnic justice groups in several states.

**Sady Fischer** is a highly sought after queer feminist Latina speaker who is known for her energy and passion around challenging societal expectations and assumptions around sexuality, identity and expression by creating opportunities for honest, open conversations around feminist, racial and LGBTQ issues. Through her work, she dissects sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism, and other -isms, from a collaborative community engagement perspective. Due to her passion for social justice, Ms. Fischer is involved with many community initiatives.

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### Sponsored by

*The College at Brockport's: Social Work Department; the Student Social Work Organization the Women and Gender Studies Program; Promoting Excellence in Diversity Grant Fund; and the Office of the Dean of the School of Education and Human Services*

**Also sponsored by:** *Downtown United Presbyterian Church ~ The Justice Ministry Team, Department of Human Services at Monroe Community College; House of Mercy; Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; the Poverty Initiative at the Kairos Center; National Social Welfare Action Alliance; Rochester Chapter of National Social Welfare Action Alliance; Take Back the Land.*

**CONNECT  
MOVE  
ACT!**

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**Connect. Move. Act.** is a two day summit bringing people together to develop strategies for acting upon the systems of oppression that result in violations of human rights. Change is not possible until we understand that seemingly disparate violations are actually connected.

