

## VOTE OUT POVERTY CAMPAIGN

The Vote Out Poverty campaign represents the successor to the Covenant for a New America and the culmination of Sojourners/Call to Renewal's work over the past 10 years to unite and mobilize the faith community to put poverty onto the top of the nation's political agenda.

### *Campaign Goals*

The goal is to mobilize a faith-based constituency and concerned individuals, capable of putting poverty to the top of the political agenda. The objective is a national plan from the president and Congress to cut domestic poverty in half over the next decade and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, a set of international goals for reducing global poverty.

### *Why Vote Out Poverty?*

While most elected officials say they want to reduce poverty, few have provided leadership on the issue. Why? Most Americans are disengaged from the lives of the poor *and* the political process, so poverty reduction is pushed to the bottom of the priority list. Meanwhile, 30,000 children die everyday of preventable causes around the world and 1 in 6 children in Ohio go to bed hungry. These statistics are unacceptable. To change them, we must engage in personal service, community transformation, and political structural advocacy.

### *Campaign Timeline: Pre and Post Election*

The Vote Out Poverty campaign is designed in two parts. First, in the months before the election, the Vote Out Poverty Sabbath September 19- 21, 2008, is designed to address the education and advocacy part of that equation. On 'Poverty Sabbath' faithful voters across the nation will be educated about the moral imperative to consider the welfare of all people when casting their vote in November—and to “vote through the lens of the poor”--- calling their friends, family and local candidates to commit to making poverty reduction a national priority. Those educated voters will then ask candidates to sign pledges affirming that, if elected, they will work to accomplish specific anti-poverty goals.

After the election, the second half of the Vote Out Poverty campaign will hold lawmakers accountable for their campaign-trail promises. Next April 27-29, Sojourners will convene 2,000 Christians and people of faith from across the country for a Mobilization to Make Poverty History rally and lobby day in Washington, D.C. (Additionally there will be an accountability session in Columbus to hold state elected officials accountable for reducing the record number of Ohioans living in poverty.) Together, we'll make a strong call to state elected officials and the new administration for anti-poverty leadership and follow up with every candidate who pledged to be a leader in poverty reduction. We'll ask them to endorse and pass a policy platform of proven poverty-reducing initiatives and legislation.

### *Movement Building*

The Vote Out Poverty campaign is already gaining momentum across the country. Please Join Us. For more information contact Deborah Archie at [darchie@4allpeople.net](mailto:darchie@4allpeople.net) or visit Sojourners at [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net).