

The Willamette Action Collective denounces President-elect Joe Biden as a neoliberal imperialist with a 50-year history of serving U.S. capitalism over the wellbeing of the people. Although many are celebrating this recent U.S. election as some meaningful or definitive victory, the only enduring victors will be financial capitalism, fossil fuel companies, and the profiteers of American imperialism. The disenfranchised American people are understandably desperate for hope in the face of a pandemic, economic collapse, and ecological catastrophe, so while the end of a Trump presidency might appear a victory, we must acknowledge that Biden represents only a token shift to a more just world.

Joe Biden was one of the most conservative democrats in the history of the United States Senate. From advocating for the 1994 crime bill that expanded racist policing and massively increased incarceration rates, to advocating for the war in Iraq, he has shown his willingness to enable American imperialism and the domestic police state, he has promised to veto any universal health care bill, and has already begun surrounding himself with pro-war and pro-intervention staffers with financial ties to defense contractors and oil companies.

Despite posturing as a progressive candidate, the career of vice president-elect Kamala Harris does not provide hope for substantive changes in the American criminal justice system. As district attorney in San Francisco she was responsible for a policy of arresting the parents of elementary school children who missed school, she fought against a ruling to pay people who were wrongfully convicted in California, she stood in the way of attempts to end solitary confinement in California and has a history of supporting the death penalty and not prosecuting killer cops.

Our demands for a better world must sound far louder than just hoarse pleas for the lesser of two evils. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris work inside a political system that is more interested in self-perpetuity for a ruling elite than affecting serious change for the exploited people of the world. The Willamette Action Collective calls for substantive change in the way we structure society. We demand a return to Indigenous sovereignty and total dismantlement of the pseudo-democratic, neoliberal, imperialist government of the United States.

We must provide mutual aid to each other! We must organize and participate in direct action to deconstruct the exploitive structures surrounding us! We must uplift our siblings around the world as they fight for liberation within their own countries! We must face the realities of climate change-induced mass extinction! Just because Trump lost doesn't mean the people won. If the lethal machinery remains the same, why would we celebrate a different face smiling over the mechanisms of environmental and human exploitation? Let this election exemplify that we will not be placated by token victories in our struggle for a truly just society!



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