

*Field notes for transformation*

*“Corporate Accountability International has a unique role to play in protecting—and even advancing—economic, social, racial, and environmental justice in these next four years.”*

**KELLE LOUAILLIER**  
PRESIDENT

**Targeting the root causes of inequity and injustice**

Dear Friend,

I am grateful for the conversations I’ve had with you since Donald Trump became president. It’s clear from our discussions on what we do next and how we ignite hope that our work together has never been more vital.

The expansion of corporate power under Trump is fundamentally at odds with our shared vision of a world grounded in social justice—a world where safety is based on community and cooperation, and decision-makers are accountable to people. Corporate interference distorts that accountability. It makes public officials beholden to corporate interests and tears communities apart. It disproportionately impacts those already on the frontlines in the wake of Trump’s rise to power: people of color, immigrants, workers, low-income communities, women, and young people.

Corporate Accountability International’s campaigns target the root of economic inequity and injustice. And, we have a successful track record of taking on abusive power structures. For these reasons, we have a unique role to play in protecting—and even advancing—economic, social, racial, and environmental justice in these next four years.

**Corporate takeover of our democracy**

Corporate influence over our democracy is not new. But under Trump this process has expanded drastically. He has moved

swiftly to change the basic function of the federal government: there is no longer any pretense of the government protecting and providing basic resources people need to survive. Instead, Trump is running the federal government for the profit of transnational corporations and the mega-wealthy few who head them.

This threatens the very fundamentals of democracy, not to mention access to basic resources. And those with the fewest resources and least sanctioned power are bearing the brunt. Here are just a few ways this plays out:

- **The privatization of our water systems** threatens to deny low-income communities their human right to water and create more crises like the tragedy in Flint. Corporate control of water systems often leads to rate-hikes and shut-offs for those who cannot pay. And profits are funneled back into corporate coffers instead of fixing aging infrastructure.
- **The privatization of immigrant detention centers** put the basic human rights of immigrants at great risk. Dozens of men in privately run, immigrant-only prisons have died from inadequate medical care in recent years.
- **The privatization of our education system** also drastically widens the racial and economic divide in this country. In Durham County, North Carolina, for example, the



We can only build a world grounded in social justice by curbing corporate power. We mobilize large-scale grassroots action, like this rally for public water in Baltimore, to protect democratic access to our most basic resources.



rapid expansion of charter schools has resulted in racial and economic segregation and financial distress for public schools.

### **The ultimate check and balance**

When the government ceases to regulate giant corporations and acts instead to entrench their power, it becomes even more important that large numbers of people work together to create change.

In the end, big business relies on people to be convinced by marketing, to consume products, to believe the PR. With your support, we organize mass movements of people to say no to all that and actively withhold their support from global corporations.

And we do that with a big toolbox of tactics. These include strategic grassroots organizing, media advocacy, and digital tactics, which builds people power by educating and moving people toward coordinated action. We also mobilize large-scale pressure at local, state, and international levels to make people's concerns and demands visible and effective. In so doing, we generate the political will for policymakers to act on the interests of the communities they are supposed to represent—not the interests of the highest bidder.

As a result, we shift the cost-benefit ratio for global corporations, which mandates change. This immediately improves the lives of those on the frontlines. And it creates a better system for everyone.

### **Discipline and strategy**

Our campaigns have never relied on the federal government to force changes in

corporate practice. We moved General Electric to stop producing and promoting nuclear weapons following decades of nuclear weapons buildup and the deregulation spree initiated by Reagan. We secured the global tobacco treaty in partnership with our members and Global South allies, even in the face of the obstructionist administration of George W. Bush.

We know from experience that it takes discipline, strategy, and perseverance to create transformative social change under these conditions. And we know we have what it takes to win.

In partnership with you, we must wage even smarter and more effective campaigns under the Trump administration. These powerful, well-planned campaigns will ultimately transform abusive power structures. But to succeed, we need more capacity: people, resources, and access.

Are you ready to join me in doing more? We are building nothing less than a democracy and society that works for *everyone*.

I am grateful to do this work with you. And I continue to be inspired by your dedication to forging a brighter world than that which we face today.

Onward,

**KELLE LOUAILLIER** | PRESIDENT

