

K. Jean-Pierre: Hello everybody. My name is Karine Jean-Pierre. I am the senior strategist and national spokesperson for MoveOn.Org. I'll be your host this evening as we catch up on the past few tumultuous weeks. You'll hear from our amazing lineup of speakers and commit to take action together. I wanna thank the amazing partners who have joined MoveOn for this call, and there are many. Equal Justice Society, March for Truth, Center for Popular Democracy, People's Action, Daily Codes, Public Citizen, Common Sense, Need to Impeach, People for the American Way, and the organizations presented with speakers on the call.

[00:00:30]

[00:01:00]

[00:01:30]

This call was inspired by the Ready to Resist call series, which many of you participated in over the last year and a half or so. The day after the largest protest in American history, the 2017 Women's March, we broke the Guinness World Record for the largest conference call when 60,000 people convened to discuss how to take action together. And we continued for more than a dozen subsequent calls. Great to have everyone back on who has been on these calls before. And a huge welcome to everyone joining this call for the very first time. You can text RESIST to 668366 to sign up for future calls just like this one.

[00:02:00]

Tonight's call will focus on the core issue: the crisis we're facing with a power-abusing White House that thinks it is above the law. And we'll identify three core actions everyone can take immediately to contribute to that issue: sharing the Rapid Response Plan; calling on Congress; and attending an in-person community meeting next weekend. But this threat is all happening with other major issues occurring around us that are worth noting. Before introducing our speakers, I want to take stock of some of those issues, and where we are as a country today.

[00:02:30]

Many of us saw the painful video of two Black men being arrested in Philadelphia Starbucks for trying to meet people there for a coffee meeting. And the Trump Administration's mounting immigration raids tore through communities in Tennessee this month. Last weekend, when we were all holding our breath due to rumors that Donald Trump would fire Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein late Friday, the White House called in the Press Pool to announce that the United States were bombing targets in Syria, setting aside the question of how to reach a peaceful and just outcome to the civil war for the people of Syria. The aerial strikes reminded us that the mounting threats of a war led by this president, led by Donald Trump, not only in Syria but in Iran or North Korea or other countries.

[00:03:00]

[00:03:30]

The White House is in the process of installing a War Cabinet, with a pro-torture nominee to lead the CIA; a pro-war nominee for National Security Advisor, that job that Michael Flynn infamously held, which we'll get to as well; and Islamophobic Mike Pompeo to run the State Department. Grassroots mobilization around the country has led to a tough committee vote on Pompeo's nomination, and set for tomorrow, which Pompeo is expected to fail. Shout out to our first speak, Senator Cory Booker, for speaking out against Pompeo's nomination in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and likely leading to Mitch McConnell making the unprecedented move to bring Pompeo to the Senate floor over a committee's bipartisan rejection.

[00:04:00] As an aside, if you're from North Dakota, Senator Heitkamp is the hold out Democrat planning to support Pompeo, so please give her a call. Which brings us to tonight's call. As just mentioned, our first speaker will be Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey to speak about ongoing efforts in Congress to insulate the independent investigations into Trump-Russia matters from obstruction by Donald Trump. Next we'll turn to the planning we're doing to prepare for the possibility that Donald Trump launches into that crisis. Scores of partners have helped build the Nobody is Above the Law Network, with over 360,000 people pledged to join one of the more 900 Rapid Response protests if Trump tries to end the Special Counsel investigation.

[00:05:00] Our second speaker is Izzy Bronstein, national grassroots organizer for Common Cause and one of those partners. She'll lay out the plan for how we can rise to the moment if Donald Trump forces our hand. Third, we'll hear from one of our hosts of those Nobody is Above the Law events. Tracy Baton is hosting the Nobody is Above the Law event in [inaudible 00:05:05] for Pennsylvania, and her event made national headlines this week for how the Pittsburgh Police are planning for the possibility Trump firing Mueller or Rosenstein. We'll hear what Tracy is doing to prepare for her Rapid Response protest, and how everybody can be part of the action on that local level. Finally, we'll hear from Alexandra Flores-Quilty, project coordinator for the Civil Resistance Campaign, which is taking lessons from countries with have resisted authoritarian rule and applying them to our current political situation.

[00:06:00] Another quick reminder: people who are joining this call tonight on the phone, via webcast, and on Facebook Live, if you're on the phone, press star three to ask a question and one of our great screeners will work to get you on. You can also go to MoveOne.Org/readytoresist to listen to this call live via your computer or device, and watch the slide presentation there. So let's get started with this week speakers.

[00:06:30] Senator Cory Booker, the former mayor of Newark, New Jersey, has been a real leader in Congress on the efforts to get to the truth about the Trump-Russia scandal. As one of the architects and co-sponsors of the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, Senator Booker has been working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep Donald Trump from putting himself above the law. This week is a pivotal moment on this legislation, so Senator Booker is joining to tell us what's going on, and what we can do to help stave off a Constitutional Crisis. Senator Booker?

Cory Booker:
[00:07:00] I'm really grateful for this opportunity to be on, and Karine, your leadership is something I'm particularly grateful for. You and I have stood together on the Capital steps when they tried to take away healthcare. I've seen your activism and leadership on everything from the Muslim Ban to the crisis I think we're in right now, the potential Constitutional Crisis we're in right now. So, I'm grateful for your leadership and that of MoveOn, and I'm very happy to be on this call.

[00:07:30] I wanna remind everybody because we are here because of an attack on our country. The CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency, all issued a report after the 2016 election that they had high confidence that Vladimir Putin ordered an influenced campaign in our 2016 election really aimed at the U.S. Presidential election, trying to undermine public faith in our democratic process; trying to denigrate Secretary Clinton; and try to harm the electability and her potential presidency. This is ... those are words from our intelligence agencies. This is not a question. We were under attack. And ultimately, you all know that it was around May 17 of last year that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller as a Special Counsel to investigate this attack on our country. And, I'm gonna quote here, "any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump and any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation and any other matter within the scope of the duties that are spelled out for the Special Counsel."

[00:08:00]

[00:08:30]

[00:09:00] Now, this is where we stood. And we had bipartisan support of going forward with this investigation. But, subsequently, as you all know, Special Counsel Mueller, who must be able to conduct what is a thorough investigation on a Russian attack in our election process, cyber attacks, that we know that Donald Trump and his staff have tried to undermine the credibility of the Special Counsel and his team. And you have signals on multiple occasions now about his desire to fire him or intentions to potentially fire the Special Prosecutor. It's in the climate of all of this that Senator Lindsay Graham and I began working together last year on legislation to make sure that we protect the Special Counsel, not just for this president, but really if you think about it, it's a very pragmatic thing that if a president and his associates are under investigation by a Special Counsel, the person who is being investigated shouldn't have the power to order the firing of that Special Counsel.

[00:09:30]

[00:10:00] Whether it's a Democratic president or Republican president, the process should be independent and there should be checks and balances on that presidential power. This is a pragmatic bill, and one of the reasons why we've been able to get such strong bipartisan support. And now, actually the support we've gotten is from not just me and Lindsay Graham, but Thom Tillis, a Republican from North Carolina as well as Chris Coons has also been a part of it. And the bill that we have of Read On provides a 10 day window should the president move to order the firing of the Special Counsel, the law says he has to do it for cause, something our bill codifies, but then says basically that, the bill says there's a 10 day window in which there's an expedited judicial review to determine whether the firing was indeed for a good cause, and not just political interference or just trying ... a measure of self protection.

[00:10:30]

[00:11:00] It also makes sure that during that period, people cannot go in and destroy all the documents that have been collected. And so, it puts a freeze on preserving documents and files and more. And so this now has been gaining more momentum. We eventually got a hearing on our legislation. From that hearing, we were able to bind together the two pieces of legislation, now we have a common bill. And now, Chuck Grassley, to his credit, has been saying that he believes we should have this

[00:11:30]

[00:12:00] bill marked up in Committee, and that's what it looks like's gonna happen this week. And that's why this moment's very important for this call because this is a real test of the United States Senate, whether we will support legislation that really is about protecting our country, and protecting the rule of law so that there is a thorough investigation into something that, again, there has been a consensus of intelligence experts who've said this has happened and we should understand what the facts are; who was involved? Was there coordination? Was there collusion? Cooperation with an enemy trying to undermine the very sacrosanct, the very core of what a Democratic process is, which is the voting process, the electoral process.

[00:12:30] And so, we need your voices now in the same way the activism of MoveOn and other grassroots organizations that helped to save the first attempts to attack our healthcare, that have been involved and engaged in so many important issues. This is now one that we must apply that same level of activism in stopping and calling for everyone in the Senate to support this legislation and to help it get to the floor and to give it momentum to go to the floor and be voted on. Right now, Mitch

[00:13:00] McConnell is saying that he won't bring it to the floor but I believe if we get more momentum, if we get more Republican support, it might be something that we can get pushed to the floor ultimately. So again, your voice right now is important. Please take action. Call your Senators. Call your Congresspeople too because it's gotta move in the House as well. We're really hoping that we can mount the pressure to get a pragmatic thoughtful bill that will protect the rule of law, and make sure that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States. This piece of legislation is critical for that. Thank you very much.

K. Jean-Pierre: Thank you so much, Senator Booker. We have a question for you about previous legislations from Lisa Cameron from Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Cory Booker: Sure.

K. Jean-Pierre: Lisa, you're on.

[00:14:00] Lisa Cameron: ... Push to stop Mueller from being fired by the President, and I was wondering what makes you think that the new legislation will be successful when previous legislation wasn't?

[00:14:30] Cory Booker: Well, I wouldn't say previous legislation wasn't successful. This has just been moving at a snail's pace. Lindsay Graham and I worked on the legislation. The next thing that happened was Thom Tillis and Chris Coons had a piece of legislation very similar. We had hearings on both pieces of legislation. There were concerns brought up. We've now melded our legislation, addressed those concerns, and again, then we were in a holding pattern. And now it seems, finally, that we have a bipartisan piece of legislation that the next step happens this week to have a hearing on that legislation. So, no legislation has failed, it's just been moving at a snail's pace. And now we're at a pretty significant moment where this legislation will actually get what's called a markup, which means we now will get a chance to

[00:15:00] mark the bill and potentially bring it to a vote in Committee. And then the next step would be, after that, if it gets voted out of Committee, which I think it will, will to bring it to the Floor of the Senate.

So, this is a period where public voice really means a lot, and can get this long and slow moving piece of legislation potentially to a vote. A vote of the-

K. Jean-Pierre: Great, thank you.

[00:15:30] Thanks again, Senator Booker and really appreciate your time this evening. Good luck this week. We will be making calls and making sure that we help push this along.

Cory Booker: Thank you so much. Thank you everyone.

K. Jean-Pierre: All right everyone. We're going to do our first live poll now to see how many of us are going to help Senator Booker move this legislation through Congress this week.

[00:16:00] So, I wanna ask everyone to take out your cellphones or make a note for yourself, set a calendar note for, let's say 9 AM tomorrow, or any time you have a minute to call Congress, and ask your Senator to support SR2644. Let me say that again. That is SR2644. Then write down this number to call, which is 866-888-5744. Again, that

[00:16:30] is 866-888-5744. You'll hear a recording of a sample message, then be connected. And if you want a reminder, text ACTION to 668366. Again, that's text ACTION to 668366, and we'll send you a text message tomorrow that can help you speak up for this bill.

[00:17:00] All right, so poll number one. We're going to do a quick live poll for everyone on the phone so we can tell journalists how many calls to the Senate we're generating from this call tonight. If you're going to call Congress tomorrow, Monday, to support the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, please press one now.

[00:17:30] Okay, fantastic. I think we got over 2,000, 2,200 calls that folks are gonna make. That is folks have said they're gonna make or raise a hand to make those calls. So, thank you so much. And I see tons more watching on Facebook who will do the same. So, this is really wonderful. Thank you. Thank you all.

[00:18:00] All right. Let's continue here. So far, we've been talking about how to prevent Trump from obstructing the investigation. Next, we're going to hear about our collective preparation to respond if Trump does it any way. So, we have Izzy Bronstein who's gonna be our next speaker. She is the national grassroots organizer with Common Cause, which is one of the core partners in the Nobody is Above the Law Rapid Response Effort. To date, an astonishing 360,000 people, which I mentioned earlier on this call, likely many of you on this call, have joined in this effort, which Izzy has helped craft. Take it away, Izzy.

[00:18:30] Izzy Bronstein: Awesome. Thanks so much, Karine. And thanks so much to Senator Booker and all of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their really hard work to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. That's really what this is all about. If

[00:19:00] Trump does anything to interfere with the investigation, all of us, as Karine said 360,000 of us, will be taking to the streets to take direct democratic action. And that's why so many groups have been joining in this effort on every different issue they can care about because they know if anybody interferes with Special Counsel Mueller's investigation, we'll need all of us, from environmental groups to the unions and grassroots groups. And special thanks to People for the American Way, March for Truth, Stand Up America, and Public Citizen who've been really key to this effort.

[00:19:30] As everybody has said, we know that Trump is threatening to violate our key democratic principles, that all of us live equally under the law, including the president. The goal of our protest plan is that to ... we need to mark a red line that we cannot be ignored if Trump does something that slides us into a Constitutional Crisis. So, we wanna make sure that if a red line is crossed, lawmakers today, and history will see that there are hundreds of thousands of us in the streets, outside of Congressional offices, Federal Courts, City Halls, saying that nobody is above the law. So, I wanna take a quick second to talk about this plan.

[00:20:00] We want to make sure that we are ready to mobilize as quickly as possible if a red line is crossed. And I'll talk in a second about what those red lines are. So, that means that there are 900 protests that amazing hosts, like you'll hear from Tracy in Pittsburgh, have planned around the country. And there's likely one already in your community. If a red line is crossed before 2 PM local time, then hosts will be kicking off protests starting at 5 PM local time. However, if we get news that the red line is crossed after 2 PM your time, then the protest will start at noon the next day. However, there are some hosts who have slightly different plans, so it's really important to register for the event in your city at Trumpisnotabovethelaw.org. That's Trumpisnotabovethelaw.org, to make sure that that is the plan for you.

[00:21:00] So, we talked about the red line a little bit. Let's talk about what those triggers actually are. The first trigger is super obvious. If Trump fires Special Counsel Robert Mueller, that would absolutely cross the red line and trigger these 360,000 people into action. The president cannot fire the person who is investigating them because they are investigating them. The second is also super important. If Trump fires Special Counsel Robert Mueller's boss, who's Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein or replaces him with a different Trump crony, that would also cross a red line. I think Rod Rosenstein's a little bit less known and a little bit less discussed but it's really important that we all are talking about him and making it known to the public that if Trump does fire Deputy Attorney General, then we will be kicking into action with these protests.

[00:22:00] The third and final trigger is that if Trump pardons any key witnesses, like Paul Manafort or Jared Kushner or other members of his family, this would also cross a red line because that is Trump pardoning witnesses and obstructing the investigation by showing other potential witnesses that Trump will use his potential pardon power and grant immunity if they stay loyal to him, and that Trump is saying that loyal matters more than the truth. So, those are the three big triggers.

[00:22:30] And just a quick note on those. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has recused himself from the investigation, which is why Rosenstein matters so much, and why he's in charge. So, if Trump does fire Sessions, that would not trigger these events on its own. But because these triggers can seem kind of complicated legally, the most important thing is to sign up at Trumpisnotabovethelaw.org and then look out for an email or text alert from the Nobody's Above the Law team to figure out when we're launching those events.

[00:23:00] So, I wanna talk about for a second about what we're going to demand at these protests because that's the big thing as Senator Booker was talking about. If one of these red lines is crossed, what do we demand next? It's a question we've gotten a lot, and we've thought a lot about. So, three core demands are that Congress protect the Special Counsel's office, including, as Senator Booker was saying, preserving the files, the staff, and assuring it receives the full cooperation of the federal government law enforcement assets. And that's the first thing we ask, that we protect the investigation as it stands, and make sure there's somebody else in the investigation ready to run it.

[00:23:30] The second core thing we need to demand is demand a recreation of the Senate Selected Watergate Committee, a modern day version that would investigate every matter involving that Russia scandal, Trump's abuses of power and obstruction of justice. The final demand is that we need bipartisan hearings in House Judiciary Committee on obstruction of justice and the abuse of power. A quick note on those demands: there will be some groups who will also be calling for impeachment at that moment, other groups will not. Same with individuals. There are some of us on this call who will be calling for impeachment; there are others who will not. All are welcome, and always see they're welcome, and make sure that if that is a view you wanna have heard, you can make a sign to that effect. But let's all make sure that we're making those three demands of Congress if something does happen.

[00:24:00] The next thing we wanna just kind of go through really quickly is what do we do following these protests? We've talked a lot about we'll all be rapidly responding, going right into gear but what do we do the next day? And the most important thing is to keep that pressure on and we don't let up. So, some groups will be encouraging folks to pressure Congresspeople throughout direct actions, sit-ins, calls, emails, in-person pressure. That will be happening a lot and it's just really important that you put as much pressure on your Congresspeople as possible.

[00:24:30] We're also planning and talking about a national march a few weeks following a red line crossing. It would happen both locally in communities, as well as here in Washington D.C., which would be similar for the March for Our Lives, in that effect.

[00:25:00] So, that's the big plan, and we're really excited about it, and really grateful for everybody who stepped up and helped get us there. But we have a few asks because if we're gonna actually be ready in this moment when one of these red lines is crossed, we need each and every one of you to help make sure we get there. So, the first we've mentioned is that we need every single person on this call to RSVP at trumpisnotabovethelaw.org. You go to Trumpisnotabovethelaw.org, you

[00:25:30] type in your zip code, gonna find the closest protest to you, and register for it. I think a lot of you probably are already registered but I wanna make sure that every single person is by the end of this call. The other big thing is make sure you invite your friends to that protest. We're only in this as part of a collective. Invite family, friends. And every person on this call invites 10 people, that's be absolutely incredible. So, open up Facebook, your email, texts, go ahead right now. Invite them to trumpisnotabovethelaw.org. That's the first ask.

[00:26:00] The second ask is a little different. We are launching community meetings right away to make sure we all get to know each other. There are a thousand people on this call, and a lot of them are probably actually in communities right near each other. So, we wanna make sure that you are getting to know your neighbors and the hosts of these events, and getting to talk about these issues and how you're gonna respond right away. So, Trumpisnotabovethelaw hosts are organizing community meetings this weekend, April 28 and 29 to prepare for what we need to do to launch these events, and what we can do to fight for democracy in our own communities. And anybody on this call can make a sign making party, [inaudible 00:26:13] each other and get ready.

[00:26:30] If you go right now to MoveOn.Org/community, you can sign up to host one of these community meetings or a sign making party next weekend, April 28 and 29, or to go join one already in your community. I really hope that all of you can join those and get to know each other because we can only do this if we're part of a collective. So, I think I'm gonna do a quick poll right now, which is is will you host or attend ... so if everybody can get their phones and get ready to type ... so will you host or attend a community meeting or sign making party next weekend, April 28 and 29? Press one if you are a Nobody's Above the Law host and will host community meetings or sign making parties and you will be a host of one of these events. Two, that you are not a Nobody's Above the Law host but you will add a sign making party to the site today; or three, that you will attend a community meeting. You're not gonna host one, but you're gonna attend one in your own community, a community meeting or sign making party April 28 or 29, next weekend.

[00:27:00]

[00:27:30] It looks like we have a lot of folks who are signing up to ... almost everybody on the call is signing up to attend a meeting or host one. That's really exciting so thank you so much. We're really looking forward to seeing you all there next weekend and signing up at trumpisnotabovethelaw. Thank you all so much for your help. Kick it back to you, Karine.

K. Jean-Pierre:
[00:28:00] All right. Thank you so much, Izzy. That's really inspiring. Thank you all. But I have a update on that first poll that we did after Senator Cory Booker spoke in asking everyone who's going to make calls tomorrow to help support his legislation to protect the Special Counsel, the Trump-Russia investigation, and the number there is 3,950 people have committed to making calls tomorrow. So, thank you. Thank you everybody for that, and we couldn't do it without all of you. So, we have to come together to succeed here.

[00:28:30] All right. Next we're going to hand the mic to Tracy Baton, the host of the Pittsburgh Nobody is Above the Law event, which has 2,400 RSVPs already. Tracy is a powerhouse. She describes herself as a community organizer, therapist, mom, and nana. She's the director of the Pittsburgh Woman's March Group and co-director of Invisible Pittsburgh. She's led 70,000 people in public marches through the streets of Pittsburgh in the last 18 months, and leads training on conflict resolution. That experience has been helpful this week as media started reporting about how the Pittsburgh Police Department is preparing for the possibility that Donald Trump fires Mueller, just like we are. Tracy, we're so glad you can join us tonight. Please take it away.

[00:29:00]

Tracy Baton: Well, good evening, and it's really an honor to be here. I wanna thank everyone on the call, Karine, Izzy, Senator Booker, but especially all the people out there who are taking time to get physically engaged in these difficult times. I just think that that is absolutely exciting. I find myself on this call and a little surprised to be on the call because I got a phone call from my daughter who had just had a baby, saying, "Hey Mom, they're calling you. The reason? The Pittsburgh Police are carrying riot gear." And it made me laugh so hard as a new grand mom. The Pittsburgh Police knew ... I don't know how that memo got out and got beyond Pittsburgh, but it quickly grew from a local captain with an overly prepared attitude to far away press covering it as mobs in Pittsburgh. We think that's why it's still important in this time that we stay attuned to real events.

[00:30:00]

[00:30:30] Here in Pittsburgh, we have had a number of events. About a total of 70,000 people in the street for mass actions between the Woman's March in Pittsburgh, and the Indivisible Pittsburgh, and I've led those events. We have not had any trouble at those events, and it's because we've been prepared. Everyone's been committed to peaceful social protest. We've reached out to community partners who are doing exciting things around the city, and those things keep those events peaceful. We decided to create a Nobody's Above the Law event many months ago, because collectively, the leaders of a number of Pittsburgh organizations including Tax March Pittsburgh and March for Truth Pittsburgh were concerned about protecting the Special Counsel.

[00:31:00]

[00:31:30] I'm old enough to remember the Nixon-era in my grandmother's voice. And I have to say I heard her voice telling me to be concerned. So, I posted that event many months ago, so it was ironic to have the news saying it was suddenly and unexpected, but it meant that I had partners with the city. And when I called the City of Pittsburgh and joined hands with them, they were excited to help us, and they were ... our Mayor was on Twitter ahead of that news and helping us keep everyone aware that this was a First Amendment action about protecting the Special Counsel's office. Some of the other things that we've done to prepare for that event is to reach out to our partners in Pittsburgh, including Tax March, Indivisible Pittsburgh, group called Tuesdays with Toomey that connects with our senators. And those groups have been able to bring resources and help us organize for the event.

And so, you shouldn't be concerned as a host for one of these events, there are three things that you can do really to work to make your event great. Find your local authorities and tell them about your plan. Don't be afraid to talk to them about the date we'll be calling you. Make sure that both you and they know that you are about protecting the First Amendment and American values. And in Pittsburgh, that has been very effective for me at a number of events.

[00:32:30] Build your team. Izzy spoke about community meetings organized next weekend, and I think that in many communities, that might be your best pool. When you get face to face with people and you know each other, you can really build progressive coalitions that can create strong change. On the other hand, in places where people are spread out, don't be afraid to look for some other virtual tools to create those meetings but connect and build a team. And then when you have your team built, think about your community and how you can make that event work. In Pittsburgh, one of our community meetings is gonna be a sign making party and we're also considering a virtual sign making party.

[00:33:00]

[00:33:30] We have access to one of the large 30 foot chickens that looks like Donald Trump, and someone has committed to bring that on that day. We have a sound system, we have someone committed to sing, and for every position, we have asked for three or four backups because no one can commit to be ready at any time. So, most importantly, none of us wanna see that moment happen, and I think that it's really important to make sure that Monday morning everyone makes the call, and call your Congressperson and tell them, not only that you've signed up for an event but that you stand with the Special Counsel's office. Tell 10 of your friends to sign up for the event. The more of us stand together, the less likely it is to happen. And finally, if there isn't an event within reasonable distance from you consider starting an event and leading it. It's not hard or complicated, and most ... all municipalities have a vehicle for First Amendment actions, and your municipality can help you.

[00:34:00]

If I can be of service, I am Tracy.Baton@gmail.com. Thank you very much.

[00:34:30]

K. Jean-Pierre: Thank you so much. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Tracy. Amazing work that you're doing. Appreciate all that you do. Okay, so we have an update from our last poll, wow. We have over 408 people pledge to host organizing meetings and about 1,981 will attend those events you are hosting. So, that's really exciting. So, once again, visit on MoveOn.Org/community to register those events tonight as soon as this call is over. And once again, it's MoveOn.Org/community. So, thank you, thank you all for doing this. And we are moving on to our next speaker, our final speaker of the night, before going to a round of questions with everyone listening.

[00:35:00]

[00:35:30] So, the U.S. is not the first to democracy to flirt with authoritarianism. But, we've seen that popular movements in some countries have been able to bring people power to bear. Alexandra Flores-Quilty is with a new initiative working to take the lessons of those experiences abroad, and apply them to our domestic context.

Alexandra is the former president of the United States Student Association. She is a lead trainer with the Momentum Training Institute. And now is the Project Director of the Civil Resistance Campaign. Alexandra, over to you.

[00:36:00]

A Flores-Quilty: Thank you, Karine. I wanted to put Donald Trump's Administration into historical context, and show that people resisting can lead to real change. And I wanted to offer two quick examples of countries who have had incredible movements for democracy that are part of this thing that we call civil resistance. And offer a couple of lessons that we can learn from them.

[00:36:30]

So, civil resistance is a tradition of organizing when people non-violently fight for their rights, freedom, and justice. This means withdrawing their cooperation from oppressive systems by using tactics such as strikes, boycotts, mass protests, and many other non-violent actions. Such movement can force change to happen, even against powerful opponents. They disrupt the business as usual, and call the public into action. Many civil resistance movements throughout the world have done this, and changed history as a result.

[00:37:00]

The first example I wanted to share is one that's actually pretty alive right now, but it started in 2014. It's the Umbrella Movement within Hong Kong. This was an unprecedented pro-democracy movement that used mass civil resistance for over a year. They were organizing essentially for democracy, specifically democratic representation and free elections that wouldn't be rigged by other Chinese government establishments. The movement started when a religious leader called for an occupation in a central part of Hong Kong in anticipation before an election that they knew wouldn't be fair. In this time, they had started using some really creative tactics to bring the people of Hong Kong into the movement. One of these

[00:37:30]

was doing mass training on national television around non-violent action, both to inspire and also to equip people to take action. Many of the people who started to join the movement were young people. In fact, young people are the majority who were taking action, and they started taking a lot of leadership. And the mobilization and movement kept growing and growing, and getting more and more momentum. And it grew beyond any one leader, and any one organization.

[00:38:00]

They had hundreds of thousands of people who joined in taking action. And while eventually that particular mobilization dissipated out for a variety of factors, many feel that one of the particular reasons was that they weren't able to offer more ways for people to participate in the movement, and that there's only one central tactic for the movement. I think that's a really important lesson that we can learn from. So, while they didn't win their goals that year, they were able to inspire and ignite a generation into a vision of a truly democratic state. And right now, the people of Hong Kong who are part of that, are still resisting today, and they're getting ready for their next movement moment to fight for democracy.

[00:38:30]

The second example I wanted to share goes back a little bit farther, and it's the Serbian movement Otpor. This was a youth-led movement in the late 90s and early

[00:39:00] 2000s that was able to overthrow a dictator, their dictator Milosevic. Milosevic used brutal methods to establish his regime, fanning the flames of Serbian Nationalism, leading his country into wars, and creating a massive internal system of oppression. And yet, in this time when Serbians were both deeply struggling and also fear of oppression, should they speak out, Otpor the movement inspired and invited people to join the movement to end Milosevic's reign.

[00:39:30] What was really incredible is they were able to bring in hundreds of thousands of people from all over their country into their movement, both in the places where there are cities and in the rural areas. And while there were these moments of mass mobilization, such as like the example I gave of Hong Kong, they also gave lots of other creative ways for people to engage in action. And it was creative ways to allow people to get over their fears, given how much repression was coming from the State. And that was really powerful because it allowed more people to resist in more ways.

[00:40:00] They were also really amazing at training, and one of the things I really wanna highlight that was really brilliant that they were able to do was be prepared for things that they anticipated Milosevic to do. One of the key features of Otpor was that they they did a lot of planning, and a lot of training and preparation, and so when different things would happen, Milosevic would take different forms of action, they were ready and had done training and had done the groundwork, put the groundwork and legwork in necessary to be ready for those to actually build the movement each time. And like I said, Otpor was a movement that was able to bring in hundreds of thousands of people to resist. And in the year 2000, they were successful in removing Milosevic from power.

[00:40:30] So, there's a couple lessons I wanna highlight both from these two examples, and also I think broader lessons that we can learn from civil resistance movements from across history and across the world. One is this idea about being an equality. We actually need different people to pursue different strategies and tactics, and particularly around elections and the protests. And so, like in Otpor, there were some people who were focusing on elections and some people who were focusing on civil resistance. And the combination of these things both happening at once, not necessarily coordinated, but still happening at once, was really successful. But without people not taking responsibility for one or the other, they wouldn't be able to win.

[00:41:00] The second is the one that I highlighted with Otpor before and planning and preparation. One of the things that the people I know who are part of the Umbrella Movement said it wasn't difficult is that it was very, very emergent, the movement. And so, that was really incredible that it was able to take off so quickly. They didn't have the space to plan and prepare as much as they would like. And I think contrast with Otpor, there was a lot of that. And so, the power of planning and preparation, getting ready for things that we think might happen that could really change the political context really allows us to make those moments into truly transformative moments, and allows us to make those moments into winnable moments. And I

think that overall these things that I just wanna highlight is that when people rise up together, sometimes in the face of massive repression and a context in which it feels like there isn't a lot of hope, anything is possible.

[00:42:30] And some of the resources I also wanted to share in which you can learn more about civil resistance, both in the context of the U.S. and across the world is the International Center for Non-Violent Conflict. Their website is nonviolent-conflict.org. And in addition The Resistance Guide that was released since the election, which is guidingtheresistance.org. So, thank you so much. I wanted to share some of the examples and contexts of other movements throughout the world who are resisting in different ways. Thank you.

K. Jean-Pierre: Thank you so much, Alexandra, for that very, very helpful. Okay, everyone so we're getting close to the end of the call, and wanted to make sure that we just reviewed the Call to Action for this evening coming out of this call. So, and again, thank you for your time, thank you for joining us on a Sunday evening. Really appreciate it.

[00:43:30] We couldn't do this without all of you. So, the number one call ... the first Call to Action I should say is contact Congress Monday, tomorrow, to back Protect Mueller bill, which is the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act. Set an alarm for yourself at 9 AM tomorrow, or whenever you can tomorrow, and you need to enter this number, and I'll do it very slowly so you guys have it. It's 866-888-5744. Again, that's 866-888-5744, and that is for all of you to contact Congress tomorrow to ask them to back the Protect Mueller bill, which is the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act.

[00:44:00]

[00:44:30] Number two is RSVP and share trumpisnotabovethelaw.org with 10 friends. And so, if you can RSVP and then share that with 10 other friends, that will be very helpful to what we're trying to make happen here. And attend an organizing meeting at which you can go to MoveOn.Org/community to do that. So, once again, attend an organizing meeting and you can do that at MoveOn.Org/community.

[00:45:00] Okay, now that we've taken care of that, let's take some questions from folks out there who are joining us and want to have some questions for us. And I have here Kathy who has a question for us. Kathy, you are on.

Kathy: Really it was a question originally for Cory Booker ... hello? Oh yes-

K. Jean-Pierre: Yes, we hear you Kathy.

Kathy: All right, this was actually a question for Cory Booker but I'll take it from anybody. Can Congress ... hello? Are you there?

K. Jean-Pierre: We hear you, Kathy, go ahead. We hear you.

[00:45:30]

Kathy: Can Congress be held accountable, the Republican Congress for the abuse of power with them trying to eliminate the Mueller Investigation and signing it and

everything else? Can they be held eventually for that? Because what I see-

K. Jean-Pierre: Well, Kathy-

Go ahead, sorry.

Kathy: Go on.

K. Jean-Pierre: No, no, no. Go on Kathy. No, finish your question.

[00:46:00]

Kathy: What I see is a number of them, they got the money, so they're not going to try [inaudible 00:46:05] next year, and I'm just wondering if they can ever be held accountable for what they're doing?

K. Jean-Pierre: So, Kathy, the answer to that is yes. They can certainly be held accountable. As you know, as I'm sure you've been hearing about midterms and 2018. Midterms and 2018 this November, and everyone in the House is up for reelection this year, and that is how you can keep them accountable. And it's just going out, voting in the primary, the primary's very important making sure you pick, we elect progressive candidates in the primary and then voting in the general election in November.

[00:46:30]

[00:47:00]

MoveOn has dedicated 15 million dollars into this 2018 election cycle, which is the first time we're putting in so much money, especially in the off year election. And we are zeroing in, making sure we're getting progressive candidates out there, supporting progressive candidates. And so that is a way that everyone on this call, every citizen out there who is paying attention and cares about what's going on in our concern in what Republicans are doing on the House, what Donald Trump and his Administration is doing. One way to be a check on this Administration, which we don't see Republicans in the House doing, is for us to be a check on this Administration, which is going out and voting and making sure that we vote them out essentially.

[00:47:30]

Okay, let's see. Thanks Kathy for that question. Let's see who we'll go to next. Let's go to Jen, Salt Lake City, who has a question for us. Go ahead Jen.

Jen: I live in a really red state, and I'm just wondering what is the best thing for us to do when we're so isolated from any change we can possibly even imagine?

[00:48:00]

K. Jean-Pierre: Yeah, thank you for that, Jen. Are you speaking to what's going on this week, or just in general? Okay, I'll do this. Izzy, do you wanna chime in here and any of the other speakers wanna chime in on what Jen can be doing?

[00:48:30]

Izzy Bronstein: Absolutely. That's a great question, and a really important one. I would say that the most important thing you can do is to show that people in red states care about these issues. I mean, I think the more we show that this power does not just come from the Coast and comes from all of us across the country, whether that's in protest or preparation, all those things are really important. I would also say at the

[00:49:00] state and local level, there's so much change you can make and so much you can do to help get resolutions passed and things like that, that we're excited to work with you all on and we'll talk about that a little bit more at those community meetings. So, definitely heading to those community meetings is an excellent way to get info about that. Making sure that we are showing that all of us across the country, no matter where we live or how small our town or how big, we all care about these issues.

Tracy Baton:
[00:49:30] This is Tracy in Pittsburgh here, and I think that community meetings cannot be over-emphasized. My friends in Mount Lebanon, a wealthy suburb outside of Pittsburgh, hosted a community meeting in a very red area of Pittsburgh that eventually became the group that led the campaign that made Conor Lamb win. You do not know where there are people who support you until you host that meeting and you give them a chance to come out. They may feel exactly like you.

K. Jean-Pierre:
[00:50:00] Yep. Thank you so much. So, I'm just gonna add to this on top of what Tracy and Izzy said, the great advice that they gave which is that call your Senators. Hatch and Lee are both on the Senate Judiciary Committee, that's the Committee that Booker mentioned. Give them a call. They are voting Thursday. Call them both. Call them tomorrow. Call them Tuesday, and let them know how you're feeling that you are a voter, you're a voter, they represent you, you live in Utah clearly, and so you should just keep calling them and share your voice.

[00:50:30] Okay, we're gonna take a question from John. John R. in Massachusetts who has a question for us.

John R.:
[00:51:00] ... with Jen there. My two Senators are Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and my representative is stepping down this year. She is Niki Tsongas. But she's got some really good progressives from the Democratic Party running in the primary. So, what do I do from a really, really deep blue district? I feel like if my Senators hear one more word from this, they're just gonna go batty.

K. Jean-Pierre: All right. Thanks John from a deep red state to a very blue.

John R.: Blue.

K. Jean-Pierre: Izzy, do you wanna chime in there and Tracy, any anecdotes for us as well? Izzy, I'll take it to you first.

[00:51:30]
Izzy Bronstein: Yeah, absolutely. The exact opposite problem but a big one nonetheless. I think one thing I really recommend is talking to, if there are candidates who are up for election, talk to them about these issues. Making sure that they are thinking about this and they are planning to support this on both sides of the aisle. That candidates are planning support for this legislation, support the investigation, if they are elected. It's a great way to go about that. I also, I would never say that anybody ... our representatives get a lot of calls on a lot of issues, there are no

[00:52:00]

more than hurt. I think that one great thing is that even if your representatives are gonna vote the right way, if they know constituents care about, they will talk to their colleagues who maybe haven't gotten as many calls about it, and it's a great way to spread the word that people are paying attention to this issue and that your call can have a ripple impact upon just your own representatives.

[00:52:30]

Tracy Baton:

This is Tracy in Pittsburgh here, and I also live in a very, very blue district. I live in the City of Pittsburgh, which is one of the most fun and progressive places to live in the United States. But we have lots of red districts around, and what we did, as part of my ward's independent Democratic Club was reach out to those districts. It meant, for example, during the Lamb campaign, and I hate to keep coming back to that, we canvassed and door-knocked outside of Pittsburgh. We also tabled and made phone calls for the Lamb campaign, and it meant that we made connections throughout the county. So, it means that when a Republic challenger like Rick Saccone, who's unacceptable to progressives everywhere, goes to run for another office, we know how to connect and put an end to that. So yeah, my suggestion to people in deep blue states would be to reach out and organize. And reach out beyond your area.

[00:53:00]

[00:53:30]

K. Jean-Pierre:

Thank you Tracy and Izzy. We're gonna take one more question from ... well, I'll read this question. This is an online question from Cynthia. And her question is: I live in a small Indiana town. Is any gathering or protest too small? Izzy, wanna take that? And then Tracy, any advice for Cynthia as well?

Izzy Bronstein:

[00:54:00]

Absolutely not. Any community gathering, whether it's three people or 8,000 is incredibly impactful. And the small protests are actually sometimes the most surprising ones. You know, we've been seeing big protests in major cities across the country over the past year because there are a lot of different things to respond to. But I think the more that we can show that folks across the communities, especially with this issue, this is often seen as an only folks who are really inside the Beltway, or "care about this, protecting the investigation", the more that we can show that folks in small towns and folks in every community across the country really care about this, and all of you really show up for that, that really, that's a huge impact.

[00:54:30]

Tracy Baton:

[00:55:00]

I would have to agree. There is no action that is too small and you don't know what's gonna happen in our times. You know, I led both Women's Marches in Pittsburgh here, and they were extremely large actions. But I also led something that I thought was gonna be much smaller called March for Truth because I'm really passionate about Liberal Democracy. And then a few days before the President tweeted out that he was elected by the citizens of Pittsburgh, and we stood together and said, "No", and that turned into a much larger action than I thought. And so I think you get prepared, and you get prepared for what you think you're gonna do and it is possible it is time for something like Pittsburgh says yes to Paris. And you can only be ready for that if you get ready.

[00:55:30]

K. Jean-Pierre:

Fantastic. Thank you both. Very inspiring, and thank you for all the wonderful questions everyone. We are going to wrap this up but before we do, I wanna tell everybody, all those 408 people who pledged to host organizing meetings and the close to 2,000 people who are gonna be attending those meetings, which is really awesome, please, please visit MoveOn.Org/community to register those events

[00:56:00]

right now as we're jumping off, tonight, as soon as you can. And again, that's MoveOn.Org/community. Thank you so much for spending your Saturday evening with us. Thank you for being in this fight with us. We couldn't do it without all of you. Thank you for our great speakers who joined us tonight, and we'll be in touch soon. Good night.