

Stay in the Sunshine

Even as we're immersed in the sunshine of summer, the oppression economy continues to cast a long shadow over our daily lives. As we push ahead in our work to confront racial capitalism, it's important to find joy every day. One way we do this at LibGen is by centering our laughter. "When was the last time you laughed? Where does laughter come from in your body (your chest, your throat, your belly)?" [asked](#) Toni-Michelle Williams for [#TheUprisingsIssue](#), out last month. "How does it feel when you laugh? What does it sound like? Now think about the laughter of someone that you love."

The movement — for abolition, for our planet, for each other — is a practice, one that requires us to find the space and time to nourish our souls, to be silly, to laugh. If you take anything from this month's recap, we hope it's that.



"The solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

NEW RELEASE: Guaranteed Income Policy Brief


Poverty in the United States is a choice—not one made by those who experience such hardship, but by policymakers whose actions (and inaction) over generations have sustained and exacerbated it. Check out our first in a series of policy briefs and learn more about why economic guarantees, like a guaranteed income, must be rooted in racial justice.

[Read the brief](#)[Share on Twitter](#)

As the BLS Shows Elevated Black Unemployment, It's “Clear That Our Communities Need Much More Government Investment”

Black Unemployment Is a Crisis, and It Always Has Been

On June 4, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the latest jobs report, which showed that while overall unemployment has fallen to 5.8 percent, Black unemployment is nearly double and remains elevated at 9.1 percent. For the Stop Deficit Squawks campaign, LibGen co-ED Jeremie Greer delivered our take: “Even after a year of raising awareness about systemic inequality, the persistent unemployment in Black America makes it clear that our communities need much more government investment. Anyone who ignores or denies this reality either doesn't care or is blinded by their own privilege.” Read the full statement [here](#).



HEAR US
for Economic Justice

Are You Listening, Yet? More From #HearUs4Justice

This month, we published two new pieces for our NextCity [series](#):

- LibGen co-ED Solana Rice penned [a powerful op-ed](#) with Demond Drummer (PolicyLink), Darrick Hamilton (The New School), and Andre Perry (Brookings Institute). Speaking to disproportionate unemployment rates and other economic inequities, the group reminded readers that “what gets measured, gets done.”
- Rakeen Mabud (Groundwork Collaborative) wrote about [the devastating cost of cutting unemployment benefits](#): “How our society decides who is deserving and how we define work are rooted in racism and sexism. So let's be clear-eyed about who exactly is most harmed by cutting unemployment benefits,” she said.

Imagining Black Women's Economic Liberation


#BLACKHER
is proud to present the
BLACK WOMEN'S ECONOMIC LIBERATION SUMMIT
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH


THURSDAY, JUNE 17, AT 1-3PM ET

On Thursday, June 17, we co-hosted the Black Women's Economic Liberation Summit in partnership with BlackHer. It was a day by and for Black women, rooted in daydreaming and manifesting the future we deserve. Ultimately, this work and frameworks like #BlackWomenBest will move people of color toward our collective liberation. Check out the full recording [here](#), read through the moment on Twitter [here](#), and stay tuned for more as we continue to unpack such an inspiring day.

Centering Racial Justice in the Antimonopoly Fight

Jeremie and Solana joined the *Building Local Power* podcast by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) to talk with ILSR's Jess Del Fiacco and Stacy Mitchell about why the fight against monopoly power cannot be disconnected from the fight for racial justice. Echoing our "Antimonopoly Activism" [report](#), the episode dives deeper into why organizers of color must be centered in the antimonopoly movement and why people are always more valuable than corporate profits. Listen to the conversation and find the full transcript [here](#).





LibGen also released [a statement](#) in response to the House Judiciary Committee's [markup](#) of five [anti-monopoly bills](#) aimed at reining the power that Big Tech companies, like Amazon and Facebook, have over our economy. While these bills will offer incremental progress towards reining in Big Tech's monopoly power, they will do little to protect the lives of Black and Brown workers, consumers, small businesses, and communities. Read our full statement [here](#) and share our [tweet](#).



Interested in a workshop or presentation to educate, activate, or motivate your community? Interested in partnering with us to co-write a publication, co-host an event, or collaborate in some other way? Please fill out this [inquiry form](#)!

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