

Rest. And resources.

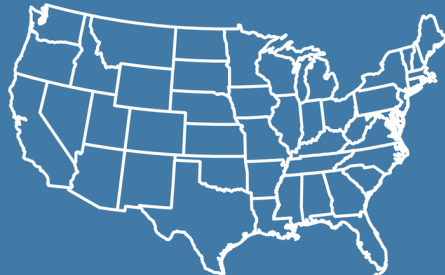
This month, we rested. LibGen periodically takes what we call a “reset week,” where we close our virtual office, put auto-responders on our email, and take a break from our work. We believe that all people of color deserve rest and leisure, because we are human beings who need it and rest is necessary to do the difficult work of fighting everyday for economic liberation. That belief is reflected in our policy platform, which includes [paid leave for all workers of color](#), but it’s important to us that it also be reflected in our internal policies.

NO to non-competes

The FTC estimates that banning noncompetes may:

- ▶ Increase workers’ earnings by nearly \$300 billion
- ▶ Save consumers up to \$148 billion on health costs each year
- ▶ Double the number of companies in the same industry founded by a former worker

Researchers estimate that banning noncompetes nationwide may close racial and gender wage gaps by 3.6-9.1%.**



LibGen was one of 50 organizations that [signed onto](#) a joint comment letter this month in support of the Federal Trade Commission’s proposed rule banning non-compete clauses and similar restraints like training repayment agreement provisions (or TRAPs), for all workers. Currently, firms use these clauses to bind everyone from camp counselors and engineers to physicians and fast food workers to their jobs – instead of retaining them through good working conditions, high wages, and career advancement. These clauses are part of the Oppression Economy, and their ban would particularly benefit women of color, who they harm most.



Batting down Big Business

This month, LibGen and the Athena Coalition wrapped up our anti-monopoly strategy session series with our final two sessions. These sessions included groups LibGen has previously worked with through its partnerships with Black Voters Matter, Ohio Voice, Miami’s Public Land for Public Good Coalition and many more organizations from across the nation. This month, our participants highlighted the importance of getting power back to *communities* rather than big corporations; the need for collective ownership and democratic governance to improve transparency and accountability; and the need for more popular education and plain-language resources to demystify anti-corporate-power work for community members. We’re currently collecting feedback from participants that we’ll share in the coming months.



Featured resource

This month we wanted to highlight a resource we’ve found useful: Interrupting Criminalization’s “[Don’t Be A Copagandist](#),” a resource (disponible en español!) for journalists and communicators of all kinds who cover policing, “crime,” and violence. It’s full of helpful tips, like how to “watch out for criminalizing language like ‘safe/unsafe,’ ‘dangerous,’ or ‘illegal.’” Copaganda justifies, obscures, and excuses the violence of the prison-industrial complex (PIC) – a major sector of the Oppression Economy that harms Black and brown people for profit. Tools that help us recognize, call out, and avoid reproducing copaganda are absolutely part of dismantling the PIC – and in turn, the Oppression Economy itself.



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