



**CALL TO ACTION
SUSTAINING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AS A FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY**

January 2, 2026

Greetings, friends, colleagues, and comrades,

We write this **Third Call to Action** Bulletin in this fresh new year. A year that no doubt will require much of us. We jump in with our usual offering of a quote – we join our hearts with Valerie Kaur’s in stepping into the work we DID in 2025 and with her we salute YOU.

"At the beginning of this year, we were looking at an authoritarian capture of our country. ...the future looked bleak. We are ending the year in a very different place...."

Every time you did something brave—showed up to a protest, put up that yard sign, made music, created art, shared that sermon, said the hard thing, did the hard thing, refused despair, kept yourself in the light, lifted others into the light—it mattered."

ACTION matters and YOU matter.

Our colleague Rukia Rogers (<https://thehighlanderschool.com/educators/rukia-rogers/>) in recent conversation with Margie offered not just her wisdom but an example of a clear Call to Action. We humbly our call to hers with gratitude for her leadership as we launch 2026.

Rukia offers this background: The Weelaunee Coalition of Atlanta is a multi-racial, intergenerational group of educators, students, families and neighbors calling for a **Week of Action beginning January 18 and ending January 25, 2026.**

As an organization rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthplace, the home of the movement to Stop Cop City, and in remembrance of our comrade Tortuguita who was assassinated by the police while defending the earth, we are moved by a deep commitment to building a world grounded in peace, justice, and anti-war principles.

As educators and organizers working toward the reimagined world our young people deserve, we call upon all our relatives across the country and around the world to **bring this generation's Movement of anti-war and peace into their classrooms, schools, and communities.**

The Weelaunee Coalition calls all educators, students, parents and caregivers to a **WEEK OF ACTION, January 18-25**, with **details of their 3 components—ENVISION, PLAN, SHARE**—outlined below.

Rukia asks us this deeply confronting and important question that we ask you to sit with as you decide on your **ACTION STEPS** for 2026.

When the NAEYC Code of Ethics says: "Above all, we do not harm children", does that mean more to you than just the children in your immediate care? What about the children in Gaza, in Sudan, in immigration sweeps across the US?

What about schools and libraries where books are being banned so that children don't learn about and grow empathy for people beyond themselves?

In the U.S. and around the world, authoritarianism and war efforts are bringing violence to children's lives. What is our responsibility?

What is the next step each of us can take?

With relentless hope,

Ann Pelo, Margie Carter, and Nicky Byres

JOIN THE WEEK OF ACTION!

THE WEELAUNEE COALITION
CALLS ON ALL **EDUCATORS,**
STUDENTS & PARENTS/
CAREGIVERS ACROSS THE
WORLD TO:



**BRING OUR
GENERATION'S ANTI-WAR
MOVEMENT TO YOUR
CLASSROOMS, SCHOOLS
& COMMUNITIES!**

As a coalition born in MLK's birthplace and the home of the fight to Stop Cop City that claimed our comrade Tortuguita on January 18th, we fight for the reimagined world our young people deserve. Join us!

WHEN?

**JANUARY
18-25**

januarywoa@proton.me

HOW?

**ENVISION
PLAN
SHARE**



SHARE LESSONS & IMPACT

If you have a plan for a certain lesson for the week of action, activity, teach-in, protest, or otherwise that you believe can be helpful for others, please email us at januarywoa@proton.me!

Share photos, flyers, and updates from the action! Email or tag us on IG (@saveweelaunee)

januarywoa@proton.me



MAKE A PLAN & TAKE ACTION

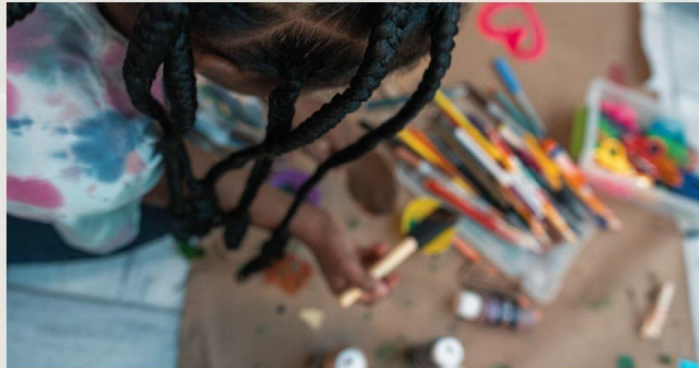
Get with your folks, collaborate and make a plan!

Email us at januarywoa@proton.me to let us know how you are taking action locally!

- What is your action? (e.g., a lesson on the conflict in Congo, a student walkout or rally, a lesson on abolitionists such as Harriet Tubman, a family teach-in, a petition to remove police from schools, a public reading of banned books, etc.)
- When / where is the action?
- Should we post / share?

januarywoa@proton.me

SWIPE FOR MORE



Find your community and scheme together!

CREATE & SHARE YOUR VISION

What does a peaceful world free of war and state violence look / feel / taste / smell like in your community and learning environments? Use any form of expression, create a vision board, write a song, journal.....

We also invite you to record a 30-60 second video describing your vision for a free world! Submit your video on IG (tag @saveweelaunee) or via email to januarywoa@proton.me

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SWIPE FOR MORE