

USING YOUR POWER WISELY: 65 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Want more direction in your path towards social change? Let this document be your compass.

This list of ways to take action is for those who have wealth, class privilege, or a desire to work towards a world where wealth, land, and power are shared.

The following list isn't comprehensive, but will help you think broadly and boldly. Challenge yourself to find five new actions you'd like to add to your life. Or choose a new one each month. Just keep it moving.

If you have money or investments:

- Take a financial literacy seminar, class or training. Educate yourself on shareholder activism and **socially responsible/mission related investing** (SRI or MRI, for short)
- Find a financial advisor who aligns with your values
- Create a **personal giving plan** that's integrated with your values
- **Share** your giving plan with family, friends, and organizations. Invite feedback and accountability
- **Divest** from companies that you're not comfortable with and seek out new **investments**
- **Move your money** out of big banks and into a local credit union
- Consciously choose to buy from companies with good labor and environmental practices. Buy local and organic
- Get involved with **civic consumption** to harness shared economic power for market-based social change
- **Organize** a cross-class collective of people to give money away with a specific focus, ideally partnering with a foundation or organization
- Set up a donor-advised fund at a **social justice foundation**
- Participate in a **giving circle** where wealthy people are not the only decision-makers
- Make a multi-year pledge to an organization you care about
- Support an organization's **longevity** by giving as a monthly donor
- Ask friends or family members to match a donation
- Write or update your will or estate, thinking about how to leave a legacy that serves a wider community than just your family
- Get involved with a **shareholder activism campaign** with your stocks
- Give to an individual in your life
- Construct a low- or no-interest loan to forgive the debt of someone in your life
- Give an amount that, for you, is a **REALLY BIG GIFT**
- Get involved in a **donor community** other than Resource Generation

If you have class privilege:

- Learn about your family's **money history**. Pay attention to the ways race and gender are integral parts of this story. **Record** this story in writing, video, or some other medium.
- Talk to your family or romantic partner about class and **how it affects your relationship**
- Talk to your family about **giving and values around money**
- Get involved in your family's philanthropy (whether or not you have a foundation)
- Help your family write a giving plan
- For your birthday or another holiday, ask your family to make a donation in your name to a social change organization.
- Set the example by doing the same for them
- Develop your relationships with people who have access to money- and speak to them honestly about giving
- Fundraise from your family and friends for a cause you care about
- Speak out as a wealthy person about economic & **racial justice**
- Use your connections to share knowledge and power with organizations you care about
- Help connect people to jobs or mentorships

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If you're a constituent member of RG:

- Talk with one of RG's organizers to learn more about being involved in any of the following suggestions (a contact list is below)
- Join a praxis group with a local chapter, for young people of color with wealth, or for people in **cross-class relationships**
- Host an RG open house or dinner
- **Sustain our work** by renewing or becoming a member and donating on our website
- Attend one of our **annual retreats**
- Join the organizing team or host committee for one of RG's retreats
- Join the local RG leadership team in your chapter
- Organize an RG praxis group where there isn't one
- Use and adapt **RG materials and resources**
- Participate in an RG delegation to a conference, like the **Council on Foundations** or the **US Social Forum**
- **Apply to be an intern, fellow, or volunteer**
- Get involved in RG's organizing around **tax** justice, mission-related investing, and national member-led **giving projects**
- Write a post for the **RG blog** about your experience with class
- **Stay connected**, like RG on **facebook** and follow RG on **twitter**
- Invite your friends and family to attend an RG program.

If you want to make a difference elsewhere:

- Get involved in a **donor community** other than Resource Generation
- Learn about what organizing/advocacy is going on in your area. Practice listening and learning
- Talk with the groups you're involved in about how to become more inclusive/progressive
- Share with other organizers and activists that you have financial and social access, and ask for guidance on how you can best leverage your privilege given your particular situation
- Go to a social justice or philanthropy conference
- Attend an **anti-racism training** or **workshop**
- Give away possessions you don't need as in-kind donations
- Lend your name to a cause- and tell your community about it
- Talk to your elected officials about structural racism and classism
- Write an op-ed for your local paper advocating for a more just distribution of wealth and power. If you're wealthy, think creatively about the ways you can speak from this position
- Participate in a protest or direct action in support of a cause you care about
- Host an organization's retreat at your home or workspace
- If you own a house or other property, **use it as collateral** to bail a political prisoner out of jail
- If you have a car, use it to help transport people to an event, meeting, or training
- If you have good credit, use it to secure a loan to help an organization or friend buy land, rent a car, or purchase a building
- **Share** your Frequent Flyer miles to help send an organizer to a conference, action, or training
- Use your connections in other cities to provide housing for fellow organizers who are traveling
- Actively practice following the leadership of poor, working, and middle class people, people of color, women, immigrants, people with disabilities, and queer and transgender people. Participate in collaborative or collective leadership structures

Let's Talk!

- If you're interested in organizing for young people of color with wealth, contact Nitika at nitika@resourcegeneration.org
- If you're interested in praxis groups, contact Sarah at sarah@resourcegeneration.org
- If you're interested in tax justice organizing, talk to Kaitlin at kaitlin@resourcegeneration.org
- If you're interested in RG's national retreats, contact Tiffany at tiffany@resourcegeneration.org
- If you're interested in fundraising or building RG's member base, contact Colette at colette@resourcegeneration.org