



# Southerners On New Ground

## WHY THE SOUTH?

**SONG's work in the South is grounded in history, a belief in redemption, a belief in the right to return and a belief in those who have been left behind by power structures.**



**History:** because this land is thick with what came before us—Native Peoples, slavery, Civil Rights Movement, traditions of resilience, beauty, pain.

**Redemption:** because we believe that while the South is a physical geography of white supremacy and poverty and how they form plantations, road, mountain top removal, and slave labor; it is also more than that. It is a place of redemption and hope for many—a place where folk reconcile with past in an honest and painful way, a place where people can stay in lands riddled with pain and remember old traditions, and birth new ways.

**Right to Return:** SONG permanently stands with the rights of all people in the Gulf Coast to return after Hurricane Katrina, and today. We also believe that all Southern LGBTQ people have the right to remain in, and return to, our Southern homes. SONG's work is not done until all Southern LGBTQ people have the right to choose our homes—safety and with full dignity.

**Belief in Those Left Behind:** because while we have been underfunded, lacking in infrastructure, brutalized by poverty, racism, homophobia, transphobia and all manners of oppression; Movement People in the South have always been fighting (like oppressed people all over the world) to keep our heads up. We have found creative ways, based on kin structures, to push toward liberation. We have not turned our back on food, singing, culture, our elders, our youth, and our craftspeople and artisans. We find joy in such unlikely places.

**Being Southerners On New Ground means loving hard histories, giving thanks, making visionary space, pushing forward, being kin, seeking wholeness and realizing there is no liberation in isolation.**

**Have questions, need support or technical assistance on this tool?  
Contact us at [ignite@southernersonnewground.org](mailto:ignite@southernersonnewground.org) or 404-549-8628**