



 **SONG**
2015 End of Year Report



I need you to survive.

We are, if nothing else, ambitious. This past year was about delivering on the promise of show not tell. From SONG members, to staff, to board, we spent 2015 responding, as we do every year, to the violence that shapes nearly every aspect of our lives. But together, we refused to be subsumed by the great challenges of our time, and we refused to forget the SONG vision of building a region, a world, free from fear. There are always haters: both those who are gunning for us, and those who are standing as obstacles for fear of getting left behind. They, and sometimes even we, question what the charge of free from fear means. How do we get there? What is the best way? Are we the ones? Is it even possible? And though the questions are often larger than the answers, we come back over and over again to say to each other, **“I need you to survive.”**

Our survival as LGBTQ people, as Black people, as immigrants, as poor and working people has never been guaranteed. Despite that, generations of our people have ensured that we would be here. In this moment, today, we owe our legacy and our leadership to the trials, errors, lessons, and victories of millions of abolitionists, enslaved peoples, campesinos, activists, organizers, revolutionaries, Adelitas, border crossers, chingonas, occupation resisters, brujas, pastors, root doctors and midwives over the passage of time fighting to get free.

In 2016, we call you to join us in renewing and recommitting to the sacred covenant of our ancestors and of our lives.

This is a twenty-first century Queer Kin Creed. This is our pinky promise to each other to continue to build SONG as an organization that is hopeful, brave, agile, and rooted in a willingness to experiment and make mistakes in the name of liberation. This is our sacred covenant to each other, because we need us to survive. Our lives are what are at stake.

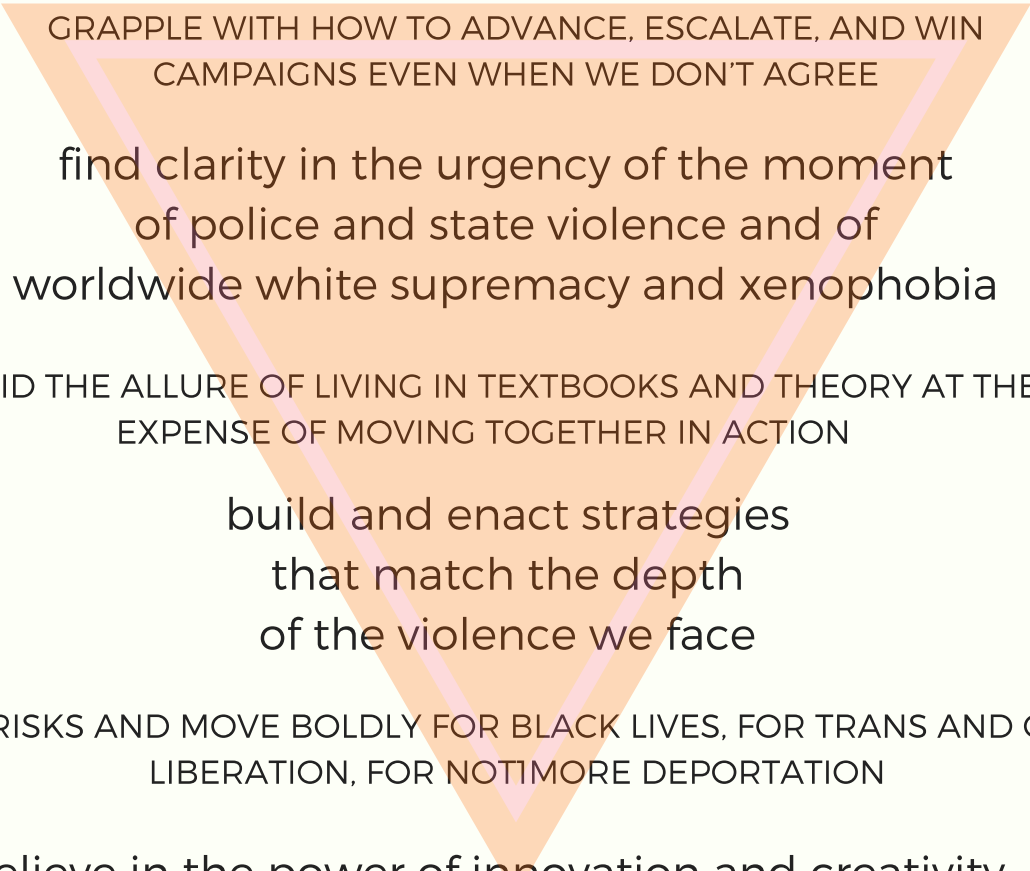
With love and gratitude,
SONG

We call on each other to...

EMBRACE LEADERSHIP THAT BUILDS THE VISION OF FREE FROM FEAR
AS A CAMPAIGN, AS A CONCEPT, AND AS A DREAM

wage grace and humility
instead of ego and scarcity

be generous with each other while practicing accountability



GRAPPLE WITH HOW TO ADVANCE, ESCALATE, AND WIN
CAMPAIGNS EVEN WHEN WE DON'T AGREE

find clarity in the urgency of the moment
of police and state violence and of
worldwide white supremacy and xenophobia

AVOID THE ALLURE OF LIVING IN TEXTBOOKS AND THEORY AT THE
EXPENSE OF MOVING TOGETHER IN ACTION

build and enact strategies
that match the depth
of the violence we face

TAKE RISKS AND MOVE BOLDLY FOR BLACK LIVES, FOR TRANS AND QUEER
LIBERATION, FOR NOTIMORE DEPORTATION

believe in the power of innovation and creativity
to combat cynicism and heartbreak

ACKNOWLEDGE OUR BRUISES AND SCARS WITHOUT RELYING ON THEM TO
DETERMINE OUR FUTURE, THE SCAFFOLDING OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS, OR OUR
TYPE OF LEADERSHIP

deny fundamentalism as a pathway forward

BRING CRITIQUE WITH PROBLEM-SOLVING AND
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS NOT MASKED BY SHADE, OUR
HURT OR OUR INJURY

SNAPSHOT

- Campaigns launch in Durham, Richmond, and Atlanta
- 45 members vote on campaign demands in Atlanta
- Intersectional coalition defeats bid for new jail in Harrisonburg, VA
- Launch of TLC@SONG at Creating Change
- Members shut down Ravenel Bridge in South Carolina
- Richmond members choose campaign issue and host 40 SONG members for Bayard Rustin people of color convening
- #SAYHERNAME march in Atlanta
- 450 Person march in downtown Charleston 3 days after massacre
- 40 SONG members go to Movement for Black Lives in Ohio
- Birmingham members facilitate 7 local political education sessions bringing together local residents across race, class, language, gender and sexuality
- Twerk contest, pinata smashing, theater of the oppressed, direct action training and babies in costumes at Gaycation 2015 outside Savannah, GA
- Tears of joy and growth as Caitlin Breedlove moves to new role and makes her exit and Mary Hooks is ushered into next level of leadership
- SONG hosts regional Queering Immigration huddle and regional LGBTQ leadership convening Out South
- Members, board, and staff run political education, training, and technical support in Arkansas, Henderson, NC, Nashville, Birmingham, Charleston, and Columbia, SC



GRASSROOTS MONEY. GRASSROOTS POWER.



THE 2016 MATCHING HUSTLE

Our friends at Fund 4 Democratic Communities have generously agreed to donate \$100 to SONG for every new monthly donor that signs up before the end of January, up to 50 donors--that's potentially \$5,000 for LGBTQ Southern movement building in 2016!

Will you take the leap and become a monthly donor to SONG today? Whether you commit at a level of \$5 or \$50 per month, your donation will be turbocharged through F4DC's matching donation of \$100--FABULOUS!!!

But wait...there's more!

We have also received an anonymous challenge that will match, dollar for dollar, NEW contributions to SONG at \$250 or more during this holiday season. This generous donor will match up to \$4,000 in new major donations to SONG. Will you donate \$250 or more to SONG so that we can be poised and ready for the challenges and opportunities 2016 will bring?

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WHY GRASSROOTS?

SONG wasn't always a membership organization but in 2007 we became one, because we knew that it was necessary to build power through numbers, because we are stronger when we stand together, because as LGBTQ Southerners, we need each other in order to survive and to build lives and communities worthy of our loved ones and ourselves. The same principle is true for the way we raise money. When many people unite in pushing the work of LGBTQ liberation forward through leveraging our personal resources, it creates a strong base for our cause and builds our collective power. We invest in this work with our muscle, our brilliance, our love, and our cold hard cash, because we are invested in collective liberation. We invite you to invest in the work of getting us all free, on whatever level you can.

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MEMBERSHIP

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016 OR BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.



Fill out this card and send it to SONG, PO Box 11250, Atlanta, GA 30312 and we will follow up with you!

INFORMATION

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Name

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Address

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City State ZIP

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Email Phone

Make checks payable to "Southerners On New Ground" MEMO: "Membership Dues"
To pay by credit or debit card visit the SONG website or call the office at 404.

\$
15
per year

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