

Social Justice Action

“Don’t ask what the world need. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” Howard Thurman

UUCSW Service Project

Social Justice FAMILY Event - “Alternate” Meal Packaging
We need someone to coordinate the purchase of meal packaging for JUNE. We will help you get organized. You can deliver or I will deliver to Worcester.

Felon Voting in Florida

Here’s the chronology of events:

2018 – voters approved a constitutional amendment that allowed persons who had served their sentence to vote. The vote was **64%** in favor.

2019 – The Florida Republican Senate votes to require that “all fees” be paid before a felon could be registered. But it provided no means by which a person could find out what was owed.

Sunday - U.S. District Court Judge Robert Hinkle [issued a ruling Sunday](#) that said Florida’s law approved in 2019 to install Amendment 4 was unconstitutional because it required felons to pay restitution, fines and fees before being able to vote. Hinkle ruled that a law passed by the Legislature and signed by DeSantis was unconstitutional because “the State of Florida has adopted a system under which nearly a million otherwise-eligible citizens can vote only if they pay an amount of money. ... Many do not know, and some may not be able to find out, how much they must pay.” The judge called the law a “pay-to-vote system.”

Hinkle’s order requires state election officials to allow ex-felons to request an advisory opinion on how much they owe, placing the burden on state officials to seek that information from court systems. If there’s no response within three weeks the applicant should not be barred from registering to vote, the ruling said.

Tuesday - Governor Ron DeSantis said he’ll appeal Hinkle’s decision His appeal is to the Appellate court in Atlanta which has already approved Hinkle’s stay of the order.

How Prison Labor is the New American Slavery and Most of Us Unknowingly Support it

If you buy products or services from any of the 50 companies listed below (and you likely do), you are supporting modern American slavery



American slavery was technically abolished in 1865, but a loophole in the 13th Amendment has [allowed it to continue](#) “as a punishment for crimes” well into the 21st century. Not surprisingly, corporations have lobbied for a broader and broader definition of “crime” in the last 150 years. As a result, there are more (mostly dark-skinned) people performing mandatory, essentially unpaid, hard labor in America today than there were in [1830](#).

<https://returntonow.net/2016/06/13/prison-labor-is-the-new-american-slavery/>

Big Business is making big bucks off of prison labor

Whole Foods – You know that \$12-a-pound tilapia you thought you were buying from “sustainable, American family farms?” It was raised by prisoners in Colorado, who were [paid as little as 74 cents a day](#). And that fancy goat cheese? The goats were raised and milked by prisoners too.

McDonald’s – [The inmates who sew McDonald’s uniforms](#) make even less money by the hour than the people who wear them.

Victoria’s Secret – Female inmates in South Carolina sew undergarments and casual-wear for the pricey lingerie company. Two prisoners [were placed in solitary confinement](#) for telling journalists that they were hired to replace “Made in Honduras” garment tags with “Made in USA” tags.

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