**Congo Action Now Meeting**

**March 25, 2012**

**Pat’s house**

**Minutes**

Present: Suzanne, Kelley, Samba, Anna, Pat

Facilitator: Pat

Minutes: Anna

Timekeeper: Samba

**Next Meeting 4/22 at Kelley’s, Kelley to provide Snacks, Samba to facilitate,**

CAN 3-year anniversary is next month! – A good time to clarify norms.

1. Norms Discussion For CAN:

* Monthly meeting time, 4th  Sunday afternoon, 3-5pm (2 hours max)
* Start on time, end on time (time keeper will help with us)
* Flexibility around length of meeting (1.5-2 hrs)
* Specific agenda that we stick to – Pat makes a draft and send out to people for suggestions (Pat)
* Pat will send the agenda out ahead of time – whoever is facilitating will print a couple of extras
* we will rotate bringing a snack
* No one spread themselves too thin, if you are feeling overburdened or like you are taking on too much, you need to say something and ask for help.
* If you take responsibility for something and aren’t able to do that, you let the entire group know so that the work can be redistributed.
  + By sending an email (“reply all”) to the entire group, letting them know what needs to be done, asking for a volunteer and if someone doesn’t volunteer asking someone to do it.
* Minutes – this can be rotated, but Anna is happy to do them each time – will ask for a volunteer if facilitating
* We will contribute to the cost of gas for Samba since she comes from out of state. The group decided to contribute to her gas for transportation.
* Personal check-in at the beginning – 10 minutes at beginning - how are you doing in your life? Anything you want to share?
* Rotate location of meetings each time.
* How we make decisions
  + We will make decisions as a group before doing something as a representative of CAN. Send an email out to the group before making a decision on behalf of CAN.
  + If you are willing to do it (bring materials to an event) you can agree if you can do it as an individual
  + If you are going to speak on behalf of CAN at an event, send it out to the group.

Roles for meetings:

Facilitator – rotate? That person brings snack (or volunteer).

Minutes – Anna or rotate

Time keeper – rotate

Agenda – Pat

Norms correction: it has to be said/acknowledged at the meeting. Talk about it.

Ensure accountability for things getting done as a group by discussing any difficulties during meetings

We get a lot done! ☺

2. Getting ready for the hearing

* We confirmed that we have notified all of the cosponsors of when the public hearing is
* DiDominico will take the lead in the Senate
* We confirmed which organizations we have contacted to notify of the hearing and request a letter of support

Who Will Testify (Organizations)

\*We want to have people testify in panels because multiple bills might be heard at the same time and will be more organized this way

testimony should be 1-3 minutes max

CAN Panel

* Anna – focus on sexual violence, statistic + a story, story of working with Congolese refugees in South Africa
* Pat – overview of the conflict
* Kelley – how she got involved, had a Congolese student come to her and say what was going on in DRC. She said we need to do something.
* Suzanne – focus on how people here don’t know what's going on, our electronics devices are directly contributing to it.
* Samba – US Congolese
  + Focus on why she came to the US, that Congolese people are not benefitting from the resources in their country, so they leave in search of a better life.

Panel A

* Kelley has2-3 Congolese students, 1 Rwandan (maybe just one?)
* Amol Mehra. Esq. – International Corporate Accountability Roundtable – international movement, lawyer aspect (will also have appts the rest of the day with representatives and aids)
* Pat Hynes, Chair of Traprock Center for Peace & Justice
* Women’s Bar Association
* Roger – Promote Congo

Panel B

* Our Bodies, Ourselves
* Advocacy Director from BARCC
* Marie Jackson Miller, WILFP
* Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights (maybe)
* Congolese Student

Maybe List

* MA Womens Bar Association
* Jana – Global Witness
* Minister of Community Church of Boston
* Enough project
* Roger Liwanga – Promote Congo
* Cherie Rivers, Yole!Africa
* Mama Jean or someone from Shalupe
* Denise Simmons
* Laurie Taymor Beery – Survivors Inc
* Estelle (Pat’s Friend and retired UMass professor)

We need to know everyone who testifies that day so we can thank them and so we can call on them again.

We will try and write down the names

We need to take pictures at the state house

Priorities – what are our priorities right now?

* Kelley said it seems we need to pressure on people on the committee, tell people to target the committee with correspondence
* We will send all of the letters of support to Kelley one time to (deadline is Friday, March 30th)

3. Events

a. Peace Action Event

* Educate people about the Congo
* Get people to contact their state representatives
* Bring petition and Individual letters.
  + Everyone will sign a letter

b. Simmons

* Same as above
* Pat and anna will meet in the Lobby at 5:45pm

Action Items

Anna

* will email names of new groups to Pat
* contact JRI Health, PHR
* will email minutes out
* Anna will email petition to Kelley
* Send letter to everyone who has signed the petition.
* Email blank petition to Samba

Suzanne

* will email DiDominico and thank him for heading the bill in the Senate
* will contact David/BC for Congo to get letter of support

Everyone

* will email their cosponsors that they are in charge with and ask if they have time to meet with Amal in the afternoon. People will also email their reps and ask the same thing, and say Amal will be coming around to meet with their aide.

Kelley

* will email Amal and then email people his bio.
* Will email letters of support, etc. to Kelley to assemble packets
* Agreed to accompany Amol to his afternoon meetings

Pat

* Cover letter for the packet for the committee members at public hearing