

## **“Come Together, Right Now”**

Suji Fox, RCDP Central Committee



Right now, in 2017, we are in the midst of **TRANSITION**. We're at a crossroads, at a perfect place to make some honest personal observations and envision ways we can help our world. That transition is occurring in every conceivable part of life and on every continent.

We don't have time to waste blaming anyone—on the “other side” OR on “our own side”—from the past or in the present. We just don't have time. John F. Kennedy said, “Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. **Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.**”

Over the years, my friendships with people of all walks of life have enriched and blessed my life. With these friends, I have sung and danced, written and taught, learned and studied, organized and preached, traveled, shared homes and businesses and classrooms, registered voters, canvassed neighborhoods, argued, debated, agreed, disagreed, gotten excited, happy, fearful, sad, angry and envious. Sometimes we shared the same values; sometimes not.

Yet, (hopefully) in most cases, I've come to realize something my parents taught my sisters and me—to put ourselves in another's place. Thich Nhat Hanh says it this way: “To love our enemy is impossible. The moment we understand our enemy, we feel compassion towards him/her, and he/she is no longer our enemy.” And I add, when we understand where another is coming from, some of the venom leaves our bodies.

The Beatles sang it, and that's what's needed today: **“Come together, right now.”** Friends, we need to shake off our fears and suspicions, stand firm with our values, and adjust our attitudes. We need to come together--not just alongside all those who share our values. We need to keep learning how to speak to people who don't share our values. We need to keep organizing and registering voters and selecting and training excellent Democratic candidates, and getting them elected.

**To accomplish any of this, we need to come together within the Democratic Party!** Wherever each of us goes from here—as long as our intention is to help restore our Earth and our democracy—is perfect. Some of us are taking on more in our clubs. *Yea!* Some are moving from one organization to another. *Fine!* Some are doing less because we're tired. *Whew!* Some are doing more because we can. *Great!* Some are taking a break. *Yippee!* Some are meditating for peace. *Thank you!*

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that's wrong with the world.” Paul Farmer said that, and I emphasize that it's not just the lives “on the other side”—politically, economically, opposite ends of the world, etc. **We need to think, speak and act as if the lives right in our own families, clubs, organizations, communities and political party all matter the same, because they do.**

We are Democrats; let us be bold and compassionate as we go about turning our values of justice, freedom and peace into action. We've made a good start. Let us mend the holes, forgive the slights and acknowledge the perseverance of those who've been doing this political

action thing for decades. Let us become a real team...for democracy...and because it's fun to save the world together!