

**Poverty Scholars Program Strategic Dialogue #1**  
Re-Igniting the Poor People's Campaign:  
Finishing the Unfinished Business of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King  
**September 18-21, 2008**

**TODAY'S "SANITATION WORKERS" STRUGGLES: SHARING OUR STORIES**

Friday, September 19, 2008, 2 – 4pm

**Session Objectives**

To offer people a chance to –

1. interact with the morning's material on Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign and its unfinished business
2. share with each other about what they do
3. interact with others doing similar work (towards laying the basis for possible ongoing collaborations)

**Session Method**

This session will begin with people dividing into four small groups based on related sectors of work (low income families, new labor and housing and homeless, students and youth, and media and art and culture). These groups will have 45 minutes to discuss 5 questions. The groups should give priority to scholars from the field to discuss their experience. The session will conclude with the small groups giving report backs (up to 10 min each including time for questions) to the large group and then any closing large group discussion.

**Session Rationale**

Meeting early on in the weekend with others who do similar work to encourage a process whereby we begin to see each other as resources, as potential collaborators in ongoing projects, and as co-leaders in various sectors of the broader movement.

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What is your group? What are your main plans or campaigns for this fall?
2. What are the main challenges your group faces?
3. What lessons does Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign hold out for your group? (Possible points of discussion include: the leadership of the poor united across color lines towards building a broad national movement, the role of the religious community, the role of media, the movement's relationship to the local/state/federal government.)
4. Are there lessons that Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign holds out for this overall sector of work (low income families, new labor and housing and homeless, students and youth, and media and art and culture).
5. How can we use (or have we used) teaching about the Poor People's Campaign to clarify, inspire or otherwise assist us in our work?