



Speak Out Now

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Kirk's Murder Reflects the Violence of This Society

Last week, far-right media personality and organizer Charlie Kirk was gunned down at a university in Utah. Kirk and his well-funded organization, Turning Point USA, rose to prominence over the past decade by holding campus events billed as debates on "free speech" and the state of U.S. politics and society. Kirk used these events to expand and solidify support for his organization by bullying and humiliating young people who questioned or challenged him.

Kirk spewed racist and right-wing views, claiming that colleges have become centers of left-wing politics that are brain-washing young people and undermining what some call "traditional values". Kirk made racist attacks on Black people and affirmative action. He claimed that immigrants and Jewish people, are "replacing" white people in the U.S. And his vicious attacks on LGBTQ people are well-known.

He became a face of far-right ideology. He was a key organizer, bringing young people into Trump's presidential campaign. Trump is canonizing him as an American hero and will honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that the government can give to a civilian. He ordered that flags be flown at half-mast across the country. Trump doesn't want to miss any opportunity to unify his base against those who disagree with him and whom he blames for Kirk's murder. Kirk's memorial will be a spectacle, held at the Arizona Cardinals NFL stadium, with a capacity of over 63,000 people.

Trump and the Republicans have made Kirk into a martyr. They are using this as an excuse to further repress the population – to go after those who stand against the hatred Kirk spread. Since Kirk's death, many prominent Republicans have stated that they are "at war" and will do everything in their power to punish those on the left that they claim are responsible for this. People have been fired from their jobs and harassed for being critical of Kirk in the face of this celebration of his political activity.

This call for organized violence is all too familiar. It is the violence that runs throughout the society. And those who are actively opposing the masked ICE agents that are terrorizing and abducting immigrant workers and families, and the occupation of our cities by National Guard troops, are being targeted by those who are maintaining this order. People are accused of being antisemitic by both

Democratic and Republican politicians for opposing the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza, who are being starved and bombed to death with full support of the U.S.

This is the open violence of this system. The violence many face each day doesn't just come from the barrel of a gun. It is the violence of poverty or the threat of slipping into poverty – the threat of wages steadily falling below the cost of living, or the violence of being laid off or fired. And the new federal and state budgets guarantee the lack of access to health care, food and subsidies for housing for millions of people.

Those in power claim that there are people that are supposedly taking things at our expense – often people who are a different race, or have a different sexual orientation, or country of origin, or religion. Some people mistakenly believe that violent actions are the only way to respond. As a result, there are mass shootings of people at religious gatherings or in areas where people of specific races or nationalities live. And the tragic shootings of children at school has become commonplace. And like the man who shot and killed Kirk, some wrongly believe that killing individuals will have a political impact. In addition to Kirk, a number of elected politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, have been shot and some killed. This is the violence this society has created.

There is a war here at home against the majority of us, the working class. It is a war that breeds fear and creates divisions. It is a war that attempts to silence us, for fear of being attacked for standing up for what we know is right. It is a war that tells us that our only choice is to depend on either the Republicans or Democrats, when neither party represents our interests. They exist to maintain the system that creates the problems we face – a system that is run in the interests of a tiny billionaire class.

The challenges we face may seem impossible to confront. But the solutions begin in our daily lives. As workers, we are the ones who make this society run, The divisions that separate us are maintained to keep us weak. To deal with the challenges and chaos we confront, we can and must look to ourselves – our families, friends, co-workers, our neighbors and other like-minded people. Then we can stand together and defend ourselves.

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

September 16th, 2025

Highland: Safe Staffing Saves Lives

Not providing enough staff to a hospital may seem like a cost-cutting measure, but it's a matter of life or death for the people we take care of. On shifts where we don't have enough staff, workers struggle to provide even the most basic patient care. There aren't enough people to help a patient up to a chair, or to reposition in bed. Call lights go unanswered, risking patient falls and losing patients' trust. Procedures like CT scans get delayed because there is no one to help transport the patient. Sharps containers stay dangerously overfilled as no one is available to empty them. Newer nurses have no one to ask to help guide their decision-making process when working with complex patients. These are not just inconveniences but risk actual harm to patients.

Working under these conditions causes harm to the workers too, as they are unable to provide the care that they know their patients need. Burnout only increases as there aren't any staff to provide breaks, and we struggle to do our best for our patients with barely a chance to use the bathroom during our shifts.

Management needs to stop insulting us by buying us a pizza on days we're critically short staffed, or begging us to come in for extra shifts when we're already exhausted. We need them to actually staff the hospital appropriately, so we can provide the safe care our patients deserve.

Now is the Time for Class Solidarity

It takes many of us workers with different titles to make our hospital function. We may often feel invisible, but our work is essential, and our humility is not a weakness. We take pride in doing our jobs well, but we must express our distaste for management's actions against us and our patients through action inside and outside the workplace.

We saw the Midwife and Anesthesia Nurses strike on Monday at Kaiser Oakland. We know change is inevitable, but the best changes for our patients won't come from the top — they will come from us. They will come from us creating dialogue, having meetings, or even striking. This is how we build class solidarity.

NO GENOCIDE IN OUR NAME!

An update on the situation in Gaza by
Nora Barrows-Friedman,
an activist and associate editor for
The Electronic Intifada

Sunday, September 21 @ 4pm

Judge Henry Ramsey Jr. Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley



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Food Fight

The nutrition department at Kaiser Oakland is changing the menu for our patients. Better food based on scientific research? Of course not, Kaiser tends to make decisions based on saving money, which does not mean bettering lives with food. This new change actually means fewer food options for patients, and as a result, possible layoffs of the people that process this food. Many foodservice workers have already left out of fear for their livelihoods.

If you care about what our patients are offered for nutrition, you should also care about how many fewer people will be there to provide these important services. We could start to explore ways to push back so our coworkers aren't being attacked, nor our patients.

Kaiser Workers Go on Strike

On Monday, September 8th, more than 600 Kaiser midwives and nurse anesthetists went on a one-day strike to demand better working conditions. This was their first strike as they negotiate their very first contract, and their two main demands are addressing understaffing and burnout.

The strike took place across Northern California. Along with the facility in Roseville, Kaiser Oakland had one of the largest demonstrations, where other workers joined the picket line in a show of solidarity.

This is likely only the beginning of a broader fight to come, as Kaiser refuses to meet the demands of midwives and nurse anesthetists. It is important that other Kaiser workers continue to talk to each other to know when the next picket line may happen, and show support in any way possible. Only solidarity can win this fight!

