

**Justice Rising**  
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**JUSTICE RISING** is a publication of the **Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

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Cover images clockwise from upper left: a graphic from the Atlantic.com depicting the corpses of small newspapers; Sue Wilson protesting Rush Limbaugh; Big Tech bully from Professor Mark Grabowski; Ida B. Wells, revered reporter on lynchings in the south, civil rights hero, Pulitzer Prize winner from *Good Black News*; Central Eye graphic from Media Literacy Now.



graphic: Artist for Assange

## Dedicated to Julian Assange

We dedicate this Justice Rising to Julian Assange and the global movement that pushed for his freedom. Julian Assange deserves a hero's award for revealing the dark secrets of the national security state in a democracy where there should not be any dark secrets. His surprise release from prison this Spring resulted from years of support from many groups including the Freedom of the Press Foundation in the US which assembled a huge international coalition demanding his freedom and repeated the demand until he was released, and Reporters Without Borders, the International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists, as well as many other groups around the world.

# Justice Rising



With the demise of profit-driven journalism, a new media landscape is coming to the fore. This began almost 20 years ago when three-and-a-half dozen, liberal, independent newsrooms came together to form the Media Consortium in a collaboration to give independent media a stronger impact in the world. Media Consortium Executive Director Jo Ellen Green Kaiser points out that they “started building a strong collaborative culture even though they were told that ‘news outlets would never agree to work with each other.’ We proved this ‘common wisdom’ wrong.” As the new media landscape developed in the ensuing years, collaboration became operational across the industry.

Kaiser also saw “racial equity as the most critical challenge facing the progressive news sector.” But she also realized that “Progressive news was largely run by white people, still assumed a white audience, and, though attempting to cover issues impacting communities of color, did not have relationships with those communities.” After several years she came to the conclusion “that the Media Consortium was not the best container for such work.” By 2018 the Media Consortium came to an end unable to collaborate on this issue.

But out of the ashes rose a new social justice journalism not hampered by the traditional “objective journalism.” Objectivity, these journalists pointed out, “is the ideology of the status quo” and that the use of objectivity allowed traditional corporate media “to perpetuate existing oppressions and structural violences.” Social justice news organizations now commit to collective liberation and declare that their work is not neutral, but is in solidarity with the movement as Movement Journalism

Movement Journalism “argues that social justice movements — and grassroots civil society efforts generally — should be as important to journalists as are Wall Street numbers or pronouncements by politicians.” Movement Journalism is about “people coming together to build the power of all people to collectively control the conditions of their lives and communities.” It is “the practice of journalism in the service of...social, political, and economic transformation.” This journalism comes out of the work of Black female journalists, like Ida B. Wells, who risked her life reporting on lynchings in the South in the late 1800s. It “is seen as a critical part of any successful strategy for systemic change.”

Reporting on the horror of Gaza exemplifies the importance of Movement Journalism. The imperial press has long reported wars as current events with no historic context. Movement Journalism presents current events in Gaza in the historical perspective of Israeli oppression of Palestinians over the last century. Only with this framing does the cause of the violence in Gaza become apparent.

Mission-Oriented Journalism is another branch of the new media landscape. It is made up of media organizations concerned about a whole range of political, environmental, economic and cultural issues. Their reporters concentrate on their nonprofits' missions to solve the many problems that face people and the planet. These include:

- Establishing a democracy overseen by We the People with money power vanquished to the sidelines;
- A healthy environment not destroyed by market imperatives that are depleting our resources, destroying our natural systems and poisoning our air, water and soil;
- Bringing peace to the world through cooperation and diplomacy while disarming the violence and corruption of the military industrial complex;
- Instituting an economy that empowers all humans to lead creative, fulfilling, productive lives where we all benefit with a secure and sustainable future; and
- Supporting a culture that is equitable and safe for all.

*These are the important changes we need to the media landscape in order to guarantee the survival of our species and the health of the planet.*