



FORUM»

# THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PUERTO RICO

**DATE:** Saturday, September 21, 2019

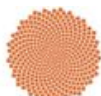
**TIME:** 10:00AM – 12:00PAM

**LOCATION:** 4W43 Building, Blue Room

4 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036  
Between 5th and 6th Avenues

Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricanes Maria and Irma while the world witnessed the inadequacy of the U.S. response. In response to the hurricanes, Puerto Ricans on the island and the diaspora quickly moved to organize food, rescue, and care for their people. They built networks for support and direct action toward a more sustainable economy and democratic social movement. These networks are key to the growing democratic mass movement that forced the resignation of Puerto Rico's governor this July.

This forum welcomes people from Puerto Rico to speak from their personal experience on how they were impacted, the response, and the current conditions. Hear directly from people being seriously harmed. Participants will get a chance to more fully understand the situation and relate to others. Everyone will have a chance to process and share their own story through paired listening exchanges. Sharing experiences is a powerful tool that strengthens our understanding and activism.



Sustaining All Life



SustainingAllLife.org



UnitedToEndRacism.org



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**THE  
WORK  
OF SAL  
& UER**

It is possible to limit the effects of human-caused climate change and restore the environment, but some very large changes in our economy and the lives we live are needed for this to happen.

Sustaining All Life (SAL) and United to End Racism (UER) believe the environmental crisis cannot be resolved without ending racism, genocide toward Indigenous peoples, classism, sexism, and other oppressions.

We believe that the barriers to building a large and powerful movement sufficient to make the needed changes include (1) longstanding divisions (caused by oppression, and especially racism and classism) between nations and between groups of people, (2) widespread feelings of discouragement and powerlessness, (3) denial of or failure to engage with the escalating damage to the earth's climate, and (4) difficulties in effectively addressing the connections between the environmental crisis and the failures of our economic system.

The mental and emotional harm done to us by oppression and other hurtful experiences interferes with our ability to think clearly and sets groups of people against each other. In SAL and UER we have learned that it is possible to free ourselves from these hurts and address barriers to effective organizing. By taking turns listening to each other and encouraging emotional release, people can heal from the mental and emotional harm and become better able to think, speak out, and organize and lead others in building a sustainable world. SAL and UER are projects of and use the tools of Re-evaluation Counseling, which currently exists in 95 countries.

**For more information, see:**

[www.sustainingalllife.org](http://www.sustainingalllife.org) or [www.unitedtoendracism.org](http://www.unitedtoendracism.org)

**or write:** Sustaining All Life/United to End Racism

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