

New Book on Hope Declares: Democracy Cannot Survive Without Economic Justice

DETROIT, MI, UNITED STATES, April 23, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- At a moment when inequality is widening and democratic institutions are under visible strain, six-time author Bankole Thompson, a nationally acclaimed Detroit journalist and standard-bearer for economic justice issues, is issuing a direct challenge to the nation: stop pretending democracy can function while economic injustice defines who gets to participate in it.

In a bold new book on hope, economic justice and democracy titled, "HOPE: On The Mountain Of Fear," which is set to be released next month, Thompson provides a realistic prescription for how to engender hope and resilience in these challenging times in the nation. The book a compendium of insightful and analytical essays expertly written by diverse individuals from around the country who are described as messengers of hope on some of the most pressing issues facing the nation ranging from healthcare affordability including veterans care, the future of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, state of the news media to the debilitating housing crisis. It offers pragmatic and thoughtful solutions to end the nightmare of hopelessness that many are currently dealing with.



Official Book Cover



Steny Hoyer, U.S. Representative, D-MD Former U.S. House Majority Leader



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The book grounded in the tradition of truth-telling shaped by figures such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, James Baldwin, Maya Angelou and others, the book offers searing analysis and urgent moral clarity on the issues defining this era and challenges leaders across government, academia, business and media to move beyond performative commitments to equity and instead take measurable, structural action for change.

The essays deliver a blunt argument: democracy is not simply under pressure. It is being undermined by economic inequality and institutional silence and that hope is not a slogan. It is a strategy that requires action.

"Everyone in the Congress – and the country – ought to read my friend Bankole Thompson’s book. At a time when division, inequality, and injustice in America often feel inescapable, Thompson reminds us that there is a way out: the path of solidarity, democracy, and hope," Maryland Democratic Congressman and former U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer wrote in endorsing the book.

Sister Simone Campbell, one of the most powerful voices for social and economic justice in the modern American Catholic Church, a close ally of the late Pope Francis’ anti-poverty crusades and a 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, wrote the book’s foreword.

“Hope can weave us together in challenging times if we stay connected in community of some sort. Wherever we look there are opportunities to make a difference by being part of the fabric of our society. None of us have to do BIG things, but we each must do SOME thing. Hope in these challenging times might just be the new green shoots of spring time growth that we need. That is what will see us through,” Campbell wrote in the foreword.

March Morial, one of the nation’s most prominent civil rights leaders and former president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and who is the president and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation’s largest civil rights organization, wrote the book’s epilogue. In it Morial described Thompson as an “award-winning journalist and public thinker,” while calling the book a “groundbreaking anthology,” adding that, “In a time of division, uncertainty, and urgent questions about the future of the American democratic experiment, HOPE: On The Mountain Of Fear is a resounding call to courage, conviction, and collective purpose.”

Among other notable figures endorsing the book is the acclaimed dean of the University of California Berkeley School of Law, Erwin Chemerinsky, who was named twice as the most influential person in legal education in the United States.

"At a time when the possibility of progressive change seems bleak, this collection of wonderful essays provides urgently needed hope. Written from a variety of perspectives and on many different topics, these essays provide a blueprint for a future with economic justice and meaningful equality of opportunity. The inescapable conclusion from this book is that we can make it happen," Chemerinsky wrote in endorsing the book.

Dr. Walter Kimbrough, the former president of Dillard University, also praised the book.

"In the days following the passing of Rev. Jesse Jackson, some began to ask, how do we replace such a monumental figure in this nation's history, a figure whose influence reached beyond our shores. Jackson often exhorted us to 'Keep Hope Alive! Bankole Thompson and associates do their part through a series of essays to address how we can keep hope alive by addressing key issues, from housing to criminal justice to mental health. Despite a mountain of fear, Thompson and colleagues provide guidance on keeping hope alive as Jackson would want," Kimbrough wrote.

Thompson is a leading journalistic voice known for confronting injustice, challenging power, and advancing a fearless vision of equity, accountability and democratic renewal. He is one of the first Black editors in the nation to conduct a series of historic exclusive sit-down interviews with former President Barack Obama, is the founder and chairman of the national anti-poverty and economic justice think tank, The PuLSE Institute, a twice-a-week opinion columnist at The Detroit News and the host of the podcast, Bankole's Nation. He is also the founder of The Bankole Thompson Center, a newly established youth leadership empowerment initiative to help build next generation leaders.

A member of the National Press Club of Washington D.C., Thompson is an accomplished author of several books, including "Fiery Conscience", about his decades of speaking truth to power reviewed by Forbes and listed as a reference in the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division of the New Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He has appeared severally on CNN and other major news outlets.

Thompson's work which is defined by a rigorous focus on economic justice, racial equality and poverty is often linked to the tradition of Frederick Douglass speaking truth to power.

In January of 2018, the late civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson Sr., personally presented Thompson with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's Let Freedom Ring Journalism Award for being a preeminent voice of conscience and courage during a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary death of Dr. King.

In a rare honor, the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library in 2015, established the Bankole Thompson Papers to preserve his work alongside the papers of Michigan governors. In 2018, he received the U.S. Congressional Record of Testimonial placing his body of work into the official record of the 118th Congress.

His advocacy has been partly centered on what has been called the Bankole Thompson Doctrine, which declares that business leaders have a moral and ethical obligation to invest in anti-poverty efforts.

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