



For Immediate Release

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Power 4 Puerto Rico Coalition Responds to Investigative Reports on Disaster Relief Disparities

WASHINGTON, DC - The Power 4 Puerto Rico coalition responded to investigative reports by news outlets [POLITICO](#) and [El Nuevo Día](#), and the charitable network [Oxfam](#) detailing the disparate and unequal treatment by FEMA and the Trump administration of American citizens in Puerto Rico compared to victims of natural disasters in other parts of the United States:

“These investigative reports confirm in stark numbers what many of us already knew: the federal government failed the people of Puerto Rico with a slower and weaker response to one of the worst hurricanes in recent history. This administration’s refusal to respond seriously to the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on our fellow Americans borders on criminal negligence, and is directly responsible for the unknowable amount of deaths, homelessness, displacement, and suffering that could have been prevented.

“We demand accountability and transparency for this failure. This administration owes the American people an explanation of what went wrong, how they are going to fix this ongoing disparity, and how they will prevent it from happening again.”

Last week, the Power 4 Puerto Rico Coalition released of a [roadmap for recovery](#) that proposes an alternative to the expanded role of the Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) in the hurricane recovery process. In the coming weeks, the coalition will issue specific demands for action from Congress and the appropriate agencies on the need for community-driven rebuilding.

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Power 4 Puerto Rico is a coalition of organizations, leaders, and advocates from across the nation calling on Congress and the Administration to adopt an ambitious, new agenda that will put Puerto Rico's economy on the road to future growth and prosperity. The coalition includes 32BJ Service Employees International Union, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), BoricuActívate, Center for American Progress (CAP), Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), Hedge Clippers, Hispanic Federation, Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), Labor Council For Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), Make the Road (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey), UnidosUS, Vamos 4 Puerto Rico, and many more.