

On Friday, March 29, the main office of the Highlander Center for Education and Research burned to the ground. There is some indication that this was due to arson. This fire comes simultaneous with Highlander's project of rebuilding their library, a crucial resource for all.

The Highlander Center has been an important actor in Southern progressive action for 87 years. During that time, it has functioned as a social movement school, and as a main actor in pushing forward a version of participatory action research. The Highlander Center has played an important role in the Southern labor movement, the civil rights movement, and every progressive activity since those times, including working in the immigrant rights movement, the LGBTQ rights movement, and most recently in the Movement for Black Lives. It is a crucial resource for progressive and action oriented people, activists and scholars alike.

Please feel free to reach out to the Highlander and tell them how much they mean to you. They have stood with progressive political movements for decades; now it is time for us to stand with them.

Thanks for anything you can do.

Knoxville News Sentinel post:

https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/local/tennessee/2019/04/03/christchurch-shooter-used-racist-symbol-found-at-highland-center-fire-iron-guard/3347678002/?utm_source=knoxnews-News%20Alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_alerts&utm_term=news_alert

Continue to share the Highlander's official statement and Facebook live video, and be on the lookout for more updates. Links are here:

<https://www.facebook.com/215912561774528/posts/2393340514031711?sfns=mo>
<https://www.facebook.com/highlandercenter/videos/2204067063175337?sfns=mo>

Tell your Highlander stories. If there was ever a time to share what this place means to you, and what is possible because it has and will continue to exist, it is now.