WHAT'S INSIDE?

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DISPATCH FROM THE COALITION

The Moment of Truth statement, embraced by End Abuse and supported by coalitions across the country, insists that mainstream anti-violence advocacy must fundamentally transform to end the personal and collective traumas our movement purports to fight.

To do so, we believe it necessary that individual advocates, multi-disciplinary teams, and policies must transform in tandem; from strategies historically rooted in violence as response to violence, toward a paradigm that recognizes and honors the intersectional lives of survivors, the partners who use violence against them, and the communities from which they are both beloved.

This journal means to offer personal & professional tools, resources, and ideas for advocates across Wisconsin to embody; for the systems that survivors must navigate to explore and adopt; for communities to urge their leadership consider seriously.

This is neither fast nor easy work. It is not one-size-fits-all. Healing and accountability are messy, evolving, intangible. As are we.

Tegan Nia Swanson, Systems Change Coordinator
WE ARE HERE MKE:

A COLLECTIVE COMPRISING SEVEN CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROGRAMS IN MILWAUKEE

We Are Here MKE is a collective comprising the culturally-specific domestic and sexual violence programs in Milwaukee, WI.

The initiative was created to amplify the expertise of culturally-specific programs in their respective communities and bolster awareness of culturally-specific programs' existence, so that survivors from those communities - who for reasons including bias, racism, and mistrust of systems based in historical systemic violence do not feel comfortable utilizing mainstream programs - know that alternatives exist, and finding safety is possible.

At present, culturally specific programs do not have access to the vital data necessary to meet the needs of their communities, and they are not equitably represented or meaningfully heard in decision-making conversations about funding and the policies and protocols that directly impact victims and survivors they are designed to serve.

This results in mainstream programs receiving higher levels of funding and awareness, leaving culturally specific programs underfunded and under-resourced, despite their expertise.

We Are Here MKE has three main goals:

Access data in an ongoing fashion regarding domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) incidents responded to by the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) that strengthens collaborative efforts with all DV/SA service providers.

Strengthen coordination with MPD district stations serving culturally specific communities.

Develop and launch a multilayered campaign featuring the culturally specific programs’ presence and expertise.

We Are Here MKE is taking initial steps to move forward with their three goals, which serve to fulfill their vision of a world where ALL survivors can have access to safety and live fully in their dignity with love and respect in Milwaukee.

They invite folks who are ready to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice work to reach out to:

Antonia Vann, Asha Project Executive Director antoniav@ashaproject.org

THIS IS US SAYING THAT WE ARE HERE, WE EXIST, WE WANT TO HELP ... & WE NEED THE DATA, THE COLLABORATION, & THE FUNDING TO DO IT.

ANTONIA VANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASHA PROJECT.
The BREATHE Act offers a radical reimagining of public safety, community care, and how we spend money as a society.

We bring 4 simple ideas to the table:

Divest federal resources from incarceration and policing.

Invest in new, non-punitive, non-carceral approaches to community safety that lead states to shrink their criminal-legal systems and center the protection of Black lives—including Black mothers, Black trans people, and Black women.

Allocate new money to build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities.

Hold political leaders to their promises and enhance the self-determination of all Black communities.

See summaries here.
Read the entire bill here.
TRANSFORMATIVE

PRACTICES FOR HEALING & ACCOUNTABILITY

MINDFULNESS PRINCIPLES FOR WHITE FOLX TO BUILD SOLIDARITY WITH THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

- EXCERPTED & ADAPTED FROM CALM

Sit with discomfort
Realize that words, actions, and beliefs are part of the problem. Do you become defensive, shutdown, or dismissive? Recognize how you respond in your mind & body. Learn more from the Rev. angel Kyodo williams.

Meet your mistakes with equanimity
The next time you say or do something that causes harm, take a minute to offer yourself compassion. Then, take action. Apologize. Learn more about why your language or behavior was hurtful. Do better next time.

Honor similarity & difference
While at some level we may indeed all be one, our lived experiences are very different, informed and influenced by intersecting privileges and oppressions. The denial of difference denies and reinforces harm.

Expand your awareness
Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention with intention and curiosity in the present moment. How can you apply the same to your anti-racism learning? See here for more anti-racism resources for white folk.

Hold space for anger
Anger is a natural and appropriate response to injustice. When white folk react/blame/control the anger and not the injustice, we help perpetuate harm. Learn more from Lama Rod Owens.
Summon courage
If you dream of a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, then breathe deep and take action. Interrupt white supremacist racism when you witness it. See here for tips on Bystander Intervention.

Decenter yourself!
Practice recognizing when you center your own identities or experiences, and analyze your motivations. Instead, practice centering marginalized voices and support their leadership. Learn more about Decentering here.

Check-in with care
If you’re worried about the wellbeing of Black loved ones, check in to express you care...but be mindful not to add to their heartache or exhaustion. See here for tips from trauma psychologist Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez.

Keep showing up
“Co-conspiracy is about what we do in action, not just in language,” says Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter. Use your privilege to disrupt and interrogate white supremacy in your personal, professional, and community relationships. Learn more about active opportunities with the Movement for Black Lives.

Practice self-care
In order to keep showing up to this work, you must also make space to take care of yourself. It’s a marathon, not a sprint. Rest, reset and rejuvenate so that you can keep taking meaningful action toward a more just world.
Every eligible voter should be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted. That includes voters who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. But how can voters experiencing these situations ensure that registering to vote and casting a ballot does not put them or their loved ones in danger?

They can register as a confidential voter!

Find out more in the Coalition Chronicles.
WATCH: WHAT IS TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE?

THE BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

ACTIVITY: POD-MAPPING & COMMUNITY SAFETY

MIA MINGUS & THE BAY AREA TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COLLECTIVE

Your pod is made of the people that you would call on if:

- violence, harm or abuse happened to you
- you wanted support in taking accountability for violence, harm or abuse that you’ve done
- you witnessed violence or if someone you care about was being violent or being abused

POD MAP

1. Write your name in the middle gray circle.

2. The surrounding bold outlines are your pod. Write the names of the people who are in your pod.

3. The dotted outlines surrounding your pod are people who are ‘movable’. They are people that could be in your pod, but you need to build more relationship or trust with them.

4. The gray circles at the edge are for networks, communities, or groups that could be resources for support, or people involved in those groups.

* Your pod(s) may shift over time, as your needs and relationships change or as people’s geographic locations change.

Adapted from the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective’s Pod Mapping Worksheet
FALL 2020, Issue No. 1

TRANFORMATIVE RESOURCES

READ

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LEAH LAKSHMI PIERPONTE SAMARASINHA
BEYOND SURVIVAL
STRATEGIES AND STORIES FROM THE TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

INDIGENOUS IMPACT COMMUNITY CARE INITIATIVE
@SEEDINGSOVEREIGNTY

DISCLOSURE
A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

CODE SWITCH
npr
“E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G—is connected. The soil needs rain, organic matter, air, worms and life in order to
do what it needs to do to give and receive life. Each element is an essential component. Organizing
takes humility and selflessness and patience and rhythm while our ultimate goal of liberation will take
many expert components. Some of us build and fight for land, healthy bodies, healthy relationships,
clean air, water, homes, safety, dignity, and humanizing education. Others of us fight for food and
political prisoners and abolition and environmental justice. Our work is intersectional and multifaceted.
Nature teaches us that our work has to be nuanced and steadfast. And more than anything, that we
need each other—at our highest natural glory—in order to get free.”

Emergent Strategy - adrienne maree brown
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin is a non-profit organization that depends on grants and donations to create publications such as this. All donations are tax deductible. For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website.

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin’s core philosophy of a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic violence is that domestic violence is a community issue that requires engagement from the entire community to address.

Although many CCR teams begin their coordination efforts with the criminal process, this system represents only one piece of the larger community. Because the legal system is not a support all victims choose to engage, an effective CCR team will include members from schools, mental health and other healthcare agencies, neighborhood centers, faith communities, county extension agencies, culturally-specific organizations, and many other groups. CCR must go beyond the legal system to truly create a wide network of support for victims, which is especially important for communities of color, people with disabilities, older adults, and other survivors from marginalized communities.

Learn more about Community Coordinated Response here.

If you have a resource or a story to share, please contact tegans@endabusewi.org