

**Saturday April 6th and  
Sunday April 7th**

BEYOND THE BARS 2024

**JUSTICE**  
**BEYOND**  
**PUNISHMENT**

APRIL 4 - 7, 2024



***Columbia School of Social Work***

# Welcome to Beyond the Bars 2024: Justice Beyond Punishment

## **A note on Covid and masking:**

*To be in solidarity with our elders, immunocompromised attendees, and our broader sick and disabled kin, we **strongly** encourage wearing masks at the conference, except when eating.*

## **Conference Schedule**

### **SATURDAY**

#### **Justice Beyond Punishment Plenaries and Workshops**

*Columbia School of Social Work (1255 Amsterdam Ave)*

9:15am–10:00am: Registration and Light Breakfast

10:00am–1:30pm: Morning Plenaries

1:30–2:30pm: Lunch

2:30pm–4:00pm: Afternoon Plenary

4:15pm–5:30pm: Breakout Sessions

5:45pm–7:30pm: Screening and Talkback

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Justice Beyond Punishment Workshops**

*Columbia School of Social Work (1255 Amsterdam Ave)*

9:30am–10:00 am: Registration and Light Breakfast

10:00am–11:15 am: Breakout Sessions Block One

11:30am–12:45 pm: Breakout Sessions Block Two

12:45pm–2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00pm–3:15 pm: Breakout Sessions Block Three

# JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT

Plenaries and Breakout Sessions

Saturday, April 6

## SATURDAY MORNING PLENARIES

10:00am – 1:30pm

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**WELCOME (10:00AM-10:15AM)**

**INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS ON JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT (10:15AM-11:45AM)**

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow on the Concourse Level)

**Panelists:**

**Erik Bringswhite**, I. Am. Legacy.

**Albino Garcia**, La Plazita Institute

**Fania Davis**, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth\*\*

**Cheryl Fairbanks\*\***, Sovereignty 360/Life Comes From It

**Moderator: Ariel Clark**

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**JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT: GROWING RESPONSES TO INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE (12:00PM-1:30PM)**

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow on the Concourse Level)

**Panelists:**

**Sonya Shah**, The Ahimsa Collective

**Juan Gomez**, MILPA

**K Bain**, Community Capacity Development

**Nikki Brown**, Spirit House

**Moderator:**

**Charlene Allen**, Justice Beyond Punishment Collaborative

**\*\*Joining virtually**

**LUNCH (1:30-2:30PM)**

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY

2:30pm-4:00pm

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## JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT: UPROOTING STATE VIOLENCE

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow on the Concourse Level)

### Panelists:

**Andrea James**, The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

**Sumaya Awad**, Adalah Justice Project

**Joyce McMillan**, JMac for Families

**Tammara McCoy**, Survivors Justice Project

**Krystal Twobulls\*\***, Honor the Earth

### Moderator:

**Alice Kim**, Beyond Prisons at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics & Culture

**\*\*Joining virtually**

**Host: Shawnda Chapman**

# SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4:00 – 5:15pm

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## INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON PEACEMAKING

Room 311/312

This session will highlight Indigenous approaches to justice beyond punishment through peacemaking and culturally rooted healing from a number of different tribal leaders from around the country.

**Presenters:** Rainey Enjady (Mescalero Apache), Ariel Clark (Anishinaabe), Margaret Behan (Cheyenne Arapaho), Quinton Antone (Tohono O'odham), Cedar Wesley (Grand Ronde), Charlene Eigen-Vasquez (Ohlone), and others.

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## **CREATING COMMUNITY ART-I-VISIONS: CROSS-COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR HEALING AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH THE ORAL TRADITION AND VISUAL STORYTELLING**

Room 301

The objective of this workshop is to explore how Art-I-Visions, specifically those rooted in the oral tradition and in visual storytelling, can be utilized as a form of healing and restoration for those most impacted, both in the free world and inside. This workshop aims to be a participatory and transformative experience that delves into the oppressive structures within the carceral system from different perspectives, whilst harnessing the power of music, storytelling and visual arts as tools for restoration and accountability. Participants will delve into the power of visual arts as a catalyst for change and accountability, discovering how directly-impacted artists have challenged oppressive narratives both within the carceral system and themselves. They will engage in hands-on Art-I-Vision creation with an encouragement to incorporate personal reflection and interpretation of their own experiences.

**Presenters:** Mekela Clarke, Sarah Robinson, and Corey Arthur

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## **FUNDING HER FUTURE: A GUIDE TO GRANT WRITING TO HELP GROW YOUR IMPACT**

Room 302

Unlock the secrets of successful grant writing in our Beginner's Grant Writing workshop. This is an interactive and hands-on workshop designed for aspiring grant writers, providing essential skills and insights for navigating the world of grants. Learn the fundamentals of crafting compelling proposals, identifying suitable funding opportunities, and understanding the key elements that make an application stand out. Whether they are a budding entrepreneur or a nonprofit enthusiast, this workshop is a gateway to mastering the art of securing funds for justice projects and initiatives. The primary goal of the workshop is to teach participants the skills necessary to write successful grant proposals, enabling their various initiatives to access additional funding, whether from government agencies, foundations, or private donors.

**Presenters:** Marquitta Rucker

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES BEYOND PUNISHMENT: RHYME, REASON, AND RESTORATIVE APPROACHES TO YOUTH MENTORSHIP**

Room 304

This workshop will share culturally responsive strategies and lessons learned in Maine to change administrative policy in support of positive peer relationships among currently and formerly incarcerated youth and adults. This session will highlight innovative approaches to overcoming retributive policies to build opportunities for youth and emerging adults, demonstrating how a group of incarcerated people in Maine fought against the OJJDP doctrine of Sight and Sound Separation. This federal mandate implies that all communication between incarcerated youth and incarcerated adults is dangerous and should be restricted. Moving beyond punishment means challenging these regressive beliefs about the value of restorative youth mentorship with incarcerated adults who have transformed their lives and who hold immense value to youth trapped in carceral spaces, exploring the truth and adding value to conversations around what true justice looks like.

**Presenters:** Brandon Brown, Abdi “Lalee” Awad, Shaun Libby, Andre Hicks, and Skye Adams

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## **UNCOVERING THE POWER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROCESS**

Room C02

In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ administrative remedy process and get insights into strategies for navigating prison staff’s illegal meddling and retaliation practices, maximizing the impact of inside advocacy, and challenging carceral punishment. Participants will leave the workshop with a thorough understanding of what the administrative remedy process is, how to use it, and how they might be able to apply it to their own work. They will also be given access to a full video training series in the administrative remedy process if they would like to learn more.

**Presenters:** Anna Sugrue and David Simpson

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## INTEGRATING GENDER JUSTICE STRATEGIES WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WALLS

Room C03

Building on our shared commitment to gender justice, we recognize the power of unity across diverse experiences, roles, and identities. This workshop, inspired by the transformative work at CEPP and the voices of those directly affected by gender injustices, represents what is possible when women come together to advance change within and outside carceral spaces. Through participatory policymaking, reform strategies, and healing practice, participants will explore innovative materials, including an anthology by directly impacted authors from the Right/Write to Heal Initiative, and a framework for gender-responsive pretrial diversion developed with the support of Apple's Racial Justice Giving Project. By committing to trust each other, we will examine the critical balance between abolitionist visions and immediate, harm-reducing strategies that support the structural transformation needed for abolition, justice, and freedom for women.

**Presenters:** Erica King, Darlene George, Keilah Joyner, Kristie Puckett, and Linda Small

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## INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

Room C05

This session will feature Indigenous leaders who were directly impacted by the criminal legal system or have spent their careers working in it. Panelists will share and explore 1) leading from an indigenous worldview, 2) the impact of colonization and historical trauma on their communities and their life experiences, 3) Violence, safety and incarceration as it relates to their communities and identities.

**Presenters:** Sachem Robert HawkStorm Yanawana-Bergin is the chief of the Schaghticoke First Nations. Schaghticoke First Nations is one of the three nations of the Schaghticoke Tribe. Sajuu Juu Mike Jones is tribal president of the Organized Village of Kasaan, a Haida village on Prince of Wales Island. Ka'illjuus is the Executive Director, Xaadas Kil Kuyaas Foundation, and the elected Supreme Court Chief Justice for the Tlingit and Haida Central Council Indian Tribes of Alaska, Richard Cruz is Assiniboine Sioux and Arrapaho and Co-Executive Director of The Ahimsa Collective.

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## PRACTICING FREEDOM, MAKING JUST FUTURES

Room C06

This workshop features a panel of artists, cultural organizers, activists and educators, who will discuss how we practice freedom in our work to end state violence and mass incarceration. We will discuss recent freedom-making cultural, advocacy and educational projects with the aim of forging solidarity with and making visible those who are disappeared behind the prison wall. In particular, we will talk about the making of an exhibition with incarcerated artists and writers to serve as an incubator for justice work in Illinois including mobilizing support for local campaigns. We will explore the challenges, barriers, and contradictions we've come across in our work especially as it pertains to confronting white supremacy and other systems and practices contrary to freedom aspirations. And finally, we will offer our visions for a just future, and how these projects move us closer to these visions.

**Presenters:** Alice Kim, Tracye Matthews, Renaldo Hudson, James Soto, Taji Chesimet, Durrell Washington, and Fernanda Ponce

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## THE SLOW TORTURE OF LOCKDOWN: COMBATting VIOLENCE, TORTURE, AND REPRESSION IN PRISONS

Room 404

Violence, repression, and torture increasingly characterize prisons, particularly federal prisons. From the financing of specialized restrictive prisons like ADX, to extreme, widespread lockdowns and the proliferation of the cop city model throughout the United States, one thing is clear: the carceral, police, and military state are converging to establish a formidable axis of state repression which threatens all. The Slow Torture of Lockdown: Combatting Violence, Torture, and Repression in Prisons, explores the contours and features of repression utilizing the lens of political prisoners, the treatment of whom arguably most exemplifies violence, torture, and repression in federal prisons, represented by the fact that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports over an annual death rate of 301-450 in-custody deaths per year in the BOP.

**Presenters:** Jenipher R Jones and Daniel Battaglia

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## A CRADLE FOR OUR GRIEF

Room 405

"A Cradle for Our Grief" is a workshop designed to address and combat structural violence by drawing on the expertise of movements for justice. The primary goal is to unite community members focused on a family paradigm to counteract state

violence. This workshop aims to foster discussions on effective strategies employed by activists, advocates, and organizers. By exploring approaches to addressing harm within the community, the workshop seeks to strengthen the movement's sustainability. Recognizing that competition, conflict, and hostilities can hinder progress, the workshop will delve into methods for challenging dominant institutions, cultivating the next vanguard, and elevating consciousness within the public sphere. Ultimately, the workshop aspires to contribute to the evolution and expansion of movements working towards justice and equity.

**Presenters:** Tiffany McFadden, Alethea Taylor, Fanta Fofana, and Razelle Townsend

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## A NEW TREE

Room 406

This workshop will collectivize the work of challenging patriarchy by walking through what it is, how it affects each person, and where we are fulfilling patriarchal expectations in our own lives. Through an organic facilitation style, participants will be encouraged and inspired to display vulnerability and accountability for their contributions to patriarchy, and are then invited into a collective action step of challenging patriarchy by modeling Integrity and creating a new culture founded on accountability, vulnerability, emotional intelligence, equity and radical and dynamic community.

**Presenters:** Graham Fiochio, Chris Johnson, April Adkins, Roy Duran, Hugo Gonzalez, and Trinidad Flores

## SATURDAY EVENING: BEYOND PUNISHMENT: STORIES OF JUSTICE AND HEALING SCREENING AND TALKBACK

(Screening begins at 6:00pm and ends at 7:30pm) Rm 311/312

Beyond Punishment: Stories of Justice and Healing is an original interview-based theater performance co-produced by the Justice Beyond Punishment Collaborative (JBPC) and Ping Chong and Company. Written and directed by Kirya Traber in collaboration with the performers, Beyond Punishment follows the lives of four remarkable individuals who grapple with the intersections and impacts of interpersonal and state violence. This event will include a filmed excerpt, and interactive audience conversation with cast members and advocates: Jose Saldana, TeAna Taylor, Roslyn Smith, Colin "Tai Chi" Absolom, with facilitation by writer director: Kirya Traber

# JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT

Breakout Sessions

Sunday, April 7

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #1

10:00 – 11:15 am

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### ONE MILLION EXPERIMENTS: MAKING MEDIA, ARCHIVES, AND INVITATIONS INTO ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

Room 311/312

This session will feature a screening of Respair and Interrupting Criminalization's new film One Million Experiments, a film exploring how we define and create wellness and reduce harm in a world without police and prisons. Built out of a podcast and curated collection of community-based safety projects created in the midst of the 2020 uprising, One Million Experiments remixes longform interviews with movement workers across the world who have created community-based safety projects, expanding our ideas about what keeps us safe and celebrating the work already happening to build solutions that are grounded in transformation instead of punishment. This session will discuss how humanizing, engaging media projects like 1ME build power by both celebrating the formations and communities building abolitionist movement in their hyperlocal contexts and inviting new participants to action, strengthening the work already happening and building new networks of collective organizing.

**Presenters:** Daniel Kisslinger, Damon Williams, and Mariame Kaba

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### REIMAGINING COMMUNITIES

Room 301

Reimagining Communities is infrastructure created to create what different looks like while building from an abolitionist community led frame. This infrastructure was created after doing years of listening tours across the country and is highlighted as an immediate response to ending incarceration of women and girls and funding programming that do not cause further harm.

**Presenters:** Sashi James and the National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

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## **GENTLE ACTION THEORY AS A COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH**

Room 302

The workshop will focus on Gentle Action Theory as a method and skill of healing justice. Its emphasis will be on Traditional Ways of Native people in addressing non-punitive and community-based approaches to interpersonal and community violence. We will discuss what justice looks like and feel like to those involved from the individual to the community. Using Gentle Action Theory we will explore the values and principles of restorative justice. We will examine and address the challenges in offering a less punitive non-violent way to find justice through a 360-degree lens.

**Presenters:** Carma Corcoran

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## **UNDERGROUND SCHOLARS CREDIBLE MESSENGERS CREATIVE ARTS AND WRITING PROGRAM**

Room 304

This workshop will provide participants with an experiential learning session gathered from the lessons of those who have been formerly incarcerated, while exploring their role as “credible messengers,” particularly when it comes to wielding the power of arts and education in carceral spaces. In doing so, attendees will review strategies for transforming lessons learned during incarceration into learning experiences for others. Participants will explore examples of artwork and various projects being undertaken at the Orange County Juvenile Hall, followed by a brief discussion.

**Presenters:** Alberto Lule, Alberto Lule, Ryan Flaco Rising, and Alejandro Cabrera Maldonado

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## **MIRROR ON THE WALL**

Room C02

The Mirror On the Wall workshop centralizes transformative justice. This workshop is designed to provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of justice beyond the bars while equipping them with the practical skills and strategies needed to effect positive change. Through a combination of education, skill-building, and community-building and transformative-based activities, participants will be empowered to take meaningful action in the fight against state, interpersonal, and carceral violence and injustice against women of color. We'll explore practical skills, engage in meaningful dialogue, and develop strategies to address violence through non-punitive approaches

while advocating for systemic change to end state, interpersonal, and carceral violence. This workshop aims to empower attendees to become active agents in the movement of abolition and broader social justice, and provide the tools needed to make a difference.

**Presenters:** Dyamond Gibbs and Sarita Miller

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## **BEYOND THE BARS, FROM PALESTINE TO TURTLE ISLAND**

Room C03

For the past 6 months, the world has witnessed Israel's genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza. Their program of collective punishment has reached new heights of impunity, seeing the mass murder of tens of thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children. Despite this onslaught, Palestinians in Gaza continue to fiercely resist the Zionist machine, and Palestinian youth in the diaspora (and their allies) have been demanding an end to the U.S.-backed genocide of their people, underscoring the fact that there can be no business as usual. In cities around the world, the Palestinian Youth Movement has engaged in mass mobilization across different sectors of society. Join us to learn more about our efforts, both here in New York and elsewhere, and to better understand the carceral violence of the Zionist state— violence that binds us together with freedom fighters across Turtle Island who share the same hope for a free and just future beyond bars.

**Presenters:** Mette Loulou von Kohl and other members of the Palestinian Youth Movement

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## **OVERCOMING POST INCARCERATION CHALLENGES**

Room C05

The purpose of this panel is to discuss the challenges individuals face transitioning from incarceration to reintegration into society. The panel aims to provide practical guidance on recognizing and overcoming potential pitfalls and vulnerabilities in the reintegration process. Additionally, we will explore coping strategies, stress management techniques, and self-care practices tailored to the specific challenges of Post Incarceration Syndrome faced by those transitioning back into the community. Furthermore, the panel will introduce The Prism Way re-entry organization and delve into its concept of self-actualization and its mission to empower individuals to discover their intrinsic worth and potential for growth beyond past circumstances.

**Presenters:** Allen Burnett, Boanergez Martinez, Fred Griffin, Cindy Shortt, Bobby Kimbrough, Raymond Sheppard, and Chazidy Bowman

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## **DECARCERATION BEYOND THE BUILDINGS: CONFRONTING ELECTRONIC SHACKLES, MENTAL HEALTH CONFINEMENT, FAMILY POLICING, AND MORE**

Room C06

Many popular alternatives to jails and prisons involve keeping people under confinement and surveillance, such as electronic shackles, mental health jails, and sex offense registries. How are people pushing back against “alternatives” that actually expand the carceral system? How are people cultivating community safety and well-being outside that structure? We will share stories of specific campaigns and projects working against these carceral “alternatives”--and creating liberatory new approaches--around the country. Specifically, we’ll address campaigns against electronic monitoring, mental health policing and confinement, and family policing and separation, as well as transformative projects that are working to produce actual ways to address the problems these “alternatives” claim to address.

**Presenters:** James Kilgore, Victoria Law, Joyce McMillan, and Maya Schenwar

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## **A JOURNEY TOWARDS HEALING: CULTURAL COALITION OF AFRICAN AND INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL HEALING WORKSHOP**

Room 404

Our goal is to share alternative ways to destress and heal from trauma and residual effects of incarceration, police harassment and impact of the prison industrial complex. Workshop participants are going to learn traditional healing culture focusing on reconnecting to Indigenous and African traditions. Presenting cultural connections of Indigenous and African people throughout history with visual aids highlighting the impact that police and jailing has on our communities. Followed by a cultural exercise of creating Native prayer bundles, smudging sage and how to use this tradition in Native tribes. African bead crafting learning the meaning of African bead colors and shape of different tribes. Participants are going to learn how our cultures used nature to symbolize hope and the importance of using Indigenous traditional medicine. We aim to help participants feel grounded in their spirits and culture with a discussion about the strength of our communities together.

**Presenters:** Laurin Williams and Jeanette Tayac

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## **EXPANDING MOVEMENTS THROUGH BUILDING PRACTICE: WHAT COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROCESSES OFFER US BEYOND THEIR PERIMETERS**

Room 405

In our workshop, we are going to explore what restorative justice practices teach us about practicing healing and care in our relationships with one another, how circle is a place to allow learning and growth within those tools, and what they all mean to building a movement that is healing itself while navigating unknown horizons. We believe that the tools restorative practices offer are much older than histories of systems of oppression, and in uplifting them, we are able to carve out new ways of being and belonging that ultimately feed into the people power we strive to build within our movements to decarcerate and to abolish prisons altogether. Co-led by an adult and youth organizer, we envision this space to simultaneously model intergenerational facilitation and circle keeping that can provide an example of what facilitation across our communities can look like.

**Presenters:** Anooj Bhandari, Melissa Centeno, and Jasmine Fuller

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## **WHY SURVIVOR ENGAGEMENT IS THE ANSWER TO ELIMINATING CARCERAL PUNISHMENT**

Room 406

When given the opportunity to voice what should happen in the aftermath of a violent experience, many survivors do not want the responsible party incarcerated. Common Justice offers survivors the option to explore restorative justice as an alternative to typical punitive responses to harm/crime. This workshop will offer insight into how Common Justice staff engage survivors of the most violent crimes in meaningful exploration about what other pathways exist to justice, how the obligations created by the harm they survived can be addressed and how healing and transformation can be achieved through participatory dialogue. Staff employ a variety of trauma-informed practices that create space for survivor vulnerability to share narrative of their experiences, hear from the responsible party and support an accountability process to find reparative solutions to violence.

**Presenters:** Peju Oyeyemi, Halemah Mahmoud, and Genesy Espinal

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #2

11:30 am–12:45 pm

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### PROJECT RESTORE: COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION FOR VIOLENCE DISRUPTION AND LEGAL-SYSTEM CHANGE

Room 311/312

As a community-based gun and gang violence intervention, Project Restore (PR) invested in thirty street-crew-involved young men in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn New York for a year of holistic personal and professional capacity building. With support from Bridge Street Development Corporation, Columbia University, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, this 12-month project reduced violence at the community level and developed healthier individual life trajectories for its interns. It also culminated in a transformative community safety dialogue between oppositional street leaders who committed to building a safe and cohesive community; this dialogue continues in the form of a Community Safety Working Group and paid Internship at Columbia University's Center for Justice. PR interns use their research skills to identify challenges and solutions to public safety from the ground up. In this interactive discussion, Project Restore interns will continue to grow their leadership and public engagement skills as they described lessons learned from PR (centering those that evoke policy recommendations for broader changes within the criminal legal system), their own next steps in conducting participatory community action research focused on public safety conversations, and how PR can serve as a model program for similar transformative interventions devoted to creating sustainable, equitable justice.

**Presenters:** UniQue C. Starks, Geraldine Downey, and Jarrell Daniels

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### #CLOSURE IS POSSIBLE

Room 301

The workshop will describe California Coalition for Women Prisoner's (CCWP) new campaign to close all California Women's Prisons and invite participants to ask questions and discuss. We will also invite workshop participants to think about the possibilities for closing women's prisons in their regions. In Massachusetts and other parts of the country campaigns to close women's prisons are already underway. We are also looking to connect nationally on this issue, to expand our network. The 2023 comprehensive report From Crisis to Care, that CCWP helped

produce, points to the inescapable conclusion—women's prisons only perpetuate catastrophic trauma and harm. This campaign will work to connect the dots that State Prisons are state violence. Our communities need to develop non-carceral, non-punitive forms of accountability and **CLOSE WOMEN'S PRISONS!**

**Presenters:** Katie Dixon and Courtney Hanson

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## **FROM NYC TO THE PHILIPPINES: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY & THE FIGHT AGAINST STATE REPRESSION**

Room 302

The Philippines is one of the most dangerous places in the world for activists. State violence is rampant from incarceration, counterinsurgency, red-tagging, and political assassinations. Still, resistance thrives in the Philippines and throughout the diaspora. This workshop highlights the global Philippine human rights movement as a case study for effective resistance against imperialism—an economic and political system that upholds the violence of the US prison industrial complex. Malaya NY will explore the history and structures in the Philippines that have shaped contemporary conditions and map out a blueprint for a cohesive internationalist approach to liberation. Organizers will share effective strategies to build solidarity, community based solutions and care, and validate the embodied experience under US Imperialism. Participants will reflect on how to apply strategies from the Filipino liberation movement to their existing abolition work and how incorporating international solidarity into our movements can reduce harm and build people power.

**Presenters:** Zack Garlitos, Julman Tolentino, Julie Jamora, Arthur Altarejos, and Margo Rosales

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## **RESISTING AND REWORLIDING: THE PROCESS OF ZINE MAKING IN LOGAN PRISON**

Room 304

This workshop grants wider audiences a glimpse into the process of zinemaking as a collective practice for coded resistances through knowledge exchange against incarceration. The workshop follows from the first collective zine making by 50 people in the reading and writing group, Arrested Justice, at Logan Correctional Center in Illinois. We will share how the Logan Initiative came to be and where we hope to go in the coming year. Birthed from the legacies of zine distros across generations, we examine the ways in which zinemaking serves as a vehicle for storytelling, communicating, and bridging the distance across walls. At its core, this workshop shapes dialogue around the ways people's power can be wielded through the creation of

inside-outside relationships. We look to zinemaking in prison and its intentional/potential distribution to the outside as a tool for political education that builds power between the two.

**Presenters:** Indigo Wright, Beth Richie, and Eliza Conring

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## **LET'S GROOVE: MOVEMENT AND BRAVE CONVERSATIONS USING RJ CIRCLES**

Room C02

How do you facilitate brave spaces for movement and RJ Circles in a correctional facility? This workshop presents a highly engaging and experiential take on RJ Circles. Participants will learn strategies and takeaways for facilitating expressive discourse and building community. They will deepen their collective advocacy for justice system-impacted people and walk away with a Google folder filled with valuable resources and tips for advancing non-punitive approaches through RJ Circles. Conversations will lead to positive outcomes and meaningful relationships beyond the conference, thus enhancing greater respect, empathy, and understanding for each other.

**Presenters:** Jai Williams and Acacia M. Warren

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## **COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT TO END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SURVIVORS**

Room C03

The issues of abuse, intimate partner violence, and gender violence are not often discussed alongside the prison industrial complex and our systems of policing and criminalization in the U.S. The goal of this workshop is to facilitate a space where we can discuss these issues, shed light on the experiences of survivors, connect and exchange crucial information with other people doing this kind of work, and, ultimately, end the punishment of survivors.

**Presenters:** Aylalayah (Liyah) Assefa Birru, and Ny Nourn

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## **"RECLAIMING OUR STORIES": ORAL HISTORIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ANTI-CARCERAL ORGANIZERS, ACTIVISTS, AND SURVIVORS OF INCARCERATION AND THE CRIMINAL (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Room C05

This workshop is a presentation of the collected oral histories from activists and prominent members of Black and Brown communities in Southern California. We document the resistance to mass incarceration within our communities,

resistance to police brutality, and movements towards police and prison abolition. Our main goal is to show the importance of “US” – formerly incarcerated people – collecting and forming our own histories about surviving mass incarceration in contrast to the mainly dissociated academic narratives that have defined us for decades.

**Presenters:** Maritza Lopez, Abdullah Puckett, and Jorge David Mancillas

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## **WE ARE PROJECT REBOUND**

Room C06

This workshop will highlight Project Rebound’s comprehensive support for scholars who were formerly or are currently incarcerated as they pursue higher education across 19 CSU campuses. Our primary objective is to showcase our commitment to offering academic, career, and mentorship support, all while advocating for alternatives to traditional incarceration and actively working to reduce recidivism. This workshop serves as a platform, to illustrate our mission, initiatives, and impact, and to cultivate opportunities for collaboration and advocacy. Our aim is to empower individuals and communities through education and support, exemplifying the transformative nature of our Project Rebound program.

**Presenters:** Jason Bell, Melvin Calaway Jr., Juleen Lam, and Maureen Smith

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## **CEREMONY AND RITUAL IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION: WHAT, WHY, AND HOW**

Room 404

Ceremony and/or ritual can be an essential part of conflict transformation but it is often overlooked or undervalued by practitioners, especially those practicing within a Western framework or context. Come sit with Navajo Nation peacemaker and trainer Ray Deal to learn about Navajo rituals that precede complex peacemaking processes, and join a discussion with Ray Deal and Erika Sasson to explore ways to include ceremony or create rituals for your practice of conflict transformation.

**Presenters:** Erika Sasson and Raymond Deal

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## **THE ABOLITIONIST GAME OF LIFE**

Room 405

We recognize the world we live in now as less than ideal - let’s imagine the world from a viewpoint that acknowledges and

celebrates us all, imagine ways of addressing needs that are restorative and holistic that moves away/reduces violence and the harm that results from systems of oppression. In this workshop, youth organizers will share the creation process of the Abolitionist Game of Life (an actual board game created by youth organizers at GGE, in collaboration with HOLLA, in 2023) and invite attendees to play and reflect together. We hope that, through game play, participants not only reflect on the way that carceral and punitive systems and values are perpetuated throughout many facets of society, but also think creatively about how we learn, talk, and think about punishment paradigms and organize to dismantle them.

**Presenters:** Ruksana Ruhee, Heaven Peoples, and Tess Weiner

**LUNCH (12:45-2:00PM)**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #3**

2:00–3:15 pm

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### **BEYOND LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE: HEALING THROUGH ADVOCACY**

Room 311/312

This workshop will focus on ongoing collaborations between the National LWOP Leadership Council (NLC) and the Drop LWOP Coalition. These groups have collaborated to bring people who have survived life without parole (LWOP) sentences into legislative advocacy and organizing - through community outreach, direct lobbying, legislator prison visits, and strategic policy planning. Through this work - we have learned how to engage the public and decision makers on issues related to the most extreme sentences in the US. By sharing personal narratives and successful campaign strategies, we'll highlight how involvement in advocacy not only contributes to societal change but also fosters personal healing and growth.

Participants will engage in interactive discussions and strategic planning exercises and learn how to effectively include LWOP-impacted individuals in reform movements, moving beyond punitive approaches towards a more transformative system, while developing a robust and sustainable movement to end life without parole.

**Presenters:** Sutina Green, Susan Bustamante, James Thomas, Allen Burnett, and Daniel Trautfield

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## HO‘OPONOPONO: NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEACE-MAKING

Room 301

Come learn 5 fundamental principles coming out of a ho‘oponopono practice which include Mihi, Ho‘opono, Kukulukumuhana, ‘Oia i‘o and Hihia. The workshop will be led by Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer and will include guests from Life Comes From It who visited Hawai‘i in 2022 to learn about Native Hawaiian traditions including Ho‘oponopono.

**Presenters:** Manulani Aluli Meyer (joining virtually) and Sonya Shah

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## DISRUPTING THE WOMB TO FOSTER-SYSTEM PIPELINE: SHIFTING FROM PUNISHMENT AND FAMILY SEPARATION TO CARE IN MEDICAL SETTINGS

Room 302

Medical systems, social services, and legal systems intersect to punish and discriminate against marginalized communities. This workshop will provide participants grounding in family policing and family separation, demonstrating how the so-called “child protection system” targets, surveils, separates, and tears apart Black, Latine, Indigenous, and low-income families by design. Focusing on the Informed Consent Coalition’s campaign, the workshop will discuss efforts to disrupt medical settings as sites of surveillance, control, and family separation, particularly for drug-using, Black, Latine and low-income parents and their families. The Coalition utilizes legislative advocacy as a vehicle for building grassroots power, and narrative change to expose and demand accountability for harms and to center parents and families as loving and deserving of support. The workshop will offer concrete ideas of things we can all do to keep families together.

**Presenters:** Miriam Mack, jasmine Sankofa, Zoe Russell, Lauren Wranosky, and Imani Worthy

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## WHAT’S BEYOND THE BARS? ART WORKSHOP

Room 304

Being behind bars can make you feel discouraged or at times disillusioned. This can make you forget about the dreams and goals you once had. Also by “doing time” your dreams and goals can seem so far from reach. In this workshop participants are invited to explore the barriers they are up against, focus on breaking them down, and rediscovering their futures. Art

can be a catalyst to release trauma, create connection, build resilience, and ignite social change. Creating art is a human right. Art honors and reflects multiple aspects of a person's identity and personal experiences. No matter what our background, we all have the power to create—we just need to be offered the opportunity. The art workshop provides this opportunity in a safe atmosphere to those impacted by violence and trauma. The art workshop is an opportunity for participants to practice how they want to live in the world. This includes asking for what they need and choosing to share as much or as little as they want.

**Presenters:** Janet M Hughes, Melinda Johnson, and Fanon Figgers

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**PREP YOUR LOVED ONES FOR PAROLE**

Room C02

The goal of this workshop is to train family and community members on the skills needed for parole advocacy in New York State. This will include a teach on how the parole system works in NY, how to navigate the expectations of parole commissioners, and the type of advocacy that people on the outside can do to support their loved ones. Participants in this workshop will leave with a zine that includes resources and tools to prepare them to do this work on their own and share with their communities.

**Presenters:** Ray Huerta and Leigh Taylor

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**BUILDING OUT JUSTICE: ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S DECARCERATION AND REENTRY**

Room C03

The Women's Community Justice Association strives for a definition of justice that extends beyond simple decarceration and abolition to encompass prevention and reentry. We'll take a detailed look at three of our current campaigns—the legislative pushes for transparency in professional licensing and the creation of a commission on women's reentry, and our local advocacy against increasing the projected numbers for the women's unit in the forthcoming borough jails—highlighting the need for gender-responsive policy and practice within and beyond the carceral system.

**Presenters:** Jay Eddin and Kelly Briem

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## **BREAKING CHAINS BEYOND BARS: ADVOCACY AND POLICY REFORM IN THE SHADOW OF POST- INCARCERATION IMMIGRATION DETENTION**

Room C05

In 'Breaking Chains Beyond Bars,' participants will develop strategies for advocacy and policy reform in post-incarceration immigration detention. This workshop addresses systemic carceral issues affecting marginalized groups and offers tools for impactful change. Attendees will learn to influence policies, create advocacy campaigns, and join a network committed to dismantling extended carceral punishment, advocating for humane alternatives in America.

**Presenters:** Belen Enriquez and Vanessa Rojas

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## **RECLAIMING NARRATIVE POWER: USING INQUIRY TO TELL NEW STORIES ABOUT VIOLENCE**

Room C06

For this workshop, we demonstrate the power of inquiry to shape narrative change. We have developed a series of questions that advocates and practitioners can use in their own organizing work and communities to not only challenge existing narratives about violence, but also to develop new ones that will take its place. To be clear, the aim is not necessarily to persuade people to change what they know, but instead to use questions to encourage critique of how they came to know what they know. These questions can also inspire people to imagine new possibilities and advocate for solutions that they actually prefer.

**Presenters:** Chanda Daniels, Marquis Jenkins, Candacé King, and Kira Shepherd

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## **WELCOMING WITH LOVE AND CARING WITH AFFECTION: PRACTICES FOR TRANS WOMEN AND TRANSVESTITES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PRISON (ACOLHENDO COM AMOR E CUIDANDO COM CARINHO: PRÁTICAS DE ATUAÇÃO COM MULHERES TRANS E TRAVESTIS DENTRO E FORA DA PRISÃO)**

Room 404

Brazil is the third country with the largest prison population in the world and also the country with the most LGBTQIA+ people silenced within the prison system. There is still debate today about where trans people should serve their sentences and how to protect them. There is not yet such strong work with

the most vulnerable population, nor is there awareness among prison officers about forms of treatment, respect and visibility. The objective is to show the experience of Brazilian trans and transvestite women who have been in prison and the impact of prison on the lives of these women and the difficulties of life after prison. Elas Existe carried out 3 surveys with transvestite women who carry out activities to redeem their sentences within prison and also with women who have already served their sentences.

**Presenters:** Caroline Bispo and Alana Carvalho

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## **DECARCERATING CARE: UPROOTING HARM IN MENTAL HEALTH INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX**

Room 405

Since 2020, IDHA has hosted an ongoing panel series called “Decarcerating Care” that draws attention to the ways in which the mental health system maintains white supremacist, racial hierarchies and operates on logics of surveillance, coercion, and control. This workshop will synthesize some of the key learnings from organizing this series over the past three years, with the goal of presenting strategies and skills for those seeking to respond to community violence in ways that divest from the mental health industrial complex and preserve the rights and autonomy of those who identify as mad, disabled, neurodivergent, and survivors. The workshop will also review key historical events (e.g. the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals in the 1960s-70s) and debunk common myths (e.g. people diagnosed with a mental illness are inherently dangerous), equipping participants with a critical foundation of knowledge to carry forward in their efforts to seed justice.

**Presenters:** Jessie Roth and Evan Auguste

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## **JUSTICE BEYOND PUNISHMENT IN AN ERA OF FENTANYL PANIC**

Room 406

New York City is home to the first - and still only - recognized overdose prevention centers in the nation, operated by OnPoint NYC. At OnPoint, our approach to providing care for people who use drugs is informed by the philosophy, “we are the medicine.” OnPoint’s programs and philosophy are a lifesaving response to the record-breaking overdose crisis and a loving response to generations of state and interpersonal punishment of people who use drugs. By deeply listening to and being in relationship with our participants, we define wellness according to their goals and dreams and make sure they stay alive and have

healing experiences along the way. We love on people until they are ready to love on themselves. This workshop will share our approach to care, teach strategies in caring for people who use drugs, provide health-based education about today's drug supply, and discuss strategies for responding to fentanyl without panic and punishment.

**Presenters:** Toni Smith, Sam Rivera, Adrian Feliciano, and Juan Cortez



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