



VISIONING ACTIVITY

EXERCISES FOR DREAMING A WORLD WITHOUT POLICE

The following exercises were taken with permission from Michelle Van Atta, Teaching About The Prison Industrial Complex and Criminal Legal System

BREAK-INS: WHAT ELSE BESIDES POLICE?

Your neighborhood has a sudden, new problem with break-ins. What could be done besides increasing policing to address the problem? What kinds of information would your group need to gather to be able to understand the fundamental cause of the break-ins and thus take appropriate action to stop them?

Consider possible causes/contributing factors and then possible interventions on each level:

- × **Micro:** Changes to individual apartments/homes or to individual breaker-inners
- × **Meso:** Neighborhood groups getting involved to stop or prevent break-ins
- × **Macro:** Changes to economic and political systems; development of social safety nets; improvements in equality of resource distribution.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each potential intervention? (What will have a lasting impact, what will require more time to work, what will require more resources, what will best protect the human rights of all involved?)

CHILD ABUSE CASE: WHAT ELSE BESIDES CHILD WELFARE AUTHORITIES TAKING CUSTODY?

A child has faced both neglect (lack of food and adequate clothing and hygiene) and abuse (physical “punishment” that has caused broken bones) from his parents. What can be done besides taking the child into child protective service custody?

- × **Micro:** Intervention with the child and/or parents
- × **Meso:** Changes in local community, e.g. new screening programs in the neighborhood gym, readily available local free childcare
- × **Macro:** Changes in culture, economy, social safety nets and resource distribution, politics or social systems on a mass scale

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each potential intervention? (What will have a lasting impact, what will require more time to work, what will require more resources, what will protect human rights of all involved?)

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND THREATS OF HARM: WHAT ELSE BESIDES MENTAL HOSPITAL?

A woman in the community has made threats to others and serious attempts to harm herself, stating she is seeking to get away from aliens who are controlling her. She was previously diagnosed with a psychotic disorder. What could be done besides calling 911 to have her forcibly committed to a psychiatric facility?

- × **Micro:** Interventions with the woman, including physical, psychological, social
- × **Meso:** Interventions with neighborhood or community policy
- × **Macro:** Changes to economic, social, political, cultural systems

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each potential intervention? (What will have a lasting impact, what will require more time to work, what will require more resources, what will protect the human rights of all involved?)

CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF YOUTH: WHAT ELSE BESIDES POLICE?

Two groups of youth who attend the same school but live in different areas of the neighborhood are in conflict. This began when a young man from one group was dating a young woman from the other group and hit her one day. The pair has been alternately breaking up and trying to work things out, and in the meantime, some of her family and friends have threatened the young man. There are rumors that things are going to get more serious in the coming week. What can be done besides involving the police?

- × **Micro:** Interventions with specific youth, psychological treatments, efforts to change individual behavior, efforts to change ideas and values of specific persons
- × **Meso:** Interventions with neighborhood, development of systems and processes for dealing with issues in the community, building community resources, community practices, changing community norms
- × **Macro:** Changes to economic, social, political, cultural systems, media, and gender systems

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each potential intervention? (What will have a lasting impact, what will require more time to work, what will require more resources, what will protect the human rights of all involved?)



Use this coloring page to take a break, reflect, breathe, and celebrate the lives and resistance of the women featured. For more coloring sheets, please visit invisiblenomorebook.com/study-guide

