

Session Five: Transformative justice and abolition

1. 'Transformative Justice and Community Accountability'
Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (2014)

Available from: <https://batjc.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/tj-ca-one-pager.pdf>
[1 page]

2. 'Punitive, Restorative and Transformative Justice: The Basics'
Aorta Collective (2013)

Available from:
<http://aorta.coop/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Destabilizing-Rape-Culture-and-Transformative-Justice.pdf> [2 pages]

3. Choose one case study from *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities* (2011).

EITHER:

'Beautiful, Difficult, Powerful: Ending Sexual Assault Through Transformative Justice' in *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities*.

Chrysalis Collective

Available from:

<http://www.blackandpink.org/wp-content/uploads/Beautiful-Difficult-Powerful.pdf> [18 pages]

OR:

'What does it feel like when change finally comes? Male Supremacy, Accountability & Transformative Justice'

Gaurav Jashnani, RJ Maccani and Alan Greig (2011)

Available from:

<http://challengingmalesupremacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/What-Does-It-Feel-Like-When-Change-Finally-Comes.pdf> [22 pages]

4. 'Community Response and Accountability' and 'Transformation of Community and Social Conditions that Create and Perpetuate Violence' in *Ending Child Sexual Abuse: A Transformative Justice Handbook*

generationFIVE (2017)

Available at:

<http://www.generationfive.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Transformative-Justice-Handbook.pdf> [6 pages]

5. 'Transformative Justice in an era of mass criminalization' on *The Activist Files* (podcast)
Mariame Kaba and Victoria Law (2019)

Available from:

<https://ccrjustice.org/home/get-involved/tools-resources/podcasts/episode-1-2-transformative-justice-era-mass>

Why these readings?

Building on from the last session grappling with interpersonal violence, this session considers how a transformative justice approach can address harm, particularly sexual violence. Please approach these topics with the same sensitivity noted for session three, particularly as the readings address the problems of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.

The first two readings offer some definitions of transformative justice and explain how this approach differs both from conventional retributive justice and from restorative justice.

The 'case study' readings provide specific examples of what transformative justice can look like in practice and some of the challenges and possibilities that it presents.

The last reading is from generationFIVE, an organisation that seeks to end childhood sexual abuse in five generations. Recognising the inability of the criminal justice system to prevent childhood sexual abuse and its failure in meeting the needs of childhood sexual violence survivors, generationFIVE offers a more holistic approach for ending childhood sexual abuse.

Transformative Justice also starts from the premise that communities - whether



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they are family members, friends, co-workers, neighbours etc. - are better placed to recognise, respond to, and address violence. But this requires communities to build up their skills, capacity and knowledge to act.

Questions to discuss:

1. What is the difference between restorative and transformative justice?
2. What do you think of the model of justice/accountability explored in the two case studies? What are their strengths and limitations?
3. As the case studies illustrate, alternative models are not perfect and involve their own challenges. Overall, do you think these models offer more potential than the conventional criminal justice system?
4. How would you define accountability – in theory and in practice?
5. What kind of tools and strategies do you use in your day to day life to prevent harm and to deal with conflict?
6. In our movements or communities, how can we prevent people from harming others, support people who have been harmed and hold people accountable for causing harm? Could these methods be scaled up?

We suggest picking two or three of these questions to focus on.