

Section 10: Working for Social Justice: Visions and Strategies for Change

Next Steps

Get Involved

1. Be the Media

Allied Media Conference

<http://www.alliedmediaconference.org/>

The Allied Media Conference is the central project of the Allied Media Projects (AMP) network, which emerges out of ten years of organic relationship-building. Since the first conference (then the Midwest Zine Conference) in 1999, people have been compelled by the concept of do-it-yourself media. Later, as the Underground Publishing Conference, the emphasis was on building a movement of alternative media makers. With the shift towards Allied Media, the AMC has attracted more and more people who are interested in using participatory media as a strategy for social justice organizing.

Independent Media Center

<http://www.indymedia.org>

The Independent Media Center is a network of collectively run media outlets for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of the truth. They work out of a love and inspiration for people who continue to work for a better world, despite corporate media's distortions and unwillingness to cover the efforts to free humanity.

2. Get Trained to Become an Organizer

a. Internships/Job Training

Direct Action and Research Training Center (DART)

<http://www.thedartcenter.org/>

DART's mission is to engage congregations in a process of building congregation-based community organizations that have the power to pursue and win justice.

Labor/Community Strategy Center

<http://www.thestrategycenter.org/>

A think and act tank for regional, national and international movement building based in the city of Los Angeles. Their campaigns, projects, and publications are rooted in working class communities of color, and address the totality of urban life with a particular focus on civil rights, environmental justice, public health, global warming, and the criminal legal system. Their membership consists of people of color, women, immigrants, workers, LGBT people, and youth.

Union Semester

<http://www.unionsemester.org/>

Union Semester is an innovative, full-time intensive academic and internship program. It provides the opportunity to learn about organized labor in a challenging environment both inside and outside the classroom.

b. Other Organizing/ Activist Trainings

Activism Training Materials and Resources

<http://www.actionpa.org/activism/>

Links to other websites that have various resources for those interested in activism ranging from student activism to using media as activism.

Campus Activism

<http://www.campusactivism.org/>

This interactive website has tools for progressive activists. It is part of a network of websites that share information called the Activism Network. It can be used to start a campaign, share activism resources, publicize events, and build networks. Or you can join an existing campaign, get resources, learn about upcoming activist events, and let people find you.

INCITE!

<http://www.incite-national.org/>

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and our communities through direct action, critical dialogue, and grassroots organizing.

Midwest Academy

<http://www.midwestacademy.com/>

The Midwest Academy is a national training institute committed to advancing the struggle for social, economic, and racial justice. Midwest Academy teaches an organizing philosophy, methods and skills that enable ordinary people to actively participate in the democratic process. Courses and consulting services are designed for progressive organizations and coalitions that utilize civic engagement activities to build citizen power at all levels of our democracy.

The Ruckus Society

<http://www.ruckus.org/>

Working with a broad range of communities, organizations, and movements—from high school students to professional organizations—Ruckus facilitates the sharing of information and expertise that strengthens the capacity to change our relationship with the environment and each other. They either bring activists to them (at Training Camps or Skillshares) or they go to them (community-requested tailored trainings). These trainings contain cerebral elements as well as physical, classroom-style instruction for action planning, communicating with the media, building leadership and political analysis, and nonviolent philosophy and practice.

Smart Meme

<http://www.smartmeme.org/>

The *smart*Meme Strategy & Training Project is a nonprofit collective that works to apply meme theory and a narrative analysis of power to strengthen social change efforts. They use a story-based strategy approach to change the world by changing the stories used to understand an issue or situation. They work as trainers and consultants with a host of organizations from coast-to-coast providing strategy, training, graphic design, and communications support to groups working for human rights, democracy, peace, justice and ecology. *Smart*Meme is also home to a thriving youth network called STORY (Strategy Training and Organizing Resources for Youth), our program to train young activists in story-based strategy.

Spitfire Strategies

<http://www.spitfirestrategies.com/>

Spitfire Strategies is a U.S. consulting firm offering nonprofits organizations and foundations strategic communications and campaign planning, training, counsel and tools to make a real impact to advance social change in the public interest.

Tools: For Organizers, Activists, Educators, and Other Hell-Raisers

<http://www.casagordita.com/tools.htm>

Provides links to sites that have materials about the nuts and bolts of getting organized and how to work in a group setting.

Training for Change

<http://www.trainingforchange.org/>

Specializes in training trainers, to create a ripple effect in quality activist training. They refuse to collude with activists thinking small or undermining their own power. Instead, their approach challenges activists to step fully into their power. Their services include consultation, providing tools and activities, and posting publications.

The Virtual Activist 2.0

<http://www.netaction.org/training/>

An online training course for activism that provides guides on how to use technology in planning, how to fundraise, how to use email and other forms of media to do outreach and advocacy work.

c. Education Organizations

Highlander Research and Education Center

<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

Highlander serves Appalachia and the South with programs designed to build strong and successful social-change activism and community organizing led by the people who suffer most from the

injustices of society. Through popular education, participatory research, and cultural work, Highlander helps activists to become more effective community educators and organizers, informed about the important issues driving conditions in communities today.

Project South

<http://www.projectsouth.org/>

Acts as a regional hub for leadership development, **movement-building**, and long-term strategy development within community-based organizing for racial and economic justice. They work directly with **young people, intergenerational collaborations, Southern-based organizations, communities affected by social control and violence, cross-regional alliances**, and in their Atlanta and Southeast **membership base**.

School of Unity and Liberation

<http://www.schoolofunityandliberation.org/>

The School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is a school to build a movement. They work to lay the groundwork for a strong social justice movement by supporting the development of a new generation of organizers rooted in a systemic change analysis, especially people of color, young women, queer and transgender youth and low-income people.

3. See what some other Leading Organizations are Doing

ACORN

<http://www.acorn.org/>

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is the nation's largest grassroots community organization of low- and moderate-income people. The services they provide are: community organizing, issue campaigns, service delivery, and voter registration.

AFSC

<http://www.afsc.org>

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims, AFSC's work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures.

Center for Community Change

<http://www.communitychange.org/>

Their mission is to build the power and capacity of low-income people, especially low-income people of color, to change their communities and public policies for the better.

Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO)

<http://www.ctwo.org/>

CTWO is a racial justice organization led by people of color whose mission is to achieve social and economic justice. CTWO is a 25-year-old training and resource center that promotes and sustains direct-action organizing in communities of color in the United States. They train new and experienced organizers, including the well-known Movement Activist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP); establishing model multi-racial community organizations; and building an active network of organizations and activists of color to achieve racial justice in its fullest dimensions.

Critical Resistance

<http://www.criticalresistance.org/>

Seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. They believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure.

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

<http://www.ellabakercenter.org/>

The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights is a strategy and action center working for justice, opportunity and peace in urban America. Based in Oakland, California, they promote positive alternatives to violence and incarceration through their cutting-edge campaigns: Soul of the City, Books Not Bars and Green-Collar Jobs.

FIERCE

<http://www.fierceny.org/>

FIERCE is a membership-based organization building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color in New York City. They develop politically conscious leaders who are invested in improving themselves and their communities through youth-led campaigns, leadership development programs, and cultural expression through arts and media.

Grassroots Global Justice

<http://www.ggjalliance.org/>

An alliance of U.S.-based grassroots groups who are organizing to build an agenda for power for working and poor people. They understand that there are important connections between the local issues they work on and the global context, and they see themselves as part of an international movement for global justice.

Jobs with Justice

<http://jwj.org/>

Jobs with Justice engages workers and allies in campaigns to win justice in workplaces and in communities where working families live.

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

<http://mxgm.org/>

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement is an organization of Afrikans in America/New Afrikans whose mission is to defend the human rights of their people and promote self-determination in their community.

Miami Workers Center

<http://theworkerscenter.org/>

The Center helps working class people build grassroots organizations and develop their leadership capacity through aggressive community organizing campaigns and education programs. The Center also actively builds coalitions and enters alliances to amplify progressive power and win racial, community, social, and economic justice.

Movement Strategy Center

<http://www.movementstrategy.org/>

The Movement Strategy Center was founded to help local campaigns to increase their impact by forming powerful alliances that could affect state-level policy. The center continues to help build a more strategic, collaborative and sustainable progressive movement for racial injustice.

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

<http://www.nnirr.org/>

They work to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status by using popular education, creating dialogues and monitoring inter-governmental bodies.

Right to the City Alliance

<http://www.righttothecity.org/>

A national alliance of membership-based organizations and allies organizing to build a united response to gentrification and displacement in U.S. cities. Their goal is to build a national urban movement for housing, education, health, racial justice and democracy.

Southerners on New Ground (SONG)

<http://www.southernersonnewground.org/>

SONG is a 16-year-old organization started in the vision of 3 white lesbians and 3 African American lesbians who wanted to build organizing across lines of race, class, culture, gender and sexuality. It is a visionary not reactionary organization which seeks to bring people together to overcome feelings of isolation and who share the same worldview. Their core work is around the Traveling Organizing School, campouts, people of color retreats, and outreach.

Southwest Organizing Project

<http://www.swop.net/>

The Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) is a statewide multi-racial, multi-issue, community based membership organization with the mission of working to empower communities to realize racial and gender equality and social and economic justice.

Syracuse Cultural Workers

<http://syracuseculturalworkers.com/>

A website to purchase peace and justice books, stickers, CDs/DVDs, posters, and T-shirts, etc.

United Students Against Sweatshops

<http://usas.org/>

United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) is a network of students in North America who have been organizing for workers' rights since 1998. As former, current, and future workers, they recognize that they must live the principles that they are taught in the classroom now. As students, they believe they have the power to force our universities to respect the basic human rights and dignity of workers who make our education possible. They believe our universities must respect all workers in their supply chains—from those who serve us food in the dining halls, to housekeepers and janitors who clean our dormitories, to farm workers who pick the food we eat in those dining halls, to the garment workers who make apparel with our universities' name.

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

<http://www.uua.org/justice/index.shtml>

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations provides resources about racism, classism, and heterosexism for congregations, and religious educators to create anti-racist religious education.