



5 Years of Interrupting Criminalization

QUILTING BLACK FEMINIST RESISTANCE

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INTRODUCTION

When we first began talking in 2017 about joining forces on an initiative that could serve as a home for our individual and overlapping work, challenging criminalization quickly emerged as a natural focal point.

Resisting criminalization – which we understand to be a political process beyond the passage and enforcement of criminal laws, extending to the racially gendered categorization and treatment of specific types and groups of people as inherently “criminal” and therefore unworthy of human dignity, resources and protection from violence – has been at the center of both of our work for over three decades.

Criminalization is what fuels the violence of policing and prisons, detention and deportations, and of family separation. It is what makes Black women, girls and trans people the fastest growing prison and jail populations, a significant proportion of people on probation, and targets for surveillance and punishment in every institution they interact with. In its most extreme forms, it is what informs the genocides we are witnessing in Palestine, Sudan, and beyond, and mounting white supremacist and Islamophobic violence around the world. It is also a process that demands that we devote an ever growing share of our collective resources to surveillance, policing, punishment, and militarism, and renders them our default response to every form of harm, conflict, and need.

In other words, criminalization is a process of sensemaking and placemaking that makes the existence – and violence – of policing and punishment seem both necessary and inevitable. It is also the mechanism that animates and operationalizes the interlocking systems

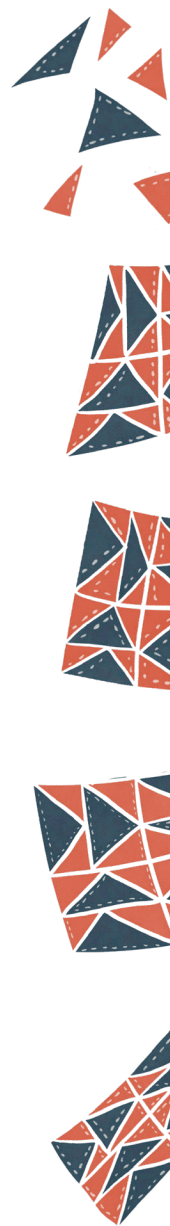
of oppression at play in the lives of Black women, girls, queer and trans people. And criminalization impedes progress on every front of our struggles for Black liberation, racial, gender, sexual, reproductive, migrant, disability justice, educational, economic, and environmental justice.

This is why criminalization is the root we choose to pull on with all of our might. Criminalization is the antithesis of collective care, which is at the core of the Black feminist politic and practice that guide our work.

We cannot get to futures free of violence of all kinds without confronting and challenging criminalization through ideology, laws, policies, practices, and what Black feminists call “controlling narratives” – stories that shape how we see, understand, and act in relation to each other.

Challenging, interrupting, and building a world beyond criminalization, one that is rooted in transformative justice, is the unifying thread of IC’s work – and of the infrastructure and resources we are creating to support organizers on the ground across the country. IC is a collective project, which is a reflection of our Black abolitionist feminist values. The only way that we will uproot criminalization is together. We are proud of what Interrupting Criminalization has accomplished over the past five years. We hope you will join us in growing our intersectional, cross-movement work deeply rooted in Black feminist visions of abolition for the next five years!

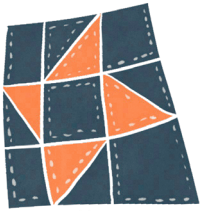
*In struggle and solidarity,
Andrea J. Ritchie & Mariame Kaba*



ABOUT IC



Founded in 2018, Interrupting Criminalization (IC) is a movement resource hub offering spaces and resources for learning, strategizing, cross-movement network building, and practice for organizers, practitioners, and advocates on the cutting edge of efforts to build a world free of criminalization, policing, punishment, and violence. Our ten-person organization includes co-founders Andrea J. Ritchie and Mariame Kaba, four staff, and four fellows. IC operates virtually, with staff and fellows active in organizing communities across the United States.



IC supports groups and individuals to intervene in the narratives, policies, and process of criminalization through:

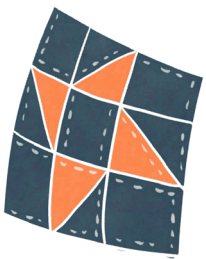
Learning and Practice Spaces

Resources & Tools

Knowledge Production

Network Building & Peer Support

Consultation & Tailored Strategic Interventions



EVALUATION

From fall 2022–spring 2023, we conducted an evaluation of the impacts of our work over the past 5 years. We conducted interviews, surveys, and focus groups with a total of 142 people spanning 16 IC projects. We wanted to understand how the thousands of people we have worked with have engaged with and benefited from IC’s many offerings. In this report, we share some highlights from that evaluation.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Our evaluation results revealed that, over the past five years, Interrupting Criminalization’s work has powerfully supported abolitionist movements for racial, gender, social, disability, transformative, economic, and reproductive justice by creating resources that filled gaps in the field, creating opportunities for individuals and organizations to sharpen the skills needed to build safer, thriving communities, nurturing strong connections between issues and leaders across movements and geographies, shifting narratives, and continuously fine-tuning, adjusting, and adding offerings to meet the ever-changing needs of those fighting on the ground for safe, thriving communities without policing or prisons of any kind.



EVALUATION THEMES

Levels of Impact of IC's work

Individual: Building analysis, skills, and capacity

Organizational: Building skills, strategy, and strengthening infrastructure and solidarity within groups

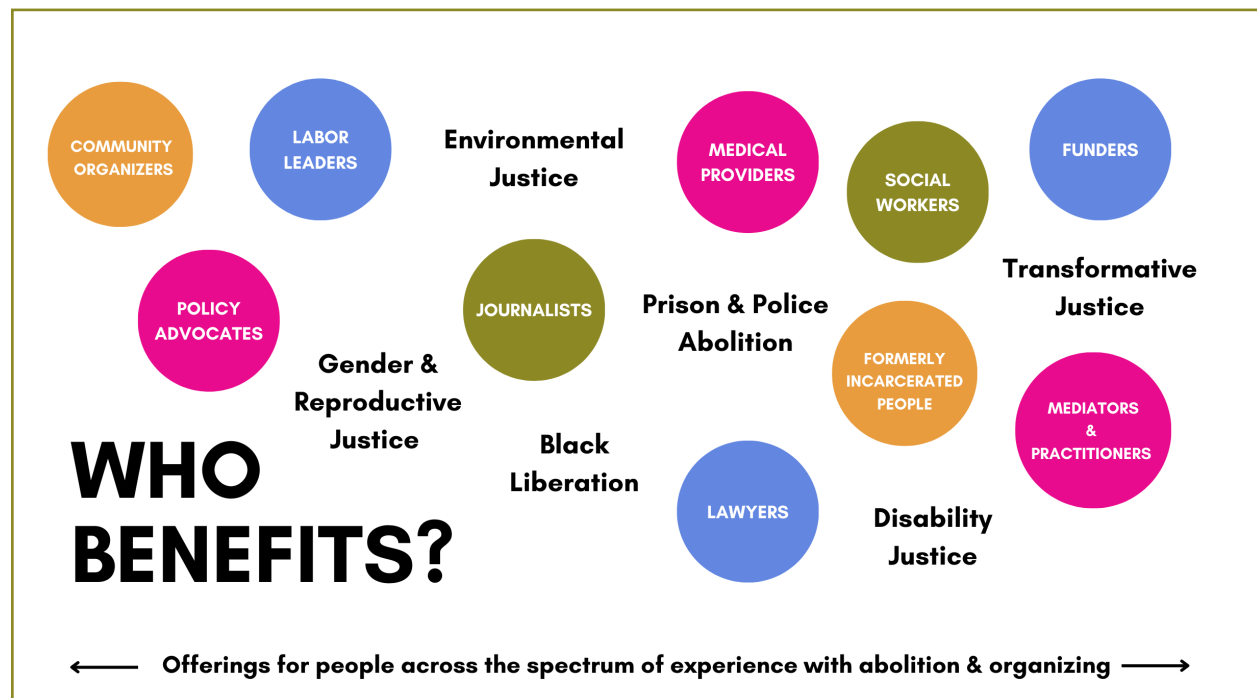
Field Building: Developing networks, knowledge production, partnerships, cross-movement strategies and frameworks, and breaking down silos and isolation across issue areas and geographies

IC has partnered with over **100 organizations**

IC held **143 workshops and events** in 2022 & 2023 alone

2,176 organizers came together for IC conferences and convenings in 2022-2023

Over 6,000 people have attended at least one IC training since 2018



This report summarizes highlights of our evaluation of 16 IC projects. Across all projects, four themes emerged illuminating the unique ways that Interrupting Criminalization has effectively supported movement-building over the past five years by creating spaces that shape and sharpen our collective analysis, skills, and strategies to advance gender, racial, reproductive, economic, disability and transformative justice toward stronger, safer communities.

Interrupting Criminalization is recognized as a leader in:



1

Bringing people together to build stronger movements as a whole. IC regularly receives feedback that our cohorts, convenings, network building, and practice spaces have connected organizers to each other and to resources, given them a sense of the bigger picture, taught them skills they haven't found anywhere else, shaped and sharpened their analysis and strategy, and helped them feel less alone in their work. In 2022 alone, Interrupting Criminalization partnered with over 50 organizations and brought together over 1,000 organizers in a single year.



2

Building movement resilience through resources and cohorts to prevent and navigate organizational challenges and conflict through the highly requested and essential In It Together and When We Fall Apart frameworks and trainings.



3

Producing easy-to-understand resources for organizers and activists. With formats ranging from reports to videos, zines, postcards, podcasts, and posters, IC is putting out resources for interrupting criminalization and creating greater safety for all learning styles and purposes.



4

Event accessibility and consistent commitment to disability justice, including dedicating funding to provide ASL interpretation, CART live captioning, and Spanish interpretation at all public events, and rigorous COVID precautions for safer in-person events. We received a lot of feedback that Interrupting Criminalization events are some of the few that people can count on for consistently having an access team and Spanish interpretation.



BUILDING YOUR ABOLITIONIST TOOLBOX (BYAT)

MONTHLY POLITICAL EDUCATION SERIES

Nearly 4,000 people have attended at least one BYAT since 2021, and over 300 people have attended 3 or more workshops.

In our survey:

- 83% of respondents agreed that BYAT **changed the way they think about a subject.**
- Nearly all (90%) of respondents said that BYAT **provided them with tools to problem-solve in their communities.**
- Half of respondents said that BYAT was a space where they **built new or deeper connections with others.**

Several BYAT attendees shared that the series inspired them to **start new transformative justice projects:**

"This series prompted me to literally start a mutual aid network for survivors of intimate partner violence in my community, and has also been the guide for myself and a group of colleagues who are working to build a truly community-based, non-state involved crisis response program for survivors in our community."

"[I started] a transformative justice dedicated garden at my apartment complex - an idea that was sowed at one of yall's events, I took it and ran with it. My presence at the garden has made it so that I interact with my neighbors and connect with them."

"I come out feeling less alone, more energized to be proactive."

"Each session truly was a godsend. During organizing drives, it has been so grounding to have a space to turn to with resources and skills to help us ensure the way we organize for abolitionist goals also aligns with our values. At crucial moments, these sessions arrived to give so much wisdom & affirmation to me and my comrades."

BUILDING COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE

MONTHLY LEARNING SPACE FOR GROUPS RESPONDING TO CRISIS WITHOUT POLICING

Building Coordinated Crisis Response is a monthly virtual learning space for groups and organizations working to collectively intervene in and respond to crises without police. It is an abolitionist multi-lingual (CC, Spanish, and ASL interpretation) collaborative learning space where participants are invited to share knowledge, experience, and expertise, as well as questions, uncertainties, nuance, and disagreements around non-carceral, non-police crisis response and prevention programs.

Since it was launched in 2021, over 757 organizers have come through the BCCR learning space.

Participants shared that the Building Coordinated Crisis Response Learning Space:

- Provided consistent guidance as they designed and implemented coordinated community crisis response programs.
- Led them to build lasting connections with people they met through the space.
- Offered them a feeling of hope and assurance that they were not alone in the work.

CREATING COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEMS OF COLLECTIVE CARE

COHORT & MAPPING WORKBOOK

In April 2022, IC launched a cohort of organizers from 12 communities seeking to build, widen, and strengthen networks of values-aligned community-based programs to create ecosystems of collective care beyond policing.

Cohort members have used the Ecosystems workbook to map, practice, and strategize toward building more robust community ecosystems of care at the neighborhood and city-wide levels, and have shared back how they have adapted these tools to their communities and the lessons learned with fellow cohort members. IC introduced the Ecosystems of Collective Care mapping model to a broader community of abolitionist organizers at the Abolitionist Network Gathering at AMC, and will be releasing a public version of the workbook in 2025.

"I enjoyed the work book, because it both broke down both the concept and allowed me to see how seamlessly I had some ecosystems and community care practices already in place."

"I'm in the process of conducting an ecosystem scan around mental health, substance use and harm reduction. To have that language and example during the Abolitionist Gathering was affirming, like, "Yes, this is something that I really need to pursue as part of my work."

IN IT TOGETHER

4-PART TRAININGS & FRAMEWORK FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN MOVEMENT-BUILDING GROUPS

The In It Together toolkit provides a step-by-step diagnostic tool to assess conflict in movement-building organizations and groups and provides strategies, tools, and resources to transform that conflict. It emerges from the decades of experience of the members of Interrupting Criminalization, Dragonfly Partners, and organizers and activists from around the country, and was created with movement groups and formations in mind, especially those that are volunteer-driven and self-organized.

Over the course of two years, we used the framework to train dozens of partners from organizations all over the United States, and the world. In our focus group, **nearly every participant said that they feel more confident moving through conflict** after going through the In It Together Training. Numerous training alumni have incorporated the In It Together Toolkit into their organization's staff guides, grievance policies, and regular practices.

"Being in this space, it pushed me to be more direct around conflict. The shift in my mind of...the more direct I am, it's not just benefiting me, it's benefiting my group and the organization and everyone around me."

"I feel more confident today because the entire toolkit is so rich and useful. In particular, the conflict diagnosis has been really helpful, not just in collective conflict, but even when I find myself feeling a type of way. I use the jam board that you all shared and I adapted it and shared it with my team to incorporate into our official grievance policy."

"Since the training, I've just kept the toolkit next to me and I shout it out whenever I have a chance, "Use this, use this, use this, please."

TJ SKILLUP

8-PART TRAININGS ON MEDIATION & DE-ESCALATION USING TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

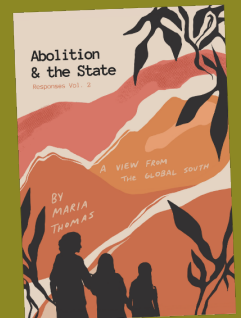
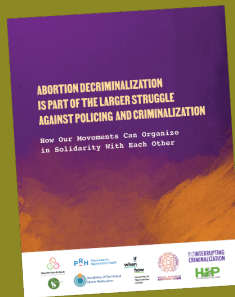
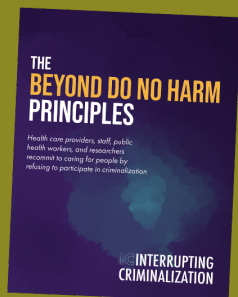
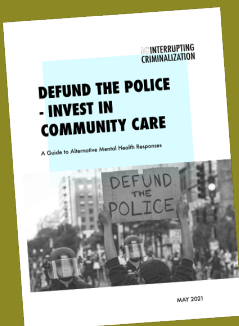
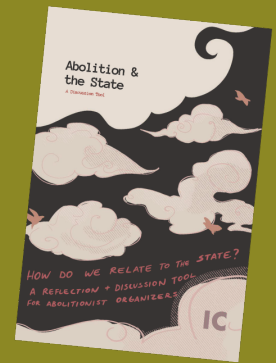
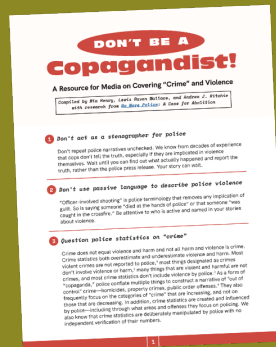
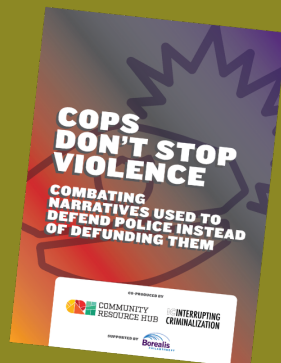
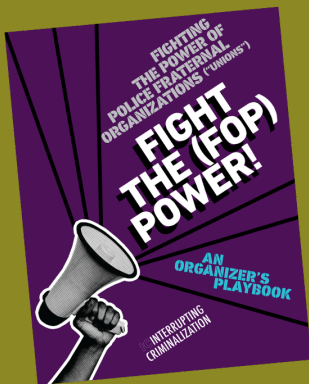
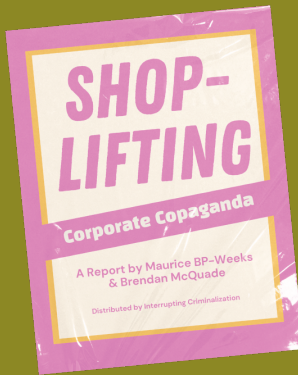
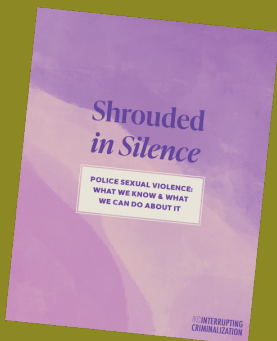
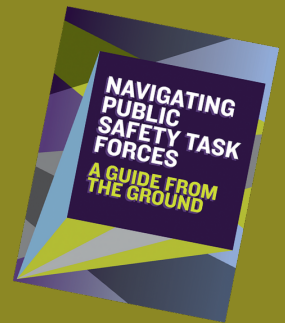
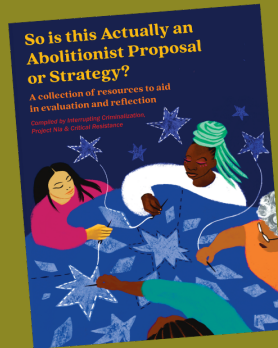
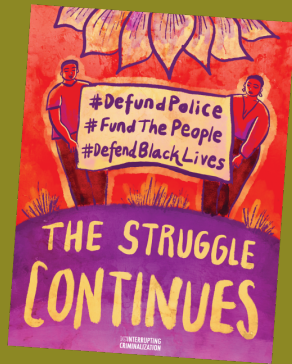
2 COHORTS, TRAINING 111 ORGANIZERS IN 2022

The TJ Skill Up Institute trained organizers in two major areas: (1) verbal de-escalation tactics and skills that employ communication and physical positioning to prevent a situation from escalating into verbal abuse, physical confrontation, or injury; and (2) a 7-step mediation process and when to use mediation as an intervention – how to facilitate a mediation from the prep work to the follow-up. Participants left the training well-versed in transformative just skills, with an action plan and ongoing support in establishing their own transformative justice practice community.

“TJ Skillup helped me to move through and understand conflict and the ways I can support other folks in conflict, and when I see things that might lead to conflict. We offer conflict mediation and de-escalation training and conflict mediation to our staff and members. Our organization is now unique in our city - we’re asking folks, and willing, to lean into conflict, not run away, to create the container to have these tough conversations.”

- Police Contract Cohort
- Abolitionist Social Worker Support circle
- Community Accountability 303 Cohort
- Cops out of Care Workshops
- Let This Radicalize You Cohort for new organizers
- No More Police Series
- Resisting Abortion Criminalization Practice Spaces
- Standalone Events & Presentations (over 125 events in 2022 in addition to the events, conferences, and trainings hosted by IC)

**MORE IC
LEARNING
AND PRACTICE
SPACES!**



"I am an editor and breaking news producer and I felt that the discussion of framing was a fundamentally different way of news assembly that had not been presented to me before."
attendee of the Abolition Journalism "Don't be a Copagandist" Webinar

10+ major conferences hosted and co-hosted by IC

377 people across **103** groups trained in IC's 9 different cohorts

3971 people skilled up in in conflict prevention, mediation, and transformation

757 organizers workshopped crisis response programs that don't use police at the monthly BCCR practice spaces

233 groups served across IC help desks

57 unique publications featuring original and secondary research since 2018

83 articles & podcasts authored by or featuring Interrupting Criminalization staff (2022-2023) - roughly one every 5 days

4 websites: InterruptingCriminalization.org, MillionExperiences.com, BeyondCourts.org (with Community Justice Exchange & Critical Resistance), DefundPolice.org (with Community Resource Hub)

Reached **56,000** people/year through our website and **5,205** through our monthly newsletter

Finding comfort with conflict: "[After the When We Fall Apart session], I was better able to make peace with an organization dissolving that I have been a part of for a long time and was planning on putting energy into indefinitely."

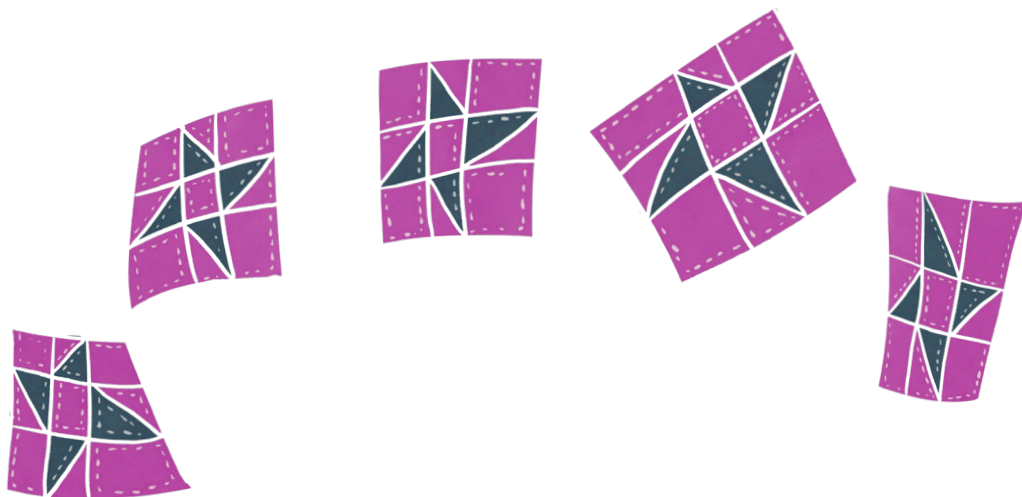
PUBLICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Sensemaking of movement moments - reflecting back the collective picture of movement strategies, struggles, impacts, lessons, wins in publications such as the #DefundPolice Toolkit, The Demand Is Still #DefundPolice, What's Next?, Navigating Public Safety Task Forces, and The Struggle Continues.

Filling gaps in the current literature - on topics such as police sexual violence (The Missing Story of #MeToo and Breaking the Silence curriculum for sexual assault service providers in partnership with NYSCASA); police sexual violence in and around schools, in partnership with the In Our Names Network, as part of campaigns for #PoliceFreeSchools; and What is Driving Criminalization of Women & LGBTQ People?.

Narrative Intervention - through publications such as Cops Don't Stop Violence, Don't Be a Copagandist Series, What about the Rapists?, Police Responses to Domestic Violence: A Fact Sheet.

52 reports, 4 Books, and over 150 articles & podcasts authored by or featuring Interrupting Criminalization staff. In addition to IC's events, our staff have presented at over 250 talks and one-off events.



ONE MILLION EXPERIMENTS [TME] WEBSITE & PODCAST

ONLINE DATABASE & MONTHLY PODCAST

One Million Experiments is an online database and related podcast series exploring snapshots of community-based projects that expand our ideas about what keeps us safe.

- 1 Built a resource library of 67 community safety experiments.
- 2 We're currently in the second season of our podcast with Airgo Radio, and have over 95,000 listens.
- 3 Survey respondents told us they have used 1ME as a political education tool, started volunteering for an organization highlighted on the podcast, and brought 1ME to their workplaces.

"I've been listening to the One Million Experiments podcast. I feel like I'm finally starting to 'get' what abolition means and the myriad ways it can look in practice." - Community member who used the 1ME podcast as a part of an "exploring abolition" discussion group within their community

BEYOND COURTS

A DIGITAL RESOURCE HUB FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT, INTERROGATE & ORGANIZE AROUND CRIMINAL COURTS

Launched a comprehensive website in 2022 focused on illuminating the role of courts in fueling criminalization through the lens of the experiences of Black women, girls, and trans people, and exploring strategies for building a world beyond them, in partnership with Community Justice Exchange and Critical Resistance. To date there have been over 32K visitors to the online resource hub.

In partnership with CJE, **IC hosted a five-session Beyond Courts praxis cohort** for organizers, legal workers, and community members from a dozen organizations to share skills, strategies, and information to build the organizing power we need to defund, divest, and dismantle criminal courts for good.

VISUAL ART RESOURCES

[Abolition Imagination Cards](https://bit.ly/aboimaginationcards) *bit.ly/aboimaginationcards*

A project conceived by Mariame Kaba and coordinated by Micah Bazant, Abolition Imagination Cards feature quotes to spark the imagination towards abolitionist futures free of policing, punishment, and surveillance, beautifully rendered by artists Micah Bazant, Ashley Lukashovsky, Monica Trinidad, Amir Khadar, Kate DeCiccio, and Shirien Damra. www.interruptingcriminalization.com/abolition-imagination-cards.

[No More Police posters and postcards](https://bit.ly/nmpcards) *bit.ly/nmpcards*

In commemoration of the launch of the book *No More Police: A Case for Abolition* by Andrea J. Ritchie and Mariame Kaba, IC asked cross-movement colleagues to describe what the words police and policing meant to them. Taking this group of definitions, E Henderson designed postcards and posters showing the diverse and illuminating collection of perspectives on policing. www.interruptingcriminalization.com/resources-all/no-more-police-postcards.

[COVID Solidarity posters and postcards](https://bit.ly/covidsolidaritycards) *bit.ly/covidsolidaritycards*

This collection of two posters and 20 postcards was created by Andrea J. Ritchie and Woods Ervin for Interrupting Criminalization using original art from Cristy Road Carrera and open access artwork generated by Amplifier & Forward Together to help spark conversations around coronavirus, criminalization, public health guidance, and community care. www.interruptingcriminalization.com/solidaritycardsocial.

BEYOND DO NO HARM (BDNH)

A NETWORK OF US-BASED PROVIDERS, PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ADVOCATES & ORGANIZERS INTERRUPTING CRIMINALIZATION IN HEALTH CARE

The Beyond Do No Harm Network (BDNH) is building analysis, infrastructure, and networks to support health care workers and community members working to interrupt criminalization of people seeking care. We publicly launched the groundbreaking 13 Beyond Do No Harm Principles in November 2022, creating a landing pad for people looking to take action in the context of mounting criminalization on multiple fronts, including access to abortion and gender affirming care.

BDNH has engaged over 1,200 healthcare providers and advocates, including **80+** core group network members, **30+** organizational endorsers of the BDNH Principles and **300+** individual signatories.

“One of the hardest things, honestly, working within massive institutions like hospitals and healthcare systems, is that when you are someone who believes in abolition, it can feel incredibly lonely. And so to be able to not feel alone in the struggle and to actually feel empowered by the work that other folks are doing across the country, and to have a sort of horizon that has been set by those Beyond Do No Harm principles, it feels like I can breathe more. There’s more space to imagine.” - Beyond Do No Harm Network member

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PEER SUPPORT CIRCLES

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY FACILITATOR 303 [4-SESSIONS]

ABOLITIONIST SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT CIRCLE [4 SESSIONS]

As part of our ongoing work with people creating, building and designing abolitionist projects, the TJ Help Desk offers 3 different peer support circles. These support circles offer a loving and invigorating place for organizers to discuss thorny and complex issues that impact implementing and maintaining abolitionist strategies.

Each year, we offer a support circle for 30 facilitators who are holding Community Accountability processes and who have at least one year of experience holding transformative justice processes. We also offer a support circle for social workers and service providers to discuss the real-life navigation of abolitionist politics in larger non-profit settings. The Social Service Support Circle had 40 attendees this year and was co-sponsored with Creative Interventions and National Queer Trans Therapist of Color Network. We also offer an ongoing monthly practice space for abolitionist organizers who are organizations that are envisioning, designing, and implementing non-police coordinated community crisis response programs called Building Coordinated Crisis Response (BCCR). Nearly 400 organizers attended the BCCR practice space in 2022.

“The series worked for me, period. I found myself working through a lot of questions that have been hanging around in my head for a long time. I had some aha moments about myself, my current job, and the folks I work with.” - Social Service Support Circle participant

CONFERENCES & CROSS MOVEMENT CONVENINGS

IC HAS HOSTED AND CO-HOSTED OVER 10 MAJOR CONFERENCES AND CONVENINGS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, INCLUDING:

Building Black Feminist Visions to End the Drug War (2023) - co-hosted with In Our Names Network and Drug Policy Alliance

“Practicing for an Abolitionist World: A Transnational Gathering for Transformative Justice, Restorative Justice, and Community Accountability /RJ/CA Practitioners” (2023) co-hosted with Project Nia, Just Practice Collaborative and Spring Up

[The Abolitionist Organizing Network Gathering](#) at the Allied Media Conference (2022) co-hosted with Liberation in a Generation, Black Visions and The Forge: Organizing bit.ly/abonetworkgathering

Abolition is Feminism, Feminism is Abolition at Scripps College (2022), co-hosted with the Intercollegiate Feminist Center at the Claremont Colleges

[Cops Out of Care](#), organized with #DPHMustDivest & Frontline Wellness Network. (2021) bit.ly/BDNHNnetwork

[Ending Violence Without Violence](#) with the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault Annual Convening and Seven Dancers Coalition (2021, year-long) bit.ly/nyscasaconf

Day-long gathering on the role of health care workers in criminalization at Sistersong’s Let’s Talk about Sex Conference (2019)

Research Across the Walls with Survived and Punished, sharing strategies for working with criminalized survivors (2019)

A convening of sexual assault advocates and organizers confronting the violence of policing to develop abolitionist responses to police sexual violence (2019)

A gathering on criminalization of gender, sexual and reproductive autonomy in (2019)

2 gatherings of dozens of organizations working to end the criminalization of women, girls, and trans people, culminating in the 6Ds framework (2019-2020)

As an example of how our **cross-movement, national, and transnational conferences** have impacted movements - participants in our 2022 Abolitionist Network Gathering told us that the gathering:

- Built up organizers' networks, resources, and skills to be able to respond in moments of crisis.
- Helped organizers feel affirmed, connected, and on the same page around pace and scope.
- Expanded people's imaginations and shifted perspectives for their work.
- Created shared language, frameworks, and strategies to meet the current political moment.
- Successfully utilized a hybrid virtual/in person pod model for conferences.



POLICE CONTRACT COHORT

IC co-hosted a 6 session cohort of a dozen organizations working to interrupt the power of police fraternal organizations (“police unions”) through interventions in police contract negotiations, legislative and litigation strategies, ballot initiatives, isolation from the labor movement, and starving them of funding and power. This fall we published *Fighting (FOP) Police Power*, a playbook summarizing lessons and examples of these strategies.

CITIES COHORT

From 2021-2022, Interrupting Criminalization provided technical assistance, skillshares, regional and national strategy convenings, and resource-sharing for over two dozen groups organizing toward greater community safety and well-being in eight municipalities around the United States: Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Durham, Loiza, Miami, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee.

More information on the work done by organizations in this cohort is reported in our series highlighting victories won across the country, key strategies deployed, and some lessons learned in the #DefundPolice Toolkit, The Demand Is Still #DefundPolice, The Struggle Continues, videos for organizers and the public, as well as a video for funders about successes, struggles, challenges and lessons learned over the past two years.

Participant groups in Atlanta, Loiza, Durham and Miami successfully built and expanded non-police crisis response and violence interruption programs.

“The opportunity to be part of a cohort, the regular meetings that Interrupting Criminalization has held over the past year, to actually be in deep strategy with people, to learn from each other about the movement moment that we’re in, I think is going to have a lasting impact on strategy and how we think about our local work.” - OSF Cities Cohort member

ADDITIONAL NETWORKS & PEER SUPPORT OFFERINGS - IC IS:

A founding member of the Building Beyond Policing Network

A co-creator of DefundPolice.org with the Community Resource Hub

Host of the Labor + Abolition Strategy Table

OFFICE HOURS

Interrupting Criminalization offers free one-on-one consultation and thought partnership for organizers, with specialized offerings on Transformative Justice, Journalism, and Labor and Abolition. We will be launching help desks for health care providers seeking to interrupt criminalization in care in 2024.

THE TJ HELP DESK

Run by Transformative Justice Fellow Shira Hassan, the TJ Help Desk offers thought partnership and one-on-one consultation to individuals and groups who are working on projects and community interventions to end violence without policing.

The Help Desk has taken over 300 calls from 7 different countries since launching in October 2021.

“The Help Desk’s ability to provide us with a safe and grounded scaffolding to begin to conceptualize how we as an organization can start to move back towards our community based solutions/roots and away from an overly dependent law enforcement model was incredible. Our team was heartened and fortified - this resource is magnificent - a true gift to our community and movement building.”

- TJ Help Desk Caller

“The call with The Help Desk was cosmically supportive. The conversation created space to 1) connect and feel less alone in the work, 2) receive powerful input based on relatable lived experience, 3) dream up creative approaches. The impact of this support was that it created more creative opportunities to support survivors.”

- TJ Help Desk Caller

ABOLITION JOURNALISM

Lewis Raven Wallace, our Abolition Journalism Fellow, has taken 40 calls in the last six months from journalists, students, and activists. The calls cover topics such as how to build abolitionist journalism skills, how to develop stronger relationships with activists as journalists, and feedback on how to take an abolitionist approach to specific media projects including articles, podcasts, and documentaries.

LABOR & ABOLITION

Maurice B-P Weeks, our Labor and Abolition Fellow, has hosted 46 office hours on power mapping corporate campaigns and engaging labor in abolitionist campaigns.

ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT

In addition to and beyond the office hour offerings mentioned here, IC has offered one-to-one strategic legal, campaign, and transformative justice support in rapid response moments to support movements like #StopCopCity in Atlanta, #DefundPolice in Minneapolis and many more.



LOOKING AHEAD

Interrupting Criminalization's work has grown significantly over the past 5 years. When we started, we were concerned about the gaps in knowledge and action about the effects of criminalization of women, girls, trans, and gender non-conforming people of color. While gaps in our understanding and organizing remain, we are proud of the work we've done to fill in some of the missing information, and to have created multiple resources and spaces for action. We believe that knowledge is key to social transformation.

As we have grown and conditions have shifted, we've turned the resources we've created into opportunities for organizers to develop their skills, network across movements, and sharpen their analyses. We have reflected our collective strategies back to the movements they emerged from through publications and toolkits, and connected organizers from across the country and around the world to build stronger, more resilient networks across geographies. We have created training opportunities and cohorts for organizers to delve more deeply into the resources we create and apply them to their work, build new skills and workshop new programs, and learn from one another as communities practice new ways of creating community safety. And, we have provided individualized, strategic support to individuals and organizations to nimbly and effectively respond to changing conditions and opportunities and build for the long-haul.

Our evaluation results demonstrate how important Interrupting Criminalization's work has been to welcoming people into movements to build worlds free from violence, to meeting critical needs of grassroots movements fighting against policing and criminalization and for community safety across the country and world, and to quilting together the various strands of our movements. Our work has had such a profound impact because we root our practice in listening to people on the front-lines and co-creating what is needed to support and grow abolitionist movements.

In our next five years, we look forward to building on what we've started. With increased resources, our impact will only grow. We will be able to reach more people, nurture more relationships, produce more tools & resources, offer more cohorts and convenings, and invite more seasoned organizers to contribute their vast knowledge to our movements. The sky is truly the limit for our work. We are incredibly grateful to all of our partners who have made the last five years so memorable and impactful for us and our communities. Stay tuned for what we have in store for the next 5 years!



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