



Transformative Talks for Community Resilience

May 2020

Moving from Harm to Healing: Accountability, Resilience, and Restorative Justice

As calls for defunding police increase, we uplift the mobility justice advocates, led by BIPOC voices, who have been saying for years that police should not be a part of transportation spending and programs. This includes calling for an end to enforcement in Vision Zero, safe routes to school, and police on transit. This is intricately tied to standing in solidarity with the movement for Black lives in calling for defunding police and investing in Black communities.

In the context of Black liberation and anti-racism, what does restorative justice, accountability, and resilience look like in our communities? In the wake of protests for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, among so many others that are on our minds, this question becomes even more pertinent to unravel as we do our work. Each of us is processing the current events differently, whether in solitude or in public spaces like the Untokening. Non-Black people of color and white allies have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with the Black community in fights for justice.

As we speak of alternatives to policing, how do we have conversations that don't even mention policing? How do we decenter policing as we move to find alternatives? Our exploration is attempting to find new ways of accountability for our communities that does not harm but heals. This work means holding elected officials accountable and examining how issues like the displacement of Black residents from major cities like Los Angeles are tied to the systems that keep some community members safe while marginalizing others.

Rio Oxas, co-facilitator based in Los Angeles, shared with us that part of developing visions for healthy communities is learning to reconnect with nature and rejecting the belief of separatism, that we are not part of nature. This separatism is at the core of policing and capitalism. Community well-being is part of reimagining alternatives and developing systems of mutual aid.

Policing is embedded in so many communities in our country and is too much a part of social services and public health. Dominique Diaddigo-Cash, one of our co-facilitators, has been on the ground in Minneapolis amid the uprisings and sees restorative justice as a way forward.

Dominique shared that restorative justice is founded on the belief of humans innately wanting to connect with one another and that the true self within all of us is wise and powerful. We need to build systems to enable everyone to live within those true selves. Those who make peaceful change impossible make violent ends inevitable. Acts of harm in our communities initially stem from the source of a relationship being broken. Alternative systems of accountability in our communities have to be anti-racist, feminist, anti-heteronormative, earth-based, and based on the core of humanity.

Additional resources:

Movement for Black Lives: m4bl.org

Black LGBTQIA + Migrant Project
transgenderlawcenter.org/programs/blmp

Indigenous Mutual Aid: indigenousmutualaid.org

RAHOK (Race. Ancestors. Health. Outdoors. Knowledge.)
rahok.org

This recap was authored by Lynda Lopez of the Active Transportation Alliance and Monique G. Lopez of Pueblo Planning with insight from co-facilitators and community panelists: Río Oxas, Dominique Diaddigo-Cash, Gabi Brazzil, Debra Franklin, and Adonia Lugo.

Learn more at untokening.org and puebloplanning.com