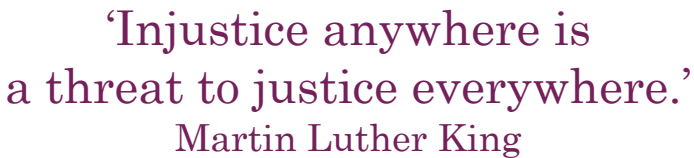


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‘Injustice anywhere is
a threat to justice everywhere.’
Martin Luther King

INTRODUCTION

What is ReAct?

ReAct stands for Respect in Action. We are a peer-to-peer youth education program in Toronto that does workshops, trainings and projects with young people and those who work with them about violence in our lives. Through discussions, activities, theatre and media, we talk about the violence that youth face, why it happens and what we can do about it. **We believe that youth are the experts of their own experiences** and that it is important to have spaces for young people to share their knowledge, support and learn from each other. ReAct is a program of the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC), a community-based, not-for-profit organization that prevents violence against women and youth.

This zine was made possible by the dozens of young people throughout the city who shared their ideas and stories with us – thank you to all of them. It is also the work of the ReAct Team, a passionate group of youth workers who want justice and peace for all.

Thank you to:

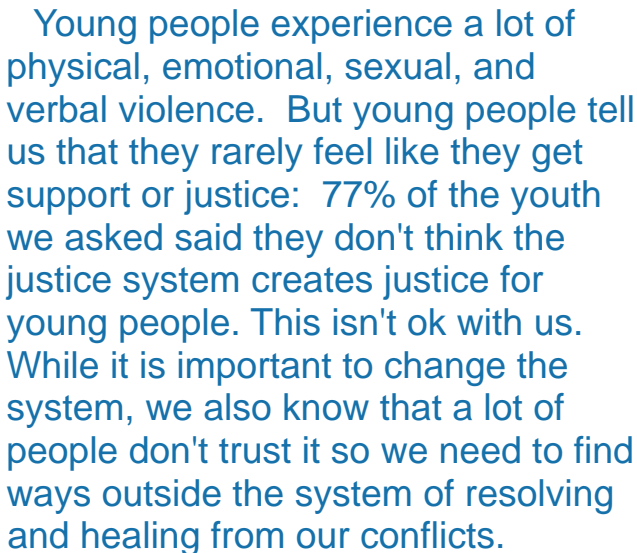
Asam Ahmad
Helen Yohannes
Angela “Ice” Musceo
Keli Bellaire
Najla Edwards



Why Youth Justice?

Understanding and preventing violence before it happens is a big part of the work we do. Over the years we've thought a lot about how we need to talk about what happens after violence. In 2011 ReAct focused on "self-care": how we can take care of ourselves and our friends when we experience violence. In 2012 we are talking about justice: what is it? How can we get it? What can it look like outside of the usual justice system of courts and arrests? How does justice affect the lives of young people?

During the first few months of this project we have already talked to over 75 young people throughout Toronto about youth justice, and we want to keep the conversation going.

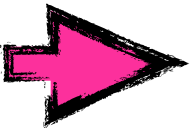


Young people experience a lot of physical, emotional, sexual, and verbal violence. But young people tell us that they rarely feel like they get support or justice: 77% of the youth we asked said they don't think the justice system creates justice for young people. This isn't ok with us. While it is important to change the system, we also know that a lot of people don't trust it so we need to find ways outside the system of resolving and healing from our conflicts.

The justice system reflects the values of society, and in our society we value some people's opinions and some people's lives more. Certain groups of people are impacted and imprisoned more than other groups – not because they are more criminal, but because of how power works in society.

Some of the reasons youth don't think the system always works are:

- **because sending people to jail** doesn't always help
- it doesn't address the problem **of what put them in that situation**
- **because after a few months** they're out doing bad things again
- **because it would just make** young people feel more unsafe
- **they don't really listen** to our opinion properly



Because we live in a society where some people have more power/privilege and other groups are oppressed and have less access to rights/power, it is impossible to have a system that is totally balanced and fair.

Native people, black people,
latino/a people, immigrants,
mothers, people living with
disabilities, people with addictions,
poor people, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi,
trans, queer) people, youth who have
dropped out or been pushed out of
school, and homeless people are
all **OVERREPRESENTED** in
the justice system.



- More than **70%** of those who enter prisons have not completed high school.
- **racialized students** (especially black and latino/ a youth) are much more likely to be expelled and suspended from Toronto schools; the dropout rate for black students in Toronto is **40%**
- **70%** of offenders entering prisons have unstable job histories.
- **4 of every 5** people arrive to prison with serious substance abuse problems.
- **12%** of men and **26%** of women in prisons have serious mental health problems.
- A Toronto study of 300 homeless adults found **73%** of men had been arrested and **49%** of them incarcerated at least once. **12%** of homeless women had served time.
- **2 out of 3** people in the youth justice system have 2+ diagnosed mental health disorders.
- Federal and provincial data from the *Toronto Star* shows that GTA **neighbourhoods with the highest levels of incarceration are those with lower incomes**, higher unemployment, more single-family households and lower education.
- Native people make up about **19%** of the prison population, but only **3.8%** of Canada's population
- on any given day there are around **29,400 youth** incarcerated in Canada

Youth & Violence:

What are we dealing with?

- **1 in 3** young women, ages 16-25, experience dating violence
- girls are **2-3 times more likely** than boys to be sexual abused
- **75%** of lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer youth report feeling unsafe at school; **95%** of trans youth report the same
- national rates of **suicide** among Native youth are **5-6 times higher** than non-Native youth
- **54%** of males and **51%** of females in a Toronto study said police treatment of youth was a major impact on their personal safety
- **80%** of youth with disabilities report being bullied at school

Whether it be a fight between friends, street harassment, bullying at school, violence at home or in a relationship, or all the isms and phobias* we experience, violence impacts us on deep levels. It can impact where we go, how we feel about ourselves, our safety, trust, and health.

*racism, sexism, ageism, classism, ableism, faithism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.

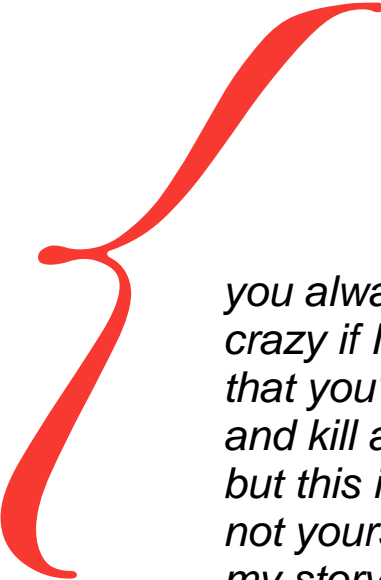
A map of the highest rates of incarceration indicate that offenders often come from Toronto's most troubled and neglected neighbourhoods, such as **Kingston-Galloway, Jane-Finch and Jamestown**.
(*Toronto Star*, "Solving Crime? Tackle the root causes first," July 26 2008)

- Black students in Toronto are **4 times** more likely than white students to be stopped by police and **8 times more likely** to be searched in the same places.
- Black women are **7 times more likely** than White women to be sent to Ontario prisons.
- **1 in 3 women** in prison is from a racialized group
- **Only 5%** of prisoners in Canada are in for violent crimes
- **6%** of all youth 12 to 17 years old in Canada self-identified as Aboriginal, but **36%** of youth admitted to sentenced custody are Native
- In 2009, **90%** of the youth at the Roy McMurtry Detention Centre were **black**
- Incarceration of a youth costs **\$250 a day** (= \$91,250/year!!!). Many programs that assist youth in the community are far less expensive than incarceration.
- Correctional Services Canada's budget (the government body in charge of prisons) increased by **54%** to \$2.46 billion in 2010–2011
- Around **75%** of all youth crime is **non-violent**, however an Ontario study found that 94% of youth crime stories in the media were about violent offences
- youth crime rates in Canada (violent and non-violent) have been **dropping since the 1990's**



We think that justice is a huge part of healing from violence. 98% of youth we asked agree with us: they said it is important for them to find justice after they experience violence. And we think that everyone, including ALL youth, deserves justice. We want to live in a world where people feel safe and supported; in a world that values their freedom and rights.

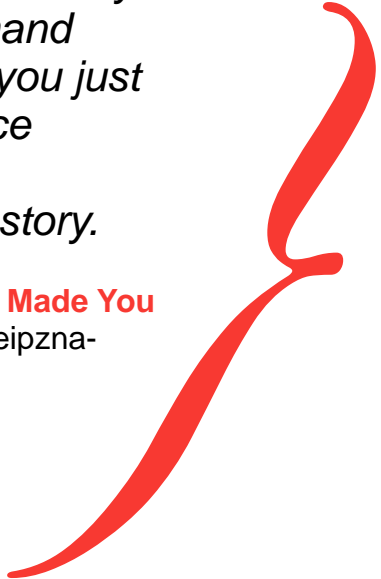




*you always said you would go
crazy if I told these stories
that you'd go to the cop hop
and kill as many as you could
but this is my story I'm telling,
not yours
my story of where violence
comes from
where it goes
You tell your own story
I hear second hand
where you say you just
slapped me once
Me sweetheart,
I tell a different story.*

When Your Parents Made You

by Leah Lakshmi Pieipzna-
Samarasinha



Finding justice means admitting that something got to you; that the violence or crime you experienced is affecting you and you need to do something about this. Sometimes people are called weak for admitting this. But it's "tougher to be vulnerable than to actually be tough."
Rihanna

This Zine

is yours. To read, to write in, to pass on to a friend or a stranger. It is full of information that you might find interesting, programs and organizations that could help you out, pretty pictures, and stories – hopefully there is something that speaks to you and makes you think. There is lots of space for you to put in your voice and words because we know that we can't say what justice means to you; we can't decide how you get it. But we hope that if you need to, you do find it.

{ *Without justice there can be no love.* }
- bell hooks

Some Schoolish (but important!) Definitions

Alternative Justice: this term is usually used as an umbrella for anything outside of the criminal justice system. **It can include restorative justice, transformative justice, community justice, and many other grassroots forms of conflict resolution.**

Criminal Justice System: a term for the process of investigating crimes, making arrests, gathering evidence, charging, trials, sentences, and carrying out punishment. **It involves the police, lawyers, judges, courts, probation officers, and prisons.**

Gladue Decision: The *Gladue Decision* is **a court decision that says judges must take the unique circumstances of Aboriginal (Native/First Nations) people into account during sentencing.** Judges have to consider background factors that led to this person being in court and what sentencing would be culturally appropriate. There are 3 Gladue courts in Toronto, and are available to all Aboriginal persons, be they Métis, Inuit or status or non-status Indians. It is up to the accused person to chose to have his or her matter heard by the Gladue Court (aka you have to ask for it!). The court accepts guilty pleas, conducts remands and trials, sentences offenders and carries out bail hearings and variations.

Extra-Judicial Sanctions (EJS): **programs to keep youth who have been charged out of criminal system (does not go on your record)** and into a program of rehabilitation. Examples of extrajudicial sanctions include: community work, personal service work, apology letters, an apology in person, essay/crime prevention projects, restitution, and/or participation in the Shoplifting Prevention Program (SPP), Victim Impact Awareness Program (VIAP), Anger Awareness Program (AAP), or Life Skills Programs.

Punitive Justice: this kind of justice is based on retribution or payback: the old saying “eye for an eye”. If you commit a crime, you should be punished and made to suffer as well. This approach sees crime only as a failure of individuals; the “criminal” is the only one responsible, and doesn't include the community or society. Punitive Justice is the form that most court systems are based on: **finances, probation, house arrest, prison, death penalty.**

Restorative Justice: this process, usually run by community groups, helps restore the relationship between criminals, the “victims” and their communities. It is still a process through the formal justice system but avoids prison time or probation. It is usually a process that involves everyone who has been affected to identify what harm has been done and how it can be healed. It allows people to hold *themselves* responsible for what they did, and has a goal of teaching them skills for dealing with conflict in the future. **Some examples of restorative justice practices are healing circles, letters of apology, community service, and education/anti-violence programs.**

Survivor-driven: when a process of healing or justice is led by the survivor(s) of violence. When the survivor is at the centre of deciding what happens, when, how, who is involved, etc. This process often refers to situations of abuse, and is supported by the survivor's friends, family and/or community. It could involve **a community meeting, not allowing the abuser to be in certain spaces, communication between friends of the survivor and friends of the abuser (2 support groups), or the survivor creating opportunities to tell their story of what happened.**

Transformative Justice: it takes the ideas of restorative justice outside of the criminal justice system and fully into a community. It seeks to address not only the crime, but the personal and social causes of the crime and invites the “offender” to tell their story (i.e. if someone stole a loaf of bread, is the “cause” that they are a bad person or that they don't have enough money to feed their family because they were fired from their job?). It is about **peacemaking, healing, and creating alternatives to prisons**. This approach sees conflict as an opportunity for learning, growth, and change for everyone involved.

Youth Criminal Justice Act: this is the law in Canada that describes how youth (ages 12-17) are supposed to be dealt with when they are accused or found guilty of breaking a federal law (mainly criminal and drug laws). It was passed by the government in 2003. The principles of the Act are to recognize the unique circumstances of each young person and what might have led them to commit the crime; it is also supposed to prioritize rehabilitation and reintegrating youth into the community (over punishment). Youth aged 14 to 18 may be tried and/or sentenced as adults under certain conditions and the Criminal Code of Canada states that no one under age 12 is supposed to be convicted of an offence (*but there can be other consequences*).

Note: offences like careless driving, underage drinking, or trespassing are covered by provincial laws, so the legal consequences are different and not covered under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

What does justice mean?

“For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?” — bell hooks

Kind of Justice <i>(Add your own comments/ thoughts!)</i>	Pros	Cons
Punitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offender removed from community (if put in jail) - - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - doesn't stop more violence from happening - doesn't address the reasons people commit crimes - -
Restorative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaches us to be responsible for ourselves - - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - could take a long time - the entire community has to be involved - -
Transformative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognizes all the parts of who people are and where they come from - - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - might not address people's immediate need for safety - -

A major theme when we talked about justice was revenge and street-justice. We get the feelings of anger and wanting to hurt someone back for what they have done to you. You can feel like you lost your power and control when you experience violence and it makes sense to want to take it back. But at the same time we know that punishment doesn't prevent more violence from happening, and in the end doesn't make survivors feel better or our communities safer. It usually just leads to more violence; creates a cycle of people hurting each other back and forth.

“and I ask you, what are you fighting for? This 4 foot by 4 foot concrete block, you're arguing for and bartering for, is merely a prison without bars that still manages to arrest you by confining your mind. And you allow this corner to define you, redefining yourself by calling yourself a street corner entrepreneur; and I ask you what are you fighting for?

You're waging wars over something that never was, and never will be yours. Cause owning the streets is just a fictitious concept that gets misused by hip hop dudes trying to pass themselves off as reincarnated gangsters.

[N]o matter how deep your gang is or how much money you think you'll make from crack rocks, the only concrete blocks you'll ever own are the ones that come with steel bars or the ones we call tombstones.

So I guess the only decision left for you to choose is whether the fabric in your casket should be red or blue.

And I ask you what, are you dying for?”

- Gemini, What Are You Fighting For?

Knowledge is Power: Know Your Rights

We know that our rights aren't always respected, but the first step in standing up for rights is to know what they are. Depending on the situation it may not always be safe to stand up for your rights in the moment, but there is almost always some way to do so after (through appeals, complaints, raise awareness in the community about what happened).

for more information check out materials from Justice for Children and Youth or CLEO. You can find their contact info in the resources section of this zine.

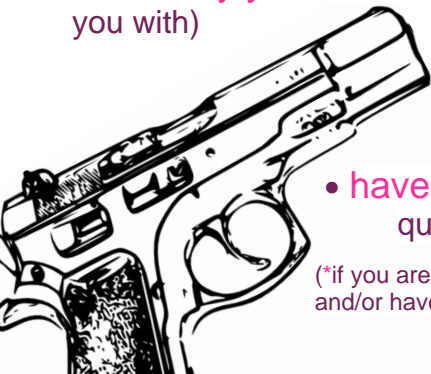
WITH THE POLICE & JUSTICE SYSTEM

you have the right to ...

- **not answer police officers' questions** (but it can be a good idea to tell them your name, address, and age)
- **refuse a search**; the police can legally only search you if you give them permission to, if you have been arrested or they have reason to believe you are carrying drugs or a weapon
- **refuse police entry into your house**, unless they have a search warrant or they have reasonable belief that a crime is being committed in the moment
- **leave a police stop if you are not under arrest** or being detained (you can ask "am I under arrest? Am I being detained? Am I free to go?").
- **know why you are under arrest** (what they are charging you with)
- **call a lawyer*** if you have been arrested, before you give a statement

- **have a lawyer with you** if the police question or interrogate you (after arrest)

(*if you are 17 or younger you can also call your parents and/or have another adult with you for questioning)



- **see your Youth Record** (police or court) at any time
- **a review, by a review board**, if you are placed in the most secure level of a jail, or if you are transferred to a more secure level of custody
- **a copy of any bail/probation conditions** and to have the conditions fully explained to you
- **appeal a judge's decision** of guilt or sentencing (if you feel it is wrong or disagree with their order of an adult or youth sentence)
- **ask for a Temporary Release** (a day or weekend pass)



AT SCHOOL

you have the right to ...

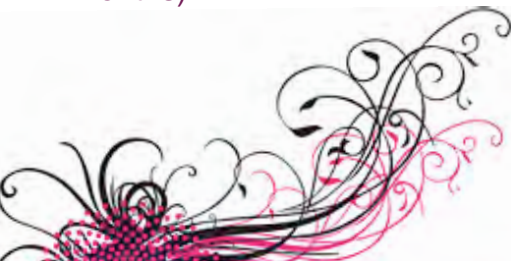
- **attend school** if you are less than 18 years old **no matter what your citizenship status** in Canada (i.e. Refugee, non-status, landed immigrant, undocumented)
- attend high school for up to 7 years (you can stay beyond age 18)
- **not tell your school your immigration status** if you go to school in Ontario (the TDSB has a “**don't ask, don't tell policy**”, so no staff person should ask you your status)
- **be involved in decisions** about your special education needs as of age 16
- **see your Ontario School Record** (your entire file since you started school)
- **a program** if the suspension is longer than 5 days
- **appeal a suspension and/or expulsion**

- **a hearing at the school board** if the principal recommends you be expelled; you also have the right to attend this hearing and bring an advocate with you
- **file a complaint with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario** if you believe you were expelled because of discrimination or because the school did not accommodate you
- **not pay for materials** that are required as part of school curriculum (i.e. agendas, workbooks, science supplies, art materials, mandatory field trips)
- **freedom of expression**, so long as it does not violate anyone else's human rights

AT WORK

you have the right to ...

- **not be harassed** by your boss or any other employees
- a **safe and healthy** workplace
- **refuse work** that you think is unsafe
- be **paid minimum wage** (unless you are in a student position, then different rules apply)
- an unpaid **30 minute break** for every 5 hours in a row you work
- be paid 1.5 times your regular wage for **overtime** (each hour of work over 44 hours/week)
- a **pay stub** or pay slip with each pay that tells you about your hours worked, wage, deductions, etc.
- a minimum of **two weeks of vacation** with pay after each 12 months of employment, starting from the date they are hired.
- receive **advance notice** in writing and/or termination pay if you are laid off or fired (only after you've worked straight for 3 months)



IN HEALTH

you have the right to ...

- **consent to or refuse** health care treatment as long as you understand the treatment you are seeking (the possible results and risks involved). You can also change your mind after giving your consent.
- **see your “clinical record”** (any notes & reports made about you by a doctor, dentist, nurse, etc.)
- **decide who can access** your health care information (including your parents)
- **ask lots of questions** about treatments or procedures someone is recommending for you
- **decide** if you want to be placed in a “psychiatric facility”, UNLESS you have harmed yourself, harmed someone else, or shown you can't take care of yourself, in which case you can be admitted and held against your will (the rules are a bit complicated about being admitted without your consent; **ask a lawyer or call the provincial advocate office** for info about your situation)
- **consent to sexual activity** at age 12 with a person who is less than 2 years older
- **consent to sexual activity** at age 14 with someone who is less than 5 years older than you and who is not in a position of authority or trust
- **consent to sexual activity** at age 16 with anyone who is not in a position of authority or trust

**note: all of your health rights can be taken away if you are found “incapable”: meaning that someone, usually a health care practitioner, has decided that you are not able to understand the possible risks and results of a decision.*

IN STATE CARE (CAS, foster care, group homes)

you have the right to ...

- **decide** whether or not you want to be placed with a Children's Aid Society (CAS) as of age 12
- **apply to the court** to change the fact that you are in CAS care as of age 12 (ask for a review or **appeal** of your placement)
- ask to be put into care if you are under 16 (called a third party application)
- **a lawyer** for any court cases about your care
- **have your opinions and wants heard** in court cases about your care
- **request** to not be in care anymore once you are 16 (this is done through a status review in court)
- **know when a decision is being made about you** in court so that you can go there when it happens
- **see a counsellor** or therapist without your parent's consent or knowledge (age 12+)
- participate in your **religion** and **culture** and speak your **language**
- **know and understand** your rights
- be and **feel safe**
- be treated fairly no matter your **race, sex, culture, religion, abilities, or sexual orientation**
- have a say about what happens to you and express your thoughts and feelings
- be **properly fed, clothed and cared for**
- go to school
- receive **medical and dental care**
- **participate** in social and recreational activities

What rights do you think you deserve?

I deserve the right to

I deserve the right to

I deserve the right to

In a world with justice, youth would have the right to _____ . We would feel _____ and _____ , and _____ would not exist.

Young people would say

“ _____ ”
to the world! It would be a world where people would be treated with _____ , no matter what their _____ or _____ .

A world with justice would look like _____ and sound like _____ . People would _____ each other.

In a world with justice, I would be _____ .

My Path to Justice

"When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire...or preserve his freedom." - Malcolm X

Use this space to think about what you would do to find justice if and when you need to. You can think about an experience you've already had, or just imagine what you think would bring you healing, fairness, and freedom.

The most important places for me to find justice in are (choose as many as you want):

at home
with my friends
at school
in the community
in the city
at work
in the world

People I would want to talk to and to support me on my justice path are:

Instead of taking revenge (hurting the person back), I could get my anger out by:

I would want direct contact with the person who hurt me:

Yes, because _____

No, because _____

I would want to know the other person had learned a lesson like:

They could show me they had learnt something by:

Being free would feel like:

*I think that all the silence is worse
than all the violence
Fear is such a weak emotion
that's why I despise it
We scared of almost everything,
afraid to even tell the truth
So scared of what you think of
me, I'm scared of even telling you
Sometimes I'm like the only
person I feel safe to tell it to
I'm locked inside a cell in me, I
know that there's a jail in you
Consider this your bailing out, so
take a breath, inhale a few
My screams is finally getting free,
my thoughts is finally breaking
through*

Lupe Fiasco, Words I Never Said

Other young people said that the most effective things to help them move forward and feel safe and supported would be:

- talk to friends or family about it
- having the person who hurt you be transferred to a different school
- never having to see or talk to the person who hurt you again
- talk to a youth worker

There was a mixed review of pressing charges: some people said it wouldn't help them at all, others said it would be one of their top choices


when they could combine different options, people said they would want to talk to someone, get some kind of revenge, and in the end know that the person who hurt you has learned what they did was wrong and that they have changed.

A lot of people also said it depends on the kind of violence that happens; sometimes people would be satisfied with a letter of apology, other times people wanted something bigger to happen. Each situation is unique and that's why there can't be one universal solution.

Another thing we noticed is that a lot of people who said they would want revenge, didn't think it would be fair for someone else to take revenge on them (if they were violent). Makes us think about that 'golden rule' of treating others how we want to be treated; so we ask, can we expect more of others than we are willing to give?

“Every man in my family has been locked up. Most days I feel like it doesn't matter what I do, how hard I try—that's my fate, too.” - 11th-grader Berkeley, Calif.





“If there were no prisons, how would human beings respond to harm like this? Harm comes from prior harm. People harm others when they have been harmed themselves—by abuse, poverty, trauma—but prison does not address this prior harm. It only adds a new layer of trauma to that individual, their family, and their community. When you hurt a person, you hurt a bunch of people connected to that person. Therefore, prison not only harms inmates, but their families and communities as well. But what response to harm is fair to victim, perpetrator, and community? What can stop the cycle of violence?”

Aparna Lakshmi, high school teacher

Some songs that talk about justice or make us feel hopeful about the world...



1. In the Beginning, K'Naan
2. Hope, by Twists ft. Faith Evans
3. A Tree Never Grown, Mos Def
4. Soldier, Erykah Badu
5. The Door, MC Invincible
6. Baltimore, Nina Simone
7. No More Trouble, Bob Marley
8. Behind the Wall, Tracy Chapman
9. The Rose that Grew From Concrete, Nikki Giovanni
10. Hip Hop for Respect (whole album!)
11. Rolling in the Deep, Adele
12. Like a Boy, Ciara
13. Many Moons, Janelle Monae
14. Free Xone, Janet Jackson
15. I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free or Hard Times or I Can't Write Left Handed, John Legend
16. Forgive them Father, Lauryn Hill
17. Not Ready to Make Nice, Dixie Chicks
18. Before he Cheats, Carrie Underwood
19. Umi Says, Mos Def
20. Soul is Heavy, Nneka
21. I'll Rise, Ben Harper
22. Expansion Outro, Talib Kweli
23. Me and the Devil, Gil-Scott Heron
24. Kids with Guns, Gorillaz
25. Hurt Me Soul, Lupe Fiasco
26. Some Unholy War, Amy Winehouse
27. I Feel, Cat Power
28. A Rush of Blood to the Head, Coldplay
29. Amerikahn Promise, Erykah Badu
30. Paper Planes, M.I.A
31. Sing Sing Prison Blues, Bessie Smith
32. "U.N.I.T.Y.", Queen Latifah

getting involved

activity: Back in 1992 Tupac said “we gotta start making changes...” It can seem like too much to even know where to start sometimes; it isn't easy. But neither is passively accepting the way things are. What changes do you want to make?

in your own life?

about yourself?

about your community?

Activity: *"If we don't stand for something, we may fall for anything." - Malcolm X*

What does this statement mean to you?

What do you stand for?

I got love for my brother, but we can never go nowhere unless we share with each other. We gotta start making changes.

Learn to see me as a brother instead of 2 distant strangers. And that's how it's supposed to be.

How can the devil take a brother if he's close to me?

I'd love to go back to when we played as kids but things changed, and that's the way it is

TuPac Shakur, Changes

working with others

There are lots of organizations and community groups doing different work about justice for youth and other targeted groups. Check out the websites and/or facebook pages of these groups if you want to get involved (just google the name and you'll find them!).

Justice for Alwy

Justice for Junior

Native Youth Sexual Health Network

Toronto Stop the Cuts (look for the youth coalition, or a group in your community)

Youth Justice Network (out of JVS)

Some awesome groups in the United States:

Project NIA

The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

Critical Resistance

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence

The Real Cost of Prisons



Justice Resources

Legal Support

Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto: runs a legal clinic, workers in the courts, and a Community Council Program (form of restorative justice) for youth and adult offenders. 803-415 Yonge Street | 416-408-3967 or 4041 | alst@web.ca | <http://www.aboriginallegal.ca/>

311 Jarvis Court Young Offender Courtworker - Juliann Wemigwans - 416-929-1507 (Aboriginal court workers explain legal rights and obligations to their clients. They assist in securing legal counsel, finding interpreters if they are needed, assist with pre-sentence reports, bail hearings, and referrals.)

African Canadian Legal Clinic: The intent of the African Canadian Youth Justice Program (ACYJP) is to offer racially and culturally appropriate services and referrals as a community-based solutions for. Their services include Extra-Judicial Sanctions Bail Planning for Youth in Custody, Advocacy for Education, Referral Services, Court Liaison, Community Case Conferencing, Reintegration, Extended Personal Support Services, and Case management. 18 King Street East, Suite 901 | 416-214-4747 | 1 (888) 377-0033

Justice For Children and Youth: for legal advice, speak to a lawyer or call Justice for Children and Youth at 416-920-1633 or 1-866-999-JFCY (5329). Also has LOTS of resources online and printed materials, www.jfcy.org

ARCH Disability Law Centre: 1-866-482-2724, 1-866-482-2728 (TTY) | www.archdisabilitylaw.ca (protects and advances rights for people with disabilities)

Community and Legal Aid Service Programme (CLASP): 416-736-5029 | www.osgoode.yorku.ca/clasp (legal questions and referrals; can take up to 5 days for an answer)

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO): 416-408-4420 | www.cleo.on.ca (online legal information to help people understand and exercise rights)

Human Rights Legal Support Centre: 1-866-625-5179 | www.hrlsc.on.ca (for people on Ontario Works who experience discrimination)

Lawyer Referral Service: 1-800-268-8326 | www.lsuc.on.ca (lawyers who provide a free 30 minute consultation)

Legal Aid Ontario: 1-800-668-8258, 1-866-641-8867 (TTY) | www.legalaid.on.ca (legal services for people with low incomes)

Ontario Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth: 416-325-5669, 1-800-263-2841 | www.provincialadvocate.on.ca (for youth in foster care, group homes and detention centres who have complaints about their care)

Ontario Women's Justice Network: www.owjn.org (online information for women and youth on the law and violence against women)



Restorative Justice Programs & Prisoner Support

****most referrals to alternative justice programs have to come from a lawyer, judge or probation officer BUT you can still request that they refer you if you are willing to take responsibility for what you did and you want to find an alternative program****

PACT (participation, acknowledgement, commitment, and transformation): A diversion programme offered for young offenders in the GTA; gives an opportunity to clear their records and provides a restorative justice and community service alternative in sentencing young offenders.

PACT has 3 levels of assistance: Healing Circles, Lifeskills and Community Service Programmes or “schools” (Film School, Music program, Urban Reforestation Program, Urban Farming Program, Urban Gardening Program, Woodworking & Construction Program, Fashion School, Cooking School, and Haunted Theatre Program), and LifePlan and Coaching Program. 312 Brooke Ave | 416-656-8824 | www.pactprogram.ca

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS): The Youth Justice Programs at CTYS offer support to young people (ages 12-23) who are currently serving a youth order and/or have matters before the youth court. Whether youth have just been charged, are seeking bail, serving an open custody sentence or are on probation. Programs include restorative justice programs (“extra-judicial sanction”), support programs for youth out on bail, on probation, or on an open custody sentence. 65 Wellesley Street East, Suite 300 | 416-924-2100 | mail@ctys.org

Springboard: offers many programs for youth 12-17 who are involved in the justice system. Some programs provide support for youth at the bail or pre-resolution stage (Youth Court Action Planning), or court imposed sanctions through Enhanced Extrajudicial Sanctions (Youth Connect). Also have programs for restorative justice and to help fulfill probation orders of volunteer work. 416-977-0089 | info@operationspringboard.on.ca | www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Elizabeth Fry Society: offers counselling and programs in prisons and in the community for women who have been incarcerated or are going through court process. Programs are about things like abuse, parenting, budgeting, theft, and anger management. Also has an alternative justice program called “Direct Accountability Program: at the College Park Court 215 Wellesley Street East | 416 924 3708, 1 855 924 3708 | info@efrytoronto.org | www.efrytoronto.org

PASAN is a community-based network of prisoners, ex-prisoners, organizations, activists and individuals working together to provide advocacy, education, and support to prisoners on HIV/AIDS, HCV and related issues. They visit different youth facilities, group homes, etc. throughout the City of Toronto on a regular basis. 314 Jarvis St. #100 | 416-920-9567, 1-866-224-9978

Mediation Services

St. Stephen's House Community Mediation Services: The traditional ways of resolving conflicts, like calling the police or a lawyer, can be very time-consuming and expensive, and often simply don't work. Community mediation is an alternative way for resolving conflict. Mediation is voluntary and confidential, and for most disputes, is free. Our community mediation services are available to individuals living south of Eglinton Avenue between Victoria Park Avenue and the Humber River. 91 Bellevue Avenue | 416-925-2103 ext. 229 | crt.intake@ststephenshouse.com

Osgoode Mediation Services: a dedicated group of law students from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto providing Free Mediation Services and Conflict Resolution Training to the community surrounding York University. 416 736 5104 | omc@osgoode.yorku.ca

Before Their Time: Names of those We've Lost

This is an incomplete list of names of young people in the Toronto area who have recently died unjustly, either by violence, or while being chased, arrested or held in custody by police. This isn't about numbers – one person is one too many – and we want to (try to) remember the life of each youth here.

Rest in Peace

Abdikarim Abdikarim
Alwy Al Nadhir
Albert Kibuweyi
Alen Benn
Aqsa Parvez
Chantell Dunn
Duane Christian
Eric Osawe
Farah Khan
Henry Musaka
Jarvis St. Remy
Jeffrey Reodica
Jermaine Derby
Jordan Manners
Junior Manon
Sealand White
Sophia Cook
Justin Hodge
Damian Muirhead,
Orlando Grundy
Selvakumar Sellaiiah
Kerlon Adoulphus Charles
William Kim
Jane Creba
Joseph Westley Jones
Livette Olivea Miller
Nathaniel "Nate Dog" Leslie

“Would be justice can't seem to show her face around these parts. She's probably tied up at a funeral, because Justice is a black woman left waiting at the altar. Tears on her face, she places her bridal bouquet on Sean Bell's grave” - Sean Bell, by Team Philly (Alysia, Hasan, Josh) on Brave New Voices

Trayvon Martin
Sasha Bailey
Muluka Hassan Ali
Champagne Lewis
Jason Thomas Joseph
Nageeb Craig "Jarvis" Henry
Matthew George Wilmot
Shamari Belnavis
Umathevan Thiyagarajah
Dwayne Taylor
Giancarlo Savino
Melbourne Glendon Whittick
Ali Mahamud Ali
Mohammed Loyan Ahmed
Syed Sarfaraz Ul Hassan Shah
Omar McLeod
Tate Best
Jason Huxtable
Rommel Molina
Imtiaz Khan
Andre Malik Burnett
Sureshkumar Kanagaratnam
Rondell Calliste
Joseph Santos
Donald Rawluck
Shane James
Brandon Archibald-Sterling
Aleem Rehmtulla
Fahim Talakshi
Hasely McLean
Jamal Hemmings
Mario Pereira
Amon Beckles
Corey John
Sepehr (Danny) Fatulahzadeh-Rabti
Cordell Charles Skinner
Reyal Jensen Jardine-Douglas

ReAct
respect in action
10 years of youth preventing violence



Respect in Action (ReAct) is a youth program of



**Metropolitan Action Committee on
Violence Against Women and Children**

158 Spadina Rd, Toronto, ON, M5R 2T8

416-392-3135 | 416-392-3031 (TTY)

info@metrac.org | react@metrac.org | youth@metrac.org

www.metrac.org | www.owjn.org

Find ReAct and METRAC on Facebook



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada