

# RESOURCES FOR REVOLUTION





# **RESOURCES FOR REVOLUTION:**

## **A WORKBOOK FOR BUILDING PARALLEL LIBERATION SYSTEMS**

**Decolonial Tools • Community Strategies • Printable Worksheets • Reflection Prompts**



By White Rose Revolution

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for:  
our children  
our communities  
our fellow revolutionaries

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# Table of Contents

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<b>What Are Parallel Systems?</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Why This Workbook? .....	7
<b>Justice &amp; Accountability Systems</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Harm Mapping Worksheet .....	14
<b>Food Sovereignty Systems</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Liberation Is Grown & Defended Together .....	25
Community Food Sovereignty Mapping Worksheet .....	27
<b>Decolonial Health &amp; Healing Systems</b> .....	<b>31</b>
Parallel Healing Systems Worksheet.....	36
<b>Liberatory Education Systems</b> .....	<b>50</b>
Liberatory Education Vision Builder .....	54
<b>Liberatory Housing Systems</b> .....	<b>69</b>
Map Housing Harm & Possibility.....	73
<b>Alternative Economic Systems</b> .....	<b>79</b>
Economic Harm & Asset Mapping Worksheet .....	83
<b>People's Tech &amp; Communication Systems</b> .....	<b>89</b>
Map Digital Harm & Tech Oppression .....	93
<b>Land, Climate &amp; Ecological Stewardship Systems</b> .....	<b>99</b>
Land Harm Map & Ecological Memory Tool.....	103
<b>Culture, Art &amp; Spiritual Systems</b> .....	<b>109</b>
Map Cultural & Spiritual Violence .....	114
<b>More Resources For Revolution</b> .....	<b>120</b>
<b>Final Thoughts</b> .....	<b>123</b>

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# What Are Parallel Systems?

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This guide is an attempt to answer the question so often asked by people watching the ongoing atrocities in the world, “What should I do?” We have tried to collect information and resources, offered for free from various places, and put them into an organized outline which people can use to take immediate action of resistance but which will also support the end goal of dismantling systems of oppression and building a world of collective liberation.

Parallel systems are radical alternatives to dominant systems of power, economic, social, educational, technological, legal, cultural, that people of the global majority and allies build outside or alongside existing oppressive structures. These systems aren't just symbolic. They are acts of survival, resistance, and future building that challenge the systems of white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy by refusing to rely on them.

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## A Decolonial Definition

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Parallel systems are liberatory infrastructures, created by those excluded, exploited, or erased by dominant institutions, to meet their own needs on their own terms. They are rooted in communal knowledge, ancestral practices, and radical imagination.

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## The 9 Parallel Systems Necessary For Liberation

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1. Justice & Accountability Systems
2. Food Sovereignty Systems
3. Decolonial Health & Healing Systems
4. Liberatory Education Systems
5. Housing as Liberation Systems
6. Alternative Economic Systems (Solidarity Economies)
7. People's Tech & Communication Systems
8. Land, Climate & Ecological Stewardship Systems
9. Culture, Art & Spiritual Systems

### Each section includes:

A revolutionary strategy  
Step-by-step framework  
Printable worksheets  
Reflection questions  
Tools & templates

Each system is a blueprint for autonomy, dignity, and survival. Together, they form the infrastructure of total liberation.

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## Case Studies & Examples

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- **The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast Program:** A parallel system to public schools and a whitewashed welfare state, feeding thousands of Black children when the state wouldn't.
- **Zapatista Autonomous Zones:** Communities that built parallel education, healthcare, and governance systems based on Indigenous autonomy and anticapitalist values.
- **Freedom Schools (Mississippi, 1964):** Parallel education spaces teaching Black history, critical thinking, and liberation politics when white supremacist schools taught silence and obedience.
- **Palestinian Mutual Aid Networks:** In response to settler colonial blockade and apartheid, people build parallel economies and healthcare systems under siege.

- **Cooperatives and Time Banks:** Alternative economies that reject wage labor and capitalist extraction, rooted in mutual aid and reciprocity, particularly within poor, disabled, undocumented, and queer communities.

## What Makes A System Parallel?

Feature	Parallel Systems
Power source	People, not corporations or governments
Purpose	Liberation, not profit
Knowledge base	Lived experience & ancestral wisdom
Structure	Decentralized, communal, often feminist or horizontal
Relation to dominant systems	Oppositional, subversive, or autonomous

### **IMPORTANT:** Don't Confuse Parallel With Reformist

A reformist approach tries to change the system from within (e.g., DEI training in corporations).

A parallel system says: the master's house can't be fixed, so we'll build our own village.

## Why Parallel Systems Are Vital?

Because the system of white supremacy will not liberate those it was built to exploit.

Because marginalized communities deserve systems designed for their survival, not their surveillance.

Because freedom isn't handed down, it's built sideways.

Parallel systems are not a retreat, they are a revolution in motion. They are where abolition lives now, not just in dreams. Parallel systems matter because every system of domination, schools, jails, tech, borders, churches, finance, depends on our participation. By building parallel systems we are saying, "We will no longer play your game. We're building something else."

Get started by joining a community land trust, starting a radical study group or abolitionist reading circle, volunteering at a mutual aid food distro, launching a local database of Black, Indigenous, and queer therapists, or refusing surveillance tech and teaching others to resist.

Total liberation is not theoretical. It's infrastructural. And it's already here. Underground. Growing.

**Let's scale it. Let's live it. Let's defend it.**

## Why This Workbook?

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To move toward total liberation, we must dismantle the current extractive systems of white supremacy, capitalism, colonialism, cis-hetero-patriarchy, ableism, and replace them with parallel systems rooted in care, autonomy, collective power, and ancestral knowledge. Total liberation means every person and the Earth can live free from domination.

**This is not a manual for reform.** Time and time again attempts at reform have failed, often bringing with failure a backlash. Many times tools and strategies implemented in attempts at reform are instead weaponized against the very communities they were designed to protect.

This is a sacred, strategic workbook for building parallel systems. Rooted in community, these liberatory structures are designed to dismantle and replace the colonial systems of violence we were all born into.

Created by and for communities of the global majority, queer & trans organizers, disabled dreamers, cultural workers, and land protectors. This workbook helps you organize locally, vision boldly, and build together.

## How To Use This Workbook

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This is a living workbook. Add to it. Localize it. Make it your own. Organize a study/practice group with your collective. Use worksheets and reflection questions in workshops, classrooms, or zine builds. Host a “Parallel Systems Mapping” day in your community. Translate, remix, or radicalize for your own context.

Each system includes guided reflection questions such as:

- What does liberation in this system look like for us?
- What colonial patterns do we need to unlearn?
- What strengths do we already hold?
- What will we do this month to build or defend this system?

Each system is customizable. Each worksheet is printable. Every section invites you to reflect, revise, and reclaim. This is not theory. This is blueprint. This is not charity. This is covenant. This is not only a toolkit. This is a technology of memory and imagination.

## Learning Practices To Build

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It’s important to remember that small acts build. Starting practices that eventually lead to the development of parallel systems and ultimately liberation for all is critical.

Starting points for your community might be:

Community study & political education pods  
Skill and knowledge sharing circles (first aid, land defense, trauma care, tech sovereignty)  
“Liberation libraries” with radical zines and local histories  
Seed sovereignty & land defense collectives  
Oral history & memory documentation projects  
Mutual aid that centers disabled, queer, and undocumented leadership  
Healing justice spaces for frontline fatigue and generational trauma  
Youth councils for land, climate, and education futures  
Public ritual, art builds, memory work, and storytelling as community literacy

Start where you are and don’t stop. Revolution is not a metaphor. Parallel systems are not alternatives. They are futures made flesh. The future we envision starts with each of us, building community, building relationships, sharing knowledge, and taking care of each other.

# Chapter 1

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## Justice & Accountability Systems

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This chapter is to equip communities with tools to build parallel justice systems, rooted in abolition, collective care, and liberation, not punishment. We believe that communities most impacted by harm have the power and wisdom to keep each other safe, without police, prisons, or colonial courts.

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### What Are Parallel Justice & Accountability Systems?

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They are abolitionist ecosystems designed to prevent harm before it happens, interrupt violence without police, hold people accountable *without* cages or courts, and heal harm through community-led, survivor-centered processes.

This is not utopia. This is already happening.

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### Purpose

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To dismantle carceral punishment models and build transformative, community-based systems of healing, repair, and collective safety.

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### Guiding Principles

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**Abolitionist:** We don't reform the system that harms us, we replace it. Abolition is creation.

**SurvivorCentered:** The person harmed decides what justice looks like.

**Transformative, Not Punitive:** We respond to harm with healing, not shame. No justice without healing, no healing without justice.

**Collective Power:** Community over individual punishment. Accountability is not punishment, it's transformation.

**AntiCarceral, AntiColonial:** No cops. No cages. No courts. Community is the first responder. Safety is collective, not individual.

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### What We're Dismantling

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System	Parallel
Police	Community defense collectives
Prisons	Accountability circles & reentry cooperatives
Courts	People's tribunals & restorative justice models
Punishment	Transformative healing & education
Surveillance	Digital autonomy & tech refusal movements

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### Caution: What It's *Not*

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- **Not** forgiveness culture
- **Not** callout culture without pathways



- **Not** reform (like “diverse” police forces)
- **Not** asking survivors to compromise safety

## What This Looks Like

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### 1. Transformative Justice (TJ) Networks

Purpose: Address harm without replicating state violence

Tools:

- Community accountability processes
- Survivor centered healing plans
- Consent based, facilitated interventions

### 2. Community Defense & Rapid Response

Purpose: Protect against state & vigilante violence

Tools:

- CopWatch squads, legal observers
- Street medics & jail support crews
- Digital surveillance resistance (anti-doxxing, anti-facial recognition)

Think mutual aid meets neighborhood defense, with a radical lens.

### 3. People’s Tribunals & Liberation Courts

Purpose: Expose and hold accountable state, corporate, or inter-communal harms

Tools:

- Public tribunals with testimony from survivors
- Community “truth commissions” rooted in ancestral practices

These flip the script: *the system is on trial*, not the people.

### 4. Political Education for Abolition & Accountability

Purpose: Shift our culture from punishment to transformation

Tools:

- Abolition workshops and teach-ins
- Zines like “We Keep Us Safe”
- Youth-led restorative justice trainings

Because if you’ve been taught all your life that “justice” = police, we have to **unlearn to rebuild**.

### 5. Circle Keepers, Mediators & Healers

Purpose: Create frontline accountability teams

Roles Needed:

- Circle keepers trained in Indigenous, African, and queer conflict resolution
- Trauma-informed facilitators
- Somatic healing guides, especially for survivors

These are **frontline peace workers**, not neutral mediators. They hold the collective through the storm.

## Case Studies & Examples

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**Creative Interventions (U.S.):** A toolkit and practice model for community-based responses to violence without police, courts, or prisons.

Practices: Safety mapping, pod building, collective intervention planning.

Try This: Download the Creative Interventions Workbook [<https://www.creativeinterventions.org/toolkit/>] and map your own pod system, who would support you in a crisis of harm or violence?

**Zapatista Justice Councils (Chiapas, Mexico):** Indigenous-led autonomous justice rooted in community memory, land, and consensus.

Practices: Rotating governance roles, oral testimony, reparations.

Try This: Create your own version of a “Junta de Buen Gobierno”, how would your community guide conflict if the state didn’t exist?

**Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (BATJC):** Abolitionist pod mapping and harm intervention focused on child sexual abuse and family violence.

Practices: Community skill building, trauma-informed accountability.

Try This: Use their pod mapping tool to identify people in your life to call in, call on, and call forward.

**Indigenous Circle of Wellness (Tongva Land / Los Angeles):** Native-led wellness and justice rooted in ceremony, land, and cultural safety.

Practices: Talking circles, plant medicine, survivor centered healing.

Try This: Design a healing circle with offerings from your own ancestral lineage, how would you center both survivor care and community repair?

**Philly Stands Up & Philly's Pissed:** A dual accountability model, one group supported survivors, one supported harm-doers toward transformation.

Practices: Survivor-led processes & community organized accountability coaching.

Try This: Sketch what dual accountability might look like in your collective. What support roles are needed on each side?

## What We Need to Build

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**What we replace:** Police, prisons, militaries, courts.

**What we build:**

- Transformative justice circles
- Community defense networks
- Indigenous legal systems rooted in restoration, not punishment
- Public tribunals for state & corporate harm

"No one is disposable. The state is not justice." ~ Abolitionist principle

## How We Build It

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IN YOUR COMMUNITY: Your block, collective, org, school, etc

### Phase 1: Create Accountability & Transformative Justice Circles

Your Accountability Circle (AC) is a small group (36 people) trained in holding community through conflict, harm, and healing. It should include at least one person trained in TJ (Transformative Justice), trauma, and facilitation.

Roles to consider:

- Circle Keeper: Facilitates accountability dialogues
- Witness: Tracks truth-telling & commitments
- Supporter: Holds space for the harmed party
- Healer: Trauma-informed support, somatics, etc.
- Trainer: Train facilitators in TJ practices, mediation, de-escalation

### Phase 2: Set Accountability Culture Agreements

Accountability Culture Agreements are collective commitments that guide how your group shows up in conflict, repair, and transformation. These set the tone for how harm is addressed, before it happens.

This is where your circle co-creates shared values, boundaries, and responses to harm.

Agreements should practice values like curiosity over punishment, survivor-centered processes, confidentiality, no police involvement, and transparency. Root agreements in consent, dignity, and relational healing.

Suggested Agreement Values:

- We will center the voices and needs of the most impacted.
- We agree not to weaponize shame, callouts, or exclusion.
- We commit to responding to harm with curiosity, not punishment.
- We agree to hold one another with care, not control.
- We will pause power-hoarding and defensiveness when challenged.
- We recognize that accountability is a gift, not a demand.

Make it a practice:

- Review your agreements quarterly.
- Embed them into meetings, events, and onboarding.
- Make them visible (posters, zines, digital platforms).

These agreements aren't rules. They're living commitments. This is abolition in motion. This is where parallel justice lives.

### **Phase 3: Host a Justice Map Workshop**

Before you can hold accountability, you have to understand power and harm in your space. To do this, host a workshop with your group to create a map of harm and power.

Mapping Exercise:

- Who holds formal power? Informal power?
- Who is vulnerable or silenced?
- Where does harm go unaddressed?
- Who defines safety, and for whom?

Document systems of surveillance, policing, incarceration. Map histories of harm within and beyond your community.

### **Phase 4: Develop a Harm Intervention Protocol**

Use the following 4-step protocol to intervene in situations where interpersonal harm, state violence, or internal conflict are occurring.

Step 1: Ground in Values

Reaffirm your shared commitment to abolition, healing, and consent.

Step 2: Assess Safety

Is anyone in immediate danger?

What does the harmed party need right now?

Step 3: Create an Accountability Path

Support harm doers in accountability processes

What does accountability mean for this situation?

Does the person who caused harm agree to engage?

What are the material steps they will take (apology, action, repair)?

Create space for self-inquiry, amends, and behavioral transformation.

Step 4: Follow-Up and Transformation

Check in over time, has harm stopped? Has trust been restored?

Revisit agreements. Ensure support teams are not re-traumatizing survivors.

### **Phase 5: Build a Resource Bank**

Work with community members to build a network of healers, therapists, mediators, street medics, legal support, etc.

Connect with:

- Abolitionist educators



- Street medics
- Black, Indigenous, queer therapists
- Spiritual guides & elders
- Survivor advocates

Build systems for mediation, conflict transformation, and support.

## Phase 6: Community Defense 101

Train a few community members in deescalation, mediation, and consent based accountability. If you live in a community under surveillance, also have members trained in Copwatch or digital security protocols. Copwatchers observe and document police activity. They watch for signs of police misconduct and brutality.

Build Defense Squads:

- Copwatchers
- Jail support teams
- Rapid response text trees
- Digital self-defense crews

Learn to:

- Deescalate safely
- Document abuse
- Evade surveillance
- Support people after state violence

You don't need cops. You need each other.

Practice community safety without the state. Develop community-based emergency response plans. Organize safety teams trained in deescalation, care, and defense.

## Resources & Tools

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Interrupting Criminalization: Building Capacity to End Criminalization, Policing, and Punishment <https://www.interruptingcriminalization.com/>

Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (BATJC) guides: Go to BATJC's website <https://batjc.org/readingsothermedia/> for free resources on abolition, transformative justice, and community accountability.

Creative Interventions Workbook & Toolkit: <https://www.creativeinterventions.org/toolkit/>

There are several useful guides at <https://antifaintl.substack.com/p/30guidestotakingantifascist> but one which outlines specifically how to create many of the tools discussed in this section can be found at <https://deathtofascism.com/files/RACISTWATCH123.pdf>

For more information on what People's Tribunals are, how they work, and their impact check out Azadeh Shahshahani's article at Race, Racism, and the Law. <https://racism.org/articles/lawandjustice/34lawandjusticegenerally/11168peopletribunals>

## Why It Matters

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This is the most urgent frontline in the battle for total liberation, because the system is *built* on criminalizing, surveilling, and punishing the global majority. We cannot have total liberation while upholding and perpetuating a system rooted in colonialism and carceral punishment. We must instead build a system rooted in community, healing, and power in the hands of the people.

## Metrics Of Liberation

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Here are suggested metrics for the Justice & Accountability Systems, grounded in decolonial values, community transformation, and abolitionist praxis. Use these not as checkboxes, but as compasses, measuring movement toward liberation, not compliance with oppressive standards.

### Relational Shifts:

Increased willingness to name harm and engage in repair

Greater trust in community-based processes over state systems  
People report feeling safer through collective agreements, not policing

**Process Integrity:**

More collectives co-creating accountability agreements and harm protocols  
Regular use of transformative justice circles or healing dialogues  
Visible structures for responding to harm without exclusion or disposability

**Capacity Building:**

Growth in trained TJ facilitators, de-escalators, and support pods  
Mutual aid for survivors and those in accountability processes  
Public workshops, zines, or trainings held on abolitionist justice

**Cultural Transformation:**

Language shift away from carceral frameworks (e.g., “snitching,” “canceling,” “pressing charges”)  
Increased use of cultural healing practices (story circles, ceremony, art)  
Honoring of ancestral and Indigenous forms of justice

**Autonomy From the State:**

Fewer calls to police or reliance on punitive legal systems  
Collective response plans in place for crisis, conflict, and harm  
Survivor and community-centered responses replacing 911 reliance

## **Closing Vision**

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We don’t just need a world without police. We need a world that knows how to respond when things fall apart. We need systems of care more powerful than the systems of punishment. We are the infrastructure. We are the justice we’ve been waiting for.

When the system breaks us, we break the system. When the system abandons us, we build our own. Justice lives here. In us. Around us. Between us.

# Harm Mapping Worksheet

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## 1. Description of Harm:

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was harmed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the impact on the individuals/groups/community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Contextual Analysis:

What systems of oppression are involved? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were power dynamics at play? How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What were the historical or cultural contexts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Emotional Landscape:

What emotions arose from the harm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For the harmed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For the harm-doer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Ripple Effects:

How did the harm affect others indirectly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did it impact relationships, trust, and community dynamics? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Needs & Repair:

What are the needs of the harmed person(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are possible collective repair practices? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use this as a guide to build accountability and understanding, not blame. Honor truth-telling.



# Community Accountability Culture Agreement Builder

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## 1. Core Values:

What are our shared values? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do we uphold them in times of conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Agreements:

What do we agree to do when harm happens? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will we ensure all voices are heard and centered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Collective Responsibility:

How do we share responsibility for community wellbeing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do we handle power and privilege? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Boundaries:

What boundaries do we need to feel safe and accountable? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are those boundaries enforced and respected? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Regular Practice:

How often do we revisit and revise this agreement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who holds the group accountable to the agreement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This tool is about transforming harm through shared commitment, not punishment.

# Transformative Justice Circle Planning Sheet

---

## 1. Circle Purpose:

What harm are we addressing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What healing and transformation do we seek? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Circle Participants:

Who needs to be present (harmed, harm-doer, facilitators, supporters)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are they willing and prepared? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Preparation:

What groundwork (pre-conversations, safety planning) is necessary? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Circle Structure:

- Opening ritual / land acknowledgment
- Agenda & Guidelines
- Check-in & Story-sharing (with consent)
- Reflection and responsibility-taking
- Collective repair brainstorming
- Checkout
- Closing ritual

## 5. FollowUp:

What steps ensure accountability continues after the circle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will healing be supported? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This sheet centers collective care and radical responsibility over punitive models.

<b>Circle Keepers:</b> <b>Participants:</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>Materials needed:</b>
<b>Opening &amp; Grounding</b>	
<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction to Circle Process</b>	Explain the circle's purpose and process; Introduce the talking piece
<b>Checkin &amp; Introductions</b>	Checkin question(s):
<b>Values &amp; Agreements</b>	
<b>Discussion Rounds</b>	Questions: 1.  2.  3.
<b>Checkout</b>	
<b>Closing</b> May include: Sharing a quote, breathing or grounding exercise, gratitude	



# Community Safety Without Cops Plan

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## 1. Vision of Safety:

What does safety mean for our community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are we keeping safe from (e.g., violence, eviction, policing)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Community Assets:

Who can be called instead of police? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What resources do we have for deescalation, mental health, and mediation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Emergency Protocol:

Who do we contact in a crisis? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are the immediate steps to take (evacuation, safety space, care teams)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Mutual Aid:

How do we support each other materially and emotionally? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Political Solidarity:

How does this plan resist carceral systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do we connect this plan to broader abolitionist efforts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Safety without police means reclaiming care, power, and accountability from the state.

# Accountability Commitment Worksheet

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## 1. Acknowledgment:

What harm has occurred? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What part did I/we play in that harm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Impact:

How did this harm affect others? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What ripple effects did it cause? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Responsibility:

What needs to be done to take responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will I/we show up differently? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Repair:

What actions will be taken to repair the harm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who needs to be involved? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. LongTerm Commitment:

How will I/we practice accountability over time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What structures will support this practice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Accountability is not about shame—it's about growth, solidarity, and repair.

# Chapter 2

## Food Sovereignty Systems

“When They Come for the Land, We Come for Each Other.”

Grow Outside the Empire: Feed the People, Free the Land

### What Are Parallel Food Sovereignty Systems?

Parallel systems of food sovereignty are revolutionary infrastructures built outside of, and in direct opposition to, the colonial-capitalist food regime. These are not reforms of broken systems, they are replacements. They are rooted in ancestral wisdom, collective power, and the right of all peoples, especially the global majority, to control their own food systems from seed to plate.

### Purpose

The purpose of food sovereignty systems is to dismantle colonial, capitalist food systems and replace them with regenerative, community-owned networks rooted in ancestral knowledge, agroecology, and collective self-determination.

This guide exists to help communities build parallel food sovereignty systems, infrastructures of nourishment, healing, and resistance rooted in land-based liberation. Not charity. Not reform. Liberation.

### Guiding Principles

**Decolonial:** Center Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and land-based communities. Land is sacred, not property.

**AntiCapitalist:** Reject profit-based food systems, fight land privatization. Food is a right, not a product.

**Feminist:** Uplift land stewardship led by women, femmes, and queer farmers.

**Regenerative:** Restore ecosystems through seed saving, permaculture, and agroecology.

**Autonomous:** Controlled by the people, not governments, corporations, or NGOs. Seeds are ancestral, not patents.

Community feeds community, not the state.

### What We’re Dismantling

Colonial Capitalist System	Parallel Food Sovereignty System
Agribusiness & GMOs (Monsanto, Bayer)	Community seed banks, ancestral seed keepers
Factory farming & monocultures	Agroecology, Indigenous permaculture
Food deserts	Urban farms, foraging networks, community fridges
Supermarket chains	Solidarity markets, coops, land-based mutual aid
Exploitative migrant labor	Land worker cooperatives, dignified land stewardship
State food stamps tied to surveillance	Radical free food networks without shame

Colonial Capitalist System	Parallel Food Sovereignty System
"Food security" defined by the state	Food sovereignty defined by the people

## What This Looks Like

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### 1. Land Back & Land Trusts

- Reclaiming Indigenous and Black land stolen by settler colonialism.
- Community Land Trusts (CLTs) that take land out of the market and into collective stewardship.
- Indigenous land reclamation zones.
- Resist gentrification and land grabs by developers or agribusiness.

### 2. Community-Governed Food Systems & Seed Sovereignty

- Establish food sovereignty councils composed of local growers, elders, healers, and youth.
- Implement land-based education curricula in schools and community centers.
- Develop seed banks and collective seed saving rituals.
- Protect traditional, nonGMO seeds from corporate patenting.
- Restore intergenerational seed saving rituals.
- Prioritize seeds for nutritional, spiritual, and cultural survival.

### 3. Urban & Rural Agroecology Hubs

- Convert vacant lots and rooftops into food forests and gardens.
- Restoring soil, water, and pollinators while feeding people.
- Build soil through composting networks and regenerative practices.
- Promote intergenerational farming mentorship and coops.
- No chemicals, no extractivism, only reciprocal land care.
- Use methods rooted in Indigenous and Afroecological knowledge.

### 4. Cooperative Distribution Networks

- Build or reclaim markets that center culturally relevant food.
- Create mobile markets, free fridges, and sliding scale CSAs.
- Use community controlled currency or time banking systems instead of cash only economies.
- Reject the commodification of food.
- Promote free, sliding scale, or gift based systems.

### 5. Direct Action & Food Justice Defense

- Occupy corporate owned farmland for community use.
- Resist environmental racism and food apartheid.
- Defend Indigenous water and seed sovereignty rights.
- Grow and share foods that are culturally relevant, especially for diasporic and displaced communities.
- Revive diasporic food-ways banned or erased through colonial assimilation.

## Case Studies & Examples

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**Philly Peace Park:** Urban farm led by Black youth as site for education, healing, and community defense.

**Oakland's SelfDefense Farms:** Mutual aid food hubs tied to abolitionist and copwatch programs.

**Soul Fire Farm(NY):** AfroIndigenous centered community farm using food as resistance and healing.

**Zapatista Food and Justice Collectives:** Autonomous Indigenous food systems built through rebellion. Land sovereignty entwined with self-governed justice.

**Sogorea Te' Land Trust (Ohlone territory):** Indigenous women-led land return project integrating land, ceremony, and food.

**Free Fridges & Mutual-Aid:** food distros in cities worldwide, a direct parallel to failed state programs.

## What We Need To Build

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**What we replace:** Big Ag, food deserts, Monsanto, Nestlé.

**What we build:**

- Community run urban farms
- Seed banks protected from patenting
- Indigenous & Afroecological farming networks
- Coop distribution of culturally relevant foods

*“Without feminism there is no agroecology.”* – CSM Food Sovereignty Working Group

## How We Build It

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### Phase 1: Building Your Food Sovereignty Circle

Start with who you have by identifying existing growers, land stewards, food mutual aid. Who’s already growing, feeding, or healing in your community?

Create collective values & agreements: land respect, cultural food-ways, no cooptation, no cops.

Facilitate popular education workshops on food justice & agroecology.

Roles to consider:

- Seed Keeper
- Soil Steward
- Kitchen Alchemist
- Harvest Coordinator
- Fridge/CSA Organizer
- Storyteller/Educator

### Phase 2: Mapping The Local Food Regime

Map food apartheid zones and corporate control.

Create a Liberation Food Map.

Include all potential growing, gathering, and distribution spaces.

Ask together:

- Where are the food deserts? Where is corporate control?
- Who has land but isn’t using it?
- Who holds ancestral growing knowledge?
- Where are the abandoned lots, rooftops, and church yards?

### Phase 3: Infrastructure Development

Secure land via land trust, lease, or direct reclamation.

Build distribution hubs and food sovereignty councils.

Train a new generation of land tenders, herbalists, and soil stewards.

Food Sovereignty Hubs Should Include:

- Land plots (even small) with community control
- Seed library or seed exchange program
- Rainwater harvesting and composting systems
- Open kitchen or communal meal space
- A free distro system: fridges, mobile CSAs, or gift tables
- Mutual aid integration: connect food to justice, healing, and protest support

Operating Models:

Time bank based exchanges (labor = meals)

Radical sliding scale

Free food for those denied access

#### **Phase 4: Cultural Power & Policy Disruption**

Host seasonal festivals that revive ancestral food practices.

Launch campaigns to cancel subsidies to agribusiness.

Reclaim public space and policies to prioritize sovereignty over access.

Strategic Alliances:

- Indigenous & Afroecological networks
- Healers, street medics, and birth workers
- Climate justice organizers
- Abolitionist mutual aid coalitions
- Disability justice organizers for accessible farming practices

#### **Phase 5: Defense & Protection**

Your food systems must be protected from:

Developers & gentrifiers

Police & code enforcement

White-led nonprofits attempting to co-opt

Safety & Defense Strategies include:

- Train food stewards in digital and physical security
- Protect gardens from displacement, raids, or sabotage
- Document and resist state violence against land defenders
- Know your rights workshops
- Legal observers at land reclamations
- Media campaigns to frame your narrative
- Community support phone trees for raids or displacement threats

#### **Phase 6: Rituals, Culture & Power**

Rituals to integrate:

Seed blessings & planting ceremonies

Harvest celebrations rooted in ancestral traditions

Story circles around food memory and land history

Cooking nights that honor diasporic cuisine

Build food power with:

Youth justice garden crews

Abolitionist farm field trips

Cross training with circle keepers and healers

### **Resources & Tools**

---

La Via Campesina – Global peasant food sovereignty movement

Soul Fire Farm – AfroIndigenous agroecology & reparations model

Black Earth Farms – Revolutionary land & food mutual aid collective

Indigenous Seed Keepers Network

### **Why It Matters**

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Because abolition isn't just about breaking cages, it's about building liberated ecosystems. Because food without justice is charity, and justice without nourishment is burnout. Because hunger is not an accident, it's a colonial tool. Because agribusiness is built on Black and Indigenous land theft & migrant exploitation. Because grocery stores are full, and neighborhoods are starving. Because "food security" still centers charity, while food sovereignty centers power. We need justice systems that feed us, and food systems that heal us.



## Metrics Of Liberation

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Acres liberated from private control  
Pounds of food redistributed freely  
Youth trained in ancestral agroecology  
Number of community-led food councils  
Frequency of harvests tied to ritual, not capitalist seasons

## Closing Vision

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Parallel Food Systems = Liberation Infrastructure

They don't just feed us. They heal historical trauma, restore the land, rebuild kinship, and undermine the entire colonial supply chain. This is what it means to grow outside the empire. We do not farm for profit. We farm for freedom. We do not feed to survive. We feed to reclaim. We are not landless. We are land returning.

We do not fight only in the streets. We fight in the soil. We fight in our kitchens. We fight in how we show up for each other when harm occurs. We are not just dismantling the system, we are feeding the future. Our justice is rooted. Our food is revolutionary. Liberation is grown and defended, together.

We grow what they said we couldn't. We plant what they tried to bury. We feed who the system starves. We aren't just growing a garden. We're growing a liberation site. It's not charity. It's revolution by seed. Grow the future. Share the harvest. Feed the resistance.

Our food is our weapon. Our soil is sacred. Our liberation will be grown.

---

# Liberation Is Grown & Defended Together

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## A Bridge Between Food Sovereignty & Justice Systems

In the real world, justice and food are never separate. They are co-strategic systems of survival and transformation.

### Shared Principles

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**Both systems are abolitionist:** We reject cages, courts, and corporations.

**Both are communal:** Built by and for the people, not institutions.

**Both are ancestral:** Grounded in wisdom older than colonization.

**Both require defense:** From raids, state violence, and cooptation.

**Both heal trauma:** Through land, ritual, food, and accountability.

### Where They Intertwine

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#### 1. Restorative Meals

Use shared meals in accountability processes, offer nourishment, not punishment. Honor cultural food as part of repair.

#### 2. Justice on the Land

Host healing circles, truth telling, and youth justice workshops on farms, gardens, or reclaimed land.

#### 3. Reparations Through Food

Redistribute food and land to those historically denied it. Integrate food justice into accountability actions.

#### 4. CoDefense Networks

Food hubs and justice collectives coordinate protection: court support, jail support meals, land eviction defense.

#### 5. CircleKeepers Meet SeedKeepers

Create shared trainings: soil stewards learn accountability; mediators learn food growing. Build holistic resilience.

### Actions To Weave Systems Together

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#### 1. Justice is Impossible Without Food

Communities in conflict or recovering from harm can't heal if they're hungry.

- Add food distribution to justice work. Accountability circles should include mutual aid (meals, herbal care, food deliveries) as part of the healing process.
- Food can be part of reparations or repair, especially for displaced, disabled, or poor folks.
- Create a Justice Zine: "Feeding Each Other Is Justice Work" with tips on radical meal prep, culturally relevant food, and community kitchens.

#### 2. Food Spaces as Justice Hubs

Imagine a farm that hosts both harvest festivals and restorative justice circles under the same tree.

- Use farm/garden spaces for restorative and transformative justice processes.
- Urban gardens, land trusts, and food coops can become sites for:
- Conflict resolution circles
- Healing justice retreats
- Political education events
- Youth-led accountability workshops

#### 3. Shared Defense & Mutual Aid Networks

Link your community defense squad to food distro routes, jail support snacks, or resistance farms.

- Food systems need protection (from eviction, police, sabotage).
- Justice teams need nourishment and sustainability.
- Build a shared justice food calendar (harvest & healing cycles).

#### **4. CrossTraining: Healers, Growers, Justice Holders**

Train land-based accountability facilitators

Imagine training cycles where:

- Soil tenders learn trauma-informed accountability
- Circle keepers learn permaculture
- Youth learn both seed saving and community mediation

Add a mini curriculum exchange between the two zines.

# Community Food Sovereignty Mapping Worksheet

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## 1. Local Food Sources:

What foods are grown, raised, or harvested locally? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are the stewards of these food systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Ancestral Food Knowledge:

What traditional food practices exist in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who holds this knowledge? How is it passed down? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Barriers to Food Sovereignty:

What policies, corporations, or systems are preventing autonomy? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does colonization impact your local food system? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Community Strengths:

What skills, networks, or resources does your community already have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are local food justice leaders and elders? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Action Possibilities:

What steps can be taken to reclaim food sovereignty? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What collaborations, land trusts, or seed saving efforts exist? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Food sovereignty starts with understanding who controls food and reclaiming that power.

# Food Justice & Land Access Worksheet

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## 1. Land History:

Whose Indigenous land is this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the history of land theft or dispossession? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Current Land Use:

Who owns or controls the land in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there community gardens, urban farms, or land coops? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Displacement & Gentrification:

How have land struggles intersected with racial, class, or gender injustice? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Reclamation Strategies:

What movements are reclaiming land for food? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How can reparations and landback efforts be supported? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Dreaming Forward:

What does a liberated food and land system look like to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Decolonizing food requires confronting land injustice and honoring Indigenous sovereignty.

# Food Autonomy Action Plan

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## 1. Visioning:

What does food autonomy mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would your family or group like to grow, cook, and share food? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Skills Inventory:

Who knows how to grow, forage, cook, or preserve food? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What tools or resources do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Goals:

What are 1–3 achievable goals for the next 3 months? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Resource Building:

What support, funding, or land is needed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who can you collaborate with? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Accountability and Celebration:

How will progress be tracked and celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will the work be shared and sustained? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Food autonomy is not a trend—it's a resistance practice rooted in care, culture, and survival.

# Seed Justice & Indigenous Food-ways Reflection

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## 1. Seed Knowledge:

What do you know about the seeds your food comes from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are they heirloom, hybrid, or genetically modified? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Cultural Food Practices:

What traditional foods are part of your ancestry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are these foods connected to ceremony or healing? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Colonial Interference:

How have food systems been disrupted by colonization and capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Honoring Ancestors:

How can we return to growing, eating, and sharing food that honors our people? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Seed Sovereignty:

How do we support Indigenous seed keepers and seed saving practices? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Seed is memory. Seed is resistance. Seed is our future.



# Chapter 3

## Decolonial Health & Healing Systems

Reclaiming Care Beyond Clinics, Cops & Capitalism

This is not about reforming healthcare. This is about reclaiming healing.

### What Are Parallel Health & Healing Systems?

Parallel Health & Healing Systems are community-rooted, non-Western, often Indigenous or ancestral health frameworks that exist alongside (not beneath) the dominant biomedical model, but are frequently marginalized, dismissed, or criminalized due to colonial, capitalist, and white supremacist structures.

### Purpose

To replace the racist, ableist, colonial medical-industrial complex with community-rooted, culturally sacred, radically accessible systems of care, healing, and wellness that honor the body, spirit, and land.

This section walks you through a step-by-step process for creating community rooted, abolitionist, decolonial healing systems that exist outside the colonial medical industrial complex. These are systems of survival, sacredness, and sovereignty.

### Guiding Principles

**Ancestral First:** Center Indigenous, Black, and diasporic healing traditions.

**Abolitionist:** Dismantle carceral medicine (forced treatment, incarceration, pathologization).

**Disability Justice:** Value all bodies, all minds, and interdependence over productivity.

**Community Controlled:** Health systems governed by the people, not states, hospitals, or corporations.

**Spiritual Integrity:** Restore connection to ritual, cosmology, and energetic healing.

**Mutual Aid Over Insurance:** Decouple survival from profit-driven models.

### What We're Dismantling

Colonial Systems	Parallel Healing Systems
Western science & data	Ancestral, intuitive, oral
Certified doctor/professional	Elder, healer, community guide
Symptom-based, pharmaceutical	Root-cause, holistic
Top-down, hierarchical power dynamic	Collective, relational
Expensive, often exclusive	Community-based, often free

## What This Looks Like

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### 1. Community Healing Hubs

- Free clinics hosted in gardens, cultural centers, spiritual sanctuaries
- Mobile care teams offering herbal support, harm reduction, and somatic grounding
- Neighborhood “care pods” for checkins, mental health, and emergency aid

### 2. Ancestral Medicine Networks

- Reclaim plant medicine, Indigenous midwifery, and diasporic healing arts
- Create accessible apothecaries, seed banks, and elder-led teachings
- Protect sacred practices from academic theft and white wellness industries

### 3. AntiCarceral Care Teams

- Remove cops and coercion from mental health crises
- Train community members in trauma informed response
- Build networks of care separate from 911, hospitals, and psychiatry

### 4. Mental & Emotional Liberation Spaces

- Peer-led groups for healing from racial trauma, displacement, and systemic harm
- Decolonial therapy collectives with culturally rooted practitioners
- Collective grief rituals and joy ceremonies

### 5. Disabled & Chronically Ill Leadership

- Shift from “accessibility” as accommodation to access as design
- Community access mapping (who gets left out? who designs the care?)
- Train up disabled healers, access doulas, and tech stewards

## Case Studies & Examples

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### **Indigenous Medicine**

- Sweat lodges, plant medicine, ceremony, and energy work practiced by First Nations, Maya, Diné, Nahua, Māori, etc.
- Healing through relationality with land, ancestors, and community.

### **African Diasporic Traditions**

- Hoodoo, Ifá, Santería, Vodun, and spiritual herbalism.
- Embodied wisdom passed down despite enslavement, medical apartheid, and criminalization.

### **Latine & Curanderismo Practices**

- Sobadas, limpias, egg cleansing, herbal tinctures, and energy alignment.
- Curanderas/os as community health stewards, especially where state care is absent.

### **Asian & Middle Eastern Systems**

- Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine, acupuncture, Hijama (cupping), energy balancing, and food as medicine.
- Emphasize harmony, cycles, and somatic-emotional balance.

### **Neurodivergent and Disability Justice Healing**

- Mad Pride, peer-led mental health collectives, stim spaces, trauma-informed care outside of coercive institutions.
- Embraces divergent ways of sensing, knowing, and existing.

## What We Need to Build

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**What we replace:** For-profit healthcare, medical racism, pharma empires.

**What we build:**

- Black and Indigenous birthing centers
- Queer and trans holistic wellness networks

- Mutual aid clinics and herbalist collectives
- Mental health care rooted in somatics, trauma informed, ancestral modalities

Healing is not capitalist. It is collective, cultural, and cellular.

## How We Build It

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### Phase 1: Organize Your Healing Circle

Build a team grounded in care, trust, and shared values.

Identify & Invite:

- Street medics, herbalists, brujxs, doulas
- Disabled community members & care workers
- Spiritual guides, elders, and trauma informed therapists
- Survivors, QTPOC, youth, & impacted voices

Create Agreements:

No police, no coercion, no pathologizing

Value rest, slowness, and access for all bodies

Protect sacred knowledge from extraction and commodification

Healing Circle Builder Reflections: Name your healing team members and their gifts, define your collective agreements, and map your care pod communication tools.

### Phase 2: Map Your Community's Needs & Wisdom

Create a Healing Justice Map with:

Local healing assets (kitchens, gardens, clinics, elders)

Points of harm (police presence, psych wards, hospital deserts)

Map medical deserts, pharma monopolies, trauma zones

Hold storytelling circles on medical racism and lost traditions

Ask together:

Who in our community has been harmed by the health system?

Who are the hidden or informal healers among us?

Where are the medical deserts, trauma zones, and access barriers?

What traditional medicine has been erased or criminalized?

Community Health Audit: Identify harm hotspots, list local healing assets, and brainstorm how to connect the gaps.

### Phase 3: Infrastructure Building

Core Elements to Build:

Launch healing hubs in community spaces (in homes, gardens, community centers)

Form healing councils led by QT/BIPOC practitioners and elders

Mutual aid funds for medicine, abortion, and healing supplies

Community apothecaries (collectively stocked) and herb distribution collectives

Mobile care kits (herbs, zines, first aid, grounding tools)

Train Up:

- Abolitionist harm responders
- Disabled access doulas
- Herbal medicine makers
- Trauma-informed circle keepers

Start small. Root deep.

Infrastructure Checklist: What spaces do you have access to? What supplies do you need to gather? Who can offer trainings or support?

## **Phase 4: Design Noncarceral Crisis Response**

Replace 911 with:

- Care pods & phone trees
- Trained community de-escalators
- Wellness watchers & grief responders

Abolish forced hospitalization and institutionalization in your city

Host wellness festivals, ancestor altars, and medicine swaps

Create healing justice protocols for all orgs, schools, movements

Build A Community Harm & Health Protocol that: Centers the person harmed, uses grounding, consent, and checkins, and does not replicate state surveillance or control.

Crisis Plan Builder: Who responds to crisis? How do we ensure safety without harm? What deescalation tools do we have?

## **Phase 5: Cultivate Ritual, Culture & Restoration**

Integrate:

- Seasonal healing rituals and ceremonies
- Ancestral plant practices and moon medicine
- Collective grief spaces and joy circles
- Accessible dance, movement, and sound baths

Document and honor recipes, rituals, remedies passed down by ancestors, stories of medical resistance, resilience, and re-imagination.

Ritual & Culture Tracker: List seasonal or monthly rituals. Honor your medicine stories and sacred practices.

## **Phase 6: Protect & Defend Your System**

Protect healers from:

State surveillance

Cooptation by white wellness industries

Criminalization of healing work (esp. abortion, herbalism, mutual aid)

Burnout and boundary erosion within the collective

Build:

- Digital & legal safety plans
- Narrative defense (zines, storytelling, media)
- Conflict resolution agreements within your circle
- Build legal defense and media teams for healing projects under threat
- Document and resist medical violence (forced sterilization, denial of care)

Defense Map & Safety Plan: What are your greatest threats? What safety protocols can you activate? Who's in your protection network?

Strategic Allies

- Black & Indigenous midwife networks
- Disability justice collectives
- Harm reduction orgs
- Abolitionist mental health groups
- Herbalist and street medic coalitions

## **Resources & Tools**

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Zines, workshops, and field trainings on:

Abolitionist harm response

Herbal medicine making  
Trauma-informed community care  
Energy work and body memory

Community Health Audit Worksheets  
DIY Plant Medicine Zine Starters  
AntiCarceral Crisis Response Scripts  
Care Pod HowTo Guides

Access Mapping Templates

## Why It Matters

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Because colonial medicine was never meant to heal us. Because healing isn't just clinical, it's political, spiritual, and communal. Because we are living with layers of trauma, colonization, displacement, ableism, medical neglect, and we need new systems to hold that truth.

## Metrics Of Liberation

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Rather than measuring success by institutional norms (profit, patient volume, prescriptions), we ask:

**Collective Access & Equity:** Do all bodies, disabled, trans, fat, undocumented, have access to healing? Are services free, sliding scale, and available in multiple languages? Are healing spaces physically, emotionally, and culturally accessible?

**Ancestral Continuity:** Are cultural and spiritual healing traditions being remembered, practiced, and passed on? Are elders and medicine carriers honored and compensated? Are youth being invited to learn and innovate these practices?

**Community Governance & Autonomy:** Are healing systems controlled by the people who use them? Is decision making shared across generations, genders, and roles? Are institutions of care accountable to the communities they serve?

**Healing Justice Integration:** Are systems rooted in trauma-informed, abolitionist, and anti-oppressive practices? Do they prioritize collective safety, not carceral interventions? Are crisis responses non-police, community-led, and sustainable?

**Liberatory Infrastructure:** Are there healing hubs, quiet rooms, mobile apothecaries, land for ceremony? Is care embedded into daily life, not just reserved for emergencies? Are technology and tradition braided together to meet real needs?

**Joy, Rest, and Cultural Resilience:** Is healing centered in joy, pleasure, and connection, not just pathology? Are art, dance, music, storytelling, and laughter recognized as medicine? Do people feel safe enough to rest, grieve, and thrive?

## Closing Vision

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We are not broken. We are not sick. We are not disposable. We are sacred. We are remembering. We are healing on our own terms. This is not alternative medicine. This is the original medicine. This is not self-care. This is collective care as resistance. Our clinics are the temples. Our grief is a revolution. Our joy is the cure.

We don't need permission to care for each other. We don't need licenses to honor ancestral medicine. We don't need the state to validate our healing. We are not waiting for justice. We are healing toward liberation. This is about remembering. Reclaiming. Rerooting.

# Parallel Healing Systems Worksheet

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## 1. Ancestral Lineages:

What healing practices exist in your ancestry or cultural background? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who were the healers in your lineage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Suppressed Practices:

What traditions were erased or criminalized due to colonization? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can we research and reclaim those practices? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Community Healers:

Who in your community currently practices non-Western healing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do they operate outside of institutional systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Current Barriers:

What laws, policies, or cultural biases prevent access to these healing systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How is medical racism or ableism showing up in your experiences? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Reconnection Plan:

What steps can you take to reconnect with a parallel healing tradition? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What support do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Healing is ancestral, collective, and political. Reclaim it.

## Healer Circle Builder

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**Purpose:** Identify trusted practitioners, elders, and cultural healers for your circle.

**Prompts:**

Who holds wisdom in our community (plant medicine, massage, reiki, therapy)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who offers care across generations, genders, and abilities? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can we center queer, trans, disabled, and global majority healers? \_\_\_\_\_

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What roles can each person or practice hold? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Circle Map:** Sketch your healer circle or make a contact list with gifts/roles.

Start where you bleed. Build where you live. Heal in community.



# Healing Values Agreement

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## 1. Core Healing Values:

What values guide your understanding of health and healing? (e.g., reciprocity, intuition, ancestral wisdom)

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How are these different from colonial medical models? \_\_\_\_\_

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How have you internalized colonial ideas about health? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Healing Ethics:

What does consent look like in ancestral or community healing spaces? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do we ensure non-extractive, non-coercive practices? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Access & Equity:

Who gets to access parallel healing systems? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do we make them inclusive for queer, disabled, and marginalized folks? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. Protecting Healers:

How do we protect traditional knowledge holders from criminalization or co-optation? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do we support them materially and politically? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 5. Re-Indigenizing Wellness:

How do we restore land-based, community-rooted models of care? \_\_\_\_\_

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How is our health connected to land, culture, and spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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What practices feel most aligned with your liberation? \_\_\_\_\_

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This agreement is a living document. Update as your healing deepens.

# Healing Justice Mapping Template

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**Purpose:** Map health access, trauma legacies, and sites of medical injustice.

**Prompts:**

Where do we access care now and who is left out? \_\_\_\_\_

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What trauma or violence has medical systems caused us? \_\_\_\_\_

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What herbs, practices, or tools support our healing? \_\_\_\_\_

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What new systems could we build or remember? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sketch Area:** Visualize where care happens and where it doesn't draw or write freely.

## Community Health Audit

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**Purpose:** Assess access to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual care in your community.

**Prompts:**

Who has consistent access to care? Who doesn't? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of care are most needed but least available? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What systemic barriers exist (cost, language, racism, ableism)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What traditional or cultural healing is missing? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes & Observations:** Use this space to list patterns and community needs.

## Community Healing Inventory

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**Purpose:** Identify collective and ancestral healing practices in your community.

**Prompts:**

What healing traditions do we already practice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are our community healers, therapists, or elders? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What ancestral medicine or ceremony do we remember or reclaim? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What emotional, mental, spiritual wounds are present? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Inventory Area:** Document or draw your healing practices, people, and rituals here.

## Healing Infrastructure Checklist

**Purpose:** Review what spaces, supplies, tools, and systems are needed for healing.

**Prompts:**

Where can we cultivate quiet/safe spaces for rest or ritual? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can we create and distribute herbal kits, trauma response bags, and sensory tools?\_\_\_\_\_

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How can we ensure mobility access and disability accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_

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What other infrastructure and resources does our community need? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Your Needs & Resources:** Customize this list for your collective or space.

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## Mutual Aid & Crisis Response Plan

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**Purpose:** Build a plan for community-based mental health, care, and healing support.

**Prompts:**

What signs indicate crisis in different people? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who do we call when someone is in crisis or needs help? \_\_\_\_\_

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What's the plan if institutional systems must be avoided? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who has knowledge of herbal medicine or trauma support? \_\_\_\_\_

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What soothes or supports each person best? \_\_\_\_\_

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What calming spaces can we create during distress? \_\_\_\_\_

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What roles can people take on (listeners, supporters, elders)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Response Roles:** List your mutual aid and crisis team, with contact and capacities.

Name:	Contact:	Skills, Knowledges, Resources

**Crisis Response Sheet:** Fill in your step-by-step response strategy here.

Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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Step 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Self & Collective Care Commitment

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**Purpose:** Identify what care looks like for you and your group and how to sustain it.

**Prompts:**

What is one way I will honor my body this week? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What boundaries do I need to set to stay well? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does collective care mean in this space? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do I need to feel safe enough to rest or heal? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Commitment Space:** Write your care commitments or visual affirmations here.

## Ritual & Cultural Practice Tracker

**Purpose:** Track ancestral and emergent rituals that support collective healing.

**Prompts:**

What ceremonies or rituals do we already practice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What new rituals are we creating together? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How often do we gather to reconnect with culture or land? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

What needs to be revived, reimagined, or re-rooted? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Log:** Use this space to log dates, practices, and reflections.

Date:	Practice:	

## Defense Map & Safety Plan

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**Purpose:** Map your community's defense strategies and care-centered safety systems.

**Prompts:**

What are your greatest threats? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where are the safe houses or healing hubs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who's in your protection network? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is trained in defense, de-escalation, or support? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do we communicate quickly and discreetly in crisis? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What's the backup plan if police, EMT, or hospitals are unsafe? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What safety protocols can you activate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your community defense and safety plan: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Chapter 4

## Liberatory Education Systems

Dismantling Colonial Schooling, Reclaiming Radical Learning

### What Are Parallel Liberatory Education Systems?

Parallel Liberatory Education Systems are grassroots, community-rooted systems of knowledge production, cultural survival, and political awakening that operate outside, and against, the colonial structures of schooling and academic control. These systems do not aim to *reform* public education. They exist to *replace* it. They ask: What does education look like when it's no longer a tool of the state, empire, or capitalism, but a practice of collective liberation?

### Purpose

To replace colonial, capitalist, and white supremacist education systems with liberatory learning infrastructures rooted in ancestral knowledge, cultural relevance, abolitionist pedagogy, and community self-determination. This is about ending schooling as indoctrination and reclaiming education as transformation.

### Guiding Principles

- Education is not schooling:** We separate liberation from state control.
- We teach to transgress (bell hooks):** Learning must challenge power.
- No one is disposable:** Every learner is sacred, especially the neurodivergent, disabled, and nonconforming.
- Culturally grounded:** All learning emerges from the lands, languages, and histories of the people.
- Abolitionist:** No police, no surveillance, no standardization, no whitewashed curriculum.
- Intergenerational & communal:** Children, elders, youth, and ancestors co-lead the learning.

All people are teachers and learners. Liberation is the curriculum. Culture is pedagogy. Learning is relational, not hierarchical. Education must be accountable to community, not the state.

### What We're Dismantling

Colonial System	Liberatory Parallel System
Standardized testing	Narrative based assessment, reflection journals
Eurocentric curriculum	AfroIndigenous worldviews, Global South histories
Grade segregation	Intergenerational circles
School police & SROs	Restorative justice peer councils
Classist STEM only focus	Ecopedagogy, art, land-based science
English only mandates	Multilingual, mother tongue first education

## What This Looks Like

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Outdoor and land-based schools  
Free schools, unschools, and democratic classrooms  
Community-led homeschool cooperatives  
Youth-led political education spaces  
Queer & trans inclusive healing-informed sex ed  
Art + storytelling workshops on identity and resistance  
Radical summer camps & intergenerational learning circles  
Zine-making classrooms and decolonial curriculum collectives

## Case Studies & Examples

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**Freedom Schools (U.S. Civil Rights Movement):** Community-run schools teaching Black history, political consciousness, and organizing tools.

**Zapatista Autonomous Education (Chiapas, Mexico):** Indigenous education built outside the state, in service of sovereignty, land, and ancestral memory.

**Aboriginal Learning Circles (Australia):** Land-led, elder-centered, language-reviving learning processes disconnected from settler education.

**Prison-to-University Pipeline Projects:** Education as resistance inside carceral spaces — often taught by other incarcerated scholars.

**Radical Study Groups / Reading Circles / Political Education Pods:** Decentralized, intergenerational, abolitionist spaces to study movement history and theory.

## What We Need to Build

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**What we replace:** Colonial schools, standardized tests, Eurocentric curricula.

**What we build:**

- Freedom Schools
- Land-based learning for Indigenous and Afrodescendant youth
- Antiableist, neurodivergent learning models
- Radical libraries, zines, podcasts, oral storytelling circles

“You weren’t born white. You were taught whiteness.” – Christian Ortiz

## How We Build It

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### Phase 1: Build Community Learning Circles

Form autonomous, abolitionist micro schools and learning pods  
Led by QT/BIPOC educators, parents, youth, elders, and culture bearers  
Consent based, non-coercive, trauma informed approaches

Learning Circle Organizer:

Who is in your learning circle (educators, students, elders)?

What are your collective agreements?

What are your shared visions for liberatory learning?

### Phase 2: Map Educational Oppression & Assets

Track suspensions, push out rates, racist curriculum use  
Identify local radical educators, mentors, cultural institutions  
Name the knowledges that have been silenced and must return

Oppression Mapping:

What systems of oppression exist in your school or community?

What historical knowledges have been erased?  
Where are spaces of resistance or possibility?

### **Phase 3: Create Decolonial Curriculum Pathways**

Teach land and language reclamation, oral traditions, spiritual literacies  
Center radical histories (e.g. Haitian Revolution, Palestinian resistance, Disability Justice movements)  
Make learning political: organizing skills, media literacy, direct action strategy

Curriculum Reclamation Plan:

What subjects are missing from your current education?  
What community or ancestral knowledge can fill those gaps?  
How can you design your own lessons or zines?

### **Phase 4: Reimagine Assessment**

Eliminate grading and competition  
Replace with storytelling, projects, zines, mutual feedback  
Include healing reflections, spiritual growth, and relational accountability

Radical Assessment Tracker

What did I learn this week that transformed me?  
How did I grow emotionally, spiritually, relationally?  
What can I share with others to teach what I've learned?

### **Phase 5: Defend Liberatory Education**

Resist charter cooptation and state surveillance  
Protect youth from criminalization and push out  
Advocate for housing, food, and transportation as conditions of learning

Educator Liberation Map

What parts of teaching feel liberating to you?  
What traumas or harms do you carry from your own education?  
What tools do you need to unlearn and relearn?

### **Phase 6: Cultivate Educator Transformation**

Host study circles on Freire, Fanon, hooks, and Indigenous pedagogy  
Offer healing justice spaces for burned out teachers  
Train up young, disabled, queer, and formerly pushed out educators

## **Resources & Tools**

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Freedom School Blueprints  
Restorative Justice Council Templates  
Decolonial Curriculum Collectives  
Mutual Aid for Learning Access (tech, food, childcare)  
Learning Liberation Zines & Journals

## **Why It Matters**

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### **1. Because the education system was never neutral.**

Modern public schooling systems were:

- Designed to train obedient laborers for capitalist economies
- Built to erase Indigenous knowledge, languages, and identities
- Engineered to criminalize Black children and pathologize neurodivergence
- Governed by systems that reproduce the logic of settler-colonialism and white supremacy



The curriculum, the classroom, the bell schedule, the testing regime, none of it was ever about freedom. It was about social control.

## **2. Because we carry ancestral, embodied, cultural, and relational knowledge that colonial systems cannot erase.**

Liberatory education centers:

- Land-based learning
- Intergenerational storytelling
- Oral tradition, music, and movement
- Cultural practice as pedagogy
- Healing, dreaming, and collective inquiry as valid forms of learning

## **3. Because learning happens everywhere, and the state doesn't get to control who is "educated" or what counts as "smart."**

- It happens in kitchens and gardens
- In mutual aid pods and youth organizing spaces
- In dance circles, radical study groups, and community zines
- In prison abolition teach-ins and sidewalk classrooms

## **Metrics Of Liberation**

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Liberatory education systems measure success by:

**Cultural Survival:** Are youth learning their ancestral languages, cosmologies, and practices?

**Political Literacy:** Do learners understand power, oppression, and how to organize?

**Collective Care:** Is education rooted in safety, accessibility, joy, and emotional wellness?

**Imagination & Expression:** Are learners creating art, writing, projects, and dreams that defy colonial scripts?

**Decentralized Governance:** Do learners, families, and communities control the curriculum and learning space?

**Radical Love & Accountability:** Are classrooms spaces of consent, care, and repair, not punishment?

## **Closing Vision**

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We were never meant to flourish in these classrooms. But we are already building the schools we need. We learn in gardens, on porches, in protests, in ceremony. Our classrooms have no walls. Our books breathe. Our teachers heal. Liberatory education is not just the future. It's the freedom we're learning now.

In the words of bell hooks, "Education is the practice of freedom." To build a parallel system is to say, we will no longer wait for school boards, state mandates, or curriculum reform. We will teach and learn *outside the master's house*, with the tools of memory, resistance, and radical love.

We don't need permission to educate. We need land, stories, relationships, and each other. That's what makes it liberatory. That's what makes it revolutionary. And this is how we build a future that the system can't grade, police, or standardize.

# Liberatory Education Vision Builder

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## 1. Purpose of Education:

What should education liberate us \*from\*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What should it help us \*create\*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Root Values:

What values (e.g., curiosity, equity, cultural memory, critical thinking) do you center? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do these resist colonial, capitalist, or carceral norms? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Collective Vision:

What does a classroom or learning space look like when it's decolonized? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do students \*feel\* in that space? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Erasure and Truth:

What stories, histories, and knowledge systems have been erased from dominant curricula? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will your educational vision restore them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Education should raise consciousness, not obedience.

# Build Community Learning Circles

## 1. Intentions:

What is the purpose of the learning circle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What liberation goals does it serve? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Participants:

Who is in the circle? What knowledges and identities are represented? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How are youth, elders, queer, disabled, and historically excluded folks centered? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Structure:

What is the rhythm of the gathering (weekly, seasonal, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

What rituals or practices will guide the space? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Agreements:

What are the principles for care, dialogue, consent, and accountability? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Shared Facilitation:

How will power be shared? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can learners become co-teachers? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Learning circles reject hierarchy and rebuild collective knowledge.

## Liberatory Learning Audit

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**Purpose:** Identify what educational models exist, what's missing, and what liberatory potential your community holds.

**Prompts:**

What are the dominant education systems in our community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is left out, harmed, or failed by these systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What forms of cultural, spiritual, or embodied knowledge exist that schools ignore? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What liberatory or alternative education already exists here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** Use this space to reflect or brainstorm.

# Map Educational Oppression & Assets

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## 1. Historical Harms:

What colonial, racial, carceral, or patriarchal legacies exist in your education system? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Present-Day Barriers:

Who is pushed out, misrepresented, or harmed? \_\_\_\_\_

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What policies reinforce white supremacy, ableism, or exclusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Cultural Erosion:

What knowledge systems have been erased? \_\_\_\_\_

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What languages or traditions are not taught? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Community Assets:

What wisdom exists in families, elders, or grassroots groups? \_\_\_\_\_

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What healing, artistic, land-based, or spiritual knowledge lives in your people? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Future Possibilities:

How can these assets become central to learning? \_\_\_\_\_

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Liberation begins by mapping the violence, and the brilliance.

# Radical Educator & Elder Map

**Purpose:** Identify who already holds educational power, wisdom, and liberatory praxis in your community.

**Prompts:**  
Who teaches through land, story, movement, or cultural practice? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the youth mentors, art educators, political educators? \_\_\_\_\_

Who holds ancestral, spiritual, or non-institutional knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

What language keepers or healers are ready to teach? \_\_\_\_\_

**Educator Network:** List names, skills, and how to engage them in your system.


## Learning Space Vision Plan

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**Purpose:** Design the physical, emotional, and cultural space for liberatory education.

**Prompts:**

Where can education happen (parks, kitchens, community centers)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What makes a space feel safe, accessible, and joyful? \_\_\_\_\_

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What supplies or access needs must be met? \_\_\_\_\_

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What rituals or practices will open and close the space? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Space Blueprint:** Draw or describe your ideal learning space.

# Community-Led Learning Plan

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## 1. Learning from the People:

Who in your community holds knowledge worth sharing? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you uplift elders, organizers, artists, and culture bearers? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Place-Based Learning:

What can be learned from your land, neighborhood, or history? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does place shape resistance? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Accessibility:

How is learning made accessible across languages, abilities, ages, and neurotypes? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Accountability:

How is your education accountable to the community, not just institutions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Education belongs to the people, not the state.



## Freedom Curriculum Builder

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**Purpose:** Draft a culturally-rooted, decolonial, radical curriculum.

**Prompts:**

What does liberation mean to your learners? \_\_\_\_\_

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What topics do youth want to learn that schools don't offer? \_\_\_\_\_

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What movements, histories, and literatures must be taught? \_\_\_\_\_

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What artistic, spiritual, and political tools are needed? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Curriculum Ideas:** Sketch your subjects, methods, and values here.

# Create Decolonial Curriculum Pathways

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## 1. Foundations:

What knowledge systems are foundational to your curriculum? \_\_\_\_\_

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Whose stories, science, and philosophies are centered? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Liberation Themes:

What themes shape the learning journey? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Community Integration:

How does the curriculum reflect the needs and realities of local communities? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Methodology:

How is learning experiential, embodied, and co-created? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Spiral Design:

How do students revisit ideas with deeper understanding over time? \_\_\_\_\_

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Curriculum is a path. Make sure it leads to freedom.

# Decolonial Curriculum Design Worksheet

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## 1. Centering the Margins:

What voices, histories, and knowledge systems are centered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is named, and who is silenced? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Critical Inquiry:

What questions will your curriculum encourage students to ask about power, land, and liberation?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Epistemologies:

What kinds of knowledge count as valid? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How are Indigenous, Afro-diasporic, oral, intuitive, and ancestral knowledges honored? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Pedagogical Methods:

What teaching practices will you use to dismantle hierarchy? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will students co-create learning? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Curriculum is not neutral. It either upholds oppression or dismantles it.

# Re-imagine Assessment

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## 1. Purpose:

Why assess at all? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are we trying to affirm or uncover? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Liberatory Alternatives:

What assessments honor creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do students define success and growth? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Student-Led Reflection:

How are learners involved in assessing their own learning? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Community Accountability:

How is learning accountable to community needs, not just institutions? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Healing from Harm:

How can we deprogram students from shame, fear, or competition? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Grades don't measure worth. Let assessment be a tool for reflection and liberation.

# Defend Liberatory Education

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## 1. Current Threats:

What systems or forces are attacking truth-telling and equity in education? \_\_\_\_\_

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What laws or censorship limit liberatory teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Public Narrative:

What stories do we tell about why this work matters? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do we counter state narratives? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Collective Protection:

How do educators, students, families, and allies protect each other? \_\_\_\_\_

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What networks or mutual aid exist? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Political Strategy:

What policies must be resisted? \_\_\_\_\_

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What public actions or campaigns are needed? \_\_\_\_\_

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Education is resistance. Defend the right to teach and learn truthfully.

# Cultivate Educator Transformation

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## 1. Identity Work:

How do I understand my own identity, privilege, trauma, and purpose as an educator? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Unlearning:

What myths or habits from colonial schooling must I let go of? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Practice:

How do I model liberatory values in my pedagogy and relationships? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Accountability:

Who holds me accountable with love and rigor? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do I respond to being called in? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Collective Growth:

What spaces exist for radical educator growth, healing, and political education? \_\_\_\_\_

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Educators must be learners. Liberation demands transformation from within.

# Educator Self-Accountability Check-In

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## 1. Identity & Positionality:

How do my identities shape my presence in the learning space? \_\_\_\_\_

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What privileges or power do I carry? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Decolonial Commitments:

How do I practice cultural humility? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do I disrupt white supremacy, patriarchy, and ableism in the classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Pedagogy:

Am I teaching for liberation, not just instruction? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do my methods reflect collective care, agency, and curiosity? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Feedback Loops:

How do I invite feedback from students, especially those marginalized? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do I respond when I cause harm? \_\_\_\_\_

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Teaching is not performance. It is political, relational, and sacred.

## Liberation Metrics Reflection

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**Purpose:** Define what success looks like in your education system.

**Prompts:**

Are learners expressing themselves freely? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are they practicing care, accountability, and collective decision-making? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are elders, youth, and cultural workers co-creating the space? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are we building knowledge that resists empire and centers life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Liberation Indicators:** Define your own signs of liberatory learning here.

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# Chapter 5

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## Liberatory Housing Systems

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Reclaiming Land, Resisting Displacement, Building Homes for Collective Power

### What Are Parallel Liberatory Housing Systems?

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Parallel Liberatory Housing Systems are community-controlled, abolitionist, and land-rooted responses to the colonial system of housing, a system that treats shelter as a commodity, not a human right. These liberatory systems don't seek "affordable housing reform" from landlords or real estate markets. They aim to abolish housing precarity altogether by reclaiming land, reimagining home, and rebuilding community stewardship from the ground up.

They are not reactive. They are not permission-seeking. They are revolutionary infrastructures for belonging, survival, and dignity, especially for the houseless, poor, queer, trans, disabled, undocumented, and criminalized.

### Purpose

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This strategy is a blueprint for dismantling housing as a tool of racial capitalism and replacing it with community rooted, land liberating, decolonial housing systems built on care, mutual aid, and collective stewardship, not profit.

Housing is not a commodity. It is a birthright, a survival need, and a frontline of resistance.

### Guiding Principles

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Housing is a human right and a collective responsibility, not a market asset. Community is the landlord, not capital

No one owns land, we belong to it. No one is illegal on stolen land. Land back means home back.

Home is healing, not surveillance, not control. Security means no cops, no landlords, no evictions. Evictions = Violence.

Design must be accessible, intergenerational, and rooted in care. People most affected lead the system: unhoused, disabled, Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer and trans folks.

### What We're Dismantling

Violent System	Liberatory Vision
Gentrification	Community-controlled development
Landlords & Real Estate Speculators	Housing cooperatives & land trusts
Policed shelters & surveillance housing	Sanctuary housing & harm reduction homes
Homeless sweeps & encampment bans	Public land reclamation & mutual aid zones
Rent extraction & credit scores	Rent strikes, solidarity housing networks

## What This Looks Like

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A Black and Indigenous Land Trust reclaiming stolen land for intergenerational housing  
A queer and trans tiny home village with community defense teams and no cops  
A worker cooperative turning an abandoned hotel into affordable housing  
A zoned mutual aid housing network for unhoused folks with rotating pod supports  
An underground housing collective for undocumented femmes, organized in secrecy and solidarity  
A care-centered housing commune co-designed by disabled people for access-first living

## Case Studies & Examples

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**Community Land Trusts (CLTs):** Land is collectively owned and permanently taken off the speculative market

**Mutual Aid Housing Networks:** Solidarity-based systems for housing unhoused neighbors, often with wraparound care

**Tiny Home & Cabin Villages:** Self-governed intentional communities of houseless folks

**Cooperative Housing:** Shared ownership and democratic decision-making by tenants

**Indigenous Land Back Movements:** Returning land to its original stewards and building housing rooted in sovereignty

**Sanctuary Housing & Abolitionist Harbor Networks:** Safe housing for criminalized people (e.g., survivors, undocumented folks, formerly incarcerated)

## What We Need to Build

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**What we replace:** Landlords, gentrification, houselessness, real estate speculation.

**What we build:**

- Community Land Trusts (CLTs)
- Tenant Unions & Eviction Defense Networks
- Squatting & Reclamation Movements
- Radical Cohousing Models with Interdependence
- Tiny Home Collectives, Indigenous Village Reclamation
- Abolitionist Urban Planning Collectives
- Mutual Aid for Rent Relief & Shelter
- Cooperative & Intergenerational Housing Models
- Public Memory Projects on Displacement & Gentrification

Housing is not a commodity. It's a birthright.

## How We Build It

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Liberatory housing is one of the frontlines of the revolution.

### Phase 1: Map Housing Harm & Possibility

Where are evictions happening most?

Who owns the land and who holds the leases?

What buildings or land are underused or abandoned?

Who is already resisting displacement?

Who owns the land in your neighborhood?

### Phase 2: Build Housing Justice Coalitions

Tenants, unhoused folks, land defenders, abolitionists

Form "Home Defense Teams" for eviction resistance

Include elders, queer/trans folks, undocumented people

Home Defense Organizing Plan

Who is at risk of eviction?

What are your rapid response steps?

Who's on your court support, press, and defense team?

What legal or mutual aid resources are available?

### **Phase 3: Design Community Owned Housing Models**

Housing coops with collective governance

Community Land Trusts rooted in Indigenous stewardship

Sanctuary housing for undocumented & targeted groups

Intergenerational and disability accessible designs

Community Owned Housing Vision

What kind of homes do we want to live in?

Who decides how housing is shared, built, and repaired?

What values shape our coliving agreements?

How can we start a land trust or housing coop?

### **Phase 4: Reclaim & Repair**

Occupy and restore vacant buildings for community use

Turn foreclosed or abandoned homes into resistance homes

Use mutual aid funds for urgent repairs and winterization

Housing Storytelling Circle

What is your story of housing, migration, or displacement?

What does "home" mean to you?

What ancestral or cultural housing practices do you remember?

What would liberation look like where you live?

### **Phase 5: Defend Against Displacement**

Block evictions and build eviction defense hotlines

Train court support, legal aid, and direct action squads

Host anti-displacement teach-ins, press conferences, art builds

Housing Safety & Ritual Plan

What are your community safety needs?

What healing practices restore your sense of home?

What rituals can honor your relationship to land and shelter?

How can you weave art, ceremony, and joy into housing spaces?

### **Phase 6: Culture, Ritual & Reimagining**

Honor the land you live on, land acknowledgments & rituals

Host storytelling circles about migration, displacement, and return

Paint murals of housing liberation on walls, fences, and doors

## **Resources & Tools**

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Eviction Defense Templates & Door Knock Scripts

Mutual Aid Housing Funds Guide

Community Land Trust Starter Kits

Liberatory Housing Zines & Tenant Education Materials

## Why It Matters

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Colonization began with land theft and displacement, so housing justice must be a cornerstone of our liberation work.

### **1. Because the current housing system is violence in architecture.**

The real estate system is a colonial construct rooted in:

- Enclosure of Indigenous land
- Redlining and racial segregation
- Evictions and gentrification
- Speculative markets that reward vacancy and displacement
- Policing of unhoused people instead of housing them

Housing under capitalism is not about homes, it's about control, extraction, and disposability.

### **2. Because “affordable housing” still functions inside capitalist logic.**

Even most nonprofits and public housing operate under conditions that:

- Prioritize developers over communities
- Criminalize poverty through policing and surveillance
- Exclude undocumented folks, disabled people, and queer/trans families
- Disregard Indigenous land claims and stewardship

That's why we build parallel systems— not reforms that tinker with the violence.

### **3. Because home is more than shelter.**

Liberatory housing is not just about four walls, it's about:

- Interdependence
- Land return
- Healing from generational housing trauma
- Dismantling borders and family policing
- Collective safety without landlords or the state

## Metrics Of Liberation

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We don't measure success by property value or mortgages. We measure it by:

Zero evictions, zero unhoused neighbors

Homes are governed by residents, not landlords

Rent (if any) goes toward maintenance and community wealth, not profit

Land is returned, not hoarded

Housing exists without police, social workers, or surveillance

Accessibility for disabled folks is non-negotiable, not retrofitted

People feel safe enough to sleep, grieve, raise children, organize, and heal

No borders. No cages. No displacement.

## Closing Vision

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We are not trespassers. We are not squatters. We are not disposable. We are the rightful return. We are the sacred stewards. We are the ancestors' wildest shelter. Housing is not just survival. It is sovereignty. It is ceremony. It is revolution. Housing justice is abolition. Housing is not charity, it's reclamation.

We build these systems because the old one was never built for us. It was built to evict us, colonize us, police us, and profit off our pain. But when we organize together to reclaim land, build collective structures, and protect each other, we don't just house people. We free them. And that is the foundation of a liberated future.

## Map Housing Harm & Possibility

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**Purpose:** Identify histories of housing trauma and sites of future liberation.

**Prompts:**

Where are people being displaced, surveilled, or evicted? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who profits from housing injustice in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

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What land or buildings are vacant or under community threat? \_\_\_\_\_

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What mutual aid or housing solidarity already exists? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Community Map:** Sketch or describe your local housing landscape and possibilities.

## Build Housing Justice Coalitions

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**Purpose:** Organize across movements to defend housing as a collective right.

**Prompts:**

Who is already fighting for housing, land, and dignity? \_\_\_\_\_

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Which organizers are doing anti-gentrification, anti-eviction, or land back work? \_\_\_\_\_

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What cultural workers, faith leaders, or healers can anchor the vision? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you structure trust, communication, and shared power? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Coalition Map:** List potential allies and how you'll build together.

## Design Community-Owned Housing Models

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**Purpose:** Create models where homes are held in common and governed by the people.

**Prompts:**

What would a non-extractive, anti-capitalist housing system look like? \_\_\_\_\_

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Will it be a co-op, land trust, commune, or another model? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will decisions be made? Who maintains the space? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you ensure access for disabled, trans, unhoused, and low-income folks? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Model Blueprint:** Draw or describe your collective housing model.

## Reclaim & Repair

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**Purpose:** Restore land, buildings, and community trust with dignity.

**Prompts:**

What land needs to be returned? To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

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What abandoned buildings or vacant lots could be reclaimed? \_\_\_\_\_

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What will the healing process look like for displaced communities? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will cultural and ancestral memory be honored in reclamation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reclamation Plan:** Map or narrate a land return and repair strategy.



## Defend Against Displacement

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**Purpose:** Build defense strategies rooted in resistance and community safety.

**Prompts:**

How is gentrification advancing in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who is vulnerable to eviction or policing? \_\_\_\_\_

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What protective actions (rent strikes, encampment defense, legal aid) are needed? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you activate a rapid response network? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Defense Plan:** Outline your anti-displacement strategies and support team roles.

## Culture, Ritual & Reimagining

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**Purpose:** Infuse housing with collective memory, joy, and healing.

**Prompts:**

What does home mean beyond physical structure? \_\_\_\_\_

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What rituals will welcome people into the space? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will art, music, language, and storytelling be centered? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will the space embody radical hospitality, rest, and resistance? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cultural Practices:** Dream and document your rituals of place, arrival, and care.

# Chapter 6

## Alternative Economic Systems

Building Solidarity Economies for Collective Liberation

### What Are Alternative Economic Systems?

Parallel Liberatory Economic Systems, also called solidarity economies or decolonial economies, are radical alternatives to capitalism, rooted in care, cooperation, and community control. These systems are not “financial literacy” programs or inclusion in exploitative markets. They are the collective creation of anti-capitalist, life-affirming economies designed by and for people of the global majority, poor and working-class communities, queer and trans people, disabled folks, landless laborers, and all those criminalized by the current system.

They do not ask for inclusion in capitalism. They reject its extractive logic entirely. They build along side and against, not within, the colonial economy.

### Purpose

This strategy reclaims economic life from the grip of capitalism and replaces it with solidarity economies, systems based on cooperation, reciprocity, collective ownership, and community survival. These are not reforms of capitalism, they are its replacement.

We do not want a seat at the imperial table. We want to grow food, build homes, share wealth, and honor labor beyond extraction, exploitation, or hierarchy.

### Guiding Principles

People and needs over profit. Cooperation over competition. Shared wealth, not hoarded capital  
Land, labor, and love must not be commodified. Economy = ecology & community  
Liberation requires redistribution & reparations. Ecological harmony and reparative relationships with land  
Decentralization and mutual governance. Centering those most harmed by capitalism in leadership

### What We’re Dismantling

Capitalist System	Solidarity Economy Alternative
Corporate profit extraction	Worker-owned cooperatives
Gig work & wage theft	Mutual aid & time banks
Banks & credit scores	Community lending circles & reparations
Wealth hoarding	Collective savings & solidarity funds
Nonprofit industrial complex	Resource sharing commons

### What This Looks Like

**Worker Cooperatives:** Businesses owned and democratically governed by workers

**Community Wealth-Building Trusts:** Collective ownership of land, businesses, and housing

**Time banks & Skill Shares:** Value is measured by time and contribution, not money

**Reparations-Based Mutual Aid:** Wealth redistribution without state mediation

**Free Stores & Liberation Markets:** No-cost access to food, goods, and care

**Cooperative Childcare & Eldercare:** Care systems built on kinship and reciprocity

**Participatory Budgeting:** Communities decide how shared resources are spent

**Land-Based Income Models:** Collective food systems that reduce dependency on wages

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## Case Studies & Examples

**Black Women's Wealth Alliance(U.S.):** Builds cooperative economies led by Black femmes

**Kruha Water Commons Network(Indonesia):** Defends water as a non-commodified right

**The Solidarity Economy Network(Global South):** Worker-owned cooperatives resisting neoliberal extractivism

**Indigenous trade and gifting economies:** Resurrecting pre-colonial systems of exchange based on relationality, not accumulation

**Zapatista Economic Systems(Chiapas):** Land collectives, education, and markets outside state or corporate control

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## What We Need to Build

**What we replace:** Capitalism, wage labor, gig economy, global north extraction.

**What we build:**

- Worker-owned cooperatives
- Reparations redistribution networks
- Landback economies
- Time banks and mutual aid currencies

“Capitalism is the engine of colonialism, and the grave of dignity.”

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## How We Build It

### Phase 1: Economic Harm & Asset Mapping

Who controls the wealth in your region?

What forms of economic exploitation impact your community?

Where are unpaid or underpaid forms of labor happening?

What survival economies already exist (side gigs, trade, care work)?

What skills, tools, and community wealth already exist?

What community assets and resources could be shared or collectivized?

### Phase 2: Build Economic Solidarity Collectives

Start food buying clubs or housing collectives

Form time banks and skill sharing networks

Create “solidarity funds” for childcare, medicine, rent, and bail

Solidarity Collective Builder

Who are your economic coconspirators?

What needs can you meet for each other?

What shared values or agreements ground your work?

What mutual aid infrastructure do you already have?

### Phase 3: Create Alternative Work & Exchange Models

Build worker-owned coops in farming, healing, construction, tech, and art

Develop community barter networks and care economies  
Run economies on trust, need, consent, and shared labor

#### Worker Owned Coop Design

What kind of work do you love, know, or want to do?  
What coop structure fits your community's needs?  
How will you share decision making, labor, and surplus?  
What legal or informal structures will protect your work?

### **Phase 4: Redistribute, Repair, Reclaim**

Create community reparations campaigns  
Encourage land, wealth, and resource transfers from those with generational access  
Host wealth redistribution circles and political education sessions

#### Reparations & Redistribution Plan

Who has generational wealth, land, or access in your networks?  
What resources could be redistributed immediately?  
What political education is needed to support this?  
How can reparations be ongoing and relational, not transactional?

### **Phase 5: Defend Against Capitalist Cooptation**

Refuse corporate "philanthropy" that extracts more than it gives  
Reject nonprofit gatekeeping and respect local autonomy  
Protect coops and collectives from capitalist creep, hierarchy, and burnout

#### Economic Futures Visioning

What does a world beyond money look like?  
What trade, care, and sharing practices did your ancestors use?  
What economic practices feel liberating in your body?  
What joy based economic spaces can you build now?

### **Phase 6: Culture, Vision, & Liberatory Futures**

Document ancestral trade systems and underground economies  
Celebrate collective labor through art, storytelling, and ceremony  
Create joy based markets that center the needs of the most impacted

## **Resources & Tools**

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Worker Coop Starter Toolkits  
Mutual Aid Budget Templates  
SkillShare Organizer Guides  
Reparations Campaign Frameworks  
Care Economy Visioning Zines

## **Why It Matters**

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### **1. Capitalism is a colonial death economy.**

The current economic system was birthed through:

- Enslavement of African peoples
- Dispossession of Indigenous land
- Global extractivism and resource theft
- Criminalization of the poor
- Gendered labor exploitation and care work invisibilization

Capitalism, by design, requires exploitation to function. Profit always depends on someone else's suffering.

## **2. Because survival is not liberation.**

Many "economic empowerment" efforts focus on jobs, bank access, or entrepreneurship, but none of that guarantees freedom.

- A livable wage in a death economy is still participation in harm
- Nonprofits that mimic corporate hierarchies replicate oppression
- Micro loans and development banks often entrench debt colonialism

We don't want inclusion into the master's house, we want to build our own economic home rooted in dignity and justice.

## **Metrics Of Liberation**

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Liberatory economies are measured by:

- No one going hungry or unhoused
- People working less, resting more, and still thriving
- Wealth is shared, not extracted
- Land and labor are no longer commodified
- Communities can meet needs without state dependence
- Healing-centered workplaces, not productivity-centered
- Language of gift, reciprocity, and kin replaces scarcity and competition

## **Closing Vision**

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We are not poor, we are plundered. We are not broken, we are overexploited. We are not asking, we are creating. We hold more than wealth. We hold each other. We build more than profit. We build liberation. The future is cooperative, ancestral, and free. Capitalism teaches us that we are alone. Parallel economies teach us that we are abundant.

We build these systems not just to survive but to undermine the logic of empire, by practicing economies that are collective, accountable, and free from exploitation. And most importantly, we don't need permission. The systems of life are already inside us. We just have to remember how to build together.

## Economic Harm & Asset Mapping Worksheet

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**Purpose:** Understand economic injustice and existing resources.

**Prompts:**

Where is wealth extracted from your community? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who controls the jobs, land, services, and credit? \_\_\_\_\_

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What gifts, skills, or land already exist within your people? \_\_\_\_\_

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What informal or cultural economies are thriving beneath capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mapping Tool:** Sketch a harm/resource map of your local economic landscape.

## Build Economic Solidarity Collectives

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**Purpose:** Form organizing structures for shared wealth, labor, and repair.

**Prompts:**

Who do you want to build with - what identities, skills, and values? \_\_\_\_\_

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What shared needs or visions will unite your group? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will power and decision-making be shared? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will care and accountability be practiced internally? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Collective Builder:** Document your collective's shared agreements, values, and goals.



## Create Alternative Work & Exchange Models

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**Purpose:** Replace capitalist labor and currency models with cooperative ones.

**Prompts:**

What work needs to be done - and who defines its value? \_\_\_\_\_

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Could you use a time bank, barter, or sliding scale instead of wages? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can a worker cooperative meet local needs or build autonomy? \_\_\_\_\_

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What systems of rest, rotation, and care will be included? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Model Designer:** Sketch or describe your alternative economy or work system.

## Redistribute, Repair, Reclaim

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**Purpose:** Move resources from hoarding to healing, from theft to repair.

**Prompts:**

Who has wealth in your area - how can you redistribute it? \_\_\_\_\_

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What forms of reparations are needed for historical or ongoing harm? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can land, labor, and resources be reclaimed without state mediation? \_\_\_\_\_

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What practices of mutual aid or ancestral gifting can be revived? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Action Map:** Plan steps for wealth redistribution, reclamation, and repair.

## Defend Against Capitalist Cooptation

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**Purpose:** Keep your systems autonomous, anti-capitalist, and rooted in values.

**Prompts:**

What risks exist for being co-opted by nonprofits, corporations, or the state? \_\_\_\_\_

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What boundaries will protect your work from capitalist logic? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you name and resist internalized scarcity or hustle culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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What elders or radical traditions will keep your compass clear? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Defense Plan:** Outline safeguards and community education practices.

## Culture, Vision, & Liberatory Futures

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**Purpose:** Name your economic values and envision post-capitalist futures.

**Prompts:**

What cultural stories and practices inform your economics? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does dignity, joy, and collective wealth look like for your people? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will language, art, food, and spirit be centered? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your economic system a prayer for? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Liberation Vision:** Write, draw, or narrate your vision for economic liberation.

# Chapter 7

## People’s Tech & Communication Systems

Reclaiming Digital Power for Collective Liberation

### What Are Parallel Tech & Comm Systems?

Parallel Tech & Communication Systems are community-designed technologies and communication infrastructures that liberate us from corporate surveillance, state censorship, capitalist control, and colonial extraction. These systems are not just alternatives to Big Tech: they are counter-systems that serve the needs, values, and visions of the people, not profit.

### Purpose

To dismantle surveillance capitalism, data colonialism, and tech monopolies by building liberatory, community governed, anti-oppressive tech ecosystems. We must control our own tools, platforms, data, and stories, and build technologies that serve justice, not empire.

We are not just users. We are creators. We are protectors. We are storytellers.

### Guiding Principles

- These are tech systems built by and for people, not power. They are:
- Encrypted & Autonomous:** Free from corporate surveillance and data theft. Data sovereignty is people’s sovereignty.
  - Community-Governed:** Owned and shaped by the people who use it. Tech is not neutral, it reflects power.
  - Open-Source & Decolonial:** Transparent code & rooted in cultural safety. Decolonize the algorithm.
  - Mesh Networked & Offline-Ready:** Tech that still functions during shutdowns or disasters.
  - Culturally Rooted:** Tools for storytelling, archiving, organizing, and resisting. Code for liberation, not control.
  - Accessible by Design:** Multi-lingual, screen reader compatible, non-visual interfaces. Design with consent, safety, and access
  - Sustainable:** Powered by solar, built with e-waste or recycled materials.

### What We’re Dismantling

Oppressive Tech System	People’s Tech Alternative
Big Tech monopolies	Federated, open source platforms
Surveillance & predictive policing	Community-controlled digital defense
Data extraction & AI bias	Algorithmic transparency & decolonial audits
Tech worker exploitation	Cooperative tech collectives
Internet apartheid & inaccessibility	Mesh networks & digital mutual aid

## What This Looks Like

Example	What It Does	Why It's Liberatory
Mesh Networks (e.g. NYC Mesh, Red de Apoyo Mutuo)	Local internet that bypasses ISPs	No corporate gatekeepers, good for crisis zones
DisCOs (Distributed Cooperative Organizations)	Blockchain + solidarity economy	Decentralized, values-based governance
Databases like AfroCrowd or Native Land	Open knowledge rooted in community	Counters erasure by mainstream platforms
Community Radio / Pirate FM	Hyperlocal storytelling and alerts	Gives voice to frontline struggles
Diaspora-based archiving apps	Safeguards cultural memory and resistance	Preserves ancestral knowledge outside the cloud

## What We Need to Build

**What we replace:** Surveillance tech, disinformation, AI bias, algorithmic oppression.

**What we build:**

- Decolonial AI (like Justice AI, rooted in DIA Framework)
- Mesh internet networks owned by the people
- Platforms for Indigenous languages, sign languages, and resistance media
- Zine libraries and analog communication for blackouts

Technology is not neutral. Build systems that refuse to code coloniality into the future.

## How We Build It

### Phase 1: Map Digital Harm & Tech Oppression

Who controls the platforms we rely on?

How is your community being watched, mined, or excluded?

Where is tech extractive, and where is it liberatory?

Digital Harm & Surveillance Map

What digital platforms are most used in your community?

Where are people being watched, silenced, or excluded?

What surveillance tech is used locally (police cams, facial recognition, etc.)?

What tech practices already reflect community care or resistance?

### Phase 2: Build Technology Collectives

Form People's Tech Circles with QT/BIPOC coders, designers, elders, and organizers

Train up digital stewards and decolonial technologists

Create intergenerational tech learning pods

People's Tech Circle Builder

Who are your local tech allies (coders, gamers, artists, elders)?

What tech skills already exist in your community?

What are your shared agreements around digital safety, consent, and values?

How will you train and learn together?

### Phase 3: Create Alternative Tools & Infrastructure

Develop encrypted, consent based communication tools

Build mutual aid apps, cooperative platforms, and mesh networks  
Host zine libraries, oral history archives, and resistance media channels

#### 1. Tech Stack Liberation

Use FLOSS (Free/Libre and Open Source Software)  
Choose decolonial servers, alternatives to AWS/Google Cloud  
Practice data sovereignty: you own your digital footprints

#### 2. Decolonial Design

Build in Indigenous languages or visual cues  
Avoid Eurocentric UI/UX defaults  
Code accessibly : including for low vision, neurodivergence, low bandwidth

#### 3. Communication Justice

Center marginalized languages and dialects  
Combat algorithmic erasure on social media  
Archive movement histories before they're deleted

#### 4. Education & Digital Security for All

Offer community workshops on encryption, surveillance, and anti-doxxing  
Build "Tech Stewards" in every collective  
Create zines, PDFs, and memes to reclaim digital literacy

#### 5. Backup the Revolution

Don't rely on Instagram for organizing.  
Have offline plans, USB toolkits, and analog backups.

#### Liberation Tech Design Jam

What is a tech tool your community needs?  
What does it do, and how does it serve liberation?  
Who will use it and who will steward it?  
What language, visuals, and access features will it include?

### **Chase 4: Expose & Disrupt Surveillance Systems**

Conduct community surveillance audits  
Resist facial recognition, predictive policing, and biometric tracking  
Mobilize around local tech policy and digital rights legislation

#### Digital Consent & Safety Plan

What are your data rights and boundaries?  
What should be encrypted, deleted, or never collected?  
What healing or repair processes do you want if harm occurs online?  
What tools or guides do you need to stay safe?

### **Phase 5: Build Data Sovereignty & Digital Safety**

Store data in local, community owned servers  
Create protocols for digital consent, deletion, and healing  
Reject extractive AI, build accountable, equitable alternatives

#### Storytelling & Archive Planner

What stories do you want to preserve?  
What oral histories, protest art, or ancestral knowledge need archiving?  
What platforms, formats, and tools will you use?  
How will you honor memory, privacy, and consent?

### **Phase 6: Center Storytelling, Memory & Digital Culture**

Use tech to uplift ancestral knowledge, joy, and resistance  
Archive oral histories, protest art, and decolonial media  
Build apps, games, and tools that reflect our cultures

## Resources & Tools

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Tech Coop Starter Kits  
Community Data Ownership Agreements  
Digital Safety & Encryption Guides  
Open Source Liberation Platforms List  
People's AI Auditing Templates

## Why It Matters

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Mainstream tech operates under:

- Surveillance capitalism (data = commodity)
- Colonial infrastructure (from server farms to supply chains)
- Censorship & control (especially against voices of the global majority)
- Extractive labor (sweatshops for devices, burnout in code)
- Algorithmic oppression (racist, ableist, transphobic data sets)

If we don't build parallel tech systems, we will always be subjects, not stewards, of our own communication, storytelling, and survival.

## Practices to Cultivate

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Build Data Sovereignty Frameworks

Who owns your community's digital tools, cloud, and media?

Host Digital Literacy Circles

Community-led tech workshops that center elders, youth, disabled folks, and non-techies.

Create Ancestral Technology Memory Projects

Document how your people have always encoded, transmitted, and protected knowledge.

Develop Anti-Surveillance Protocols

Train up on resisting predictive policing, location tracking, and biometric capture.

Build People's Infrastructure

Open-source tools, local server collectives, and mutual aid tech ecosystems.

Amplify Liberatory Storytelling Platforms

Podcast networks, independent radio, multilingual media cooperatives, and oral history archiving.

## Closing Vision

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We are not the product. We are not the algorithm. We are not passive consumers. We are the codebreakers. We are the storytellers. We are the fire inside the circuit. Our resistance is encrypted. Our future is sovereign. Our tech is for the people. This Is About Sovereignty If your oppressor controls the network, they control the narrative.

Liberatory Tech & Communication Systems restore data dignity, story power, and movement resilience. They're the backbone of any revolutionary parallel system : because if we can't communicate safely, we can't organize, educate, or defend ourselves.



## Map Digital Harm & Tech Oppression

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**Purpose:** Identify how your community is impacted by tech-based injustice.

**Prompts:**

Where does digital surveillance show up in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who controls the technology infrastructure in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

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What social media or software has censored or harmed you? \_\_\_\_\_

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How are marginalized people left out of design and data? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mapping Tool:** Create a digital harm map or tech power analysis of your community.

## Build Technology Collectives

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**Purpose:** Form community-led teams to steward and co-create liberatory tech.

**Prompts:**

Who in your network has skills or experience in tech, storytelling, or comms? \_\_\_\_\_

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What values will guide your collective's tech design? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you share power, labor, and care? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are your tech needs (apps, radios, websites, networks)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Collective Builder:** List roles, principles, and goals for your tech collective.

## Create Alternative Tools & Infrastructure

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**Purpose:** Design tech that replaces exploitative platforms and tools.

**Prompts:**

What existing tools cause harm or depend on Big Tech? \_\_\_\_\_

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What open-source or decentralized alternatives exist? \_\_\_\_\_

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Could your community build its own local network or database? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will you ensure long-term access and control? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Design Template:** Sketch or outline an alternative platform, protocol, or tool.

## Expose & Disrupt Surveillance Systems

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**Purpose:** Analyze and resist how your community is watched, tracked, or criminalized.

**Prompts:**

Who is collecting your data, and what are they doing with it? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where do surveillance cameras, social media tracking, or biometric scans show up? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you organize against facial recognition or predictive policing? \_\_\_\_\_

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What community responses could interrupt surveillance? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Disruption Plan:** Document counter-surveillance strategies and know-your-rights plans.

## Build Data Sovereignty & Digital Safety

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**Purpose:** Protect community information and ensure digital care practices.

**Prompts:**

Who owns your stories, data, and messages online? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you encrypt, anonymize, or self-host your digital systems? \_\_\_\_\_

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What tools do you need to stay safe from doxxing or state attacks? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you train others in digital self-defense? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Safety Builder:** Create your collective's data protection and digital safety plan.

## Center Storytelling, Memory & Digital Culture

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**Purpose:** Design digital spaces rooted in culture, healing, and memory.

**Prompts:**

What cultural stories are missing or distorted in mainstream tech? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you create archives that honor resistance and ritual? \_\_\_\_\_

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What platforms can amplify your language, joy, and rage? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does liberation sound, feel, and look like online? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Digital Culture Map:** Design a digital storytelling project or cultural archive for your community.

# Chapter 8

## Land, Climate & Ecological Stewardship Systems

Healing the Earth, Returning the Land, Defending the Sacred

### What Are Parallel Land, Climate & Ecological Stewardship Systems?

Parallel Land, Climate & Ecological Stewardship Systems are community-rooted, decolonial systems that reclaim land from extraction, center Indigenous ecological knowledge, and restore reciprocal, interdependent relationships between people and planet, without relying on settler states, carbon markets, or green capitalism.

These systems do not just “protect the environment.” They dismantle colonial land regimes and build new land relations based on stewardship, sovereignty, and survival.

#### Purpose

To end ecological devastation rooted in settler colonialism and capitalist extraction, and build community governed, land honoring, life sustaining systems grounded in Indigenous ecological knowledge, collective stewardship, and spiritual kinship with the Earth.

Land is not a resource, it is a relative. The Earth is not a battleground, it is a being.

#### Guiding Principles

- These Systems Ask Us To:
- Return land to Indigenous & Black communities, not rent it for “sustainability”
  - Reject “net zero” lies and greenwashed capitalism
  - Practice climate defense as anti-colonial resistance
  - Build bioregional, anti-border systems of resource sharing
  - Grow in relationship, not domination
  - Honor Earth not as resource, but as relative. We are not saving the Earth, we are listening to her.
  - Indigenous and ancestral knowledge must lead
  - Ecology is ceremony, not commodity
  - There is no just transition without decolonization

#### What We’re Dismantling

ColonialEcological System	Liberatory Stewardship Alternative
Fossil fuel extraction	Community-led just transition networks
Industrial agriculture	Agroecology & ancestral growing systems
National park conservation	Land return & Indigenous land governance
Climate philanthrocapitalism	Reparations based resource redistribution
Green tech gentrification	Ecodefense rooted in cultural survival

## What This Looks Like

**Land Back & Land Trusts:** Restoring Indigenous and Black stewardship of land, with collective governance

**Agroecology & Seed Sovereignty:** Growing food with ecological harmony and cultural resilience

**Water Autonomy:** Community-owned and protected water systems, rain catchment, and decontamination

**Climate Defense Zones:** Organizing land against extraction and ecological collapse

**Biodiversity as Ancestry:** Honoring pollinators, sacred plants, and animal kin

**Ecological Repair:** Restoring wetlands, forests, and prairies damaged by settler industry

**Ceremonial Ecologies:** Integrating ritual, spirit, and intergenerational knowledge into land practices

They are led by land protectors, farmers, seed savers, water defenders, and climate justice organizers who reject colonial “sustainability” frameworks and restore land as kin, not commodity.

## Case Studies & Examples

Collective	What They Do	Why It Matters
Soul Fire Farm (U.S.)	Afro-Indigenous regenerative farming, land skills training	Reconnects Black folks with land as liberation, not trauma
Mujeres y la Sexta (Mexico)	Women-led land defense in Chiapas	Protects territory from megaprojects with Zapatista praxis
Kayapo Forest Monitoring (Brazil)	indigenous satellite & boots-on-the-ground monitoring	Combines tech with ancestral care to stop illegal logging
The Red Deal (U.S.)	Indigenous climate framework rejecting capitalism	Abolitionist ecology, rooted in Land Back & decolonial governance
Farmers of the Horn (Somalia/Ethiopia)	Pastoralist knowledge for drought resilience	Counters colonial agribusiness and monoculture

## What We Need to Build

**What we replace:** Oil empires, green capitalism, climate apartheid.

**What we build:**

- Indigenous-led land defense movements
- Climate justice councils accountable to frontline communities
- Regenerative agriculture rooted in ancestral practices
- Earth-based spiritual stewardship

There is no climate justice without decolonization and LGBTQIA& liberation

## How We Build It

### Phase 1: Map Land Harm & Ecological Trauma

Where is land being poisoned, stolen, privatized?

What ancestral lands are unceded and under threat?

Who is resisting environmental violence locally?

Land Harm Mapping & Resistance

Where are the biggest ecological harms in your area?

Who owns the land, and who was displaced from it?



What extractive industries or developments exist?  
Who is resisting, protecting, or defending that land now?

### **Phase 2: Build Land Stewardship Collectives**

Form intergenerational land defense and climate justice teams  
Partner with Indigenous elders, land back organizers, and water protectors  
Weave cultural, ecological, and spiritual practices

Earth Stewardship Collective Builder

Who are your co-stewards, elders, youth, farmers, artists?  
What roles can each person hold, from ritualist to gardener?  
What agreements ground your collective's relationship with land?  
What land access or return strategies will you pursue?

### **Phase 3: Create Regenerative Ecosystems**

Start agroecology gardens, seed libraries, and forest restoration zones  
Use permaculture, traditional ecological knowledge, and food forests  
Protect biodiversity through community sanctuaries

Ecosystem Restoration Vision Plan

What does a healed land or watershed look like?  
What plants, animals, and ancestors belong there?  
What practices will help rewild, regenerate, or honor the space?  
What ceremonies, education, or art will support restoration?

### **Phase 4: Repair Relationships With Land & Water**

Host soil and water healing ceremonies  
Unlearn extractive mindsets and reroot in kinship ethics  
Document and share stories of land displacement and healing

EcoDefense & Rapid Response Plan

What land or water threats may arise in your region?  
Who will organize legal, media, and direct action responses?  
What safety protocols and care plans are needed?  
What will you do when harm happens to land defenders?

### **Phase 5: Defend Earth & Environmental Defenders**

Mobilize rapid response to land grabs, pollution, and deforestation  
Protect frontline land defenders from criminalization and violence  
Build legal, media, and safety teams in alliance with grassroots movements

Climate Grief & EcoRitual Practice

How does your body carry ecological grief?  
What climate grief rituals exist in your culture or traditions?  
What songs, poems, or ceremonies could honor the Earth's pain?  
How can you process grief in ways that root resistance?

### **Phase 6: Culture, Memory, & EcoResistance**

Host climate grief rituals and ecoliberation festivals  
Pass down ecological knowledge through storytelling, song, and land walks  
Paint resistance murals on dams, pipelines, and extractive sites

## **Resources & Tools**

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Land Back Organizing Guides  
Agroecology Starter Kits  
Soil & Water Healing Ceremonies Manual

## Why It Matters

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Because:

Land was stolen.

Climate collapse is not a crisis, it's the consequence of colonialism.

"Conservation" often criminalizes Indigenous people while protecting corporations.

Environmental NGOs are often white-led and elite-funded, not rooted in frontline communities.

Fossil fuel capitalism exploits land, labor, and life.

Climate data sets and policy are shaped by Global North interests.

If land is life, then reclaiming ecological systems is a fight for ancestral, collective, and planetary liberation.

## Metrics Of Liberation

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Instead of measuring by: Carbon credits, "net zero" schemes, or eco-capitalist branding...

We ask: Are we in right relationship with the Earth and each other?

### **Land Return & Reclamation**

Is land being returned to Indigenous, Black, and landless communities?

Are stewardship rights protected from corporations and colonial governments?

### **Food & Water Sovereignty**

Are communities growing their own food, saving seeds, and protecting water?

Is access not dependent on the market?

### **Ecological Intelligence**

Are we following Indigenous ecological knowledge, not extractive science?

Are youth learning from land elders, not just textbooks?

### **Climate Justice for the Most Impacted**

Are frontline communities (Pacific Islanders, Afro-Indigenous folks, fence line neighborhoods) at the center of climate decisions?

Are polluters held accountable without state violence?

### **Abolition of Green Colonialism**

Are we resisting conservation projects that displace Indigenous people (e.g., "protected parks")?

Are climate solutions not based in militarization, tech-surveillance, or capitalism?

### **Interdependence and Biodiversity**

Is biodiversity restored through ceremony, seed-sharing, and mutual aid, not just NGO projects?

Are we cultivating relationships with pollinators, soil, mycelium, and the unseen?

## Closing Vision

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These are not environmental side-projects. They are core to collective survival. Without land, there is no culture. Without culture, there is no future. We are not here to dominate nature. We are not here to extract life. We are not here to fence, frack, or forget. We are the land returned. We are the ancestors' wildest restoration. We are sacred soil remembering itself.

Land is liberation. Climate is kinship. Ecology is revolution.

Remember:

**"You can't liberate the people without liberating the land. You can't liberate the land without liberating the people."**

~ Decolonial Agroecology Principle

## Land Harm Map & Ecological Memory Tool

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**Purpose:** Trace the history of harm and healing in your bioregion.

**Prompts:**

Who stewarded this land before colonization? \_\_\_\_\_

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What ecological traumas has this place endured (mining, logging, pollution)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where are the sacred places, plants, or species here? \_\_\_\_\_

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What stories do elders or land workers carry about this place? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mapping Space:** Draw, map, or write the ecological memory of your community's land.

## Bioregional Resource Audit

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**Purpose:** Identify local assets for food, water, healing, and shelter.

**Prompts:**

What grows here that we can use for food, medicine, or shelter? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where is water accessible and clean (springs, rivers, wells)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who in your community holds ecological knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

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What parts of the land are under threat or need repair? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Audit Worksheet:** List all the natural, cultural, and skill-based resources in your region.

## Collective Stewardship Agreements

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**Purpose:** Build a shared commitment to care, restore, and protect land as a collective.

**Prompts:**

What principles guide our relationship to land and water? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will we share access, labor, decision-making, and ritual? \_\_\_\_\_

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What actions are off-limits (extraction, pesticides, privatization)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will we resolve harm or conflict in our stewardship? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Agreement Draft:** Co-create your collective's land & ecological stewardship agreement.

## Seed & Water Sovereignty Planner

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**Purpose:** Design systems to protect seed knowledge and water access.

**Prompts:**

What seeds are native, ancestral, or sacred in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who grows, saves, and shares seeds in your network? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you guard seed and water from privatization? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sovereignty Planner:** Sketch your seasonal seed plan and water autonomy strategies.

## Ritual Ecology Map

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**Purpose:** Reweave land and spirit through cultural ceremony and ecological rhythm.

**Prompts:**

What ceremonies or holidays are tied to land, ancestors, or harvests? \_\_\_\_\_

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What ecological cycles (solstices, migrations, tides) shape your rhythms? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you honor pollinators, animal kin, or sacred plants? \_\_\_\_\_

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What cultural or spiritual practices can restore land connection? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Map It Out:** Draw your collective's seasonal calendar of land-based rituals or ceremonies.

## Defense Zones & Direct Action Plans

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**Purpose:** Organize community to protect land from extraction, militarism, or development.

**Prompts:**

What threats exist (pipelines, deforestation, displacement)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where are your frontline zones, camps, or sacred sites? \_\_\_\_\_

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What tactics will you use (blockades, public ceremony, legal defense)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are your safety, legal, and media support plans? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Action Planning:** Create a step-by-step land defense plan rooted in direct action and care.



# Chapter 9

## Culture, Art & Spiritual Systems

Liberating Imagination, Healing Memory, and Honoring the Sacred

### What Are Parallel Culture, Art & Spiritual Systems?

Liberatory Parallel Culture, Art & Spiritual Systems are community-rooted, ancestral, and anti-colonial systems of expression, meaning-making, and healing that exist outside the dominant institutions shaped by white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, and hetero-patriarchy. They are parallel because they do not depend on state recognition, Eurocentric validation, or institutional gatekeeping, yet they are everywhere, vibrant, and centuries old.

These systems are liberatory because they are designed to reclaim cultural autonomy and collective memory, restore spiritual and artistic sovereignty, resist epistemicide (the erasure of knowledge systems), uplift the dignity, identity, and imagination of oppressed peoples, and interrupt assimilation and whitewashed “multiculturalism.”

### Purpose

To decolonize cultural production, reclaim ancestral memory, and build liberatory cultural, artistic, and spiritual systems rooted in collective healing, joy, and resistance. These systems do not decorate revolution, they animate it. Culture is not an accessory to liberation. Culture is the soul of liberation.

### Guiding Principles

- Art is a weapon and a healer
- Ritual is resistance
- Spirituality is sovereign and anticolonial
- Culture is created by the people, not the market
- Imagination is a site of struggle

### What We’re Dismantling

ColonialCultural System	Liberatory Cultural Alternative
Cultural appropriation	Ancestral reclamation and cultural autonomy
Museum extraction & elitism	Community art sanctuaries and oral archives
Organized religion & erasure	Decolonial spiritual collectives
Mass media propaganda	Storytelling rooted in truth & resistance
“Art world” capitalism	Street art, ritual theater, and protest murals

## What This Looks Like

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### Parallel Art Systems

Parallel art systems are aesthetic traditions, creative practices, and artistic expressions that refuse the commodification, whiteness, and elitism of the mainstream art world.

#### These include:

Street murals reclaiming land and voice (e.g., Palestinian resistance art, Zapatista murals, Black Panther art)  
Afro-futurism, Indigenous sci-fi, and queer speculative art  
Prison abolition art collectives and political theatre  
Land-based visual traditions (weaving, regalia-making, altars, mask-making)  
Intergenerational oral storytelling, ceremony songs, and diasporic music

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#### Colonial art systems prioritize:

Individualism, commodification, profit, and white critique  
“Art for museums,” not “art for movement”  
Gatekeeping through academic institutions & elite galleries

#### Liberatory art systems prioritize:

Storytelling as resistance  
Cultural memory over aesthetic approval  
Art that lives in struggle and ceremony

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### Parallel Spiritual Systems

These are Earth-rooted, ancestral, and cosmologically expansive spiritual frameworks that refuse the dominance of colonial Christianity, Western science, or capitalist self-help.

#### They include:

Yoruba, Ifá, Candomblé, Santería, and African spiritualities  
Indigenous cosmologies from Turtle Island, the Andes, the Pacific, and beyond  
Diasporic rituals of the Caribbean, the Philippines, the Congo, and more  
Queer and trans-led spiritual reclamation ceremonies  
Spiritual activism grounded in justice, land, and ancestors

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#### Colonial spiritual systems prioritize:

Enforced religious assimilation (e.g., Christian missions, Catholic boarding schools)  
Demonized Indigenous gods and cosmologies as “pagan” or “savage”  
Weaponized theology to justify slavery, genocide, and patriarchy

#### Liberatory spiritual systems prioritize:

Re-root us in land, community, and ancestors  
Defy binary moralities and heteronormative theologies  
Refuse state religion, dogma, and spiritual policing  
Make space for grief, rage, and joy as sacred

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### Parallel Culture Systems

Culture is not just food, dance, or celebration. Culture is power. Parallel culture systems are how the people of the global majority maintain their worldviews, rituals, resistance, and survival.

#### They include:

Language reclamation and revitalization  
Community festivals that honor history, uprising, and remembrance  
Tattoo and body-modification traditions tied to identity and belonging  
Kinship systems outside of nuclear colonial family structures  
Cultural practices around birth, death, initiation, and collective responsibility

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#### Colonial culture systems prioritize:

Flattened cultures into “diversity days” or exotic experiences  
Marketed and sanitized culture for consumption (e.g., yoga without caste critique)  
Erased the political roots of traditions by framing them as entertainment

#### Liberatory culture systems prioritize:

Restore the sacred to everyday life  
Honor trauma and resistance as part of cultural legacy  
Are living, changing, and held by the people—not institutions

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## What We Need to Build

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**What we replace:** Eurocentric aesthetics, religious colonization, white liberal art washing.

**What we build:**

- Ancestor-honoring art collectives
- AfroIndigenous ceremonial spaces and ritual practice
- Liberation theology, queer cosmologies, femme-led spiritual collectives
- Culture jamming & anticolonial art like Bubbling Up

Culture is the battleground where colonizers lose their grip on our imagination.

## How We Build It

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### Phase 1: Map Cultural & Spiritual Violence

What cultural traditions, expressions, or spiritual practices have been stolen, erased, banned, or commodified?

What artists or spiritual leaders have been exiled or criminalized?

How has media reinforced oppression or invisibility?

What current expressions of resistance, joy, or sacred culture exist?

What cultural erasure needs to be reclaimed?

### Phase 2: Build Cultural & Spiritual Sanctuaries

Create autonomous spaces for artistic and spiritual expression

Host ancestor altars, song circles, art builds, and rituals

Center QT/BIPOC artists, seers, healers, and culture bearers

Sacred Space & Art Sanctuary Builder

What space(s) could be used for ritual, art, or culture building?

Who are the cultural workers and spiritual leaders in your community?

What offerings will anchor the space, altars, murals, performances?

What agreements will guide how the space is held and protected?

### Phase 3: Create Liberatory Art & Media

Develop zines, murals, podcasts, protest banners, and films

Archive resistance aesthetics and liberation soundtracks

Honor art that holds grief, rage, pleasure, and ancestral presence

Liberation Media & Art Plan

What cultural production needs to be created, zines, protest banners, films, digital media?

Who are your collaborators and who is your audience?

What stories, symbols, languages, or ancestors guide the project?

How will it be distributed, performed, and preserved?

### Phase 4: Reclaim Spiritual Practices

Revitalize Indigenous and diasporic spiritual systems

Unlearn colonial theology and religious supremacy

Practice ceremony, divination, and sacred storytelling

Ancestral & Spiritual Practice Reclaiming

What ancestral or diasporic spiritual systems are calling you back?

What rituals, ceremonies, or plant practices are remembered?

Who are your spiritual co-learners and knowledge keepers?

How can you reindigenize or decolonize your relationship to spirit?

### **Phase 5: Mobilize Imagination As Power**

Host political imagination labs and dream circles  
Use art to vision abolitionist, postcolonial futures  
Protect the creative process as sacred and strategic

#### **Cultural Safety & Defense Strategy**

What threats (state, religious, economic, cultural) might impact your cultural workers or spiritual spaces?  
What physical, digital, or spiritual protections are needed?  
What are your community protocols for grief, harm, or censorship?  
How will you respond collectively if repression happens?

### **Phase 6: Defend Cultural Workers & Sacred Spaces**

Build safety plans for cultural spaces and ritual leaders  
Mobilize against censorship, criminalization, and erasure  
Fund culture work as essential liberation infrastructure

## **Resources & Tools**

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Decolonial Art & Ritual Curriculum  
Ancestral Practice Guides  
Liberation Zine Making Templates  
Spiritual Safety & Collective Grief Rituals Toolkit  
Cultural Worker Mutual Aid Fund Blueprints

## **Why It Matters**

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Because the system of white supremacy is not just political or economic. It is cosmological. It warps what we believe is beautiful, holy, true, and valuable. Parallel culture, art, and spiritual systems are our resistance to that.

They help us remember that:

We were never meant to fit inside their museums, churches, or textbooks.

We were meant to be free.

## **Metrics Of Liberation**

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Instead of measuring by: Awards, gallery shows, likes, GDP contributions, or church attendance...  
We ask: Are we living our culture, or performing it for white consumption?

### **Cultural & Artistic Sovereignty**

Are marginalized communities creating without censorship or white gaze?  
Are artists supported without needing institutional validation?  
Are young people making art that reflects their reality, not state curriculum?

### **Sacred Continuity**

Are ancestral rituals, languages, and teachings being revived?  
Are ceremonies practiced intergenerationally?  
Are queer, disabled, neurodivergent, and gender expansive folks welcomed in spiritual practice?

### **Community-Based Creation**

Is art public, communal, and political, not just individual or commodified?  
Are we painting walls, telling stories, drumming in the streets?

### **Healing & Resistance**

Are spiritual spaces places of rest, resistance, and collective mourning?  
Does culture affirm survivors, migrants, and people harmed by empire?

### **Decolonial Storytelling**

Are we telling the whole story, not sanitized, not state-approved?  
Are Black, Indigenous, Brown, Queer, and Global South narratives centered?

## Closing Vision

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We are not erased. We are invoked. We are not lost. We are remembering. We are not decorative. We are revolutionary. We carry sacred songs in our throats. We carry drumbeats in our bones. We carry blueprints in our dreams.

Art is resistance. Culture is survival. Spirit is sovereign. Liberation is found in language reborn, seeds replanted, songs remixed, and land remembered.

# Map Cultural & Spiritual Violence

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## 1. Suppressed Practices:

What cultural, artistic, or spiritual traditions were erased, criminalized, or mocked? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did colonizers call "savage," "witchcraft," or "primitive"? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Spaces of Harm:

Where were these violences enacted? (e.g., churches, schools, museums, courts) \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Internalized Shame:

What have you been taught to fear or devalue about your culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does that show up in your daily life? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Generational Impact:

How has this loss impacted your family, community, or identity? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Resilience:

What survived anyway? What are your people still practicing in resistance? \_\_\_\_\_

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Mapping violence helps us interrupt its continuation, and repair it with power.

## Build Cultural & Spiritual Sanctuaries

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### 1. Sacred Needs:

What kinds of spaces does your community need to heal, gather, and celebrate? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2. Ingredients of Sanctuary:

What makes a space feel sacred, brave, and culturally grounded? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is it smell, music, language, ritual, accessibility? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. Location:

Where can this sanctuary exist—land, gardens, homes, storefronts, digital spaces? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4. Collective Stewardship:

Who protects and sustains this space? \_\_\_\_\_

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How is it funded and defended? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Protection from Co-optation:

How do we ensure our spaces are not commodified or tokenized? \_\_\_\_\_

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Sanctuaries are acts of sovereignty. Build them without permission.

## Create Liberatory Art & Media

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### 1. Message:

What truths must be told? \_\_\_\_\_

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What story are you correcting, reclaiming, or imagining? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Audience:

Who is your work for? Who is it not for? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Medium:

What form will your art take? (e.g., song, video, zine, mural, ritual) \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4. Collaboration:

Who do you want to make with? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What intergenerational or cross-community partnerships can be formed? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Accessibility & Ethics:

Is your art accessible to disabled, neurodivergent, and multilingual folks? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does it honor community knowledge and avoid extraction? \_\_\_\_\_

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Liberatory media changes narratives—and reminds us we've always had vision.



# Reclaim Spiritual Practices

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## 1. Lineage:

What spiritual traditions are in your ancestry or culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who were the spiritual protectors—midwives, root workers, priests, water carriers? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Lost & Stolen:

What practices were punished, erased, or turned into profit? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Relearning:

How can you begin to study, practice, and remember in community? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Collective Care:

How do you ensure spiritual spaces do not replicate harm, patriarchy, or exclusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Intergenerational Return:

How can elders, children, and future ancestors be included in this reclamation? \_\_\_\_\_

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Spiritual sovereignty is resistance. Reclaim what was yours before empire.

# Mobilize Imagination As Power

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## 1. Radical Vision:

What futures are you dreaming that don't yet exist? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do they smell, taste, and feel like? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Counter-Narratives:

What myths must be destroyed? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

What truths must be amplified? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Imagination Practices:

What helps you imagine, ritual, rest, music, dreams, play? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Cultural Catalysts:

What role does your art or practice play in helping others dream? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Movement Integration:

How can imagination be used to shift policy, protest, or pedagogy? \_\_\_\_\_

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Imagination is not fluff. It's a weapon. Use it.

# Defend Cultural Workers & Sacred Spaces

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## 1. Current Threats:

Who or what is threatening artists, spiritual leaders, and sacred places in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Material Support:

Are cultural workers being paid, housed, and cared for? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3. Rapid Response:

What will your community do when sacred spaces are policed, attacked, or evicted? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Policy & Advocacy:

What legal or political protections need to be created or demanded? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Cultural Defense Networks:

What coalitions exist to defend and uplift cultural sovereignty? \_\_\_\_\_

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Cultural workers are frontline protectors of memory, joy, and freedom. Defend them.

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## More Resources For Revolution

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We have tried to sort resources according to the parallel system to which they most relate. However, as with everything about liberation, there is overlap. Therefore, it's recommended that you explore resources and utilize anything that may be helpful to your community in building parallel systems of liberation.

### General Resources:

- 4 Ways To Push Back Against Your Privilege by Mia McKenzie (2014)
- As We Have Always Done – Leanne Betasamosake Simpson
- Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition – Cedric J. Robinson
- Caliban and the Witch – Silvia Federici
- CrimethInc. Library – a anarchist resources for resistance & survival (<https://crimethinc.com/library>)
- The Dawn of Everything – David Graeber & David Wengrow
- Decoloniality and the Decolonial Turn – Walter D. Mignolo & Catherine Walsh
- Decolonizing Methodologies – Linda Tuhiwai Smith
- Freedom is a Constant Struggle – Angela Davis
- Micro Activism by Omkari L. Williams (2023)
- TJ Pod Mapping Resource (from the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective)
- We Will Not Cancel Us – Adrienne Maree Brown
- The Undercommons – Fred Moten & Stefano Harney

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### Parallel System 1: Justice & Accountability

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- Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (BATJC) pod mapping, TJ practices (<https://batjc.wordpress.com>)
- Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement (<https://www.akpress.org/beyondsurvival.html>)
- Changing Lenses: Restorative Justice in our Times by Howard Zehr (2015)
- Community Building Circle Template (adapted from SEEDS Introduction to RJ Training)
- Creative Interventions Workbook: Practical Tools to Stop Interpersonal Violence (2021)(<https://www.creative-interventions.org/tools/toolkit/>)
- Fumbling Toward Repair by Mariame Kaba & Shira Hassan (2019)
- Heart of Hope: A guide for Using Peacemaking Circles to Develop Emotional Literacy, Promote Healing & build Healthy Relationships by Carolyn Boyes-Watson & Kay Pranis (2010)
- How To Give A Good Apology Part 1: The Four Parts of Accountability by Mia Mingus
- How to Give a Good Apology Part 2: The Apology – The What and The How by Mia Mingus
- Peacemaking Circles: From Conflict to Community by Kay Pranis, Barry Stuart and Mark Wedge
- Turning Towards Each Other: A Conflict Workbook by Jovida Ross & Weyman Ghabdian (2022)
- We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice, by Mariame Kaba (2021)
- Philly Stands Up / Philly's Pissed
- Zapatista Justice Models

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### Parallel System 2: Food Sovereignty

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- Black Dirt Farm Collective
- Food First Institute (<https://foodfirst.org>)
- Hachette Book Group - resources for self-reliance (<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/imprint/workman-publishing-company/storey/>)
- The HEAL Food Alliance (<https://healfoodalliance.org>)
- La Via Campesina - peasant movements for agroecology (<https://viacampesina.org>)
- Seeding Sovereignty's Land Back Projects - Resourcing Indigenous reclamation of land and home spaces. (<https://www.seedingsovereignty.org>)
- Soul Fire Farm Resources - Black & Indigenous food sovereignty resources (<https://www.soulfirefarm.org/resources/>)

- Urban Tilth (Richmond, CA) Land, housing, and food justice as a single ecosystem — led by people of the global majority.

### **Parallel System 3: Health & Healing**

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- Brown Girl Rise - Radical wellness programming for Indigenous and Latina girls in Portland.
- Circle Practice Guide – Indigenous Peacemaking Network
- Decolonizing Mental Health (YouTube / MindScience series)
- Fireweed Collective - Peer support & mental health practices outside the medical-industrial complex. (<https://fireweedcollective.org>)
- Harriet's Apothecary - Healing collective of Black women, femmes, and queer folks reclaiming ancestral medicine. (<https://www.harrietsapothecary.com>)
- Healing Justice Practice Spaces Toolkit– created by Black organizers during the Movement for Black Lives
- The Healer's Resilience Network
- Healing Justice Lineages Project - Documents Black, Indigenous, and diasporic traditions of community healing, resistance medicine, and abolition. (<https://healingjusticelineages.org>)
- Indigenous Circle of Wellness - land-based healing justice (<https://www.indigenouscircleofwellness.com>)
- Mutual Aid Medics Guide
- NQTTCN: National Queer & Trans Therapists of Color Network - Radical mental health rooted in decolonial healing justice. (<https://www.nqttcn.com>)

### **Parallel System 4: Liberatory Education**

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- Abolitionist Teaching Network - liberatory pedagogy (<https://abolitionistteachingnetwork.org>)
- Decolonial Atlas — maps that challenge colonial geography (<https://decolonialatlas.wordpress.com>)
- The Education for Liberation Network
- The Free Black Women's Library
- Indigenous Community: Rekindling the Teachings of the Seventh Fire by Gregory A. Cajete, Ph.D. (2015)
- OceanOfPDF for free epub and PDF books <https://oceanofpdf.com/>
- Returning to the Teachings by Rupert Ross (2006)
- The Zapatista Little Schools (Escuelitas) -autonomous, Indigenous education models (<https://radiozapatista.org/?p=10384&lang=en>)

### **Parallel System 5: Housing as Liberation**

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- Cancel Rent Campaigns (multiple cities) - Demanding rent abolition and housing as a human right — not a commodity.
- Homes for All Toolkit - Organizing tools for rent strikes, land trusts, and tenants unions.
- Housing Justice For All
- LA CAN (Los Angeles Community Action Network) - Housing, tenants' rights, and land use organizing on Skid Row. (<https://cangress.org>)
- Land & Housing Toolkit – Movement Generation: Ecological justice meets housing and land reparations strategies.
- Moms 4 Housing (Oakland, CA) - Black unhoused mothers reclaiming homes to fight gentrification and racialized displacement. (<https://moms4housing.org>)
- People's Housing Plan Toolkit (Right to the City Alliance) - Community-led housing justice blueprint rooted in self-determination.
- Poor Magazine / Homefulness Project - Indigenous-led, poor-people-rooted land reclamation project creating permanent homes without police or landlords. (<https://poormagazine.org>)
- The Red Nation – The Red Deal Housing Demands - Abolition of settler landlordism, full housing sovereignty, and land rematriation.
- Renter Power (Tenants Together) - Know-your-rights and power-building resources across California and beyond.
- Right to the City Alliance - housing as a human right. National alliance resisting gentrification and corporate landlord power. (<https://righttothecity.org>)

## Parallel System 6: Solidarity Economies

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- Building Co-op Power Toolkit
- Center for Economic Democracy
- Cooperation Jackson (Jackson, MS) - Black-led ecosystem of worker co-ops, land trusts, and people's assemblies. (<https://cooperationjackson.org>)
- Democracy at Work Institute - Tools and technical support for Black and brown worker ownership.
- How to Start a Worker Cooperative (USFWC)
- Movement Generation – justice-based ecological strategy (<https://movementgeneration.org>)
- New Economy Coalition - Decentralized hub for cooperatives, community wealth building, and post-capitalist organizing. (<https://neweconomy.net>)
- Non-Extractive Finance & Community Wealth Guide
- A People's Budget Toolkit – participatory budgeting tools
- Seed Commons - Network of community loan funds redistributing capital to build solidarity economies.
- The Working World - Non-extractive financing for worker cooperatives.
- Solidarity Economy Mapping Guide

## Parallel System 7: People's Tech & Communication

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- Algorithmic Justice League(AJL) - Founded by Joy Buolamwini to expose algorithmic bias and fight racial/gender discrimination in AI and tech systems. (<https://www.ajl.org>)
- Allied Media Projects - Detroit-rooted collective supporting media, art, and tech projects that center racial, economic, and gender justice. (<https://alliedmedia.org>)
- Community Tech NY - Builds digital infrastructure and tech training in collaboration with marginalized communities, especially Black and brown organizers. (<https://communitytechny.org>)
- Decolonizing Digital Archives Toolkit - Create memory systems and oral history projects that return knowledge and ownership to the people.
- Design Justice Network - A global community of designers, coders, educators, and technologists working to center the voices of those most marginalized by design. (<https://designjustice.org>)
- Digital Security Training Curriculum – Tactical Tech Collective - Open-source guides for creating workshops on digital safety and privacy.
- Equity Through Data & Design (ETDD) - Critical data justice initiative promoting participatory, decolonial data collection and visualization.
- Just Futures Law - Legal support for resisting surveillance tech, facial recognition, and predictive policing targeting migrants and communities of the global majority. (<https://www.justfutureslaw.org>)
- Mesh Networking & Offline Tech Tools – NYC Mesh / Community Mesh Networks - Build community intranet systems to operate without corporate ISPs.
- Mutual Aid Tech: Guide to Building Decentralized Tools - A zine and toolkit for grassroots groups building tech for collective care.
- Our Data Bodies Project - Community-based digital privacy, surveillance, and data autonomy education. (<https://www.odbproject.org>)
- Surveillance Self-Defense Guide (EFF) - Practical tools for protecting your digital communications and devices. (<https://ssd.eff.org>)

## Parallel System 8: Land, Climate & Ecological Stewardship

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- Bioregional Mapping Toolkit
- Climate Justice Alliance Resource Hub
- Indigenous Climate Action - Land-based climate solutions rooted in Indigenous knowledge. (<https://indigenousclimateaction.com>)
- Land & Liberation Toolkit – Movement Generation
- Land Access & Rematriation Guide – Agrarian Trust
- Land in Our Names (LION)– UK - Land justice for Black and people of color in Britain. (<https://landinournames.community>)

- The Red Nation - Indigenous-led movement organizing for decolonization and land rematriation. (<https://therednation.org>)
- Seeding Sovereignty - Indigenous, Black, and migrant-led collective fighting extractivism and returning land to the people. (<https://seedingsovereignty.org>)
- Seed Sovereignty Zines – Native Seeds/SEARCH
- Soul Fire Farm - Afro-Indigenous-centered land stewardship and farmer training. (<https://soulfirefarm.org>)

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### **Parallel System 9: Culture, Art & Spirit**

- Just Seeds Artists' Cooperative – art in service of movements (<https://justseeds.org>)
  - The Nap Ministry – rest as resistance, Black liberation (<https://thenapministry.com>)
  - Sins Invalid
  - IllumiNative – advancing Native visibility, representation and advocacy (<https://illuminatives.org>)
  - Indigenous Action Media – radical Indigenous publishing & media, media for direct action (<https://www.indigenousaction.org>)
  - Of Water and the Spirit: Ritual, Magic and Initiation in the Life of an African Shaman by Malidoma Patrice Some (1994)
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### **Final Thoughts**

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This is not theory. This is blueprint. This is not charity. This is covenant. This is not a toolkit. This is a technology of memory and imagination. Each of these resources are an invitation to build with others, not alone.

Print this list. Translate it. Add to it. This is your liberation library.

We are the infrastructure of our own freedom.