

FACILITATORS GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVES STUDY/DISCUSSION!

QUESTION TO ANSWER BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

identify: who are you talking to? This discussion can be scaled from 1-50+ 1 on 1 with someone you want to deepen with (co-worker, friend, poetry group/gym buddy). A small group of 4-6 who have been asking bigger political questions or you are working or organizing closely with. 10-25 Union Caucus Meeting, Capoeira Group, Builders Network, Action Medic Team. 30-50+ Students Deserve Movement Snapshot, WP4BL Political Education, Tenant Union Event, CAT 911 team etc

why this group/person: What are you hoping get out of this engagement? share that alternatives are possible? a prelude to asking them to building an alternative with you? deepening current work with them? Find people who want to engage in this work in your org? test your first political conversation with them “outside work/your club etc”? Something else?

be ready with asks: This is not meant to be just 1 good conversation, what is the follow up? hold a strategy session in your org? read/watch a book/video together? join an action or an org with you? co-organize a study session or book club? co-sponsor this conversation with a bigger group of people we both know? etc

POSSIBLE STRUCTURE OF CONVERSATION:

1. Introductions/Grounding

This moment of COVID and Black-led uprising has pushed us to imagine alternatives to our current system. For example-- If mass unemployment continues or the global supply chain becomes severely disrupted, how will we feed ourselves? If we want an end to police, how do we envision community safety? If the people in power are unable to guarantee our health and well-being of the planet, how do we take care of ourselves and earth?

Black-led uprising and COVID have also shown us that contrary to what those in power want us to believe, **change CAN happen and it can happen FAST.** It is vital that when fast change becomes possible that we are ready to implement and grow these alternatives (to police, unemployment, houselessness, prisons, environmentally destructive development etc) in powerful and impactful ways to build the kind of world we want to live in.

The Movement for Black Lives and many other Black-led organizations have powerfully led the call for defunding the violent, harmful, white supremacist institution of the police and re-directing that money directly to support Black people. There are groups all over who have been practicing healing justice, transformative/restorative cultures, and community accountability in smaller ways and are now being called in to offer experience, educate, provide frameworks for **police free cities and schools.** It is truly incredible the moment we find ourselves in!!

As a member of COiL (briefly explain if needed/appropriate), we want to step into this call made possible by the organizing and vision of BLM, to imagine and actively **build alternatives in whatever the location we are in!** To that end, we did some research into concrete examples of

alternatives to our current harmful institutions to help stimulate ideas for what alternatives can look like here and now. We looked at four areas- Economies, Health Care, Safety, and Education.

Today I want to offer that we focus on X alternative because Y (depending on the context and who you are talking to). These are just some examples to start the conversation and would love to hear any that you've heard of or been a part of throughout the discussion!

What's been on your mind in terms of thinking about alternatives in the current (education, health, safety) systems?

2. Review/Read Together/Project (whatever makes sense & tailor however appropriate) 1 -pager or any other resources you want to share. Short initial discussion.

- What did you like/notice about the alternatives discussed?
- What did you notice about the world view/politics embodied by these alternatives?
- How are they more than just a good clinic/school/safety plan for a neighborhood?

3. Activity:

Draw your vision: let's draw out an alternative (in this sector/area/etc) that we can imagine here in LA/Southern CA.

What would an alternative (economy, safety, health, education) look like in your community?

4. Connection to our work or our potential or actual project or interest

What connections do you see that could be made between(x project/space) we are involved in and these alternatives?

What lessons or pointers or tips do you draw from these examples that we can use/engage in the spaces that we are in?

How would a bigger picture vision/a vision for alternatives that goes beyond one area change how we do our work where we are?

Do you think your vision for change is possible within the current economic/political/social system? If not, what initial work can we do to move in that direction right now?

5. Conclusions, extensions, and questions

What are our conclusions? how might we apply anything here? what questions does this generate for us for our current organizing? what more do we want to learn? Do you want to explore other examples together?

6. Next steps together----Make a follow up ask!!

See examples at top of document and be ready with what you want to ask beforehand!

