

Northern Organizers Summit Summer 2020

Indigitize it!



**ONLINE AND ON THE LAND:
A CAMP FOR THE PEOPLES DURING PANDEMIC
AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

Online and On the Land

DIGITAL ORGANIZING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Alaska has deep memory of disease separating us from our loved ones. Our communities remember times of fear, loss and trauma when illness spread amongst Alaska's Indigenous communities. But our communities persevered and continued to adapt, rebuild, and thrive, as we will do now. We never lost the strength and centrality of our community.

It hurts to be separated from one another. It's painful to keep distance and to isolate ourselves. It's lonely. But we know that it is a necessary step to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our people.

We decided to hold our annual Northern Organizers Summit virtually this year so that we may still find ways to connect, talk story, and grow together, as we maintain our safety and distance. Though many things won't be the same— sharing lovingly cooked meals, hearing each other's laughter, watching the waters of the great Tanana tumble on— we hope that this brings us together.

This is the time for strategy. Never before has it been so important for us to come together, to plan, and to prepare to act. Extraordinary times demand extraordinary hope, and this is the time to nurture that hope for a new, better future— together.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to those whose heart, minds, spirits, ideas, and time have contributed to making *Indigitize it!* a reality. The labor and love that has been put in this project speaks to the power of community and collectivity, even through difficult times. We are especially grateful to our elders who have guided us with their wisdom, compassion, and perspective.

Thank you to all of our participants, who have agreed to walk this path with us. We are grateful for your trust and your time.

We thank our partners and sponsors for their ongoing support. Thank you for investing in this life-giving work.

Above all, we thank all higher powers for the ability, health, and precious time we have to be in community with one another.

Land

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The lands, waters, and air are eternal.

For millennia they have nurtured the growing bodies of our plant and animal relatives, they have given us shelter and warmth, they have provided us with food and fresh waters.

The knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples are based on thousands of years of relationship to their homelands – living, learning, and growing a deep connection to place.

Every piece of Mother Earth you step on in Alaska has been known, loved and named by Indigenous Peoples.

Acknowledging Indigenous Peoples as the original caretakers of these lands and waters is a first step in reconciling historical injustices, supporting current Indigenous Sovereignty, and uplifting Indigenous knowledge systems.

*WHOSE ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS
ARE YOU LIVING ON TODAY?*

WHAT DOES A RESPECTFUL AND
RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LAND
FEEL LIKE TO YOU?

WHAT CAN YOU GIVE BACK TO THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE LANDS
YOU RESIDE ON? HOW CAN YOU TAKE
CARE OF THESE LANDS?

WHAT HAS THE LAND
TAUGHT YOU?



How to use this workbook

This workbook will accompany you through our four weeks of sessions. Here you will find assignments for before each video gathering, links to materials, and worksheets that will be used and discussed during our sessions.

This workbook is meant to supplement our conversation time, and help prepare us all to speak more clearly, dive deeper, and take responsibility for our won learning and unlearning. However, you are not expected to know everything! No one is, and we are on this journey together. If questions come up for you, we encourage you to reach out to other Camp participants and work through them together! Please always feel free to email logistical questions about this workbook to riseup@nativemovement.org

Before Camp

Attend: Native Movement Decolonizing Advocacy Training if you have not previously attended a training:
available online July 29th, 5 - 8:30pm (AK time)

Read: "Decolonization is Not a Metaphor" by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang, Introduction & the Set of Settler Colonial Relations (pages 2-9)

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/des/article/view/18630/15554>

Review: Kohtr'elneyh: Remembering Forward AK JT Zine

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bC1p-NHtKW61QzGs-4pnK7mK5sHVAqu/view>

Watch: Mark Charles Tedx Talk

"We the People" (full video 17 mins)

https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_charles_the_truth_behind_we_the_people_the_three_most_misunderstood_words_in_us_history

Listen: White Fragility: NPR interview Robin DiAngelo On White People's 'Fragility'

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/18/639822895/robin-diangelo-on-white-peoples-fragility>

Review: Harlan Pruden- "Two Spirit People: Then & Now"

http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/initiatives/Pruden-Edmo_TwoSpiritPeople.pdf



People Power

Decolonize

Week 1

DECOLONIZATION

Pre-readings and Activities

Read:

- Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality. This chapter was written by Yup'ik author Anguksuar.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13MGStlZEn_aPnz7amQXTKI_9g6rvrQFJR/view
- Gender Justice Terminology
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pppt5DUVQ-OSyT7ycYLOf9JCe35XxC1IHRGeIXEzBGo/edit?usp=sharing>
- Decolonizing Framework: Braiding Sweetgrass. Chapter titled The Gift of Strawberries (Economies of Reciprocity)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XHMBPhtpkKSLXc0z9SUm5vDm430Np3o3/view?usp=sharing>

Watch:

- Video: Robin Kimmerer TedX talk 'Reclaiming the Honorable Harvest'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz1vgfZ3etE>

Week 1

DECOLONIZATION

Journal prompts

Choose your favorite quote from “Decolonization is Not a Metaphor” (could be from anywhere in the entire article).

- Reflect on this quote and what you’ve read. What does this quote give to you?

Your heritage and ancestral stories

- Who are your ancestors?
- What are your peoples’ stories of emergence &/or interconnection?

Gender & Sexuality

- Do you have cultural or ancestral knowledge of gender and sexuality outside the colonial structures?
- What does Decolonizing Gender and Sexuality mean to you and what is your responsibility?

Dismantling Power & Privilege

- What Privileges and/or Power are you aware that you have?
- How does this directly and indirectly impact or oppress others?
- With this awareness, how do you leverage your privilege in order to dismantle oppressive systems of power and privilege?

Our responsibility to each other, to Land, and to Change:

- How can the ethic of “the honorable harvest” be realized on the Land and in our communities?
- What is your relationship to Change?

Week 1

DECOLONIZATION

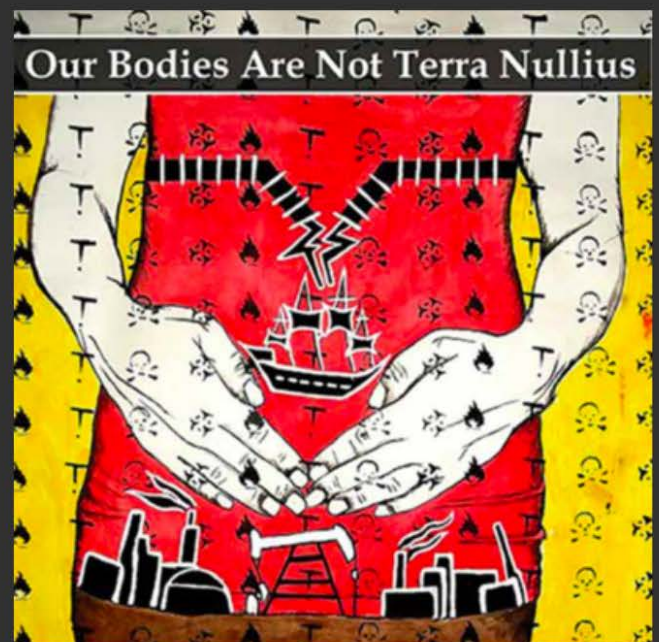
Presentation Slides



Manifest Destiny: (circa 1872) by John Gast called *American Progress*.

Terra Nullius: a Latin expression meaning 'nobody's land,' which was a legal concept used as justification that lands were empty and therefore open for colonization, conquering and resources extraction.

This legal concept has also been used as justification that Indigenous bodies are empty and open for conquering. Landbodydefense.org



ARTWORK BY ERIN MARIE KOSMO

Colonialism

The policy or practice of acquiring political control over another country/land, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

Colonization

The process of devaluing and dehumanizing native people (through both formal & informal methods) in order to justify exploiting them and their homelands.

Settler Colonialism

“Settlers are not immigrants. Immigrants are beholden to the Indigenous laws and epistemologies of the lands they migrate to. Settlers become the law, supplanting Indigenous laws and epistemologies.”
(Tuck & Yang, 2013)

Decolonization

The conscious -- intelligent, calculated, & active – unlearning & resistance to the forces of colonization that perpetuate the subjugation and exploitation of our minds, bodies, & lands.

And it is engaged for the ultimate purpose of overturning the colonial structure & realizing Indigenous liberation.

Decolonization

“...the restoration of cultural practices, thinking, beliefs, and values that were taken away or abandoned but are relevant and/or necessary for survival and well being. It is the birth and use of new ideas, thinking, technologies, and lifestyles that contribute to the advancement and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.”

-Yellow Bird, 2008. Indigenous Social Work

DECOLONIZING WEALTH

1. GRIEVE
We have to stop and feel the hurts we've endured.

2. APOLOGIZE
We must apologize for the hurts we've caused.

3. LISTEN
We must acknowledge the wisdom of those excluded and exploited by the system, who possess exactly the perspective and wisdom needed to fix it.

4. RELATE
We need space to share our whole selves with each other and understand we don't have to agree in order to respect each other.

5. REPRESENT
We must build whole new decision-making tables, rather than setting token places at the colonial tables as an afterthought.

6. INVEST
We need to put ALL our money where our values are.

7. REPAIR
We must use money to heal where people are hurting, and stop more hurt from happening.

GREVE

REPAIR

INVEST

REPRESENT

RELATE

LISTEN

APOLOGIZE

MEDICINE TO HEAL DIVIDES AND RESTORE BALANCE

www.decolonizingwealth.com by Edgar Villanueva

White Supremacy Culture

What are some examples of where white supremacy is the norm in our daily lives?

What are the practices you engage in (or could start to engage in) to dismantle white supremacy culture?

Characteristics of White Supremacy

Perfectionism

Sense of Urgency

Defensiveness

Quantity over Quality

Worship of the Written Word

Only One Right Way

Paternalism

Either/Or Thinking

Power Hoarding

Fear of Open Conflict

Individualism

I'm the Only One

Progress is Bigger

Objectivity

Right to Comfort

Dismantling White Supremacy

Learning Organization

Realistic Timelines

Openness

Identify Quality Goals

Incorporate Ways of Knowing

Honor Ways of Doing

Democratize Hierarchies

Question Binaries

Power Sharing

Raise Hard Issues

Collectivism

Delegate

Redefine Wins

Invite in Worldviews

Sit in Discomfort

Levels of Decolonizing



Three M's of Decolonization

-Yellow Bird, 2008. Indigenous Social Work

The Mind: Freeing postcolonial culture and thought from dependence on western ideas, philosophies, beliefs, and theories. "Neuro Decolonization"

The Mass: having to do with Indigenous lands and resource rights, reparation, support of political sovereignty.

The Metropole (The Empire): Decolonization involves freeing the metropole from its tendency to inferiorize and dominate other peoples and territories.

Week 1

DECOLONIZATION

Additional Resources

PODCASTS:

- **All My Relations**

- Beyond Blood Quantum episode

<https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/podcast/episode/49fcb76f/ep-10-beyond-blood-quantum>

- Indigiqueer episode

<https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/podcast/episode/47547617/ep-6-indigiqueer>

- Decolonizing Sex episode

<https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/podcast/episode/468a0a6b/ep-5-decolonizing-sex>

- **Healing Justice**

- Ancestral Healing for Anti-Racist White Folks

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/healingjustice/healing-justice/e/53079422>

- **This Land**

- 8 part series on current Supreme Court case impacting Oklahoma Native Nations

<https://crooked.com/podcast-series/this-land/>

READINGS:

- Movement Generation's Just Transition Zine

<https://movementgeneration.org/justtransition/>

- Indigenous Environmental Network's Just Transition

<https://www.ienearth.org/justtransition/>

...and more at the Native Movement website:

<https://www.nativemovement.org/resources>



Week 2

JUST TRANSITION

Pre-readings and Activities

Read: Alaska Just Transition Zine

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bC1p-NHtKW61QzGs-4pnK7mK5sHVAqu/view>

Please review the journal prompts related to the Alaska Just Transition Zine on the next page.

Review: The Kohtr'elneyh Workbook: A Visioning Guide for Families (Coloring Book)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rcj6no2f17rUbc9SGK0nJKdLI0WIKH-b/view>

Please choose one principle and image to spend time reflecting on and complete the visioning exercises that relate to that principle. Come prepared to discuss what you chose and share your reflections and visions with a small group.

Watch: AK Just Transition Webinar "Reorienting in Times of Change"

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=862636490869361&ref=external>

Complete: "Bringing Just Transition Home" worksheet, included in this workbook.

Research and answer these questions:

- What is a false solution? Can you think of examples?

This week we will be discussing these webinars, this zine, and sections of the JT framework. Be prepared to come to the session with some familiarity of the Just Transition framework so that we can break into groups on various themes and areas on intervention.

Additionally, please bring an object that is special or sacred to you to share about on our first day together.

Week 2

JUST TRANSITION

Journal prompts

As you read the Alaska Just Transition Zine, please answer the following questions:

What are the stories you were told or histories do you know about traditional economies before Western contact in your area? What local economies currently exist in your communities?

Page 10 of zine

What are the control mythologies told about you and your people? What are the stories that justify your exploitation, your power, your privilege or your place in the system?

Page 20 of zine

What are the ways you can imagine exercising rights?

Page 31 of zine

Do you have a practice that helps you process? Silent reflection, or talking with family? In meditation or on a run? Here are some questions you can consider to help guide you...

What is the transition of the land?

What is the transition of our communities?

What is the transition of our spirits?

What is the transition of our relationships?

Instructions:

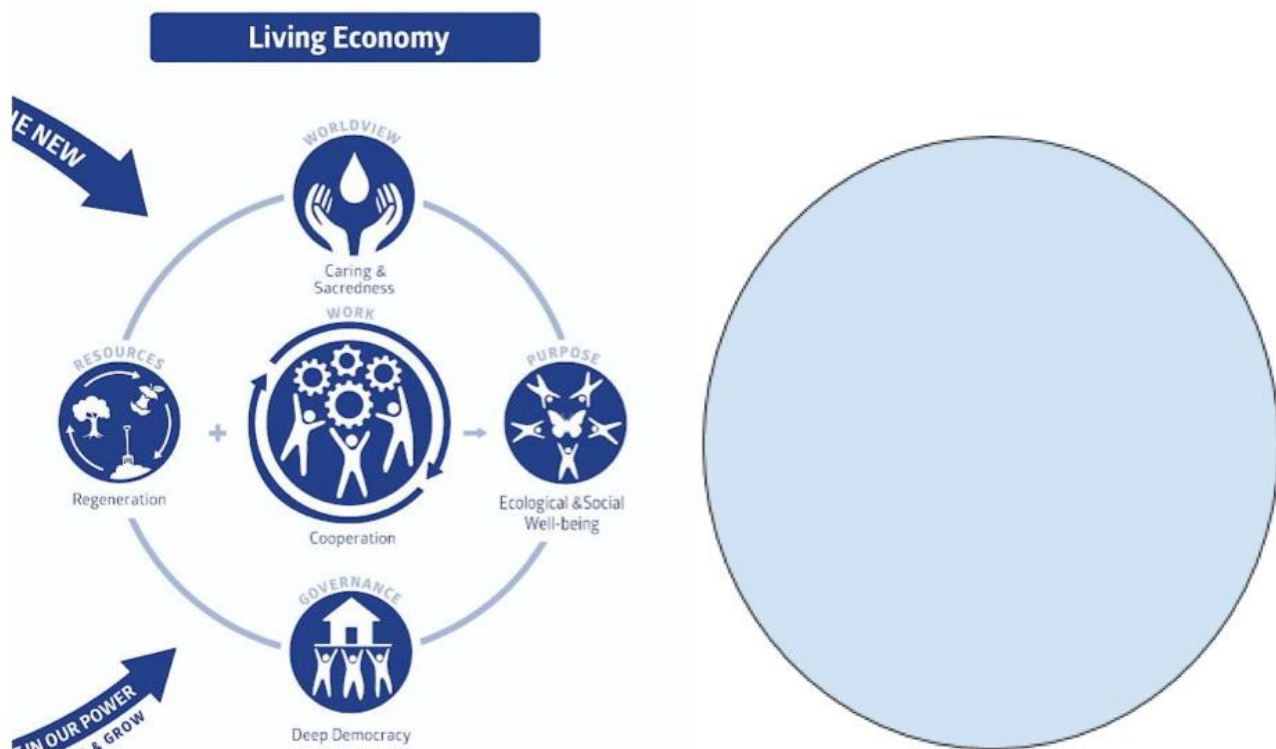
Explore using these frameworks in your own life and your own work. This is your space to brainstorm, dream, strategize, create, and experiment. Follow this worksheet to begin thinking of how you can bring Just Transition to our communities.

Next, begin to explore what Just Transition really means for Alaska. Do new examples come to mind for you? Is there something missing from the framework? Is there another connection or constellation that you want to build? Use the blank Just Transition map to create your own!

Bringing Just Transition Home

The framework of just transition is simply a way to organize ideas about how to create a community that is good for us and for future generations. It can help us turn the future that we imagine into reality.

First, examine the five bubbles in the living economy and envision the future of your community. Think about these guiding questions: What are people doing for work in your community in the future? How are people working together? How are decisions being made? What type of healing and support is available for community members? What regenerative resources are being used? How are people taking care of the land? In the circle below, write or sketch your thoughts.



Now think of a project you are doing or would like to do that fits in the vision you created. What are the first steps or the next steps you need to make it happen? Which season is the best time to take those next steps?

Project:

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4

Now think about who else you need support from. Let's say you would like to start an indoor garden to grow food for your community. Maybe you could reach out to someone at the Tribal office or the school to see if there might be some space you could use. List out the people who could support your idea and how they could help you make it happen.

1. Name: _____ Contact info: _____
How can they help? _____
2. Name: _____ Contact info: _____
How can they help? _____
3. Name: _____ Contact info: _____
How can they help? _____

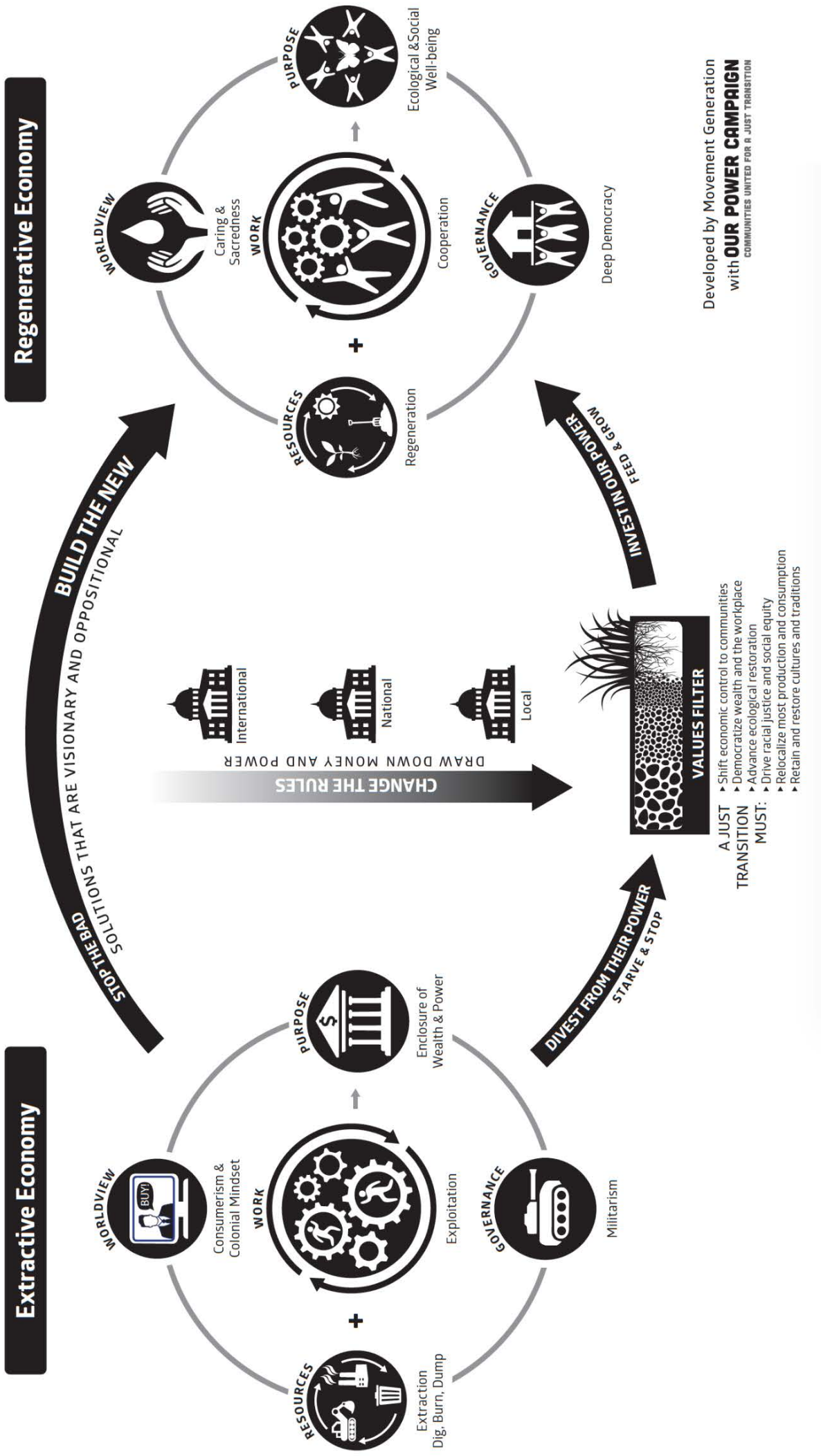
Write down some reasons why the idea you are proposing is something good for your whole community. Going back to the indoor garden, it could be a good source of vegetables for people in the winter time. This list will help you explain to your community why this is a good idea. List out some benefits to your community.

Now you're ready to reach out to those support people and ask them to work with you on this idea together. Consider asking the Tribal council for time to present your idea at a meeting or ask a teacher at school if you could present your idea to your classmates or talk to a friend at the next basketball game.

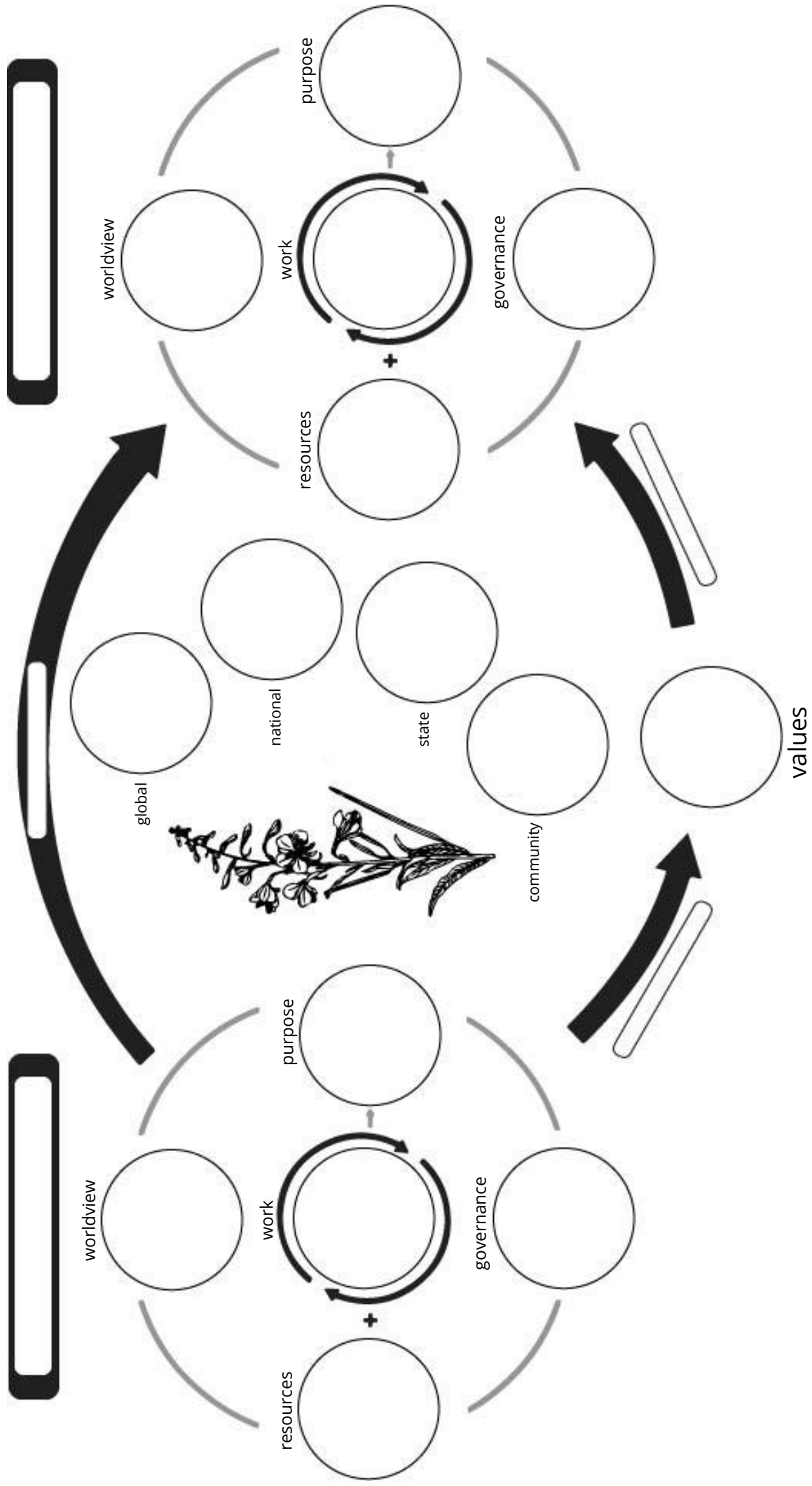


There are so many ways to get other people excited about just transition. Don't be afraid to start small! Your big goal might be to find funding to build and run a greenhouse for growing lots of vegetables. But even taking the first step of growing a small garden at home can be a great way to show other people around you that the future that you envision is possible.

Movement Generation's Just Transition Framework



OUR Just Transition Framework





Week 3

HEALING Pre-readings and Activities

Read:

- A Holistic Aboriginal Framework for Individual Healing
https://scholars.wlu.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1023&context=scwk_faculty
- Yuuyaraq: The Way of the Human Being, by Harold Napoleon
<http://ankn.uaf.edu/Publications/Books/Yuuyaraq.pdf>
- Neurodecolonization and Indigenous Mindfulness, by Michael Yellowbird
<https://www.indigenoumindfulness.com/about>
- Through Historical Trauma to Student Success: Ramona Big Head, by Charlton Weasel Head
https://www.ted.com/talks/ramona_big_head_charlton_weasel_head_through_historical_trauma_to_student_success

Week 3

HEALING Additional Resources

Definitions

(from Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart):

Historical trauma is cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma. Historical unresolved grief accompanies that trauma.

Historical trauma response (HTR) is a constellation of features in reaction to massive group trauma • This response is observed among Lakota and other Native populations, Jewish Holocaust survivors and descendants, Japanese American internment camp survivors and descendants.

Historical Trauma Response Features:

- Survivor guilt
- Depression
- Sometimes PTSD symptoms
- Psychic numbing
- Fixation to trauma
- Somatic (physical) symptoms
- Low self-esteem
- Victim Identity
- Anger
- Self-destructive behavior including substance abuse
- Suicidal ideation
- Hypervigilance
- Intense fear
- Dissociation
- Compensatory fantasies
- Poor affect (emotion) tolerance
- Death identity – fantasies of reunification with the deceased; cheated death
- Preoccupation with trauma, with death
- Dreams of massacres, historical trauma content
- Loyalty to ancestral suffering & the deceased
- Internalization of ancestral suffering
- Vitality in own life seen as a betrayal to ancestors who suffered so much

Medicine Wheel

The medicine wheel in Native American culture is a sacred symbol that represents healing and health.

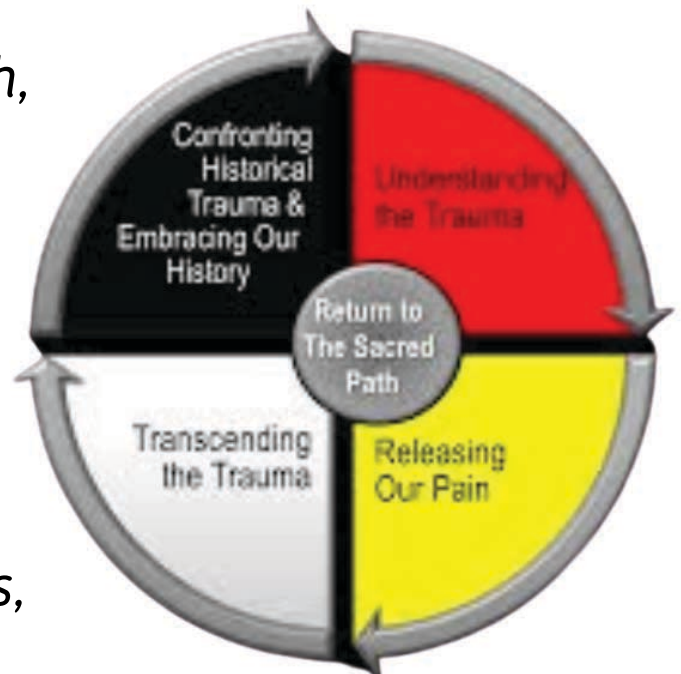
Often, the medicine wheel is regarded as a representation of all knowledge of the universe, a true symbol of hope and healing— for those who seek it. The medicine wheel's symbolism can vary from tribe to tribe, as it is up to their interpretation.



The medicine wheel has four directions: north, east, south and west. Each of these directions is a marker for many other attributes of that section of the medicine wheel. Many people recognize the four directions as representative of...



- the stages of life: *birth, youth, adult, death*
- aspects of life: *spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual*
- the natural elements in our world: *fire, earth, air, water*
- the seasons: *winter, spring, summer, fall*
- ceremonial plants: *sweetgrass, tobacco, cedar, sage*



Week 3

HEALING

Journal prompts

How does the medicine wheel look for you, your family or community?

What images or similar image is relatable to you?

How does the medicine wheel apply or look for you and your culture?

Feel free to draw or write your answer.



personal reflection

1. In what condition is my physical health?

2. What are my physical needs right now?

3. What does my body language tell me? Do I like myself?

4. What are my priorities to improve my physical well-being?

5. What positive activities can I do to enhance my physical well-being?

(areas of example: nutrition, sleep, personal hygiene, exercise, appearance, posture, rest & relaxation, clothing, home tidiness, financial situation)

6. What harmful things must I avoid to achieve health? (examples: various dependencies).

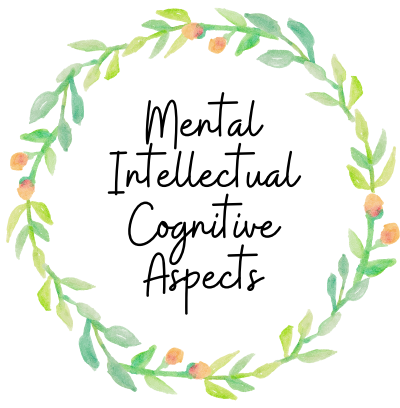
7. What do I see about my future on the physical and on the material planes?

8. What are my goals? How do I see myself in two years from now?



personal reflection

1. In what condition is my emotional health?
2. What are my emotional needs at this time?
3. Do I have a positive self-esteem and a strong sense of self-worth?
4. Am I able to express my feelings and do I have someone I can confide in?
5. Do I trust people?
6. Do I feel the need to control others / situations?
7. Am I maintaining healthy relationships?
(Examples: with my life partner, family, relatives, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc...)
8. What are my coping strategies?
9. What positive things can I do to enhance my emotional and social wellbeing?
10. Am I taking time to nurture the relationships in my life?
11. Do I have unresolved issues from the past?
12. What do I feel about the future?



personal reflection

1. What is my self-talk (or inner dialogue) usually like?
(For example, is it affirmative, positive, optimistic or self-deprecating or generally negative about others?)

2. What are my general intellectual activities?

3. What are the mental stimulations in my life?
(Examples: creative activities, reading, writing, studying, puzzles, crosswords, etc...)

4. What are my creative abilities and how do I foster them?

5. Am I satisfied with my level of education as well as intellectual and cognitive development?

6. Am I satisfied with the kind of work I am doing?

7. Do I take time to reflect and analyze what is happening in my life?

8. What are my problem solving skills and how can I improve them?

9. Is time management a problem in my life?

10. What positive activities can I do to enhance my life in the mental, intellectual and cognitive spheres?



personal reflection

1. Do I have meaning and purpose in my life?

2. Do I live up to my principles, beliefs and values?

3. What are my spiritual / religious beliefs and practices? Or do I have any?

4. Do I take time out for prayer, fasting, silence, meditation, enjoyment of nature?

5. Do I have a grateful attitude about life?

6. Do I fear death and dying, and if so for what reason(s)?

7. What efforts do I make to develop qualities or 'virtues' or 'moral principles' or 'ethical values and behaviors'?

8. Am I honest, loving, caring, sharing, respectful, trustworthy, humble and helpful?

9. In what ways am I respectful of nature?

10. Do I feel a sense of connectedness to and pride for the values of my culture?

11. What positive activities can I do to nurture my spiritual life?



DEFEND
THE PEOPLE

DEFEND
THE PEOPLE
LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE
PROTECT THE PEOPLE

DEFEND
THE PEOPLE

Week 4

ACTION

Pre-readings and Activities

Read:

- Cheran: The Town Threw out Police, Politicians, and Gangsters
<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-37612083>
- Bending the Bars of Empire from Every Ghetto for Survival: The Black Panther Party's Radical Antihunger Politics of Social Reproduction and Scale
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00045600802683767>

Explore:

- Training for Change Tools
<https://www.trainingforchange.org/tools/>
- Spend a little time reading one or various tools here, and **be prepared to share or reflect on some of the tools that stick out to you**

Additional Resources:

- Healing Resources for BIPOC Organizers & Allies Taking Action for Black Lives
<https://medium.com/@irresistiblemovements/healing-resources-for-bipoc-organizers-allies-taking-action-for-black-lives-f55067486690>
- Practice: Healing in Direct Action — irresistible
<https://irresistible.org/podcast/66p>

Making your Action Planning Check-List

- Identify a Spokesperson or People
- Celebrate
- Debrief the Action
- Post to Social Media
- Perform the Action
- Create Visual Banners and Signs
- Evaluate the Message
- Send Press Release
- Choose the Location
- Ceremony
- Clarify the Strategy
- Identify the Lands You are On
- Reach out to groups engaged in the issue
- Identify the Opportunity
- Find Allies
- Communicate with the Police
- Pick a Target
- Reach out to Artists
- Create a Hashtag
- Develop Action Demands
- Legal Support
- Focus your Message & Media Strategy
- Identify Potential Negative Impacts of Action
- Write Press Release
- Scout the Location
- Asses your Resources
- Choose a Tactic
- Determine your Audience
- Decide the Tone
- Practice the Action
- _____
- _____

Use the bubbles on the left to number these steps in the order you think makes the most sense! The spaces at the bottom are for missing steps or your own ideas!

Week 4

ACTION Journal Prompts

What is a direct action that was really impactful for you?

What does direct action mean for you and your community in this time? For example, is community safety a priority?
Redistribution of wealth?

What are ways our communities traditionally practiced redistributing wealth?

What are ways you have experienced or witnessed white privilege in the time we are living in, specifically how has it benefited or undermined a direct action?

What are ways that you envision direct action in the near future?

Baasee' Setsoo Howard.

Please take a moment of silence to honor and recognize our Elder Howard Luke who passed away September 21st, 2019.



Late Grandpa Howard graciously shared his land, giving us the honor to hold our previous Northern Organizer's Summit's at his camp on the banks of the Tanana River. We continue to honor our relationship with him and his lands, and we ask you to consider purchasing and reading his book; Howard Luke: My Own Trail edited by Jan Steinbright Jackson.

*Mahsi' choo,
Quyana, Chin'an,
Gunalchéesh,
Taikuu, Háw'aa,
Toyackshin,
Qagaliqux,
Tsin'aen,
Qaqaasakung,
Quyanaa, T'oyxsm
dp 'nüüism,
Enaa Baasee',
Thank you!*