

As 2018 winds down, I want to take the time to thank you for your support, efforts, and generosity. You have enabled me to learn and convey a great deal this year. You have helped me better organize behind the walls. When we needed help to fight PA DOC's onerous mail policy, you were there. I thank you. I am grateful to have you—a patient ear and wise tongue—in my life. Words cannot adequately convey my appreciation so I work everyday to become a better person and ally behind these walls. This is my gratitude in practice.

It is my hope that moving into the new year '19 our connection strengthens. I hope to contribute more to the struggle and deepen my understanding and practice. I hope that together we move another step closer to building a world that values all our lives, or at least abolishing the oppressive one that exists today.



I want to specifically thank certain people. While many have contributed to my education and practice, these people have been mainstays of support and understanding: Dean Spade, Dan Berger, Charlotte Pope, Sarah Jane Rhee, Emily Abendroth, John Rowland, Suzy Martin, Black & Pink, and Critical Resistance.

I want to thank Eric Stanley, Che Gossett, Mariame Kaba, Joy James, Andrea J. Ritchie, Beth Richie, Reina Gossett, Liat Ben-Moshe, Tousseint Losier, Darnell L. Moore, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Dylan Rodriguez, Maya Schenwar, Monica Trinidad,

Pilar Maschi, Haymarket Books, AK Press, True Leap Press, Signs and GLQ for the work you're doing. When you're feeling frustrated or doubtful, remember that you are helping so many people, especially those of us behind the walls, better understand the world and effectively struggle against oppression. You are appreciated.

CITY OF

Women in Prison
How We Are

BY ABRATA BHASKAR / ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE BLACK



HANDS OFF THE STATE

NEW ABOLITIONIST ENEMY OF THE STATE

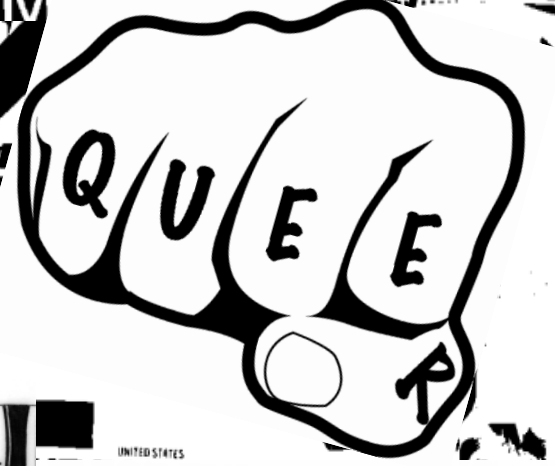
ISSUE 22: WOMEN & GENDER LIBERATION
LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Solitary
Torture in
Women's
Prisons



BRO'E

Betina Lynn, wounded



DO NOT

BLOCK

INTERSECTION

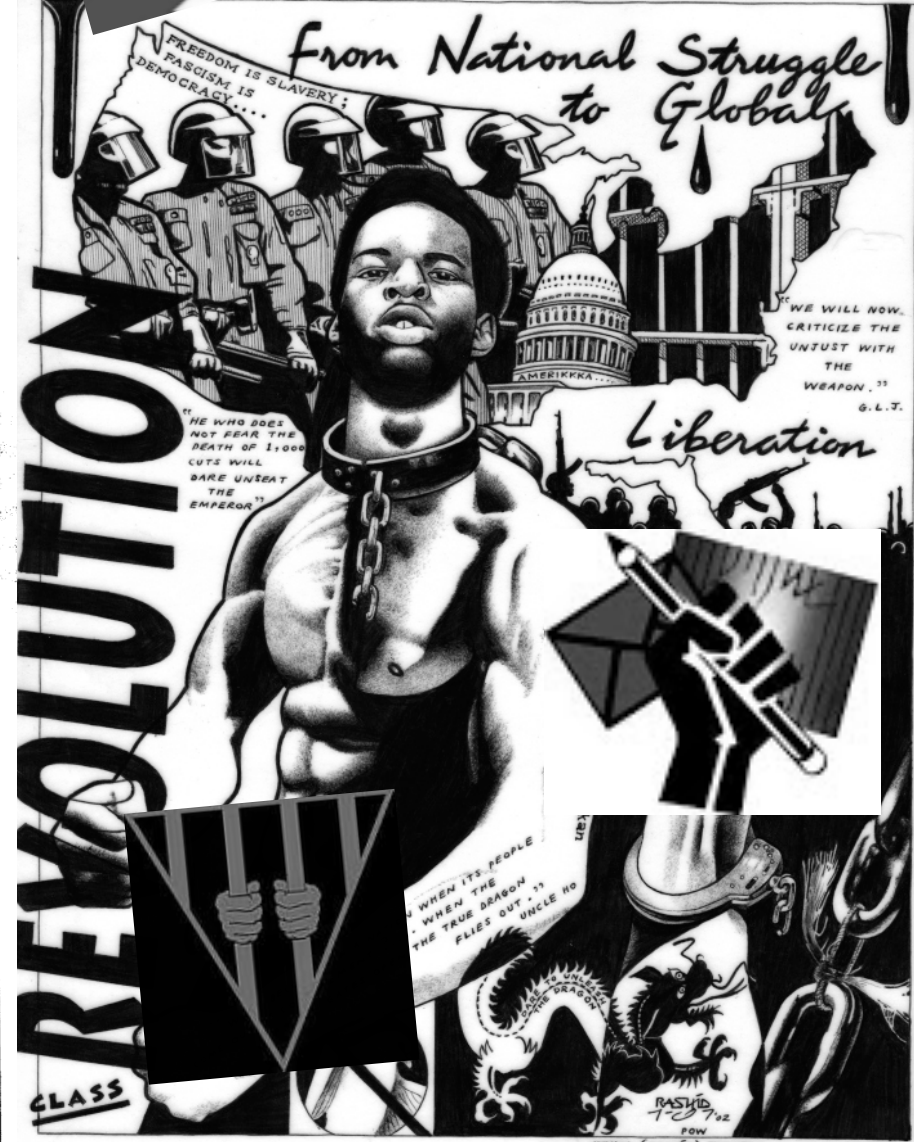
QUEERS HATE TECHIES

WHITE SILENCE = WHITE CONSENT
#BLACKLIVESMATTER

QUEERS HATE TECHIES

Smaller Funky
FUNKY MILS
CITY OF CHICAGO

QUEERS HATE TECHIES



From National Struggle to Global
"FREEDOM IS SLAVERY; FASCISM IS DEMOCRACY"
"WE WILL NOW, CRITICIZE THE UNJUST WITH THE WEAPON."
"WHEN IT'S PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING CRUIEL TO THE TRUTH BRAGS UNCLE HO"
"THE WHO DOES NOT FEAR THE DEATH OF 1,000 CUTS WILL BARE UNFEAR THE EMPEROR"

1:1 | True Leap Press / SoChi ABC
Prison Praxis Series

Stephen Wilson is a currently incarcerated, Black, queer writer, activist and student. For over two decades, he was active in the Ballroom community and work as an HIV-prevention specialist and community organizer. His work and practice inherit teachings from prison abolition, transformative and racial justice, Black feminist theory, and gender and queer liberation.

Specifically, he works to end cycles of poverty and incarceration that have plagued his community. He works to expose and dismantle the prison-industrial complex and to build a world in which we deal with harm without caging or exiling other people.

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Free for prisoners
Anti-copyright

Print media kept prisoners attend to the social justice movements of the day and enabled them to be active participants. Allies created opportunities and platforms for prisoners to be heard. Prisoners' voices were given spaces to articulate their issues and solutions. Allies knew that "those closest to the problem are the ones closest to the solution." These arrangements kept prisoners and their allies informed about what was happening inside and outside the



Print media always played a major role in the American Prison Movement. Today, this is not the case. While there is more being written about prisons and prisoners today than at any other time in American history, prisoners are struggling to have their voices heard. So much of the discourse occurs online.

Many outside activists have not thought about how the move to online media affects inside activists. With so much of the focus of our activism being squarely placed on social media, how are the imprisoned to contribute? Prisoners don't have internet access so how will they join the conversation? This shift causes one to wonder what role prisoners play in the movement. Are prisoners' efforts central to their own liberation? Are prisoners' opinions important or decisive? Do they play a role in creating strategy? Are they just symbolic actors?

prison walls. These connections, enabled by print media, were critical to successfully opposing the PIC. "The media and cultural production of people in prison- especially writing, but also song and visual art have been important vehicles for garnering national and international attention for local campaigns, and for coalescing local demands into broader social justice agendas." (6)

Print media, especially newsletters and newspapers, enabled prisoners to organize and educate. The San Quentin Rebellion of 1968 started after articles published in the prison newspaper *The Outlaw* circulated prisoners' grievances. *The Outlaw* was republished by *The Berkeley Barb*, an underground, radical newspaper. This led to more publicity and over 75% of the prisoners at San Quentin joining the work strike. The more recent successes of the California Hunger Strike demonstrate the importance of print media.



WHAT CAN I DO TODAY?

Today, there are small steps that will move us toward abolition, such as:

- Instead of supporting construction of a new prison to make the horrible conditions that most prisoners live in a little better, we can push for alternatives that reduce the number of people locked in cages.
- Instead of calling the police everytime there is a conflict in our neighborhoods, we can establish community forums and mediation practices to deal with harm and conflict.
- We can build safer and healthy communities by working to eliminate barriers to housing and jobs faced by people coming home from prison to help them stay out of the system.

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Print Media and Prison Activism,

By Stephen Wilson

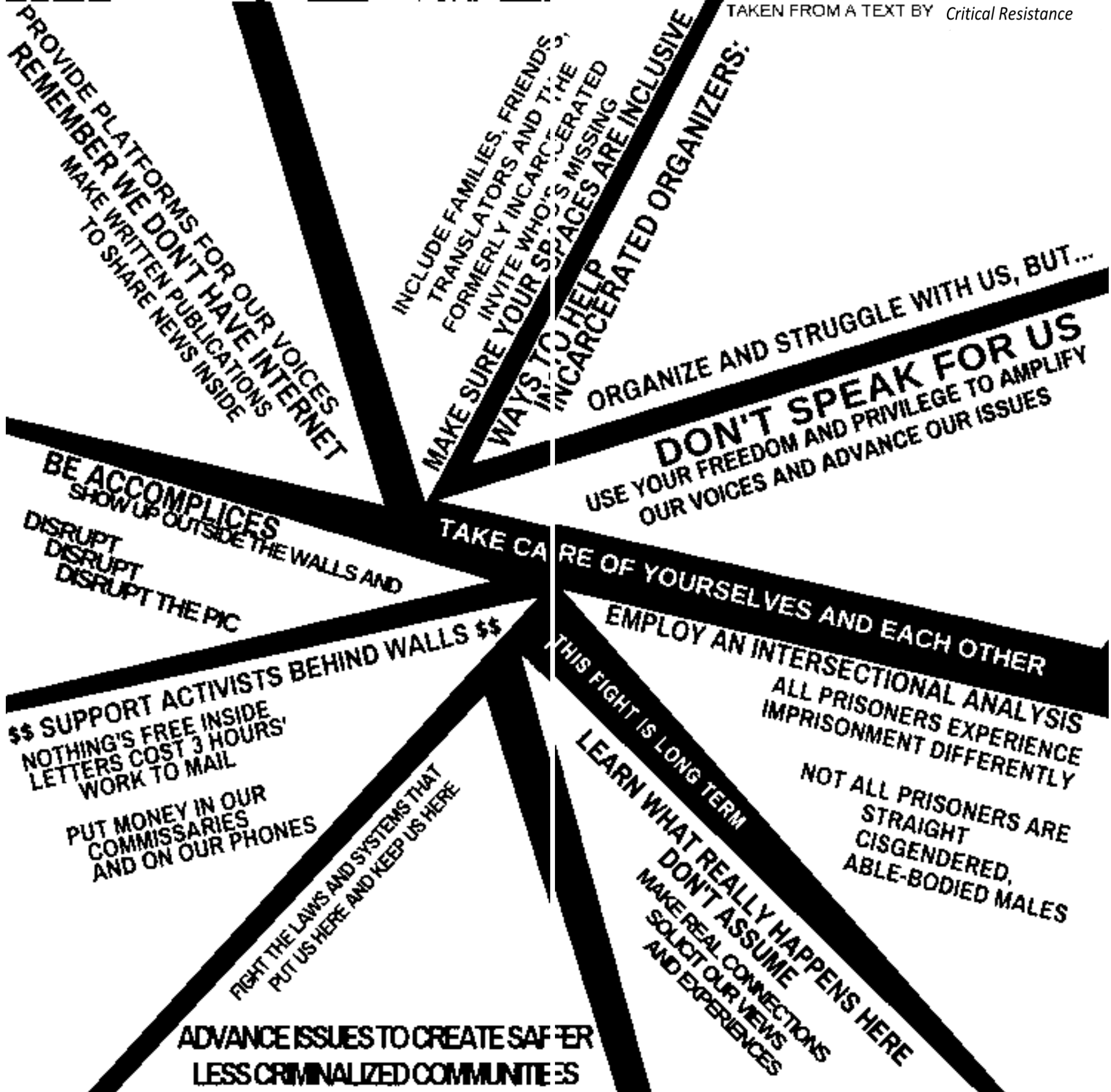
Because America's prisons are its most opaque institutions, prisoners and their allies have always employed strategies of visibility to create awareness and understanding of who is being held captive and the conditions of their captivity. Print media—books, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, zines, pamphlets and visual art has been a critical part of those various strategies of visibility. Throughout the different eras of the American Prison Movement, but especially between the late 60's and early 80's, a number of platforms were created to connect prisoners to one another and their allies. Streams of prisoner-created content flowed from behind the walls and into the hands of allies who published and disseminated the materials. Across the prison movement, "prisoners used media to sustain connections with other prisoners and with sympathetic outsiders. As collective action became more difficult, writing and editing provided an opportunity to continue working collaboratively with others on both sides of the prison walls." (Berger and Losier, 134)

How People on the Outside Can Support the Political Work of People on the Inside
 By Stephen Wilson

Here are 18 things they can do for us:

1. Organize and struggle with us, but allow us to be the authorities on our own experiences
2. Don't speak for us. We can speak. When we cannot, due to repression or threats from prison officials, use your freedom and privilege to amplify our voices and advance our issues.
3. Be accomplices. Put yourselves out there for us. Attend rallies and speak out against the PIC. Organize call-ins to prisons. Show up at courthouses. Disrupt. Disrupt. Disrupt the PIC.
4. Whenever you organize, strategize or confer, make your spaces inclusive and accessible. Take note of who's missing. Find them, invite them and include them. If they don't come to you, go to them. Often, those who are missing are our families and our friends.
5. Remember, we don't have Internet access. The latest news is not just a click away for us. Create offline publications (newsletters, magazines, journals, letters) to keep us informed and educated. Provide platforms for our voices.
6. Employ an intersectional analysis. Identity does not equal experience. We are all prisoners, but we experience imprisonment differently. The experiences of an able-bodied, straight, cisgender male is very different from those of a trans/queer, disabled woman of color. Many of us struggle under multiple oppressive structures, but prevalent ideas of prison center upon able-bodied, straight, cisgender males. Broaden your understanding of

TAKEN FROM A TEXT BY *Critical Resistance*



8. Learn what really happens in here. Don't assume. Oftentimes, reforms are pushed, and their ultimate results adversely affect prisoners. The PIC is adept at morphing demands for reform into measures that further oppress prisoners. Before and after campaigns and initiatives, solicit the views and experiences of prisoners.
9. Join us in advancing issues that truly create safe communities. For example: increased school funding, community mental health clinics, universal health insurance, living wages, community substance and alcohol treatment programs, transformative justice programs, decarceration and decriminalization efforts. This way, when we are released we'll have less chance of returning to prison.
10. Take care of yourselves. We need you. This fight is for the long term. We need you struggling alongside us and our families for the duration. Create and find joy in the struggle. Find time and space to rejuvenate and recalibrate. Be good to yourselves. Breathe.