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WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO

WITH QUEER PEOPLE?

Firstly, this matters to queer
and trans folks because we are

at the losing end of a deal

that gives the state a monopoly

on violence and "justice"

through coercive control and policing.

especially queer and trans folks who are

BIPOC, street-involved, drug users,

sex workers, femmes, gender non conforming

poor, disabled, or otherwise
multiply marginalized.

As criminalized people,
we have keen understandings
of how the criminal justice
system operates, fails us, and

harms us. That means we know
better how to take it down.

Queer and trans people, especially
Black, Indigenous, and POC folks,
have been creating alternatives to policing
and radical new forms of just and accountable
community since forever.

Queer and trans people are
fucking smart. Our unique knowledges,
sensibilities, activisms, bodies, and

histories position us to organize
effectively against police and state control
coercion and violence.

Queers make toppling the oppressive
criminal justice system look much more fabulous.

WHAT ABOUT TERRORISM?

The idea of "terrorism" is based in racist, Islamophobic and conservative notions of violence.

Police and military enact far more violence than so-called "terrorists."

Police forces do not have a great track record of preventing public acts of mass violence. They are more likely to enact them than prevent them.

The real threat of white supremacist terror and mass violence must be treated as the menace that it is. Police will not do that. Instead collective activism against these growing fascist ideologies must eliminate them before they take hold, through direct action organizing and education.

The text in this zine was generated by members of Queers Crash The Beat in

preparation for our participation in Toronto Pride 2018.

We were - and are - asking our queer and trans community to imagine a world without police. This may seem utopian. It is.

We believe that in order to create a just world we must be collectively imagining that world now.

Some of the questions and answers here are thus contradictory or complex. There are many ways to consider this issue.

All we ask is that we do so together.

HOW DO WE STAY SAFE?

Police do not keep us "safe" - whatever that means.

Imagine a world where we all have equal access to basic needs where we don't harm each other because there is no incentive to do so.

We have the power to look out for each other, especially in a world where we aren't pitted against each other for survival.

What if our concept of safety weren't about defending our individual bodies or property only, but instead centred the well being of everybody?

Lets provide mental health substance use trauma informed counselling to everyone who needs it.

Our beliefs about who or what feels "safe" has been compromised by racism, capitalism, the war on drugs, and the war on poor people.

LESS COPS!
MORE TOPS!

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MORE TOPS!

WHAT ABOUT THE

GAY SERIAL KILLER IN TORONTO?

The police botched and abandoned that investigation many times. they only returned to it because of queer community organizing.

Perhaps they wouldn't have messed it up so much if that type of rare, complex investigation were not attached to the biased, racist, homophobic police service, but instead a different body altogether.

One which has the trust of community and centres our trust and expertise.

We knew there was a killer before the cops did anything.

Gossip is power. Queer networks can keep us safe.

Connection keeps us safe.

No one should be able to disappear without it being noticed.

Let's take care of each other.

Let's align ourselves with anti-racist and anti-oppressive

movements that help keep us all connected to community.

WHO WILL PROTECT ME?

Police don't protect most of us. Rather, they protect property and power.

Police protection is contingent on being the "right" kind of subject or citizen. This often means white, wealthy, or belonging to particular neighborhoods or areas.

Let's envision a world where we are able to care for and protect each other rather than suffer from and fear state violence.

Everyone deserves to live without fear. Not just some of us.

WHO ENFORCES THE LAW?
HOW DO WE ENSURE JUSTICE?

The law is not neutral or fair - it perpetuates social power stratification and violence and rarely actual justice.

We dont have to enforce anything upon our bodies and communities. We can instead forge shared values and start from a place of respecting each other's autonomies and experiences.

In North America and around the world, existing models for criminal justice are based on settler colonialism.

Restorative or transformative justice processes exist in Indigenous communities and Nations. They work. We must learn from this expertise and follow Indigenous leadership on traditional lands.

Justice is a process that requires all parties to consent and participate.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT
THE RAPISTS AND KILLERS?

Most people in our criminal justice systems are not rapists and killers and it helps no one to think of them that way.

Most rapists currently go unpunished under patriarchy and rape culture.

Lets actively build consent culture and have community conversations about accountability processes that restore justice and repair harm.

Rape and murder are often symptoms of a fucked up world. They are products of a shitty society that teaches us that violence is the path to get what you want, or is itself a thing to want.

Lets change that.

HOW DO WE PUNISH PEOPLE WHO DO BAD THINGS?

Cops, courts, prisons mostly affect people who haven't done "bad things" but who have been criminalized or victimized through the violent conditions thrust upon them.

One uniform system or answer or punishment for the wide range of people who may harm others in a wide range of situations doesn't make sense.

One monolithic system to respond to the vast number of people who break laws has never functioned evenly or equally. There are and perhaps must be more than one alternative for our system of cops, courts, and prisons.

What if we responded to harm with healing, restoration, and transformation rather than more harm?

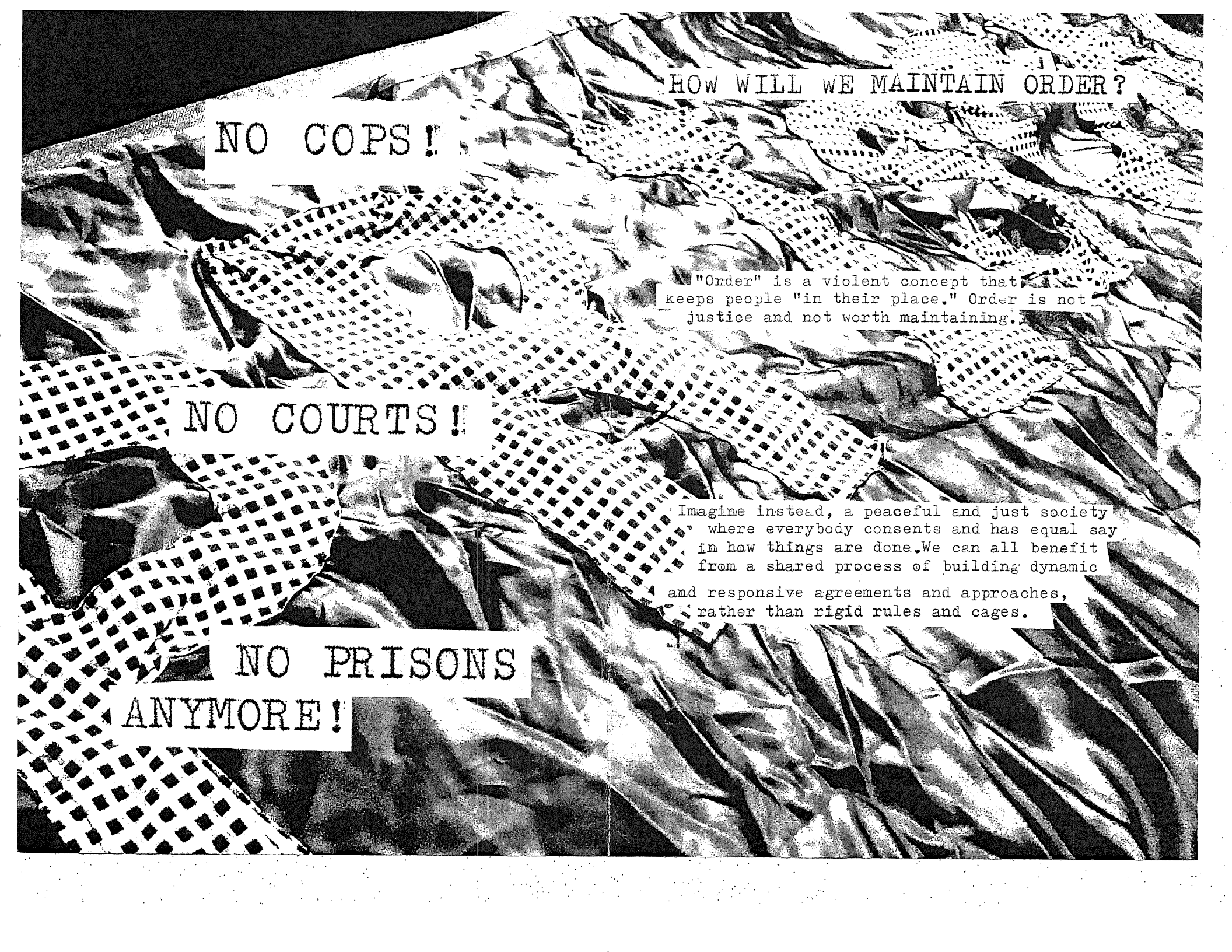
WHAT DO WE DO WITH PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS?

Drug users deserve all of the same rights and respect as everyone else. Most people use substances.

Drug users are not to be "done with" - like all people they deserve a say in their own lives, self-determination, self-determination & autonomy.

Drug users deserve compassion, not stigma. We need to stop the overdose crisis through support services and decriminalization.

Criminalizing drug users creates great possibilities of harm, overdose, poverty for drug users, especially those who use the most criminalized drugs.



HOW WILL WE MAINTAIN ORDER?

NO COPS!

"Order" is a violent concept that keeps people "in their place." Order is not justice and not worth maintaining.

NO COURTS!

Imagine instead, a peaceful and just society where everybody consents and has equal say in how things are done. We can all benefit from a shared process of building dynamic

and responsive agreements and approaches, rather than rigid rules and cages.

NO PRISONS
ANYMORE!