

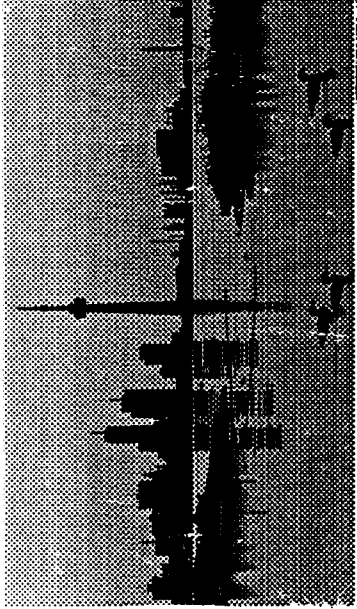
What is ICOPA?

ICOPA (International Conference On Penal Abolition) is a world-wide movement to challenge the existing revenge approach to criminal justice, and seek healing for all: victims, offenders, their families and the whole community.

ICOPA was founded in 1983 by the Quaker Committee on Jails and Justice, a Toronto group dedicated to prison abolition. In 1987 ICOPA broadened its goal to penal abolition, because if we abolish prisons but keep revenge as our goal, something equally offensive will follow. ICOPAs are held every two years and have been in Toronto (Canada), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Montreal (Canada), Kazimierz Dolny (Poland), Bloomington (USA), San Jose (Costa Rica), Barcelona (Spain), and Auckland (New Zealand).

What Do We Gain From Participation?

- A chance to:
- network with other abolitionists
 - address the real issues
 - challenge racism, classism and sexism
 - support each other



HOW DO I REGISTER FOR ICOPA IX?

Registration forms are available through contacting ICOPA at the address below. You may also register on our web-page.

For more information contact:

Ruth Morris, Giselle Dias or Laura Metcalfe

phone: (416) 538-6900
(416) 630-7581 (Ruth Morris)

fax: (416) 538-2655

ICOPA

c/o Rittenhouse - A New Vision
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www.interlog.com/~ritten/home.html

International Conference On Penal Abolition IX



A Call to Transformative Justice
New Questions, New Answers

May 10th to 13th, 2000
Ryerson Polytech University and
Metropolitan United Church.
Toronto, Ontario - CANADA

Sponsored by ICOPA and Rittenhouse

WHAT WILL ICOPA IX BE LIKE?

PRE-CONFERENCE

The pre-conference will be an orientation to ICOPA IX and will focus on abolition and transformative justice with University of Ottawa professor Bob Gaucher and others.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM? (DAY ONE)

Systemic and social racism, classism and sexism, plays a major role at all levels of the system, from policing and sentencing, to imprisonment. A variety of panels and workshops will address what's wrong with the penal system, including a presentation by Elicia Carranza, who is active in the Latin American abolitionist movement.

WHY IS IT STILL IN PLACE? (DAY TWO)

The current penal system largely ignores the extent of corporate crime. In fact, the system serves the corporate agenda through existing large institutions and increased privatization of prisons. On this day guest speaker, Angela Davis, a US expert on the prison industrial complex, and Maude Barlow, Canadian activist against corporate control, will discuss reasons why the system is kept in place.

WHAT DO WE WANT IN PLACE OF IT AND HOW DO WE GET THERE? (DAY THREE)

Alternatives to the penal system will be explored, with a focus on models of transformative justice. The need for abolitionists to link with existing social movements will be discussed. Reverend Bill Phipps, head of the United Church of Canada, Ruth Morris, long time abolitionist activist and author, and others will speak on transformative justice. Panels, workshops and role plays will be held in the morning, followed by an afternoon protest, to get us started on 'getting there'.

CAN I MAKE A DONATION TO ICOPA?

Yes! The cost of running the conference is quite high, and registration fees will not cover all of our costs. We try to keep fees low for all participants. We want to ensure subsidized fees for low income persons and travel subsidies for persons from third and fourth world countries, so that ICOPA remains accessible to all who are interested. Any help in this regard would be welcome. Please make cheques payable to Rittenhouse, with a note specifying that the donation is for ICOPA.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING ICOPA IX?

ICOPA IX welcomes participation in planning and organizing. Every ICOPA has three groups to help with planning:

- **Local Organizing Committee** that has the main responsibility for organizing and planning.

- **Regional Planning Committee** that meets two to four times, gathering input from anyone within easy traveling distance.

- **International Planning Committee** with representatives from major regions around the world who help promote the conference.

The ICOPA planning committee aims to ensure that the conference will be useful for all, activists, academics, ex-prisoners, and prisoners. There are many ways for interested people to get involved including: planning the conference through suggestions for speakers and themes; promotion; administrative work, and help during the conference. Please contact the local planning committee if you want to get involved.