

ICOPA Renewal and Visioning Exercise

The International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA) is a bi-annual gathering of activists, academics, journalists, practitioners, people currently or formerly imprisoned, survivors of state and personal harm, and others from across the world who are working towards the abolition of imprisonment, the penal system, carceral controls and the prison industrial complex.

Since 1983, ICOPA participants have come together to discuss what is to be abolished, how is abolition to be achieved, and what alternative relations can be created to address the issues that are currently criminalized and punished. The next conference – ICOPA 15 – is being held on Algonquin Territory / in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada at the University of Ottawa from June 13 to 15, 2014.

RESISTING CARCERAL NATION STATES: THE FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PENAL ABOLITION (ICOPA 15)

JUNE 13 – 15, 2014

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
ALGONQUIN TERRITORY / OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

Prisoners on Prisons
Prison Justice
Victims Still
Jails, Prisons and Penitentiaries
Races to Incarcerate
Criminalizing Women
Reproducing Heteronormativity
Mental Health Behind Bars
A Plague of Prisons
Prohibition Failure
Protecting Sex Workers
The Prison Industrial Complex
Another Brick in the Wall
No One is Illegal
(In)security Detention and Killings
Policing and Criminalization of Dissent
Eyes Everywhere
The Revolution Will Not Be Funded
Alternatives to Violence
Abolition Democracy



Voices from the Inside
Solidarity Work Inside and Outside the Walls
Away from Punishment to Meet Human Needs
The New Residential Schools
Legacies of Colonialism
Patriarchy and Gendering Punishment
The Repression of Queers and Trans
Asylums Today
Human Warehousing and Public Health
Ending the 'War on Drugs'
Towards Safety, Rights and Options
Exposing Profiteers of Cannibalism
The School to Prison Pipeline
Contesting Migrant Detention and Deportation
Guilty Until Proven Dead
The G20 in Toronto and Beyond
Privacy and the Surveillance Society
Moving Beyond the Non-profit Model
Safety through Community Building
Working Towards Social Justice

BUILDING AWARENESS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY, TAKING ACTION

In the lead-up to ICOPA 15 we are initiating a conversation about how to build upon the legacy of this unique global conference and chart a renewed vision that speaks to the concerns of those engaged in abolitionist struggles and their allies. Abolitionists from around the world are encouraged to engage their networks and hold discussions to:

- 1) Identify who is engaged in abolitionist work in their local community, region and nation state;
- 2) Document the issues that are the focus of their related thoughts and actions; and
- 3) Describe what role they would envision for an international abolitionist forum, and what they would hope to gain and share by taking part in such a network.

In holding these conversations we encourage submission of pieces that summarize these discussions in the form of art, film, music, interviews, photography, plays, poetry, short stories, spiritual and healing activities, essays, papers, reports, proposals for ICOPA policy positions and resolutions, and everything in between.

As submissions are received they will be posted on actionicopa.org and circulated using social media networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) to stimulate our on-going dialogue on the future of this international abolitionist forum. The submissions will also be summarized in our bi-monthly newsletter that is available on our website and is mailed to our imprisoned allies.

**Be a part of the discussion.
Initiate a conversation.
Share your vision of what ICOPA can be.**