

April 8, 2014

Dear Stop Mass Incarceration Network,

We have just held a very successful first meeting of Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration here in Cleveland, Ohio (mainly close eastern suburbs). Eight 60- to 70-something women, attended and carried out a very heartfelt and lively discussion based on the book, *The New Jim Crow*.

We reviewed a wide range of local and national efforts to educate the public and impact the criminal justice system and agreed that we want our work to focus on highly visible creative protest and exposure of the New Jim Crow/Mass Incarceration. Some of our ideas are:

- put Mural(s) and Billboard(s) in visible places—will send out call to artists for designs, do research on what all it entails

- have a banner protest targeting the criminal justice system, visually and in writing—at the Juvenile Detention Center, Terminal Tower/Public Square, the “Justice” Center, the “Wall of Sorrows”, Heritage School, the site of 137 shots, both in E. Cleve., ??

- call for Hoodie Days, among students and teachers in the Cleveland Schools (history of this in solidarity with the Jena 5), broadly for dress-down Fridays, and virtually to spread thru social media

- hold Art Exhibits—possibly thru Heights Arts, Phoenix Cafes, Edwin’s, + in E. Cleveland

- use Stop Mass Incarceration stencils

- wage a Statistic Sticker War,

- develop a Fact Sheet

- do Burma Shave, messages visible from car

- attend Museum of Art Chalk Fest en masse (Sept. 20), take pictures

- find a donor so we could hand out copies of *The New Jim Crow*

- continue to try to understand where the heroin epidemic fits in

- evaluate electoral candidates’ track records on these issues, and publicize them

- down the road, call a community meeting at the Cleve. Hts. Library to get into the issues more deeply with others up close

- down the road develop a website

- down the road get a QR code to be read by smart phones

- write letters to the editor of the *PD*, *Sun Press*, *Heights Observer*

- seek to have an article in the *Scene* associated with a future action

- find ways to challenge: the music to keep Black youth away from Lee Rd., the closing of Coventry Fair, the cancellation of fireworks at Shaker Middle School, and other blatantly racist practices in our communities.

People will be contacting Unitarian and other religious groups with whom we would like to have mutually beneficial relations. Some of us admire the RCP greatly, read *Revolution*, and have been inspired by your work around stopping stop and frisk. We would like to be part of your network as well.

Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration-Cleveland,OH