

PIC RESOURCES

"New Jim Crow Study Guide and Call to Action" -Veterans of Hope Project - by Vincent and Rosemary Freeney Harding - down-loadable booklet (free) - order through: www.chico-peace.org or: chico-peace@sbcglobal.net (I think the first is correct, but not certain) - endorsed by Michelle Alexander

"Building the Movement to End the New Jim Crow" - by Daniel Hunter - down-loadable booklet (companion to the above booklet) - endorsed by Michelle Alexander - ? not yet published - www.indiegogo.com/projects/building-the-movement-to-end-the-new-jim-crow

"Well Contested Sites" - by Amie Dowling and Austin Forbord - 18 minute dance/movement video taken on Alcatraz, with cast of formerly incarcerated men - see accompanying Study Guide and Resource List - www.theater-historiography.org

"Well Contested Sites" Facebook page - ongoing resources nation-wide

Prison Policy Initiative - Network's largest library of research and data on the prison industry - www.prisonpolicy.org

Solitary Watch - centralized source of news about the use and abuse of solitary confinement - initiates projects - www.solitarywatch.com

Real Cost of Prisons Project - publicizes impact of mass criminalization and works to end mass incarceration - publishes comic books on these subjects (well worth looking at) - www.realcostofprisons.org

The Sentencing Project - promotes reforms in sentencing policy, addresses unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocates for alternatives to incarceration - www.sentencingproject.org

Critical Resistance - founded by Angela Davis and others, it's more radical and further Left than most other organizations listed - a national, member and chapter-based [grassroots](#) organization that works to build a mass movement to dismantle the [prison-industrial complex](#) (PIC) and abolish prisons - criticalresistance.org

2.

Prisoners With Children (aka: All of Us or None) - grassroots organizing of communities impacted by the criminal justice system; advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights and to reunify families and

communities; builds public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts and prison system and we advance racial and gender justice in all our work - www.prisonerswithchildren.org

Prison Culture - a blog about mass incarceration, transformative justice and the PIC, which has a plethora of resource information about other organizations and blogs as well as lists of books and articles essential to a reasonably thorough understanding of the PIC - www.usprisonculture.com

HumanRights Coalition - a group of predominantly prisoners' families, ex-prisoners and some supporters organized to abolish prisons - hrcoalition.org

Restorative Justice Online - a resource for information on restorative justice - www.restorativejustice.org - [a service of Prison Fellowship International Centre for Justice and Reconciliation - an organization which, among many other things, has posted an annotated list of articles, etc. on standards for prison administration aimed to maintain prisoners' humanity and dignity - www.pfi.org]

Prison Solidarity - grassroots organization of prisoners and supporters which coalesced around Lucasville (Ohio) issues - has some good reading resource lists - it goes back to 2007-11, and might be of interest because of its' Ohio history - www.prisonersolidarity.org

Chicago PIC Teaching Collective - develops communities of resistance to PIC through popular education workshops and projects - chicagopiccollective.wordpress.com

Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted Peoples Movement - a coalition/umbrella group for 24 grassroots groups across the country, prioritizing de-entry over re-entry, full restoration of civil and human rights, and dismantling the system predicated on racism and torture - presently running a national voting rights campaign - ficpmovement.wordpress.com

American Friends Service Committee - www.afsc.org/ourwork (then click on "Transfer Criminal Justice Systems")

American Civil Liberties Union - www.aclu.org/keyissues (then click on “Smart Justice Fair Justice”)

“The Knotted Line” - by Evan Bissell - an interactive site that explores the historical relationship between freedom and confinement in the U.S., beginning in 1495 - creative, informative and intriguing, but a bit difficult for me (with my rudimentary computer skills) to navigate at first - www.knottedline.com

“Up the Ridge” - an important documentary, by the Thousand Kites Project and Appalshop filmmakers, Amelia Kirby and Nick Szuberia - depicts the many injustices in American prisons and the competing political agendas and expediencies that align government policy with prison human rights violations - Thousand Kites is working on new website, so try You Tube or appalshop.org

“Broken on All Sides” - new (2013) film on “race, mass incarceration and new visions for criminal justice in the U.S.” directed by Matthew Pillischer

NOTE:

There's no particular order to the above list.

I may have mixed “www.” up with “http.//” in some instances.

Many of the sites have Facebook pages, also.

Every site leads to other unfamiliar sites.

It goes without saying that this list just scratches the surface.

Amie assigns her students readings which will give them a sense of the industry's perspective, so that they're exposed to the thinking, language, vantage point of those who run and/or work in the system; it seems a good idea, so I'm including three such resources below, for those who might be interested:

4.

Association of Private Correctional and Treatment Organizations - data on private prison companies (whom they're owned by, etc.- www.apcto.org/fac search.cfm

Corrections.com - corrections industry website (for your insite) - lots of links (e.g. to the Corrections Corporation of America) - www.corrections.com

Ohio State Department of Corrections - www.drc.state.oh.us/ (for other states, just substitute their initials)

[Compiled by Joan Dowling - March/April, 2014]

P.S. The group might want to read this widely distributed poem:

Those in Prison

by Susan Zalatan

We want them to be responsible

So we take away all responsibility

We want them to be positive and constructive

So we degrade them and make them useless

We want them to be trustworthy

So we put them where there is no trust

We want them to be nonviolent

So we surround them with violence

We want them to be kind and loving

So we subject them to hatred and cruelty

We want them to quit being the "tough guy"

So we put them where only the "tough guy" survives

We want them to quit exploiting us

So we cage them where they exploit each other

5.

We want them to take control of their lives

So we make them dependent on us

We want them to be a part of our community

So we separate them from our community

You want us to have self-worth

So you destroy our self-worth

And call it "corrections."

Source: Captured Words Free Thoughts - Vol. 8, Fall, 2010 - <http://prisonjusticeproject.org/capturedwords/?p=6>