UPDATE: BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS BOOK CLUB

Our Breaking Down Walls Book Club has hit the ground running! We are so excited to be discussing Andrea Ritchie's important book, Invisible No More, in a setting that reaches beyond the physical space of the Center. Our discussions have centered the experiences of black women and women of color within systems of institutional racism and violence. We are grateful to have received beautiful artwork and thoughtful insights from incarcerated survivors who are reading and reflecting along with us from around the state. We wanted to share just a few highlights from our first conversations:

**On the importance of highlighting the experiences of women of color:**
"I believe that the issues that women of color face are a very relevant front in the fight to dismantle this oppressive criminal justice system."

**On the harmful impact of racist narratives in perpetuating oppressive systems:**
"...until false narratives cease to exist in this country regarding people of color (especially with my Black sisters) and people with disabilities, we will continue to be victims of police brutality in our homes and in the public as well."

**On moving forward together, and the need for us to stay engaged in lasting systemic and political change:**
"When you build a building, you start at the foundation. When you tear it down, you start at the top."

We'll meet again at the Center to discuss chapters 5 and 6 on Saturday, March 9, from Noon to 2:00 PM. Questions? Email Aislinn: aislinn@chicagotorturejustice.org
OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

So many people are inside our Illinois prisons that are innocent. I understand your cry! And I encourage you all to be strong! I said be strong! As you fight for a better tomorrow... I said, be strong! As you fight to reconnect with your family, friends, and community. Be strong! Keep fighting and soon you will gain what you fight for. Be strong!

By: Mark Clements,
Chicago Police torture survivor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 4th
Open Case Management Hours
1pm to 5pm at CTJC (open to anyone impacted by police violence)

Monday, March 4th
Book and Panel Discussion on ‘Torture Machine: Racism and Police Violence’ by Flint Taylor
6pm to 8pm at Thorne Auditorium at Northwestern University
375 E. Chicago Ave.

Saturday, March 9th
RISE Community Meeting
10am to 12pm at CTJC (open to anyone impacted by police violence)

Saturday March 9th
Breaking Down Walls Book Club
12pm to 2pm at CTJC (open to anyone)

Friday, March 15th
Chicago Torture Justice Memorials exhibition:
Still Here: Torture, Resiliency and the Art of Memorializing
6pm to 8pm at Arts Incubator
301 E Garfield Blvd

Monday, March 18th
Open Case Management Hours
1pm to 5pm at CTJC (open to anyone impacted by police violence)

Monday, March 25th
Open Case Management Hours
1pm to 5pm at CTJC (open to anyone impacted by police violence)

REPORT BACK: FUNDERS BRIEFING

This month CTJC came together with our Spokes Council (Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, Chicago Teachers Union, Chicago Public Schools, and Invisible Institute) to present our interlocked work to an audience of funders and foundations. We spoke about our unified vision to heal and end police violence while highlighting each group’s specific contributions to this vision.

Last month, our newsletter shared the Reparations Report Card created by CTJM. This report card explained the places that the City has both honored and failed to implement the Reparations Ordinance. Planning for the funder’s briefing gave each organization the opportunity to identify how our work could grow with sustained funding.

Do you have capacity to contribute to the continuation and growth of Reparations? 2019 marks CTJC’s last year of City funding. We are seeking multiple avenues of sustained funding, and one of those avenues is our own community of supporters. If you have the means, please visit chicagotorturejustice.org and click the DONATE button on the bottom of the page. Thank you for your solidarity!

Training on Liberatory Memory Work

Too often the media and politicians tell stories about our community that are simply not true. Join us in a two day workshop to learn how owning our stories creates pathways to change and become a liberatory memory worker, too!

April 5th @ The Center
10am - 5pm, 641 W 63rd St
April 6th @ The Arts Incubator
12:30 - 7pm, 301 E Garfield Blvd

with Maria Emma Wills & Jarrett Drake

Participants must attend both days of the workshop. RSVP to cindy@chicagotorturejustice.org