

Prisons ARE Factories of Failure

by

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History has amply documented the human capacity for cruelty and quickness to exploit vulnerability, and the portrayal of prisoners as incorrigible animals is fed to the gullible public. We all agree that prisons are dysfunctional bureaucracies and the unholy trinity of despair, viz. violence, ignorance and hopelessness.

Talking among ourselves about the many things that are wrong with prisons is easier to do than creating workable and acceptable solutions to the human, social, and economic destruction caused by prisons. We must learn how to get big stuff done when bungling bureaucrats, inept politicians and powerless people can't get it done.

It's a question of finding the right strategy. We need to gain and maintain fearlessness, nimbleness and the ability to roll with change, adapt to newness and improvise. I want to impress upon and encourage our fellow activists to incorporate into their arguments 100% of the time systemic thinking and metaphorically so as to better resonate to people like ourselves all over the world who find themselves in comparable situations.

Without systemic thinking, people who are against prisons, war, against environmental waste, imperialism, racism, sexism, and those other annoying "isms" will forever be a minority easily ostracized, beaten down and made obsolete by those who unilaterally control and manipulate a specific organization narrative.

I propose as a starting point a new kind of activism; for sake of argument, lets call it metaphorical self-criticism, but with the not-so-subtle subtext of moving forward with others who are similarly obliged to reflect pragmatically and realistically upon their own country or cultures impediment to a powerful, meaningful, sustainable, acceptable systemic strategy.

We must clearly and strongly demonstrate the importance of resilience, forbearance, emotional intelligence, thoughtful listening and consideration of all sides of an argument. We must also show the value of staying true to a larger mission that calls people to a higher road and to a purpose bigger than themselves.

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3-10-13