



WOMEN'S JUSTICE CIRCLES

PROCESS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

CIRCLE 1: CREATING COMMUNITY FOR CHANGE

- Circle members get acquainted
- Facilitators talk about grassroots organizing and the Justice Circle process
- Circle members create a list of justice issues in the lives of low-income women

CIRCLE 2: IN THE COMPANY OF POWERFUL WOMEN

- Circle members build relationships by sharing life stories
- Circle learns the two feet of service and justice
- The Circle listens to stories of powerful women and talks about power, what makes members feel powerful or powerless
- Members write a card to one woman who has been powerful in their lives

CIRCLE 3: BUILDING AND STUMBLING BLOCKS: DIVERSITY AND COMMUNICATION

- Members use a consensus-building approach to choose the issue the Circle will work on.
- The group describes the information they need about the issue and participants volunteer to do research before the next meeting

CIRCLE 4: COLLABORATIVE POWER

- Circle members share information on personal experience and resources related to the issue.
- The group uses a strategy-building process to choose their action and makes initial decisions on timing, invitations, etc.

CIRCLE 5: SHARING OUR GIFTS

- Circle members work on putting together all the pieces for a successful action
- Get schedule, details, and assignments clear
- Demonstrates the group's power and connectedness by adding up all the connections

CIRCLE 6: ORGANIZING FOR ACTION

- Circle organizes and rehearses the action.
- Participants look at what makes it hard to speak truth to power and what helps
- Participants build connections, look at other groups and programs that could support the Circle's issue or are working on similar agendas

CIRCLE 7: STAND UP! TAKING ACTION

- Circle members rehearse their action (if needed), act, and reflect on the action

CIRCLE 8: LET THE WOMEN BE THERE: CELEBRATION AND REFLECTION

- Members evaluate the Circle's highlights and look at learnings from the Circle.
- How will each participant continue the work begun from the Circle?
- The Circle celebrates with a party!

GOALS

- To build relationships with other woman who want change
- To claim our personal and collaborative power
- To understand the issues that makes life difficult for women who are low-income
- To learn the skills of grassroots leadership and organizing
- To take action to create change

OBJECTIVES

TEACH

- Communication styles/skills
- Grassroots model of leadership and organizing
- Charity and Social Change models

EXPERIENCE

- Working with issues of race, diversity, class, and leadership styles
- Public speaking and active listening
- Taking leadership

PRACTICE

- Action for social change

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