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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